

# The Commissioning of The Search Committee for the next Rector of Saint Paul's Church

*Sr. Warden speaking for the Vestry and Wardens*

Greetings to the people of Saint Paul's Church. The Rev. George Muir, priest-in-charge of Saint Paul's Church, has announced his retirement as of June 1, 2021. As we prepare to say goodbye to the Muirs, we also begin the Spirit led work to call the next Rector to lead this parish. Today we will commission these persons to lead the parish through the search process: Kim Butler and Brad Sandbach, co-chairs; Ramzi Assad, Julie Badger, Hava Chandler, Melissa Heckathorn, Meg Horton, John Robertson, and Wright Montgomery, Search Committee members. These persons have been prayerfully chosen by the vestry, and they are prepared to commit themselves to the work before them.

*Celebrant* Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
*—Philippians 4:6-7*

*Celebrant* Lord, open our lips.  
*People* ***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

*All* ***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

*Celebrant* Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission in the Name of God and of this congregation Kim, Brad, Ramzi, Julie, Hava, Melissa, Meg, John, and Wright to the ministry and work of the Search Committee to which they are called.

*Celebrant addresses the Sr. Warden*

Are these persons you are to present prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular participation in the life of this parish, by attendance at worship, and by the full knowledge of their duties responsibilities and obligations, to exercise this ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of Christ's one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church?

*Sr. Warden* I believe they are.

*Celebrant addresses these words to the candidates for the Search Committee*

You have been called to serve as members of the Search Committee for this congregation. Will you as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

*Candidates*     ***I will with God's help.***

*Celebrant*     Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, to the benefit of the members of this congregation, and for the welfare of the priests with whom you engage?

*Candidates*     ***I will with God's help.***

### **THE COMMISSIONING**

*Sr. Warden*     I present Kim Butler, Brad Sandbach, Ramzi Assad, Julie Badger, Hava Chandler, Melissa Heckathorn, Meg Horton, John Robertson, and Wright Montgomery, to be commissioned for the ministry of the Search Committee.

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.  
*People*         ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant*     Let us pray.

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Search Committee of this congregation, and so rule their minds, open their eyes and hearts, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and place before the Vestry the priest, called by God and them, to serve as rector to the people of Saint Paul's Church: through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you to this ministry as Members of the Search Committee of Saint Paul's Church. May the Holy Spirit burn brightly in your heart and lead you to all Truth in this work, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. ***Amen.***

*Celebrant*     Let us bless the Lord.  
*People*         ***Thanks be to God.***

*APPLAUSE AND CELEBRATION IS APPROPRIATE*