



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Jul 3, 2018)*

## Trinity Episcopal Church, Maine

247 Bates Street, Lewiston, ME 04241, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)

[mambler@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:mambler@episcopalmaine.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
22	1	0	0
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$16658			
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$16658		<b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	

*\$16,658 is diocesan standard for salary, housing, SECA, on 1/4 time basis*

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

One example of our success and fulfillment is our rhythm of reflection and sharing. It embodies our ministry to our neighbors, ourselves and our God. For the Prayers of the People, we surround the altar, standing in a circle. There we participate in a time of thanksgiving and petition. New congregants are always invited to join. This sharing of prayers and celebration of our Trinity community brings a compassionate and grounded fulfillment. It is a moment in our worship that we celebrate with our spiritual leader as a partner. We recognize this as a success because it is an intimate experience with each person contributing their own voice. Compassion and inclusion are the result. When we hear of needs we respond with grace, when we hear of success we rejoice. Another success was the development of our mission statement: A doorway to compassion and courage - Empowering members, serving neighbors. With its simplicity and wholeness it reflects our dreams and visions. The collaborative effort in developing our mission statement included our congregation, outreach partners and neighbors.

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

Trinity has stayed open and active in a neighborhood that has lost other churches over the past thirty years. As a forward looking but small parish with an old building, we have used our fiscal, physical and human resources creatively. We worked to create a fiscal plan to maintain the building's structural integrity and keep the doors open, both for worship and for the programs and projects we have sponsored. It has required us to be flexible, visionary and energetic. We operate in the black most years and we have a healthy reserve fund for major repairs. A very high percent of budget is from member pledges. Our most important goal has been affirming our commitment to the Gospel, especially its call to work for economic and social justice. We are striving to be more visible in the community with a prophetic message. This is expressed in our mission statement and included in past strategic plans. We are receptive to changes and challenges, prayerfully seeking guidance as we speak and listen to each other and to our call.

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

Pastoral Compassionate Collaborative Visionary

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

Although in Episcopal terms we are “low-church,” our worship style includes both ancient and modern. Our worship is a joyous celebration and an intimate sharing of prayer and praise. At Eucharist, everyone is welcome at the table. In addition to liturgies from the Book of Common Prayer, once a month we use a Morning Prayer that draws on texts from the Iona community, and a Eucharist from Ottawa, Canada. These liturgies are focused on peace and justice. They especially engage our hearts in reflection on the connection between faith and life. The monthly Morning Prayer is always led by a congregant with a homily offered by a parish Licensed Lay Preacher. This open pulpit is enriching for all. We use a range of styles of music, from traditional hymns to spirited new songs, all of which are sensitively tied to the Gospel readings of the day, and we vary our language for the Holy as we come together in praise, celebration and lamentation. The way we practice our liturgies is critical to sustaining our intense level of ministry in the world. It is our anchor.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Our focus is on baptismal ministry in daily lives. Many members are engaged in responding to emerging issues or needs in our community. Some do so through the three social programs initiated by Trinity, some in political advocacy, and others through their presence in their own workplaces. People we know who live on the margins join us in worship and are welcomed and included as they are able. After church we respond to their direct needs. Although we are not a young group, in the past ten years, as our elders have died, younger ones have come. Most visitors come to us through our website and are drawn by our history of ministries in the neighborhood (and by our welcoming, inspiring liturgy and music). Our growth has generally come from those in middle age, who are on a deep spiritual journey, but recently some young families have occasionally attended, and we hope to do better at reaching out to them. Most of us do not shrink from wrestling theologically with difficult issues. We ask questions, listen with open hearts, and strive to be inclusive.

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

Pastoral care and guidance is an important part of our ongoing communal life, both of and for the whole congregation, not only for the sick and dying. We try to remain aware of specific needs of parishioners and others whom we serve and coordinate responses. Eucharistic visitors are available to anyone who cannot come to church. Spiritually we are fed through reflections offered in homilies, and between Sundays through e-mail. Many Sundays after church, a group meets for conversation focused on the day’s scripture or sermon; this allows an opportunity for insight, intimacy, reflection and growth. All are encouraged to participate at a deep level. These gatherings feed our spirits and provide opportunities to get to know other members of the congregation. During Advent and Lent we have opened the church early for contemplative prayer. The most important place that we care for our well-being is in worship. As described above, especially in our prayers, we come together grateful for our blessings.

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

Pastoral care of neighbors is an outreach that is a shared responsibility. Part of that commitment is offering memorial services and bereavement support to anyone without a church home. Ashes can be placed in our memorial garden. When requested, we also offer baptisms and weddings. Whenever guests at the Jubilee Center (downstairs) have needs we are available to them. They are remembered in our weekly prayers with particular ongoing support for those who are in prison. The rector's discretionary fund, to which members contribute, provides resources on a weekly basis. When an interfaith group sponsors vigils or prayer services during times of social unrest or need, we have been active participants. When the neighborhood experienced several arson fires, we opened for prayer, shelter and pastoral attention to our neighbors. Most people who find Trinity do so through our website. We also have a FaceBook page. We could do more to increase awareness of Trinity through social networking and in our local press.

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

We participate in the diocese by attending diocesan offerings, including the annual convention and Safe Church trainings. In Area 4 we connect with our sister parish, St. Michael's in Auburn, in outreach and with periodic combined worship and pulpit exchange. Trinity's wardens meet annually with the Bishop and other Area 4 Wardens. When the diocese or national church distributes pastoral messages, we share and discuss them. Each week, in worship, we include the petition from the diocesan cycle of prayer. Many members of the parish are connected to communication channels in the diocese and national church. Members have been involved with the Diocesan Human Trafficking task force and the Diocesan New Mainer's Task Force and we partnered with each to sponsor a conference. We have also participated in the spring Diocesan Education day and in diocesan-led financial and music workshops. Because of our focus on ministry in the neighborhood, we are affiliated with the Ecclesia Ministry, a network of urban street ministries.

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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 has a history of starting programs that have become independent non-profits. Currently they are: The Jubilee Center (food pantry, soup kitchen and social services in our building), The Center for Wisdom's Women (a day drop-in center for women) and Tree Street Youth (an after school and summer program for inner city youth, primarily new Mainers from Africa). A fourth (Faithworks) closed after 20 successful years. As each project becomes autonomous, we started something new. Trinity members continue to be involved in all the projects as donors, volunteers and board members. There are plans to expand the Women's Center to include a residence for women in the model of Thistle Farms. In recent years we have also opened our beautiful and acoustically renowned space for concerts. Throughout the school year, a parish musician coordinates a thirty minute "Oasis of Music" on Wednesdays, which attracts up to 40 people weekly. Oasis provides an opportunity for local poets and musicians to perform and celebrate the role of art in our lives. Various outside groups use our space for other events. Donations support the work of the church. Senior Warden Leslie Bray is the contact person.

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

Stewardship means giving time, talent, and treasure that pull us out of our comfort zone to embody the vision and mission. We encourage members to make yearly sacrificial pledges in response to the importance of Trinity in their lives, the wider church and the world. There is a high commitment level financially through pledges along with generous other donations and responses to emergency needs. Many of us also support at least one of our various outreach projects. We are good stewards of the building entrusted to us and make every effort to maintain the building and yard, sharing in the care. Our Wardens and Vestry competently manages day to day operations and our parish life. Vestry meetings take place monthly on a Sunday after worship. All church members are welcome to participate. Many members care deeply about the environment and strive to be good stewards of the earth, although this is not part of our communal life right now it is a growing edge.

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

There was a confrontation during an after-church discussion group, at which the priest was not present, and was presided over by a parishioner. The incident and its aftermath included verbal abuse between new members and a visitor with subsequent concerns arising about confidentiality and inadequate and problematic responses by both parishioners and clergy. This has been a troubling and in some ways heartbreaking incident for those involved. The new members and the visitor have since left Trinity. Those involved have responded by having several heart-to-heart conversations with the larger congregation, and are still seeking to learn from this how better to embody our mission of courage and compassion.

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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?

Several years ago the baptismal font was moved to the Memorial Garden, and some pews in the rear of the sanctuary were taken out to make room for a small office and gathering space. These were both done with minimal consultation and resulted in the loss of at least one member. We learned from that experience to be more inclusive with such decision making. Currently we have been considering additional changes in the configuration of the sanctuary, around removing the remaining pews and renovating the interior to open the space for more flexible use by us for worship and for community use. We have not achieved consensus and will continue considering pros and cons to discern next steps. Meanwhile, the progress of the three current outreach ministries has been an important learning situation as we watch their growth. What we have learned by utilizing the strength of the congregation is that we can address changes as they present themselves, constructively and productively with openness and understanding



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Bill Barter	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2016-08	2018-05

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Steve Crowson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2008-01	2008-04

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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Contact:  
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Worshipping Community Web site: [trinitylewiston.org](http://trinitylewiston.org)

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

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### References

Bishop: 1.207.772.1953 ext 125; [slane@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:slane@episcopalmaine.org)  
**The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane**

Diocesan Transition Minister 1.207.772.1953 ext 123; [mambler@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:mambler@episcopalmaine.org)  
**The Rev. Cn. Michael Ambler**

Current Warden/Board Chair Please contact Canon Ambler  
**Ms. Leslie Bray**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair Please contact Canon Ambler  
**Ms. Leslie Bray**

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader