

Report to Parish of St. Luke Cedar Hill

Music Ministry Discernment Process and the Music Survey Results

Dear Friends

I am writing you as we get close to the end of our discernment process to update you on the general findings of the survey that you completed.

First, there were 53 responses, in print form, and done electronically and online. This is a great result, and we would like to thank each of you for helping us with our task – to discern what the future of a music ministry might/could look like for St. Luke's Parish.

Survey Results Summary

In general, responses to the survey told us 6 things:

1. The parish is very supportive of a vibrant, spirit-centered music ministry.
2. If possible, the parish would like to see this ministry grow both in worship and in parish and community life.
3. The parish loves the Anglican tradition of familiar hymns and chants; however new music is appreciated and welcomed.
4. There is great support for the choir as a worship leader and as a musical group.
5. The arrival of the new grand piano has slightly shifted the importance of prime worship instrument from the organ to the piano. The responses to "which instruments are well-suited to lead worship" and "the importance for a Music Director to have a high level of skill" both favoured the piano over the organ. This was an interesting result for the Task Force.
6. If funding can be found, most respondents would like to see the Wardens and Rector approve a job description that would allow for expansion. More than 60% said that they would be willing to give extra to support such a music ministry.

If you wish further information or to see the data collected, please contact the People's Warden, Claire White at clairewhite@stlukecedarhill.ca or myself at alanwhitmore611@gmail.com.

Where do we go from here?

A first draft of a new Job Description has been written and is currently in the hands of the Task Force for their comments, additions, deletions. This work will be finished by the 16 October. The final proposed draft of the Job Description plus some information gathered about hours, salary, and benefits will be submitted to the Wardens and our Rector upon Daniel's return from vacation. It is hoped that any changes and decisions will be made quickly so that the new Job Description, complete with hours and salary range, can be given to the Search Committee by the middle of November. This will allow this new committee time to get their advertising completed and out to the necessary resources before everyone takes a break for Christmas – basically to be ready for 1 January 2027. The rest will be up to who might be willing and available to come to St. Luke's Church to facilitate a new chapter in the music ministry of this wonderful parish.

At this time, I would like to thank the members of the Task Force: Gillian Bloom, Mary Byrne, Donna Dunning, Sharon McMillan, Shannon Stewart, Claire White, and our rector Daniel Fournier for their hard work over the past 3 months. Their dedication and support went beyond wonderful.

Blessings to you, the parish, as you move forward with a music ministry that I hope will be spirit-filled and engaging.

Alan Whitmore, Discernment Facilitator