



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Jan 13, 2026)*

## Trinity Episcopal Church, Hamilton, Ohio, Southern Ohio

115 N. 6th Street, Hamilton, OH 45011, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/30/26.

[mslane@diosohio.org](mailto:mslane@diosohio.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) <b>40</b>	Number of Weekend Worship Services <b>1</b>	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement <b>\$5967</b>	Compensation Available for New Position <b>\$78000</b>	Housing Available for	Pension Plan <b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options <b>Clergy only</b>	Dental <b>Yes</b>	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks <b>One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)</b>	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks <b>2 (standard)</b>	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget <b>\$1001-\$2000/year</b>	Sabbatical Provision <b>Yes</b>	Travel/Auto Account <b>Yes</b>	Other Professional Account <b>Yes</b>

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

Trinity embraces the words Paul writes in his letter to Corinth, speaking of God, "who comforts us all in our troubles and afflictions, so that we can comfort those in any trouble or affliction." This is a foundation of our ministry for helping people in need. On a recent Sunday, we celebrated 5 years of sobriety of a woman who came to our church seeking spiritual counseling and prayer. Her afflictions included mental illness, addiction, poverty, and housing insecurity. Initially, she received emergency financial support and counseling and soon several parishioners befriended her. She made coffee Sunday mornings and attended worship services. Members welcomed her into our outreach ministries and integrated her into our lay worship ministry. Thusly we helped transitioning someone facing the likelihood of premature death to a housed person free of addictions. We all celebrated her confirmation and expanded role in our faith community becoming a Greeter, Usher and trusted Altar Guild member. Our Sunday morning celebration with and for her was a tangible reminder that our ministry of loving our neighbor, no exceptions, produces successful results.

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

We are systematically planning for the future of Trinity during the transition period. We have engaged the entire congregation through sermons and programs focusing on stewardship, healthy behaviors and growing in Spirit and numbers. A significant percentage of the congregation participated in a five-session program on the Invite-Welcome-Connect ministry. The Vestry has studied the life cycle of our parish and how to pursue renewal and avoid future decline. Many parishioners participated in Celebrating Our Heritage to better understand our great history so that it strengthens rather than burdens our future. The capstone of our forward-looking transition process was Envisioning Our Future, an appreciative inquiry-based approach in which the congregation in the context of Eucharist identified our core values, hopes and dreams for the future, and the characteristics of the person God is calling to serve as our next Rector. The Vestry, Search Committee and congregation are committed to building on our strong foundation to assure that Trinity is a beacon of Christ's love and service for generations to come.

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

A warm and welcoming spiritual leader who is committed to inspiring us through preaching and teaching.

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

Trinity is Eucharistically-centered and broad-church in liturgical style. We primarily use Rite II and use Rite I on the last Sunday of the month in consideration for parishioners who preferred the 8:30 a.m. service before it ended after the pandemic. In addition to the Eucharistic Prayers from the BCP, we make occasional use of Enriching Our Worship. We primarily use hymns and service music from the Hymnal 1982, with periodic use of Wonder, Love and Praise and LEVAS II. The complete liturgy for the Sunday service is included in the service booklet except for hymns from the Hymnal 1982. Our service is livestreamed for those unable to attend in person. Held in our beautiful worship space, our liturgy brings us together as a faith community. In worship, we are fed, inspired, challenged, transformed, and sent out to be the heart and hands of Jesus Christ in our neighborhood, and the world. Our sermons often remind us of the basics of our Baptismal Covenant. We put this into practice throughout the week through our individual and collective ministries to love and serve the poor and marginalized and bring them from the fringes to the center as Christ calls us to do.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

The lay director of our largest outreach program, Trinity Clothes Closet, recruits many people for this ministry from our parish and other settings through personal encounters and invitation. As a result we have incorporated into this ministry people from Trinity, several nearby congregations, residents of local shelters and clients of the Clothes Closet. For our other ministries such as participation in our worship services, hospitality, garden maintenance, Vestry members, Delegates to Convention, the Episcopal Church Women, lay leaders and the Rector rely on one-on-one invitation, the weekly newsletter and Sunday announcements. New participants in our various ministries are encouraged and mentored so they become well connected and engaged in their ministries.

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

Trinity is a loving family of faith. We treat each other with compassion, acceptance and generous care. We support the needs of our Trinity family with prayer, phone calls and visits. We bring food when appropriate. We celebrate their joys and share their sorrows. Being able to add names for healing during the Prayers of the People is a comfort to many, and our weekly newsletter publishes a list of prayer requests from parishioners. For many years, we have had Pastoral Care visitors making regular visits to those who are homebound. From Covid, we learned that long periods of separation from the church community resulted in periods of depression for some. Calls, cards and Zoom visits helped at that time and continue post-Covid. We have trained Lay Eucharistic Visitors who bring Communion to the homebound to add to what the priest is able to do.

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

Trinity's Clothes Closet, our largest outreach ministry, is known throughout the area and visited by approximately 150 people per week. This gives us a wonderful opportunity to provide pastoral care to those in need. We engage the homeless, those fleeing domestic violence, victims of fire, recently released prisoners, addicts in treatment and any other people seeking our help. During two mornings each week we have the opportunity through listening and conversation to be a pastoral presence to all who walk through our doors. We also provide a safe and welcoming space for several 12-step groups who meet at Trinity every week. We do our best to serve everyone with love and compassion, carrying out the promise in our Baptismal Covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

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

Trinity engages with other faith communities by supporting underserved and low-income individuals and participates regularly in Diocesan Conventions and workshops. We will be the host parish for Diocesan Convention being held this fall in Hamilton. We have taken part in regular meetings focused on the homeless and needy in our local community. With our community-focused ministries, we regularly support the special needs of individuals. Our generous Discretionary Fund frequently provides financial help with rent, utilities and other urgent needs of nearby residents. We are active members of Open and Affirming Churches of Butler County and have participated in the Hamilton Ohio Pride Festival since its inception in 2021. We greet and welcome festival-goers at our shared booth, answering questions, listening to people's stories, and sharing information about Trinity Church. We work with the organizers of the festival to provide a safe and open experience, including acting as shields between our Pride friends and a small hate group that appears each year to shout ugly messages of damnation. Last year we held a healing service at the close of Pride week.

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

Trinity Church strives to live Jesus' words every day by being a good neighbor and by serving the stranger, the poor and the outcast. One of our newer ministries has been sponsoring an annual community picnic, recently hosting our third. We delivered invitations to a five-block area around the church and displayed a large poster in our front yard. The picnic featured tables, grills, and colorful decorations. Attendees enjoyed grilled hot dogs and hamburgers with various sides. The purpose of the event is to provide our neighbors an opportunity to meet each other and members of Trinity while enjoying the festivities. This year, we were joined by over twenty people from the neighboring Beth Israel Congregation. Thanks to the connections made at the community picnic, four members of their congregation are now volunteering with our clothing ministry. Vic Russo may be contacted about this ministry at victorrisso@hotmail.com.

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

One aspect of stewardship is, of course, financial stewardship. We are recovering a robust approach to financial stewardship during our interim period. We launched a slightly off-cycle pledge campaign with a theological approach to giving through sermons, newsletter articles, testimonials and a letter to the congregation from the Wardens and Interim Rector. We stressed giving in grateful thanksgiving for God's blessings and our need to give, not just giving to a need. And of course there's a much broader concept of stewardship, starting with time and talent but including caring for all of God's creation and how we prioritize and live our lives. One way stewardship shapes the life of our community is that many have found a path from self-focus to an outward perspective. This includes observing needs in Trinity's ministries, services or facility, and finding ways to leverage one's God-given talents to serve others. Whether helping clothe the needy, contribute to the weekly worship service, or care for the church property, this work establishes a rhythm of structured weekly activities that provides a sense of purpose and happiness.

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

At Trinity, knowing that conflict is to be expected within any community, we strive to address it in healthy and productive ways. We encourage open, direct and respectful communication among all our parishioners. Our Vestry norms include expectations of healthy communication and healthy conflict. In parish meetings, members are encouraged to express any concerns, complaints or differences of opinion directly. Occasionally, of course, any of us may need support and assistance to resolve a conflict. Several years ago it came to the attention of the Vestry that a small group of parishioners were triangulating by taking their complaints to a particular parishioner. We encouraged that parishioner to direct complaints to the source, whether it be the Rector, staff member or Senior Warden. We also reminded the congregation that complaints needed to be handled directly, rather than under the surface. Whether conflict exists between individuals, groups or about decisions, we believe that direct and respectful communication is the best path. Members of the Vestry, the Senior Warden, or the Rector are available to help those in conflict reach a resolution.

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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?

When we returned to in-person worship following the Pandemic we wanted to carry on without change by having two worship services on Sunday mornings: an 8:30 Rite I service without music and a 10:30 Rite II service with music. We soon discovered that change was necessary. Parishioners with health conditions were slow to return. There was worry about our lower attendance. The Rector and Vestry discussed the need to go to a single service and presented options of various times and liturgical styles to the congregation followed by a survey. This ultimately resulted in an agreement to have Rite II with music at 9:30 for the first three Sundays of the month, Rite I without music on the fourth Sunday and Morning Prayer on the 5th. This was enthusiastically embraced by those who previously preferred the Rite I service. We learned a lot. Change was successful when we included the entire congregation and were open to a further adjustment, ultimately honoring everyone's input and concerns.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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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
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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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Worshipping Community Web site: <https://www.trinityhamilton.org/>

Media Links:

> <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064822417497>

Online References:

> <https://www.youtube.com/@trinityepiscopalchurchhamilton>  
> <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Reflections-from-the-Rev-->

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English**

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### References

Bishop: 513-421-0311 [kwhite@diosohio.org](mailto:kwhite@diosohio.org)

**The Rt. Rev. Kristin Uffelman White**

Diocesan Transition Minister 314-306-5751 [mslane@diosohio.org](mailto:mslane@diosohio.org)

**Rev. Melanie W.J. Slane**

Current Warden/Board Chair 513-478-8918 [suesamo63@gmail.com](mailto:suesamo63@gmail.com)

**Sue Samoviski**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair 513-378-4227 [msamoviski@gmail.com](mailto:msamoviski@gmail.com)

**Mike Samoviski**

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader [victorrusso@hotmail.com](mailto:victorrusso@hotmail.com)

**Vic Russo**