

Letter from the Rector on Diocesan Transfer
November 13, 2023

Greetings, saints of Trinity!

I write today with some significant news, and with an invitation.

The news is that, by the end of the year, I will be seeking transfer from the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast, to the Diocese of All Nations. All Nations is a sister Diocese in the ACNA, led by Bishop Felix Orji, who is located in Houston.

My invitation is that you would join me on this journey.

In any change like this, there is both a “push” and a “pull,” a set of challenges pushing one out and a set of opportunities pulling one in. In this case, the major factor that is “pushing” me out of the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast is a challenging relationship this year with our Bishop, Clark Lowenfield.

In the month of October Bishop Clark and I participated in a process of Christian mediation, under the guidance of Retired Bishop Trevor Walters. I am grateful that we did begin the work of personal reconciliation through mutual repentance and forgiveness, but it is also clear to me that professional separation is the best path forward for us and our respective ministries.

Such separation has both Biblical and contemporary precedent. Biblically, Paul & Barnabas separated after their first missionary journey over significant disagreement concerning the participation of Mark. Though this separation was certainly unexpected and disappointing, God used it to his own glory, sending Paul with Silas to Syria, and Barnabas with Mark to Cyprus, thereby doubling the missionary work. In our own contemporary context, I will be one of six clergy this year transferring out of the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast.

So what is “pulling” me into All Nations? First, All Nations is a good fit for Trinity, with a commitment to both classical Anglican theology and contextual local mission. In the Diocese of All Nations, nothing will change in our Sunday services and weekday ministries. Second, All Nations is passionate for church planting and mission, including in Louisiana. It already has a church plant in Baton Rouge and another in development for Shreveport. Third, I’m so grateful for the kindness, confidence, and pastoral care Bishop Felix has shown me and my family over the past month. A pastor needs the strong support of his Bishop in order to function well.

Now that I have made my decision, Trinity needs to make a decision of its own, and we will have a vote on November 26 after our Sunday service. Trinity has one of two options:

- 1) Vote to transfer, in which case I will continue at Trinity
- 2) Vote not to transfer, in which case I will resign from Trinity

Allow me first to acknowledge that for many of us, including me, neither option seems ideal. There is always a sense of loss in change, and there will be loss here in either outcome. But the Lord does have a way of bringing good things out of loss, taking us through death to resurrection. Whatever happens, let's all hold on to Christ and trust that He has a plan beyond our imagining.

As for me, I am eager to continue to serve as your Rector at Trinity, but only if you want to have me! If not, I will depart peacefully. But given how much we have done together at Trinity, my prayer is that we will continue together for years to come.

In Christ –
Peter