

St. James of Jerusalem

Long Beach, NY

### **“The Big Five”**

The congregation of St. James of Jerusalem gathered after worship on June 2, 2024, and identified the following as our “Big Five”:

#### **Five Things St. James is Known For**

1. Being welcoming, inclusive, kid-friendly, parent-friendly, and diverse
2. For our fantastic location by the beach, our beautiful garden and outdoor worship
3. Community outreach, including interracial and interdenominational activities
4. Virtual weekday morning prayer four days a week
5. A hearty and well-attended weekly coffee hour

#### **Five Potential Pitfalls or Problems Facing The Church**

1. Lack of accessibility (stairs to all parts of the church impede access for people with physical limitations)
2. An aging congregation with an aging infrastructure, and seasonal shifts in attendance (snowbirds, etc.)
3. No Sunday school or children’s programs
4. Insufficient public awareness of the church
5. A financial deficit

#### **Five Capacities We are Looking for in Our Spiritual Leader**

1. Enthusiastic, positive attitude
2. Non-judgmental, open to people of all races, faiths, gender identities, etc., with very good interpersonal skills
3. Kid-friendly
4. Environmentally conscious
5. Good communicator, listener, liaison, diplomat

#### **Five Ministries that Could Happen but are Not Currently Happening**

1. Sunday school, other child-oriented activities
2. Bible School
3. Choir

4. Public Blessings, e.g., Blessing of the Bicycles, Blessing of the Animals, etc.
5. More Fundraising, Friend-raising, Awareness-raising

### **Five Things We Learned From COVID**

1. The importance and usefulness of technology (Zoom, Facebook Live, posting video recordings of services online)
2. We learned more about each other
3. Learned to use the garden for outdoor worship
4. Developed a deeper caring for one another
5. Learned how to manage a pandemic, e.g., masks, reduced density, hand hygiene

The Bishop's Committee and congregation of St. James of Jerusalem hopes that this list of our "Big Five" and the other materials in our Clergy Search packet will be useful to candidates in discerning whether this might be a good fit for them, and if they might be a good fit for us.