

Trinity Church

in the City of Boston

Copley Square

206 Clarendon Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02116-3722



January 7, 2019

Dear Fellow Trinity Parishioners,

It has been a great privilege to serve as your Search Committee, and it was our joy to recommend the Rev. Morgan S. Allen, rector of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Austin, Texas, to the Vestry as the next rector of Trinity Church in the City of Boston. His call to our community was affirmed with enthusiasm by the Vestry and Bishop Gates last Thursday. We are excited for the future of Trinity and believe you will soon see why.

Fifteen months ago we received our charge from the Vestry to search among the broadest possible spectrum of Episcopal clergy and then to nominate someone we believe has the clear potential to be a great leader for Trinity, one who matches the lofty aspirations set by the Parish Profile—a good and faithful priest, a gifted preacher and teacher, an effective parish manager and leader in stewardship, a leader for all in our community who can help us grow in our relation to the needs and souls of the city that is our home.

We believe Morgan Allen fulfills those hopes. He is a deeply pastoral and loving priest; a riveting, bold, and engaging preacher; an excellent parish manager, and a leader who has pressed his congregation to live into Christ's call, seeking deeper relationship with each other and the surrounding community.

The core of his approach to ministry is to know and love all in his parish—and he does mean all. The deep relationships he develops with his congregation help him know how best to preach to his people, to know what they need to hear from him, and to be truly and fully present in times of greatest need, whether in joy or sorrow.

This blend of remarkable gifts is what has made him so successful at Good Shepherd, which has grown rapidly under his rectorship into a parish of about Trinity's size and complexity. Indeed, it has become one of the fastest growing Episcopal parishes in attendance and pledge-and-plate revenue growth in America. As mainline Protestant churches seem on an inexorable downward slope in numbers and means, Morgan Allen has led churches that somehow have gone the other way. In his nearly 14 years as a rector, he has never led a parish that didn't grow. Imagine that!

This search that led to Morgan Allen has been for us a rich, demanding and spiritually deepening journey. Along the way we have gotten to know and admire an astonishing range of eloquent, prayerful, inspiring priests. A diverse group by every measure. The Episcopal Church faces challenges, to be sure, but there is no shortage of talent among its clergy. We are grateful to all of those who entered our process, sought to know us and Trinity, and submitted to our considerable demands for information and time.

We are also grateful, beyond measure, for the support we have had from our Trinity family, especially the Vestry and Senior Warden, and Bill Rich—without whose steadfast and energizing interim leadership this would not have been possible—and from all of you who have been so patient with this long process and the necessary utter confidentiality that has accompanied it.

We hope you will join us in warmly welcoming the Allen family—Morgan, his wife, Missy, and their two children, Michael and Ginna—and in supporting our 21st rector as he begins ministry with us here at Trinity.

Yours in Christ,



Mark Morrow
Co-Chair



Jill Norton
Co-Chair

On behalf of the Search Committee:

Kenzie Bok
Tom Claflin
Colin Diver
Peter Howe
Ralph Hughes
Vincent James

Lonsdale Koester
Pam Lassiter
Tim Martin
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