



HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2001 NORTHWEST BLVD
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

Invite.

Embrace.

Empower.

March 19, 2026

Dear Holy Trinity friends in Christ,

With every passing year in my service as your pastor, I find myself more and more grateful for the ministry we are sharing together. From baptisms to funerals, confirmations to weddings, mission trips to ordinary Sunday worship that is never *ordinary*, I am deeply blessed to walk together with you in faith.

As an expression of affirmation for the relationship we share, I want to speak with you directly about a deliberation that Council will be conducting with you this spring about the process by which Holy Trinity will one day call its next Lead Pastor.

To start, let me be quick to clarify that I still have no specific timeline for retirement. Anticipating though, that time will mostly likely come within the next 2-5 years, it is not too early for the congregation to begin thoughtful planning for a future transition in pastoral leadership, particularly given the length of my tenure.

With that in mind, Council, in consultation with the Bishop, will soon engage the congregation in discernment about whether Holy Trinity senses the call to navigate that transition with a traditional **Interim Pastor** approach, an alternative **Co-Pastor** approach or another approach that may emerge.

In a traditional approach, after a pastor retires, the Bishop appoints an **Interim Pastor** who serves during a transition period while the congregation conducts the call process for its next Lead Pastor — generally one or two years.

Another viable approach within our Synod is for the congregation to call a **Co-Pastor** who, for the sake of pastoral and organizational continuity, would serve alongside me before assuming the role of Lead Pastor at a time determined by the congregation, likely in one or two years.

Council is preparing opportunities to discuss these approaches and any others that may arise as the congregation works toward discerning a path forward. Since the authority for such matters belongs definitively to you as the congregation, I will be stepping back from the process, praying for your discernment and trusting the Spirit to guide your deliberations.

Throughout this process, please be assured that I remain grateful for the years of ministry we have shared together and eager for the years that still lie ahead.

Thanks be to God for the blessing of being church family together.

Peace,

Pastor Steve

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