

It became clear to us in 2023 that Trinity would not have the financial resources to support a full-time priest in 2024, and it was the recommendation of the bishop that we move toward a Total Ministry model of church leadership.

On January 1, 2024, The Rev. Carrol Davenport began serving as a part-time (1/4 time) transition pastor to help us move toward Total Ministry. She preaches and presides at the Eucharist twice a month and offers pastoral care.

When Carrol began as our transition pastor she became aware that some of the parents did not know that one of our members was a registered sex offender. Working alongside the bishops' committee, and Jillian Smith and The Rev. Erin Pickersgill they began the long and arduous journey of not only bringing the church into compliance with the Safe Church Policy but also with informing the parents of the presence of the sex offender. The bishop's office responded with a Covenanted Letter of Agreement that put some parameters around the attendance of the sex offender. The work around implementing that covenant has been hard and painful and has required more time than we could have imagined from Carrol and the bishop's committee.

The time spent around Safe Church has delayed some of the anticipated work around Total Ministry, but we have managed to develop a team of lay preachers who are also licensed to officiate at Morning Prayer, and we have a parishioner, Ryan Nely, who has begun the discernment journey toward ordained ministry.

In March we hired a Parish Administrator, and before the end of the year we hope to hire a Sexton.

Our parish is full of children, and we are working with The Rev. Erin Pickersgill to craft a spiritual formation program.

We try to host some events each year to welcome our friends from the local community who don't worship with us. In February our choir hosted a Shrove Tuesday event and in June we hosted our 2nd annual Pride Brunch. In October we offer an Animal Blessing and on the night before election day in November we will offer an Evening Prayer service.

Even in the face of limited resources, Trinity-Kirksville is full of faith and joy, and we have applied for a New Ventures Grant which will allow us to offer a meal twice a month in an effort to address the issue of loneliness and isolation in our community.

By the summer it was clear that the pastoral work around healing would continue to require much of Carrol's time, and we discerned that working toward Total Ministry would not happen unless we had additional pastoral help.

With great joy and anticipation, on January 1, 2025, we will welcome The Rev. Dr. Maria Evans who will serve alongside The Rev. Carrol Davenport. They will share a half-time position as co-transition pastors as we continue to explore Total Ministry.