

# Trinity Reformed Episcopal Church

5920 Butler-Warren Road

Mason, Ohio 45040



## **Our History:**

Trinity Church began as a non-denominational church in 1990 with Peter Manto as its pastor. Soon we recognized a need to work within a larger association of churches, and an extensive search for a place to affiliate was begun by the congregation. As the process progressed, the church grew in its appreciation for liturgy, the sacraments, the historic church, and the early Church Fathers. This led them to the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC) because of their strong emphasis in these areas, as well as the REC's parish church structure and episcopal form of government. In November, 2000, Trinity Church was established as a mission parish of the Diocese of Mid-America of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

In 2001, Trinity purchased the former Mason Church of Christ building in Mason, Ohio, and began meeting there in July 2002.

In 2008, Trinity was moved into the newly-formed Diocese of the Central States of the REC.

In 2013, Fr. Manto was appointed Bishop Suffragan of the DCS. Later, he was elected as Bishop Co-adjutor.

In 2020, Bishop Manto became the Bishop Ordinary for DCS. Bishop Manto maintains his home in the Cincinnati area and joins us for Sunday services when he is not traveling.

In 2021, we called a new rector – Matthew Joyner under a 2-year agreement. In 2023 by mutual decision, we agreed to part ways as the fit between Trinity's needs and Father Joyner's needs were no longer aligned.

## **Our Location:**

Located in Mason, Ohio, a northern suburb of Cincinnati, Trinity is centrally located between Interstates 75 and 71. Our location makes it convenient for residents of both the growing cities of Mason (35,586 residents) and West Chester (60,958 residents), while also being easily accessible for residents of other Cincinnati suburbs and south Dayton cities such as Middletown, Franklin and Springboro.

## **Our Congregation:**

- Spread across 17 family units, Trinity averages in the 30's for weekly attendance at Sunday service.
- Our congregation has a mix of home-schooling families, young married couples and retirees.
- We believe that congregations who have fun together stay together so we purposefully focus on opportunities to socialize. We nearly always enjoy food and beverages after Sunday service; we have a lamb dinner as part of our Easter services, chili cook offs as part of the greening of the church, and summer cookouts on Wednesdays after Evening Prayer.
- Since we ask all families/members to tithe and are financial conservative in our spending, our church financials are healthy. While we are prudent with our use of these resources, the Rector has funding for programs and initiatives needed for ministry.

## **Our Values:**

- **Worship and Prayer:** Trinity values historical, liturgical worship. Our worship service is based on the 1928 Book of Common Prayer (as published in the REC Book of Common Prayer). We celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday at 10:30 AM. We also hold an Evening Prayer service two Wednesdays a month.
- **Education:** We offer Sunday school sessions beginning at 9:30 AM.
- **Fellowship:** Fellowship is one of Trinity's strengths. Programs include: Engaging with Aging lunch group, Men's Bible Study, Women's Bible study, Sunday after service fellowship including food/beverages.
- **Service:** Trinity offers many opportunities to give to others and imitate the ways of Christ.
- **Episcopacy:** We are united under the oversight of godly men holding the office of bishop. Our bishops provide caring, pastoral leadership.
- **The Church Calendar:** We follow the path of Christ and His Church during the liturgical year, from the Advent of His birth, through Lent, the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension. We observe the fasts of Lent, Rogation Days, and Ember Days, as well as frequent feasts.

### **Our Theology:**

- We believe the Bible in the Old and New Testaments to be the complete and infallible Word of God.
- We embrace the doctrinal statements of the REC and its Book of Common Prayer.
- We subscribe to the historic creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian), the Ecumenical Councils, and the 39 Articles of Religion.
- We believe that baptism unites sinful men with Christ and gives them new life in a very real way. We administer Baptism to children of believing parents, as well as new converts.
- We welcome baptized members of any age and of any Christian faith to the Lord's table at our service of Holy Communion.
- We have an optimistic, long-term view of the expansion of the Church of Jesus Christ and its effect on the sinful world.
- We believe that God extends His saving grace to people whom He elects, and that no action or merit of any man can earn God's grace.
- We believe the Biblical examples of the male-only priesthood prohibit us from ordaining women to Holy Orders.

### **Our New Rector:**

We are encouraged and full of hope as we turn the next page in the history of Trinity Church. Our next Rector should be prepared to lead us through this new season before us.

First and foremost, we are looking for a man who regards his role as pastor and shepherd as the primary expression of his ministry by setting an example and assisting individuals and families in living out their Christian faith.

Given our current congregational size and associated financial abilities, we are open to exploring a bi-vocational rector relationship whereby a rector could both serve Trinity but also have an additional income source associated with another vocation.

### **Capabilities/experience we desire in a Rector:**

- experienced as a Rector or an assistant,
- well-suited to the Reformed Episcopal Church, its history and culture,
- educated in the scriptures (M.Div. or equivalent),
- strong in the ability to proclaim the Word of God in sermons: directing the congregation to live lives informed by the Scriptures, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and illuminating to the world.,
- willing to understand and maintain our current worship customs and practices,
- able to teach and converse in a Sunday School setting,
- strong in interpersonal and communication skills,
- eager to reach out to the community, especially the unchurched, and discover new ministry opportunities,
- a leader who builds upon the foundation of our parish's history and culture, focusing on our values and motivating people to participate in our congregational life,
- an organizational leader with the ability to delegate tasks and cultivate parish-wide involvement

We hope you find this introduction to our parish helpful in considering your suitability for our position. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have.

This is a description of the various responsibilities our new Rector will have. You will have discretion in determining how to execute or delegate these duties.

### **I. Leading Worship: central to making disciples, promoting Anglican Way**

#### A. Direct and keep the parish in the flow of the liturgy/calendar/sacraments

##### 1. Sundays, Holy Days

- a) Prepare order of services; select music, psalm, Scripture readings; research feasts, fasts, etc. regarding each particular Sunday to offer instruction for worshippers; print bulletin working with secretary and choirmaster
- b) Prepare weekly sermon from the Sunday Propers: usually a day's work, 6-10 hours spread over two or three days
- c) Prepare special remembrances/activities for Holy Days (Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity, All Saints, Candlemas, Rogation, Ember Days, Saints' Days, etc.)
- d) Prepare special events connected to Sunday worship (Baptism, confirmation, episcopal visit, new members, Sanctity of Life, guest speakers, etc.)
- e) Participate in fellowship time in parish hall after service: greeting visitors, talking with members

##### 2. Morning and Evening Prayer

- a) Prepare order of service, select music and readings, prepare bulletin, include brief commentary on seasonal holy days
- b) Rector attends Evening Prayer, reads lessons, and makes arrangements for the meal after the service.

### **II. Christian Education: reading the Scriptures together and receiving instruction**

#### A. Sunday School lessons

1. Prepare and teach lessons: Bible commentary, topical studies, liturgy, others
2. Prepare Summer Reading Project

#### B. Confirmation classes: 6-week study for confirmands each year as needed

#### C. Inquirers' Class: 6-week overview of membership in Trinity Church each year

### **III. Outreach: There is a great opportunity to evolve our outreach strategy**

#### A. Looking for your input on how we can improve our outreach strategies

#### B. Follow up communication with Sunday visitors: letter, phone call, visit

### **IV. Pastoral: shepherding the flock: Cure of Souls**

#### A. Maintain communication with every member: goal: trusting, personal relationships

1. Calling everyone to an ever higher standard of faith and practice
2. Encouraging good relationships among members

#### B. Be especially aware of needs within parish

1. Hospital visits, crisis intervention, counseling
2. Telephone calls, home visits as needed
3. Premarital counseling: 6 sessions, rehearsal, wedding, follow-up
4. Ministry to the bereaved: plan and conduct funerals

## **V. Staff Relations**

- A. Secretary: meet one morning weekly to prepare bulletins and give assignments, communicate during week to make other assignments
- B. Choirmaster: communicate weekly regarding Sunday music, maintain working relationship to develop music functions of parish

## **VI. Membership Relations**

- A. Maintain interested and personal contact with every member
- B. Work with vestry in helping every member find some place of service and ministry within the parish. Time, Talent, Treasure survey

## **VII. Building and Grounds**

- A. Regularly walk-through the building to be certain appearance is first rate
  - 1. Meet regularly with sexton to discuss needs and ways to improve

## **VIII. Vestry and Administration**

- A. Prepare agenda and lead monthly vestry meeting: distribute assignments to members and assure various tasks are being completed
- B. Prepare agenda and lead parish council meetings: monthly or as needed
- C. Prepare Rector's Report and deliver during annual All-parish meeting
- D. Maintain Parish register
- E. Produce biannual membership roll (active/inactive/changes)
- F. Maintain attendance register

## **IX. REC**

- A. Monthly phone call to bishop to update personal and parish issues
  - 1. Prepare annual Episcopal visit and report
- B. Maintain ministerial contacts with regional clergy
  - 1. Clergy study group
- C. Stay informed regarding diocesan, denominational and ACNA connections
- D. Attend diocesan synod, regional clergy meetings, REC General Council

## **X. Personal**

- A. Attend to the needs of spouse and home
- B. Pray the Daily Office and follow lectionary readings
- C. Maintain a consistent regimen of reading and study
- D. Maintain personal habits conducive to a healthy and godly lifestyle