



*Holy Spirit Church*  
Communities of Courage and Compassion

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When Holy Spirit Church was formed, it was a new venture with lots of discussion and out of the box thinking about how it would be organized and led. As our co-vicars were hired, we realized that some of those plans were not realistic and we moved forward with our co-vicars taking the lead in gathering us together into a community of four churches. As time went on, we realized it was difficult to have the vicars switching as often as they were, and the schedule changed to align with the church seasons. Finally, with St Alban's move from Brentwood to Antioch to share space with St George's, it was determined that having one vicar to shepherd them through the changes would be important and Rev. Fran took that assignment while Rev. Amanda stayed with St Michael's and St John's. With the departure of Rev. Fran, it was a good time to review how things were working and there were several meetings with the past and present senior wardens and Denise Obando, Transition Minister for the Diocese of California.

After consultation with the Bishop, Denise met with past and present senior wardens from the Holy Spirit Churches on October 10th to describe the planned restructuring of clergy leadership to begin January 1, 2017. The decision was made to administratively split the congregations into two groups, each led by their own vicar.

The Rev. Amanda May will lead the congregations of St. John's, Clayton and St. Michael's and All Angels, Concord. St. Alban's and St. George's, Antioch will be led by Rev. Jill until early 2017 and meanwhile the lay leadership of St. Alban's and St. George's will work with the diocese to find their next permanent vicar.

The combined account will be closed and each set of two churches (St Michael's/St John's and St George's and St Alban's) will revert back to each one's own oversight. Clergy payroll and benefits will no longer be paid from the combined allotment of money from all four congregations. In 2017 each pair of churches will receive \$25,000 from the diocese, for a total contribution to the four churches of \$50,000. This is the same amount

that the diocese contributed in 2016. No promises were made for diocesan funding past 2017.

The four congregations have developed strong fellowship together, and have a successful shared newsletter. We will continue to be Holy Spirit Church, Communities of Courage and Compassion. The newsletter will continue as well and we hope to be able to work together on shared outreach programs in the years ahead. The good work of being inclusive and welcoming communities of committed Christians who seek to serve God in their daily life and work, should continue, and in fact grow with neighboring congregations in the Contra Costa deanery.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your Vicar or Senior Warden.

Your Senior Wardens,  
Chris Lubwama, St George's  
Diane Loehr, St Michaels  
Jeanne Virgilio, St Alban's  
John Ferrante, St John's

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### ***Contact Us***

[The Rev. Jill Honodel](#)   [The Rev. Amanda May](#)

[Click here to download the Holy Spirit Church flyer](#)

### ***Church Websites***

[Holy Spirit Church](#)

[St. Alban's](#)

[St. George's](#)

[St. John's](#)

[St. Michael's](#)

### **SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER...**

Please send any submissions for the Holy Spirit E-News to [Diane](#) by Tuesday evening of the week you wish it to appear.

