



April 29, 2020

Dear Reconcilers:

The Church of Reconciliation continues to be blessed with the love and support of the Holy Spirit. Throughout these unusual times of social distancing, it has been so comforting that so many members of our parish continue to engage in the various “virtual” offerings that Rev. Judy and the staff have made available to keep us connected to each other and to the Word of God.

During these unprecedented times, our hearts are full of excitement and joy with the announcement that the future of Reconciliation has become even brighter with the acceptance of the call to service as our new rector by The Reverend Joshua Wayne Woods. The Rector Search Committee presented its recommendation of the selection of Rev. Josh Woods and the Vestry approved the call on April 19. I had the honor of presenting the call to Rev. Woods to serve as the 5th Rector of Reconciliation and the pleasure of hearing his impassioned acceptance that Reconciliation is the place he absolutely felt God’s call to serve.

The Vestry was assured by the knowledge that Rev. Judy knew Josh well and has previously developed a mentoring relationship with him. She revealed to us during the vestry deliberation, unbeknownst to the Search Committee or to the Vestry until the call was issued, that she submitted his name to the Search Committee as a potential candidate. She spoke very highly of him to the Vestry and expressed tremendous happiness that Josh will be our next rector. In fact, the selection of Josh gives her great peace and confidence in the future of our church. Judy is eager to continue to serve with Josh in the role of associate rector.



The Rev. Josh Woods will begin serving as rector on Sunday, June 28, 2020 which will also be the first service at Reconciliation when he will officiate and celebrate the Holy Eucharist. We are uncertain if our first service with Josh will be in person or virtually, or some combination of both. Regardless, it will be a glorious occasion for us to welcome Josh and his wife Laura to our Reconciliation family.

Attached is a heartfelt letter of introduction offered by Rev. Josh Woods. As background, Josh has served as Assistant Rector at St. David’s here in San Antonio for the past two years. He is married to Laura, a school nurse in the San Antonio Independent School District. Josh has a Master’s degree in Theological Studies from Vanderbilt University and a Master of Divinity from the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin. Josh has served in the U.S. Air Force and is now an active reservist, assigned to Randolph AFB as a Chaplain. He will continue to meet his annual military reserve duty obligations while serving as our rector.



The Search Committee described Josh in this way, “Josh is very gregarious and energetic. His passion and enthusiasm are evident in his conversations and in his preaching, which is dynamic and done without notes...by his own admission he is a “storm the hill” person and needs and enjoys contemplatives around him.” They shared that Josh wrote in his application, “My greatest joy is ministry is to love and serve people, working together with them to create spaces of worship and a community of faith that is authentic, inclusive, and safe for those who are seeking connection with God and their neighbors.”

During his ZOOM introductory meeting with the Vestry, Josh noted that he was first introduced to Reconciliation when Robert Woody was pursuing the election to the Bishop Suffragan in 2016. He was inspired by Robert’s passion for inclusivity and welcoming of all to the Body of Christ and was intrigued by the level of support Robert’s ministry received from the congregation of Reconciliation. Josh said that he was searching for a parish where hearts are open to explore the vast ways to bring Christ to the community and to celebrate the beauty and creativity of the Episcopal faith.

The Vestry eagerly anticipates having Josh in the pulpit and learning and growing with him as our rector. We also express our gratitude for the work of the Rector Search Committee and especially for the leadership of Priscilla Coppock. The dedication and commitment to the search process, especially in these challenging times, is admirable. The members of the Search Committee truly feel that God brought Josh to us at this time for a reason and recognizes the special role Josh will have in this next chapter in Reconciliation’s history.

While we are elated to welcome Josh and Laura to Reconciliation, the vestry is also planning a “Gratitude” celebration on Sunday, June 7, 2020 (Trinity Sunday) to express our appreciation for Rev. Judy service as our Interim Rector since June 2019. Please stay tuned for more details on that celebration and mark your calendars! Josh and Judy are also planning other forums where members of the parish will have the opportunity to get to know Josh before his service begins on June 28th and to see the dynamic partnership forming between Josh and Judy. More information will soon be shared regarding these forums.

Our Loving God continues to reveal himself to us in so many amazing ways.

Peace to all of you,

Suzanne B. Scott

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Senior Steward