

FAQs

Why are you leaving?

After a lot of prayer, reflection and conversations with people I love and trust, I've decided to step away from my role at Trinity after fifteen years. The simple reason is that I'm tired, running on fumes, and not able to provide Trinity with the leadership you deserve. Trinity is poised to take some big steps forward, and I don't have the necessary energy and vision to join you on that journey. I will cheer you on from afar while I take some time to focus on myself, my family, and my next chapter as a priest, a queer person, and a follower of Jesus.

Why so abrupt?

While it doesn't feel abrupt to me (I've been praying about this decision for a while!) I understand that it feels abrupt to many. It's customary in the Episcopal Church not to extend the farewell period beyond three or four weeks at most, so the timing between my announcement and my final Sunday December 29 is largely determined by that wisdom and other diocesan and canonical guidelines. I am working with the vestry and staff to ensure a smooth transition, and I'm confident that Trinity is in good hands.

Did your relationship with the bishop factor into your decision?

Bishop Akiyama did not suggest or request my resignation; it is my decision. She and her staff have been apprised of my decision and will work with Trinity's leadership throughout the transition. I remain a priest in good standing in the Diocese of Oregon.

Is it our fault?

No. I think both of my predecessors as dean would agree with my assessment: there is not a healthier or more joyful community in the Episcopal Church than Trinity Cathedral. You have loved me, supported me through thick and thin, embraced my family, and helped me to grow into the person God created me to be. We walked together through three complicated election cycles, a global pandemic, political upheaval, racial injustice and social change. Through it all this community has stuck together and been willing to be challenged and to feel uncomfortable.

I am proud of the work we've done together and have cherished my tenure as your pastor. The prayer I prayed at my installation as dean remains the cornerstone of my daily practice: *"Make me an instrument of your salvation for the people entrusted to my care, and grant that I may faithfully administer your holy Sacraments, and by my life and teaching set forth your true and living Word"* (BCP, pg. 563). I have tried to be faithful to that prayer, and I believe the Holy Spirit has done good work among us.

What happens next?

For me, I don't know yet. For the past several months I've been discerning a call to monastic life, and I will continue to explore that call as I step away from the daily work of being Trinity's dean. For now, I plan to continue to serve the diocese as a supply priest. I will continue as a spiritual director in private practice and will joyfully step into whatever vocation the Holy Spirit has next for me when she reveals more fully what, for now, I can only see dimly.

For Trinity, what comes next is a period of interim ministry and discernment, and you will be ably lead through this period by Senior Warden Greg Harris and the Trinity vestry. Canon Shana, the staff, and our dedicated volunteers will keep our ministries humming along, and life at Trinity will continue as it has for over a hundred and fifty years.

God has great things in store for you, I look forward to reading the next chapter of your grace-filled story.