

**Worksheet for Completing the Ministry Portfolio
of the
Office of Transition Ministry
The Episcopal Church**

Note to Parish: *As part of our discernment process, your Search Committee was asked to answer the following 5 questions (in 250 words or less) that are incorporated in our larger Ministry Portfolio. We also describe the gifts and skills essential to future leaders of Calvary. Below we share with you our responses.*

Describe your liturgical style & practice. If your community provides more than one type of worship service, please describe all:

Calvary currently holds five regular liturgical services. The Sunday 8 AM service is a traditional Rite I Eucharist. The emphasis is on contemplative spirituality and community. Music is limited to an organ offertory and a closing hymn. The service on Sunday at 10 AM is a Rite II Eucharist that is well attended by a broad range of parishioners. Music plays an important role and includes a full choir, organ, and occasionally a handbell choir. Calvary holds a Rite III Eucharist for Youngsters for families with young children on the first Sunday of the month. On Thursdays, there is a noontime Eucharist. Finally, youth groups (grades 6 and up) meet on most Sunday evenings during the school year and include informal Vespers and a monthly Eucharist geared toward adolescents. All of these services typically are Broad Church. Chant has been used on special occasions but is not part of the regular liturgy. These services have evolved over the years in response to changes in our diverse community. The new Rector will have an opportunity to explore new liturgical formats and times to attract greater attendance from our current and prospective membership. The Calvary community is well-educated, accomplished, and – as the responses to the other questions demonstrate – devoted to living its faith. The liturgy should meet the spiritual needs of our community in an intelligent, sophisticated, and relevant way while remaining welcoming, inclusive and true to the Episcopal faith.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Calvary cares for its members' spiritual well-being by offering numerous opportunities to worship and learn together. Eucharistic services are celebrated three times each week, and once monthly for younger children. Calvary provides a traditional morning Sunday school for younger children, and a vibrant Sunday evening program for older youth that includes preparation for Confirmation. Adults also enjoy many learning and fellowship opportunities including Bible Study, Adult Forum, Education for Ministry, and the inter-denominational programs of The Interweave Center for Wholistic Living (www.Interweave.org), housed at Calvary. Our spiritual welfare is enhanced by opportunities to participate in and enjoy beautiful liturgical music under the guidance of our gifted Organist/Choirmaster. Through our Pastoral Care Committee and the Prayer Chain, many members are involved in helping address spiritual and emotional needs of the congregation. Trained and licensed Eucharistic Visitors bring the sacrament to homebound parishioners, while The Pastoral Care Committee also provides meals, transportation and companionship to congregation members. The Welcoming Committee members greet congregants with warm smiles and helping hands at the weekly services. The Women of Calvary help raise needed outreach funds while encouraging volunteerism and strengthening fellowship within our parish. We see potential in organizing social and spiritual activities for other groups of parishioners, e.g. men and young adults, who currently have no formal organization. We seek a Rector whose commitment to community is apparent and embracing. We look forward to a new Rector who will lead us, and participate with us, in caring for each other's spiritual, physical and emotional well-being.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Outreach is a well-established and integral mission of Calvary and its congregation and we strive to lead by example in helping others in need. Calvary has incubated several large-scale outreach programs, providing use of its facilities, financial support, and

volunteer leadership. Recent examples: HomeFirst - Founded at Calvary in 1986, HomeFirst began its first program as a partnership with area congregations, providing homeless women and families in Union County (NJ) with shelter, food and other basic necessities. It now has 26 local host congregations and 36 support congregations providing hospitality 365 days a year. Calvary continues its support of HomeFirst by assisting at St. John's Lutheran Church in Summit for several weeks during the year cooking and serving food and socializing with the families. SHIP (Summit Helping Its People) – Founded at Calvary in 1991 to help those in need in the Summit area, SHIP has a breakfast program and a fellowship dinner program. Breakfast is served weekdays at Calvary and participants are also provided with a bag lunch. SHIP serves over 15,000 meals annually. Calvary currently participates by offering use of its commercial kitchen and parish hall and many of the most loyal SHIP volunteers and leaders are Calvary parishioners. The examples above are underpinned by a strong interfaith aspect and appeal. We anticipate our new Rector will be supportive as we maintain our outreach activities and assess new opportunities. A comprehensive list of our outreach activities (local, national and international) can be found on our website.

How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Extending our compassion and care to others through outreach is a cornerstone of our faith and ministry at Calvary. Locally, many of our efforts center on providing food, companionship and spiritual support. For example, Calvary has developed a special relationship with Apostles' House in Newark (www.apostleshouse.org), a comprehensive service organization for homeless and at-risk families and individuals. Our engagement with Apostles' House includes collections for its Food Pantry, Christmas gift giving, holiday parties run by our youth, and shared worship at Easter. Calvary also serves as headquarters for a local organization that provides breakfast and a bag lunch each morning to individuals in need. We host annual, open Community Dinners at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and the Women of Calvary run a popular series of Senior Luncheons throughout the year. Calvary also provides for other needs in our community. Each Advent, Calvary holds a "Blue Christmas" service for anyone for whom the season is difficult. Calvary also partners with other churches in town to provide care and

worship at times of crisis or celebration (e.g. on September 11, 2001, and annually on Martin Luther King Day). Extending care to distant places is often done through contributions of money or goods, although Calvinians have also traveled to places of need (e.g. New Orleans, Ghana) to extend a helping hand in person. We anticipate that our new Rector will embrace our efforts and suggest others to continue our ministry of outreach.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Calvary is a busy congregation with parishioners highly involved in extracurricular activities for themselves and their children. Recognizing the importance of establishing personal connections and nourishing friendships among Calvary parishioners, we founded the Hospitality Group about 5 years ago. This Group organizes pre-worship greeters at each entry door to make sure that visitors and newcomers feel truly welcomed and hosts post-worship Coffee Hours to help bring congregants together after the church service. The Hospitality Group coordinates closely with the Welcoming Committee that maintains the visitor cards in each pew and distributes welcoming bags, prepares nametags, and organizes Newcomer Brunches. . In the recent past, a Fellowship Suppers program was well received, but has not been a sustainable event due to lack of leadership. We would like to revisit this platform. A recently formed Parish Events Committee has successfully launched a series of festive multi-generational activities often tied directly to our outreach beneficiaries. All these efforts facilitate warm social interaction within our diverse and multi-generational congregation. We anticipate that the new Rector will play a key role in promoting these activities and enjoying formal and informal social interaction among the congregants. Grace Boye, Cindi Cobbs, and Adele Haley can be contacted about these ministries.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leader (rector) of your worshipping community.

- *Clearly inspired by faith, well-versed in theology; able to interpret scripture in light of today's knowledge and deliver thoughtful relevant sermons that sustain and enlighten;*
- *Intellectually astute, clear communicator and listener with a friendly, warm and engaging personality;*
- *Skilled in Stewardship initiatives to build worship attendance and increase financial participation; a strategic thinker and creative problem-solver;*
- *Enjoys providing pastoral care and connecting with parishioners; can develop a strong sense of community within the parish for all members;*
- *Participates with Vestry in decision-making; encourages transparency, accountability and open dialogue;*
- *Inspires parishioners to become active members and leaders; will foster the social and spiritual development of men's and women's groups within Calvary;*
- *Represents Calvary as a community leader; initiates and reinforces Interfaith connections;*
- *With grace, energy and humor will join us on our spiritual journey.*

Connections

Your worshipping community's website: www.calvary-summit.org

Provide any media links to your worshipping community (i.e. YouTube, Facebook, etc.)

Provide links to other sites where you might be found: www.interweave.org
www.shipofsummit.org
www.homefirstinc.org
www.sbigonling.org
www.apostleshouse.org

What languages are significantly represented in your worshipping community? English

Worship or classes are provided in the following languages: English

References

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