

In the Diocese of East Carolina, the bishop offers three different types of search processes:

STANDARD SEARCH:

The standard search approach to the search process is typical for congregations who have experienced stability in ordained leadership over a sustained period of time. It is a particularly appropriate choice for congregations who have experienced the departure of a long-term Rector. This approach maximizes the potential pool of candidates, but requires considerable time in candidate identification and processing. To begin this process, the Vestry requests a “standard search” in a letter to the Bishop and includes this in the charge to the Search Committee.

TARGETED SEARCH:

The bishop will authorize the use of a targeted search in a situation where congregational health is stable and the tenure of ordained leadership has been brief. This approach shortens a search process by asking the Bishop’s office to provide a short list of potential candidates in exchange for increased efficiency in candidate identification. To begin this process, the Vestry requests a “targeted search” in a letter to the Bishop and includes this in the charge to the Search Committee. In a targeted search, the Vestry agrees that the Search Committee will work only with the names submitted from the Bishop’s Office.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE PROCESS:

The Priest-in-Charge approach is utilized in very special circumstances. A Vestry may ask the Bishop to appoint a Priest-in-Charge only when situations clearly call for a pastoral response to a congregation in the search process. This option is particularly useful when the Bishop and Vestry believe that a time of consolidation is necessary or there is a general sense that this arrangement is advantageous to the momentum of the mission of the church. When a Vestry asks the Bishop to appoint a Priest-in-Charge, the Bishop will offer one or more candidates to the Vestry.