



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Oct 4, 2023)

Blue Water Episcopal Covenant - Trinity, Lexington, Eastern Michigan

1016 Main Street, Lexington, MI 48450, United States

Contact:

tlittle@eastmich.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

32

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

1

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position

\$53615

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options

Negotiable

Dental

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks

Other

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget

Sabbatical Provision

Travel/Auto Account

Other Professional Account

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

During the pandemic, we worshipped via Zoom and YouTube. As we reconnected to in-person worship, we continue to offer YouTube broadcasts of every service in addition to sanctuary attendance. Without a priest-in-charge, several times a year we bring in priests from different parts of the country for three-week residencies. We also use supply priests from our area for Eucharistic services and lay leaders for Morning Prayer. The parish was founded in 1876 and has been offering worship and fellowship without interruption since. That continuity and perseverance is a source of pride for our congregation.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

Formulating the Blue Water Episcopal Covenant is the church of the future, as more and more modestly sized parishes combine resources to enable a range of programs that extend ministry and mission to members and communities alike. An important focus is support of a rector. The document entitled Blue Water Episcopal Covenant and Operating Principles is available upon request and outlines the role of the rector as well as stipulating other principles of the covenant structure. We understand that live-streaming of services, activities, and meetings is now a way of life. We acknowledge the relentless expansion of social media and are looking for ways to take advantage of platforms and communications ideas. Broadcasting services live from Trinity via YouTube is part of that effort. We are exploring innovative strategies to bring non-members into the church. As congregations with older members, we are looking for ways to attract younger people and families. Finding and building youth connections throughout the community is a focus. Revitalizing our physical plants is also important to keeping us looking inviting, active, alive, and vital.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Open-minded communication. Innovative guidance. Passionate evangelism. Engagement with all.

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Both Holy Family and Trinity are traditional but flexible. We typically follow the Rite II liturgy but often branch out to incorporate different worship rituals and styles. Both parishes hold a single service on Sunday mornings. Absent a priest, both parishes usually present Morning Prayer led by lay leaders, switching to a Eucharist service when a supply priest is available. Lay readers are always part of our services. From March 2020 to June 2021, worship was exclusively via Zoom and Facebook due to the pandemic. As meeting in person has become safer, we are excited to reconnect as this allows us to build relationships more easily. We continue to offer virtual church as a way to connect with parishioners who are absent for health, travel, and other reasons. At Trinity, a pianist or organist supplies accompaniment for hymns and responses. The small choir presents anthems and leads singing during services. A guitarist often participates in services as well. Ambiance is warm and relaxed; we are comfortable with worshipping together.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We identify new attendees immediately and welcome them to our fellowship. This kind of personal encouragement and interaction is central to the friendly atmosphere that surrounds everyone who enters our churches. Both Holy Family and Trinity use our annual stewardship drives as a survey, encouraging members to sign up to help in ways that interest them. Such opportunities are reading during the service, offering music, working the food pantry or church resale shop, making prayer shawls, participating in indoor and outdoor maintenance, inviting people to Bible study and seasonal groups, and supporting the Christmas wish program, among other activities. Trinity fundraising projects such as our attic sale, bi-annual quilt display, Christmas bazaar, and twice-yearly pasty-making are a great opportunity to get people hand-on and interacting together. (For those new to Michigan food specialties, the pasty is a handheld meal of meat and vegetables, enclosed and baked in a pie crust case.)

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Both churches have active prayer ministries that connect with members via email and phone. We also use traditional mail and personal visits to stay in touch and support those who do not have a computer. We have prayer shawl ministries that deliver hand-knit shawls and lap robes to those who are ill, experiencing distress, or in need of comfort. Our senior wardens and part-time administrators keep people connected through our websites< Sunday announcements, emails and mailings. We are resuming regular Bible study and similar groups as public health and leadership conditions allow. We talk with one another and share information about needs and conditions in our facilities and among members.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

We have an active Project Blessing organization that gives away food and other items to the community. The prayer shawl ministry knits or crochets lap robes to give away to those who are sick or in distress. Assisting with the annual Christmas Wish project benefits families in need throughout Sanilac County. Our building is used by several different organizations as a location for gathering. Groups include Al-Anon, Alcoholics Anonymous, Blue Water Folk Society, and others. Members are also encouraged to support local, regional, national/international non-project agencies that provide various types of assistance.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Our buildings are used for Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Girl Scouts, and similar groups six days a week. At Trinity the Blue Water Folk Society presents a communitywide coffee house once a month from October through March. Trinity sponsors the Project Blessing food pantry, with parishioners donating goods. The pantry is open to all in the area who need assistance. The Christmas Wish project provides gifts and funds to families through an affiliation with Sanilac County. Our parishes work with other churches to sponsor community services and programs. For example, Trinity hosts a regional men's spirituality group, participates in interdenominational worship, and sponsors Lexington's community-wide vacation Bible school each summer. The community children's choir periodically visits congregations with an opening song for services. Participation in ecumenical activities with area churches of various denominations is important. Members from Holy Family and Trinity attend special services and events within our communities. Trinity's summertime outdoor service at Tierney Park in Lexington's harbor serves as a beacon to the community and is open to all.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Trinity is entering into a covenant relationship with Holy Family in order to jointly engage a priest to serve the two parishes. We are working to bring non-members into the church. We anticipate the covenant priest will offer ideas to inspire new possibilities. We acknowledge the relentless expansion of social media and are looking for ways to take advantage of platforms and communication ideas. Revitalizing our physical plant is important to keep us looking inviting and active. Finding and building youth connections throughout the community is a focus.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Both parishes hold an annual stewardship campaign to gain pledges of financial support for the upcoming year. Pledge cards also provide an opportunity for members to commit their time and talent in areas of interest to the larger good of the church. Entering the Blue Water Episcopal Covenant recognizes our financial positions and the need to be purposeful stewards of available, limited resources to accomplish desired goals. Among those goals is sharing a rector who serves both parishes. Our senior wardens and other lay leaders attend stewardship training and share information with other local wardens. Senior wardens plan with the vestry and treasurer and keep the congregation abreast of relevant financial information. We are realistic about the financial needs of our parishes and recognize that monies are finite. At Trinity we hold an annual attic sale, Christmas bazaar, pasty-making and sales project, Independence Day parade bake sale, and other activities to bring in additional funds. Every other year we host an area-wide quilt show with dozens of gorgeous handmade quilts on display, selling tickets to raffle an original quilt to a lucky winner.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

Both Holy Family and Trinity have had our share of changes and learned to deal with conflict. For Trinity, after operation for many years with a full-time priest, the move to share resources within the Blue Water Episcopal Covenant in order to employ a priest responsible to the covenant is a new way of thinking, organizing and doing business. Historically, Trinity Episcopal Church is like most other churches. We rock and roll through the problems of each day but mostly get along. There are only two incidents in our history that come to mind regarding serious issues in the church, and both occurred more than 20 years ago. When the 1979 Prayer Book came out, there was a hesitancy in accepting it. That was eventually resolved, and we have been using the current Book of Common Prayer for many years. The other issue that affected Trinity was the election of Gene Robinson as Bishop. The church split, we lost at least one-third of our members, and our rector left. That was in 2003. Still, the church pulled together and remained active. The pandemic brought an awareness that change is always constant. In every instance, we direct our energies toward positive solutions.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Moving from having a full-time, dedicated rector to formulating and soon activating the Blue Water Episcopal Covenant represents a major switch in how we organize and think about our parish. Many members are still adjusting to this new status and have lots of questions about how this will work. For the most part, people are hopeful despite having reservations, although we are all aware that more change will come. Fortunately, not having a rector for an extended period of time (two years and counting) has already forced the laity to step up involvement and participation, which will be important within the covenant relationship of sharing a priest. Covid has been a huge jolt for everyone in myriad ways, from personal losses of family and friends, to the physical distancing forced on everyone. While a few members drifted away to churches that were more open and participatory than Episcopalians were allowed, to be, for the most part, long-time Trinitarians stayed with Trinity, even continuing their financial support. While recent years have been difficult for everybody we persevere and are determined to do so going forward.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Kay Houck	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2014-05	2020-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Frederick Schark	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2004-01	2012-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Darryl Pigeon	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1994-01	2003-01

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
		5

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School



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Contact:
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Worshipping Community Web site: www.trinitylexington.org

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop: **Prince Singh** 989-752-6020 psingh@eastmich.org

Diocesan Transition Minister **Tracie Little** 810-300-9177 tlittle@eastmich.org

Current Warden/Board Chair **Ginny McNabb / Michelle Irwin** 810-404-5681 / 810-359-2446

Previous Warden/Board Chair **Denise Korniewicz** 786-299-0741

Search Chair **Sue Barber** 810-327-0009

Parish/Institution **Alice McGarvie** 810-359-8741

Local Community Leader **Ginny McNabb** 810-404-5681