



A Parish Self-Study  
Trinity Episcopal Church, Trumbull, CT  
May 2022

God's mission is to make us one together, to restore all people to unity  
with God and each other in Christ.

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut defines a parish as a community of theological  
imagination, fed by Word and sacrament, forming disciples and apostles in God's mission, and  
connected to the wider body of Christ.

In this period of COVID concerns, Trinity's Vestry decided that the best way to determine how the parish reflects these descriptors would be to personally contact each parish family and listen to their thoughts about what the Church means to them, where there is room for growth both physically and spiritually, and how they see our Priest in Charge leading us forward. In the comments and thoughts that follow, although they have been stated only once were often repeated by many.

**How is Trinity living into each area?**

Participation in feeding the food insecure – The parish community is generous, kind, and loving – The church family is important to me – The parish feeds me spiritually – Welcoming – Our strength comes from the parishioners – Looking forward to resuming the Wednesday mid-day and evening programs – The parish sees itself as part of a larger whole and wants to share its resources in certain ways – Unfortunately, the presence of COVID has affected the life of the parish by curtailing or eliminating many activities, and lowering attendance to at least one-half of what it was prior to the virus.

### **In which areas are we strongest?**

We thrive on our celebration of the sacraments – We are a close-knit church family – Support of the food ministry – Good energy – There does not seem to be any power plays or squabbling over issues – Music/choir participation has improved – The choir helps on an emotional level – We are motivated by the same love and reverence for the body and blood of Christ – Community service willing – We have been able to adapt to the “new normal” by being able to live-stream our services reaching out to former parishioners who have moved away as well as developing a new “on-line congregation”.

### **Which areas are the biggest challenge?**

There is room to grow with the work of reconciliation and restoration – We are getting lazy as it has become too easy to stay home on Sunday and tune in – We need to get people back in the door especially the young people and youth – Increasing our diversity – Adult ed – Reaching out and getting into the community – Due to COVID, a lot of activities are currently lacking – Some feeling of being too cliquey and not inclusive – Maybe a need to think outside of the box – Anti-systemic racism and respect for trans people may be a challenge to accept by some – Getting the congregation to accept lay-led Morning Prayer – Multiple services would provide more opportunities for people to attend – The Church School program is excellent but few are attending due to COVID – Need to become more involved in the neighborhood – Partner with member churches in the area that are majority non-white – We probably don’t seem as inviting to a non-white person – Now that there is an “on-line congregation”, how do we involve them more fully in the life of the parish?

### **How do we see our Priest in Charge helping us?**

Living into the mission – Involvement in the community – Growing the work of reconciliation and restoration – Promoting what we do – Work to get involvement with people and the parish – Maybe stress how different we are from those of the RC and Evangelical faiths – Continued growth of programs to appeal to children and their parents – Help to cooperate more with local parishes