



Introducing the Venerable Stephanie Shepard  
As Interim Priest for Holy Trinity Vancouver

Dear friends in Christ,

I look forward to the journey with all of you beginning August 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. My first Sunday is August 6<sup>th</sup>. We'll have time to get to know each other better over the next few months, but I wanted to give you a head start to consider what questions you would like to ask of me and this interim process.

My name is Stephanie Shepard, and I am comfortable being addressed by my first name, or as Mother or Pastor Stephanie. If you have to introduce me formally to others, you could use Archdeacon Shepard. I grew up in the Anglo-Catholic tradition in this diocese, was deepened as a disciple in a parish following the Charismatic renewal, and have over the last fifteen years been working with congregations with ties to the reformed tradition of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. I may not be, as St. Paul said, "all things to all people", but I really celebrate the richness and diversity of our Anglican Church.

I grew up in the Lower Mainland, and after graduating from UBC in psychology and biology went to work in the academic library system. After serving as a shop steward for a UBC local of C.U.P.E., I was seconded by the union as the health and safety Chair for the university. But all the time there was a tug on my heart for the work of a priest, and in 1996 I entered the Vancouver School of Theology and was ordained priest in 2000.

I have been serving in this diocese for 23 years at St. Paul, Vancouver; Christ the King-St. Nicolas, Burnaby, which became St. Timothy; and was also priest in charge for St. Margaret of Scotland and briefly St. Stephen, Burquitlam. In 2017, I trained and moved into intentional interim ministry to assist parishes in transition. I have worked with St. John the Apostle in Port Moody, St. Faith in Vancouver, St. Martin in North Vancouver, and most recently St. Francis-in-the-Wood in West Vancouver. I am also the regional archdeacon for Granville, covering the west side of Vancouver, and will be continuing in this role (that's where the Venerable title comes from). So now you get me as both your priest and your archdeacon, as Holy Trinity is in Granville archdeaconry.

I am married to Byron Jang and have two adult daughters at UBC. Byron is a chorister at Christ Church Cathedral. We live in North Burnaby with our cat Abigail. The commute, whether by car or transit, will be more manageable than my last route over the Ironworkers' Bridge!

One thing you may not know about me is that I am a Franciscan. After many years as chaplain to the local fellowship of the Third Order of Saint Francis, I became a formal Companion. My commitment is to live consistent with the values that Francis of Assisi preached: humility, simplicity, and joy. I find that the discipline of praying and connecting with other Franciscans within the Anglican communion has been a great motivator in my spiritual journey.

I don't presume to already know the answers that God has in store, but commit to helping you explore the questions. As you share with me what Holy Trinity means to you as a Christian community, I will assist you to hear the truth and find the courage to act with what God has entrusted to this parish's care. You have already been in an interim process. Now it is time to implement some particular goals. I want to assure you that the planning and visioning work that you have already done will add to the process. Along with professional advice and the support of the Diocese, we will need to commit with courage and clear-thinking to an option that is sustainable.

In the first month, I am going to be meeting with as many of you as possible to form relationships and inform the parish leadership of the broad view. I will have times available in the office and online, or I can come to your home or place of work. All I am hoping for is a cup of cold water and the benefit of your experience. We will explore both the groups and ministries that take place at the church buildings and those you are involved with beyond the doors of the worship space. With the parish leaders, we will be outlining goals and timelines. I will need your support in establishing and maintaining clear and timely communications so that everyone knows what is going on.

Please feel free to get hold of me through the parish office during regular hours or my cell phone for pastorally urgent situations. This number will be on the outgoing message at the main number of the church shortly. You can also email me any time at [rev.seshepard@gmail.com](mailto:rev.seshepard@gmail.com). I look forward to meeting you for God's work.

Yours in Christ, Stephanie +