Trinity Church, Newtown

The Rev. Lee Ann Tolzmann
Canon for Mission Leadership
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Where we are today
- Living with Kathie's departure
- After 20+ years of ministry together
- Anxiety is pervasive in society today
- Church is not immune
  role of church has changed
  and will continue to do so
Where we are today

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The 20th Century Church is dying

no longer occupy position of privilege
haven't really for close to 50 years

Since 2005, TEC active membership
has dropped 19%

Average Sunday attendance is down 26%

after 40 years of "Church Growth" programs

Maybe God is trying to tell us something
God is calling us...

away from business as usual

to something different: an unknown future

to a different type of leadership

to focus on God and God's mission

not on growing or maintaining the 20th century Church
God is reminding us who we are

NOT an organization with business to do
a community formed for faithfulness to God
and to God's mission

NOT an institution to be maintained:
a part of "the Jesus Movement"

In the words of the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church:
Transition Pathways in ECCT

For parishes with full time clergy:

1. Interim Rector is appointed
   Transition Team is formed and does work
   Vestry calls a new rector

   OR

2. Bishop appoints a Priest in Charge
A Priest in Charge

is appropriate when "business as usual" is no longer possible - system is shifting significantly
gives parish time and space to attend to whatever is stressing the system before calling a tenured rector
helps resist the urge to move anxiously into simple "fixes"
encourages prayerful attentiveness to God's calls
A Priest in Charge (cont.)

is appointed by the Bishop for a time certain (3 yrs)
vestry meets candidate(s) and gives input
helps you figure out what work you need to do to move faithfully into God's future
does that work with you
assisted by a consultant appointed by the Bishop
works with Vestry to set goals for PIC time
with input from the congregation
PIC is your guide

for this part of Trinity's journey towards faithful participation in God's mission

Normal PIC time is three years

When goals are met, you call a rector

PIC can convert to rector or you can go into traditional transition and call someone new
Trinity's Unique Situation: we moved fast

Kathie's sabbatical gave us a "heads up"

Bishop Douglas has been closely connected with your leadership

We began some groundwork before Kathie left - met with wardens, talked about PIC process
Trinity's unique situation (con't)

I began looking for PIC candidates in November - balancing your needs for a good farewell AND not to wait too long before a new leader is identified.

The Holy Spirit is at work!

It's clear that God has plans for you to *Move Forward* in God's mission.
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