



Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

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“Our Mission is to welcome all people to know and live as Christ in the world”

September 21, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral,

A significant milestone has been achieved in the life of Trinity Cathedral’s history. And we now joyously and enthusiastically celebrate this major accomplishment! It has been a long, but now successful journey in renovating a space that successfully and fully serves the rich traditions of our Episcopal liturgy. The dream has been realized where our worship space is more welcoming, inclusive, flexible, and bright. Being more than a historic landmark for our urban community, Trinity has become a renewed center, giving witness to our rich heritage, and proudly expressing our mission as an inclusive spiritual community. This is what is truly at the heart of what it means to be a cathedral church.

Since the beginning of my ministry here at Trinity, and especially after Bishop Dan Edwards’ proclamation on Christmas of 2016 of our new status as the Cathedral Church for the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada, we have willingly and boldly taken on that challenge. We have been more intentional in our mission to “seek and serve Christ in all persons” (Baptismal Covenant, BCP, p. 417). Ministries have been created and expanded, new staff members have been secured, and lay leadership has been nurtured to live out our faith with greater awareness and intentionality. Financially we have seen our budget increase and annual giving grow, our Endowment Fund reach its goal of \$1 million, and huge success with our first major capital campaign, “Faith Like a River.” The Capital Campaign not only successfully enabled us to renovate our cathedral space but also built a strong financial foundation to begin Phase 2 of our campus renewal work. The cathedral also achieved federal and state historic status. We have seen positive changes, significant active membership growth, and for all of this we are extremely grateful! It has taken a great deal of commitment, time, and work for us collectively to have come to this point with our ministry. I rejoice with you and for you. I am beyond proud for all that we have achieved knowing that we are better equipped for future kingdom work.

We all are only too aware that the last two years have presented many challenges for us collectively. We faced a global pandemic. This situation provided no guidance or precedence for ways to do ministry, or how to be the Church. Demands were changing daily as to what was being required to live with the pandemic. But we worked together to discern a path in keeping our members connected and ministry vital. Unfortunately, the situation continues with new variants. The challenges of dealing with Covid will be with us for many more months to come, and in all honesty, keeps us from discovering any sense of normalcy or predictability.

This present situation, however, has me not only reflecting upon our achievements, but also evaluating my own contributions, as well as asking, “Where do my gifts best serve the Church?” I rejoice for the many dreams and goals that have been realized. But as I now enter this phase of my life, it is essential that I discern my future direction. The time has now come for me to accept that self-care and spiritual direction is necessary for these years. Prayerfully and with profound soul-searching, I have decided that it is time for me to take leave of my position as Dean and Rector of Trinity Cathedral. With sabbatical time I will be seeking to find renewal, refreshment, and discernment for my future direction. In working through these details with the Diocesan Office and the Vestry, my pastorate will conclude on January 31, 2022.

This decision enables the people of Trinity Cathedral to continue to grow and mature in faith with new leadership built on the foundation that we have created. I am most grateful for the love and grace we shared these many years. This ministry in many ways has been the richest experience of my personal spiritual journey and service to the Lord. I am proud of what we collectively achieved as Christ’s presence in this community. I will hold you deeply in prayer as you move ahead in seeking new priestly leadership, as I also request your continual prayers for my discernment and direction.

I remain faithfully and gratefully yours,

Father William+

The Very Rev. Dr. William L. Stomski

Timeline for Departure

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| Monday, October 18: | Begin 2-week vacation. |
| Monday, November 1: | Begin 12-week sabbatical to refresh and discern next steps. Except for two single services noted below, no participation at the Cathedral after this date. |
| Sunday, November 7: | Conduct baptism service (11:00 service only) |
| Sunday, November 14: | Conduct reception service for new members (11:00 service only). This will be my last service at Trinity. |
| Monday, January 31: | Pastorate concludes. |