



*Trinity Church
Southport, CT*

**Associate Rector
Position Description**

Trinity Episcopal Church in Southport CT seeks a full-time Associate Rector to join our vibrant 21st century community as it approaches its 300th year of parish life.

Located in the heart of a village established on Long Island Sound in 1639, we have been the spiritual home to the families of colonial leaders, farmers, sea captains, merchants, early industrialists, educators, health care professionals, financial execs and media celebrities. As stewards of their legacy, our parish is committed to preserving the best of our traditions while shepherding change.

Our mission is to inspire spiritual growth, nurture genuine connections, and promote service to others in our historic town and across the Fairfield-Bridgeport area. United around our work to go out intentionally into the neighborhood and listen to the needs and context of our neighbors, we choose to respond faithfully with worship and learning, community engagement, and service outreach opportunities. The parish is well-known for its iconic events – its Christmas Pageant, Blessing of the Animals, Blessing of the Fleet – its sacred music, and is unique educational offerings for adults and youth alike.

Building on this foundation, and following a two-year planning process, our parish is poised to take some ambitious steps in serving current and future generations of spiritual seekers while the Episcopal Church evolves to meet their needs and requirements. We are investing resources in three major areas a) increasing the vitality of our parish life through generous pastoral care and parish events, b) developing and growing our children and youth ministry to a higher level, and c) creating a spiritual center. We seek a gifted ordained leader who loves people of all ages; takes joy in worship; has a mature faith and a formational mindset; is highly organized; and who can impart spiritual inspiration to a well-educated congregation of leaders.

Ideal experience: Ordained for at least 2 years; Liturgist, Pastoral Care, K-12 experience, love of learning, open to interspiritual growth.

**Trinity Episcopal Church, 651 Pequot Avenue, P.O. Box 400, Southport, CT 06890
(203) 255-0454 • Fax (203) 255-6096 • www.trinitysouthport.org**

Skills:

- Innovative thinker (anticipates and creates future opportunities)
- Natural leader and planner (can create goals and lead team/parishioners toward them)
- Strong preaching gifts
- Strong EQ skills (compassionate, relationship builder, savvy re: challenges facing all ages from baptism to burial)
- Digitally savvy (has current social media skills to leverage technology to drive ministries)
- Experience working with the needs and interests of youth K-12
- A curiosity and interest in alternative approaches to spiritual practice
- Ability to navigate ambiguity

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Young Family Ministry Director – Own the overall children and youth program with collaboration and support of Youth Committee and church staff. Co-lead Newcomer Ministry with lay leadership, welcoming and integrating newcomers, especially families with children from TPNS-Trinity Parish Nursery School and from the wider community. Have a keen desire to grow the parish and create a meaningful point of difference vs other Churches and youth programs in general.

- Co-Chair Youth Committee with Parent Chair(s)
- Direct Children’s Ministry (Sunday School, Outreach) on Sundays and Weds. afternoons jointly with staff, Youth, Music, and Outreach Committees.
- Build on moral character education curriculum “Wise Lives” across age groups.
- Develop outreach opportunities and programs.
- Build signature outreach program for High School youth.
- Create recruiting and retention plan to increase number of participants
- Liaise with Trinity Parish Nursery School Director and Music Director to manage overall data for families with children from birth to college.
- Assist Rector with baptism and confirmation preparation and record-keeping.
- Lead youth groups for Middle School and High School.
- Develop and build relationships with families through visits, pastoral support.
- Integrate programming for all ages into parish-wide activities.

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Worship Leader – Collaborate with our staff and clergy to plan and lead liturgy that is both innovative and true to our Anglican tradition. Preside and preach at live and recorded services for Sunday morning and mid-week services, take responsibility for the Sunday evening Twilight service, lead Trinity Parish Nursery School bi-monthly service. Conduct baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

Pastoral Care – Assist rector in pastoral care visits, calls, and other communications with parishioners; provide direct spiritual care. Support and help build out existing lay pastoral care committee.

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Planning Administrator for the Trinity Spiritual Center -- Work with the rector, the Strategic Planning Committee, and a Center advisory group to achieve these 3 main goals:

- a) To become a regional center and resource for spiritual growth (outward)
- b) To support the spiritual path of parishioners (inward)
- c) To create another reason to be part of the Trinity Community (both inward/outward)

Help us expand our shared spiritual experience at Trinity. Work with the Strategic Planning Committee and a Center advisory group to identify programs that fulfill both the needs of our existing parishioners and our “spiritual but not religious” neighbors. Brainstorm how we might gather all who are looking for new opportunities to participate in individual and group through study/programs/ events/contemplative practice and non-traditional practices. Experiment with new forms Anglican worship that tap the ancient wisdom of our own traditions. Consider virtual and in-person experiences that might engage a broad community of practitioners.

Programming would be sourced from our own staff and laity, as well as outsourced. Offerings would take place on the Trinity campus and at remote sites.

In addition to developing and curating programs for the Spiritual Center, the Associate Rector will participate in workgroups discerning a series of intriguing questions: How can we physical space to better align to the lifestyles of young families and younger parishioners, while preserving the sanctuary, chapel, and library as the spiritual home to our older parishioners who are more established in their practice? How can we reimagine other underutilized space so that it supports the new programming that we will pilot and expand? How should we ramp up our connectivity online in support of all initiatives, optimizing engagement and connection of our beloved community?

These are some of the exciting questions we hope to work through in the creation of a Spiritual Center at Trinity Southport.

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Type of Commitment: Full-time

Salary – Commensurate with experience and aligned with ECCT (Episcopal Church in CT) canons and guidelines.

Application Process: Please send cover letter, resume, and OTM profile to the attention of the Rector at: trinitysouthport@gmail.com