



Trinity Congregational Church

October 6, 2020

Dear Trinity Members and Friends,

I am pleased to announce that the Pastoral Search Committee has unanimously voted to recommend a candidate for your consideration as a “Designated Term Pastor”. A “Designated Term” is a type of pastoral call which carries a defined timeframe and specified goals (benchmarks) to be worked on during that time. At the end of the term, the church has the option to call/hire the Pastor as a “Settled Pastor”, if we desire.

The Search Committee’s recommendation is for a term of 3 years, based on the amount of time estimated it will take to work on the 5 goals/benchmarks that have been set forth, see Benchmarks attached. These benchmarks are based on the Church Profile voted on last year by the congregation as part of the previous pastoral search. These benchmarks were recently reviewed and approved by the Church Council.

Trinity is happy to present to you Reverend Norma Brettell. The Search Committee has met with Pastor Norma several times, has done its due diligence, and has as spoken with several references. The Committee is very pleased to recommend her for your consideration. Pastor Norma’s biography is attached.

The process of meeting and voting on Pastor Norma is a bit of a challenge with our COVID restrictions; however, I believe we have worked out a good plan.

PASTOR INTRODUCTION - This coming Sunday (10/11) Pastor Norma will join with Pastor Peggy to officiate our Sunday Service. Following service, there will be some time for people to chat with Pastor Norma. This will be in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

COFFEE HOUR WITH PASTOR NORMA - Pastor Norma will join us for a “Virtual Coffee Hour” at 1 PM (Sunday 10/11) via Zoom.

ALL CHURCH VOTE - 10/18, 1 pm held via Zoom in a similar manor to how we held our Annual Meeting this year.

I’m sure that some of you will have questions/concerns and I urge you to contact me so that your questions/concerns can be addressed. We are doing our best to make this an informed and transparent process in spite of the difficulties that our COVID restrictions put upon us. Additional copies of this notification will be posted and mailed, USPS, as required by the church by-laws.

Blessings,

Brad

Brad Parsons, Church Moderator

REVEREND NORMA BRETTELL BIOGRAPHY



Rev. Norma grew up just “up the line” in Lynnfield, MA, and with the exception of law school in Buffalo, NY, she has lived in either Massachusetts or New Hampshire. Although Rev. Norma and her husband’s primary residence has been in New Hampshire for the last 10 years, she’s spent most summers of her life at Wingaersheek Beach. Her family has had a summer place there since 1950; and Norma has always felt close to Gloucester, calling it her “soul home.” She is delighted to own the summer home that has meant so much to her over the years and is working on finding a place to stay that’s closer to us for the winter!

Rev. Norma was raised in a family where her Mom was Catholic and her Dad was from a Congregational family. She attended youth events of both Catholic and Protestant churches. At a youth retreat she became more aware than ever that the words of the story of God’s love for all of us were written on her heart, too; that God’s language is broader and deeper than just one tradition and that changed everything for her.

Rev. Norma’s husband, Wally, is a Mechanical Engineer. He has a BSME from Worcester Polytech and an MBA from UMass Boston. He served in the United States Navy and then the Naval Reserves for a total of 26 years; he’s a submariner through and through. During the last few years in his retirement, he completed a welding program at White Mountains Community College and now he works from time to time as a millwright. He loves to build and restore things, like boats and cars, for example. Norma and Wally met while racing sailboats. She was always looking at the stern of his boat (i.e., he was always faster than she was) so she asked him to coach her. Then they raced together on the same boat. The rest is history! Rev. Norma and Wally are perpetual learners, inquisitive about people and our natural world. Together, they love sailing, skiing, cooking (and eating!), walking, reading, fishing, road trips, being outside in nature, and just enjoying time together at home with their dogs. Rev. Norma also loves gardening, quilting, sewing, crocheting, writing, poetry, and photography. She’s currently trying to learn to knit and to play the ukulele.

Although she felt called to ministry in her college years, she pursued a career in law and loved serving others in that way. She loved the personal interaction, the counseling clients in truly difficult situations, the intellectual rigor, the teamwork in preparing a case for trial and the challenge; all the while remaining very active in her church. Rev. Norma has taught children’s religious education, adult religious education, led prayer groups and scripture studies, participated in music ministry, advised youth groups, worked on mission projects, visited the sick, served on parish council and served in innumerable other ways filled with blessing.

Her law profession included working as an associate in Boston law firms as well as principal in her own law practice. She has been an Adjunct Professor of Law and Economics at Bay State College, as well as having taught Leadership and Strategic Management at White Mountains Community College. Rev. Norma loved her work as Senior Counsel at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Insurance. But there was always that feeling, the Holy Spirit, “tapping on her shoulder” about ministry.

In 2000, her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. During the 11 years that she cared for her mother, Rev. Norma became more aware than ever of the tapping on her shoulder about ministry that had never really gone away. She took a few part-time seminary classes and began her theological education in 2003 at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, MA, later transferring to Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, MA. Rev. Norma graduated with a Master of Divinity with high honors in 2013.

Rev. Norma has served as a chaplain intern at a retirement and assisted living community in Concord, New Hampshire, and has served New Hampshire churches as an Intentional Interim Pastor, Sabbatical Pastor, and Senior Pastor.

Rev. Norma brings many gifts to ministry with us. She is a strong preacher and creative worship leader. She is passionate about always seeking to see the divine underneath, within around and among us, in our lives and in our world. She is also passionate about justice, fairness and compassion. Our lives together as followers of Jesus representing justice, fairness and compassion in community – with vitality and joy – erupting and overflowing into the world! The following comments were made by some of her references:

“Her faith and love for God, the church and all of creation is remarkable.”

“She's a ‘spark plug’ in the life of her congregation.”

“She leads by example while inviting & cheering on other people's contributions”

“Her pastoral care is outstanding.”

“Norma is incredibly competent and capable alone but she shines when she works with others.”

“Norma is a wonderfully fun, funny, talented, open-hearted, and on-point pastor!”

“Any congregation served by Norma Brettell can look forward to meaningful preaching, great ideas, highly competent and responsible leadership, a sincere yet playful approach to church life and growth, devoted pastoral care and a lot of warm-hearted laughter in shared fellowship and outreach!”

TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PASTORAL DESIGNATED TERM GOALS/BENCHMARKS

These goals are to be met in three years by 11/1/23. They will be our basis for Pastoral Review.

The Trinity Church Congregation and Pastor will work together to:

- To create a written plan for Spiritual & Practical Leadership to continue to move through **Covid-19** and develop a plan for when we come out of the Pandemic. This will be updated on an ongoing basis and shared with the congregation.
- **Increase Community Involvement:** Trinity will become a larger presence in the community by both sponsoring and attending events in the community. Trinity will establish an active membership in Cape Ann Clergy, join established local civic organizations, and establish with assistance from the congregation, with at least **four opportunities** for community involvement annually. Trinity will seek to have a better relationship and more involvement with other area churches, particularly other area congregational churches. Trinity will also prepare and post interesting and appropriate information weekly to TCC website and Facebook page.
- To create a **long-range written plan for spiritual and worship growth**, particularly including music. The spiritual growth plan should include a Lenten Program, an Advent Program, and a minimum of **four** “special interest” services/programs. To have church services with a variety of music that appeals to younger families with increasing frequency. This plan/progress will be updated by Church Council every year, and shared with the congregation. The pastor will work with the team to address music – to provide more variety.
- To improve **Religious Education** at Trinity Church through the creation and implementation of **at least four** different educational opportunities for children and adults each year. The pastor will assist the Christian Education Committee on planning and participating in different educational opportunities such as: having children participate in Sunday services as appropriate, attending a Vacation Bible School, conducting a weekly Bible study/discussion/book group for the congregation, or organizing a retreat annually for men, women, and/or families.
- Begin the exploration of **Open and Affirming (ONA)**. This process should begin after the pastor becomes familiar with the congregation (between six and twelve months). The Church Council will form a committee to lead this process, with the pastor as a resource and guide, for the purpose of the exploring ONA together as a congregation.