

### **What is strategic planning?**

Strategic planning is the formal process of defining an organization's strategy, or direction. The process involves evaluating current operations and then setting goals for the future. In the context of our Church, we embark on this evaluation together, ever mindful of the mission given to us by God.

### **Why do we need a strategic plan?**

Every organization should have a road map for the future to help guide its decisions. Jesus too gave very careful advice when he sent out his disciples on mission to spread the Gospel. A strategic plan for Saint Thomas Church will help us formalize our goals and establish realistic paths to achieve them.

### **Who is Wellspring Consulting and how was this firm selected?**

Wellspring is an independent group of professionals who are experts in helping non-profit organizations create strategic plans backed by research and data. They were selected by the Vestry and Development Committee after a competitive selection process involving multiple consulting firms.

### **What is the goal of the strategic plan?**

The purpose of the strategic plan is to assess the work we do in the name of God and to ensure that we properly fulfill our mission at Saint Thomas Church. This will require us to evaluate opportunities to grow our parish, secure our finances, and ensure the financial viability of our Choir School.

### **What will be the output of the Strategic Plan Working Group?**

The output of this process is a strategic planning document that will outline Saint Thomas Church's priorities and provide a road map for achieving the plan's goals.

### **Will I get to see the plan once it is finished?**

Once approved by the Vestry, the finalized document will be published on the website. Prior to that, parishioners and friends will have opportunities to offer input and comments at various stages along the way.

### **How will the plan be adopted?**

Once the Strategic Planning Working Group has completed the plan document, it will be presented to the Development Committee for approval, and finally to the Vestry for adoption.

### **What are examples of proposed strategic priorities for Saint Thomas Church?**

Examples of our priorities include: 1) growing our membership, 2) reducing the draw from our invested funds to a sustainable level, and 3) securing the financial viability of the Choir School.

### **How long will this take?**

The strategic planning process should be complete by July 2019. [Click here](#) to view a copy of the project timeline and schedule.

**How will data be collected?**

Data and information will be collected in a series of one-on-one interviews, focus groups, surveys and open forum congregational sessions.

**When are the parish-wide sessions?**

Our first parish-wide forum will be in November. Dates will be posted on the website, advertised in the Sunday bulletin, and published via email to the parish.

**How do I contact the Strategic Planning Working Group?**

Please email [StrategicPlan@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:StrategicPlan@SaintThomasChurch.org) to contact the SPWG or ask any questions.

**How do I share an idea or offer feedback?**

Please email [StrategicPlan@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:StrategicPlan@SaintThomasChurch.org) to contact the SPWG with ideas or feedback.