

Aloha to Dean Heather and Canon Sandy.

I am among those sad at the loss of Dean Heather Patton-Graham and Canon Sandy Graham to our diocese. There will be many tributes offered as we celebrate their ministries among us and bid them aloha. Dean Heather's impact on the life and ministry of the Cathedral of St. Andrew will be remembered for years to come. I would like to share my appreciation for Canon Sandy's ministry, particularly as I recently witnessed it at St. Elizabeth's Church.

St. Elizabeth's has been dear to my heart ever since Dr. Gerald "Jerry" Gifford hired me in 1985 to join the clergy team serving its diverse ministries. I learned so much from him and from them about how to conduct myself as a White person still new to the islands, about the challenges of the Kalihi-Palama community, and about the ecumenical and community partners serving the neighborhood. It was the kind of urban ministry I had always felt called to.

During the years since, I have followed the ups and downs and challenges St. Elizabeth's has faced. As a member of this diocese who loves that congregation, I am so grateful for the work Canon Sandy has done there. It has been one of the most effective interim ministry jobs I have seen or heard of, and I've done and watched a lot of interim ministry.

During his service as St. Elizabeth's Priest in Charge, they have healed much that was broken, empowered existing and new skilled leadership, and restored their administrative systems. They are now ready to welcome their new Priest in Charge who brings the skills and experience to lead them into a future that will build on the best of their history and serve their community in all its variety with love, faith and joy. I am supremely grateful for Canon Sandy and Dean Heather's ministries and know that their contribution to this diocese will be long remembered.

The Rev. Alison Dingley
May 14, 2026