



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 25, 2024)

Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Southwest Florida

140 Fourth Street N., St. Petersburg, FL 33701, United States

Contact:

Cathedral Dean | Receiving Names until 05/01/24.

rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)
249

Number of Weekend
Worship Services
2

Number of Weekday
Worship Services
1

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services
1

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position
\$180000

Housing Available for

Pension Plan
**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options
Full family

Dental
Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks
One month, including 5
Sundays (standard)

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks
2 (standard)

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget
over \$2000/year

Sabbatical Provision
Yes

Travel/Auto Account
Yes

Other Professional Account
Yes

Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Southwest Florida

Cathedral Dean | Receiving Names until 05/01/24.

Contact:
rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Our congregation's embrace of the work of racial healing has transformed us. In a city with an ugly racial history, our Becoming Beloved Community Team, starting in 2018, educated our 96-percent-white congregation through book studies, podcasts, newsletter articles, author talks, and the first Sacred Ground circle. The BBC Team realized that engaging in justice ministry would require education and a cultural shift toward becoming a worshipping community that values social healing, identifies a call to justice, and is actively involved in justice activities. In 2022 the Cathedral adopted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement (www.spcathedral.org/who-we-are), incorporated the concept of diversity into our strategic plan, and voted to join FAST, a community social-justice action group (www.spcathedral.org/fast). Currently we are engaged in our fourth Sacred Ground circle, have 40 registered active members of FAST, hosted the diocesan celebration of Absalom Jones with two African-American Episcopal churches and our local UBE chapter, planning a civil-rights pilgrimage to Alabama, and continuing to offer education and experiential opportunities for the congregation.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

We're growing our future with our enhanced ministries to children and youth. We have greatly upgraded our website and our use of social media. Our DEI statement and strategic plan (referenced elsewhere), our solid financial foundation (after hard years of indebtedness brought on by a costly building project), and our care for our physical plant (new roof, reserve study) show our commitment to actively engaging the future. The neighborhood around us is changing rapidly (a bustling entertainment district, expensive high-rise condos and apartments, unhoused people in our neighborhood), and we're eager to discover how we can meet the needs there.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

visionary leader, gifted preacher, Inclusive pastor, skilled executive

Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Southwest Florida

Cathedral Dean | Receiving Names until 05/01/24.

Contact:
rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Our formal and reverent worship is at the same time welcoming and joyous. Our 8 a.m. Sunday service is Rite I with no music. Our 10:15 a.m. service is Rite II with full choir and organ, acolytes, vergers, and eucharistic ministers, and we do ring the sanctus bell. (Watch at spcathedral.org/worship-live-stream.) Our music comes from the Hymnal 1982 and Wonder, Love, and Praise. We value excellent preaching and our clergy offer a variety of preaching styles. The Wednesday midday service of healing is Rite II with a brief homily. Our Holy Cow! survey showed that 97.9 percent agree or strongly agree that our music is outstanding in quality and appropriate in style to our congregation, and 96.8 percent say our worship services are exceptional in quality and spiritual content. In addition to Sunday worship, we offered a jazz service on All Hallows' Eve, a guest cellist for All Saints', and a jazz pianist for our Longest Night service in December. We offer monthly choral Evensong, drawing from a variety of composers who represent the richness of Anglican church music. We're open to more diverse worship at times other than Sunday mornings.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We incorporate people into ministry by connecting them with a specific person rather than a general ministry. Rather than saying, "You could join Altar Guild," we suggest that Susan is someone they'd enjoy getting to know. Or if someone seems to have an interest in working with children, we connect them with Cathy, who regularly volunteers with Messy Church. People enjoy making connections and getting to know the people who serve on various committees and guilds. Facilitating those one-on-one connections aids people in feeling more comfortable sharing their gifts or trying something new. Leaders of groups also actively invite people to join their committees, guilds, and ministries.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Our congregation has made it clear that attentive pastoral care is a top priority, and we provide it in a variety of ways. Clergy regularly make house calls and hospital visits to administer communion, anoint the afflicted, offer healing prayer, or just stop in for a friendly chat. Eucharistic visitors bring Communion to the homes of those unable to attend church regularly. We offer healing prayers at the noon Eucharist every Wednesday and the clergy are always happy to linger after the service if anyone wishes to engage with a priest. Many small groups have arisen organically, such as the Men's Bible Study Group, the Daughters of the King, OWLS (senior ministry), Friends of St. Aelred (LGBTQ+ group), and our Prayer and Meditation Group, which strengthen bonds of friendship. We send birthday and anniversary cards. Our Sunday coffee hour is the place where friendships begin and relationships blossom. Our EYSeedlings (3rd through 5th grade) and our EYC (6th-12th grade) offer our children and youth a stress-free place to make friends, have fun, escape the pressures of their lives, learn how their faith intersects with the world, and find caring adult friends and mentors.

Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Southwest Florida

Cathedral Dean | Receiving Names until 05/01/24.

Contact:
rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

As a downtown church that shares a city block with City Hall and stands opposite a park where many of our unhoused neighbors spend their time, we are confronted daily with the need and opportunity to take our faith outside our doors. We are working with our neighbor, First United Methodist Church, to address issues facing the unhoused. Forty members of our congregation participate in Faith and Action for Strength Together (FAST), a faith-based, county-wide coalition that advocates for social justice: affordable housing, clean water, elimination of arrests for minor traffic infractions. We participated in this year's MLK Prayer Vigil at the Carter G. Woodson African-American Museum and attend an annual flag-raising ceremony at City Hall marking the start of African-American history month. We join the city's "Not My Child" initiative, supporting at-risk teens and their parents. We are a leader in LGBTQ+ activities in St. Petersburg: marching in the Pride parade (largest in the Southeast), staffing a booth at the Pride Festival, and supporting Pride Family Day to assure gay families there is a place for them at St. Peter's. We offer a monthly Eucharist at a senior housing complex.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

We focus much of our outreach ministry (what we call Community Caring and Sharing) on three ministries: Florida Resurrection House (faith-based housing/life skills for homeless single mothers); Peterborough Apartments (Section 8 housing for seniors); and Campbell Park Elementary School (preK-grade 5 mostly African-American students from low-income families). We make microgrants to nonprofits that transform lives through food, health, education, relationship-building, and inclusivity initiatives. As the Cathedral we play a major role at diocesan convention (organist, choir, vergers, Altar Guild); we hosted the electing convention for our new bishop in 2022 and regularly host ordinations to the diaconate and other major diocesan events. Parishioners are active on diocesan committees and councils. In 2019 we hosted the North American Deans Conference. We host music and arts events open to the wider community.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Several parishioners have been involved with silent meditation as a private practice or with another group. In 2020 we offered a few silent meditation practices via Zoom. During Advent one year we offered a midweek gathering that reflected on the Advent Word of the Day alongside silent meditation. The leaders of those two efforts asked if they could start something more regular as a formal offering. Our Pray, Meditate, and Connect group was born! Meeting twice a month, the group attracts newcomers as well as parishioners and regular participants from the community who found the group via a Google search. It is an excellent example of lay leadership taking ownership of a program with support from clergy and staff. Contact: Karen Payne-Taylor, kpaynetaylor@outlook.com.

Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Southwest Florida

Cathedral Dean | Receiving Names until 05/01/24.

Contact:
rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Our Stewardship Committee uses the term “Faith Filled Generosity” to describe our commitments to time, talent, and treasure. Once a month, a guild or ministry makes a brief presentation during the 10:15 a.m. service: what they do, why it benefits the Cathedral, how others can become involved, and the spiritual rewards participants receive from their participation. Every fall our Faith Filled Generosity Campaign begins with an Oktoberfest dinner. Those who have included the Cathedral in their estate planning are honored annually at a special event. Two-thirds of us are over age 65 and we know we need to foster strong stewardship habits among younger members. We are struggling to meet our 2024 goal of \$950,000. We’ve learned from our Holy Cow! survey that the percentage of household giving for our congregation is well below the average across the Episcopal Church, and this will be a focus of our work this year. Our congregation has urged us to be more transparent about our financial needs. We have an endowment of almost \$4-million, no debt, and some strong revenue streams that provide us with a stable financial basis.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

The biggest conflict in recent years was whether to tear down our aging, asbestos-filled, inaccessible office buildings that inhibited rather than enhanced ministry and what to build in their place — or to try to remodel. We are landlocked downtown with very limited parking. For many years we owned the former Baptist Church Sanctuary next door and could not come up with a sustainable plan for how to use that space. Historic-preservation restrictions meant we could not tear it down, nor could potential buyers. Parishioners were divided, angry, anxious about our future downtown. Ultimately the wrecking ball flew; we built a new building (now 15 years old!), and sold the Baptist Sanctuary. The loss of a major gift to our building fund generated a deep financial crisis and led us to sell off the top two floors of the new building. There were grim years of financial constraint. Ultimately strong leadership, generous congregational giving, and some God-sent financial windfalls have put us in excellent financial condition, and anxieties/conflicts have dispersed. We value conservative, professional financial management. Overall we are a low-conflict, high-trust congregation.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Change always goes best when all the stakeholders are involved, people feel listened to, and the reasons for the change are thoroughly explained-- even though not everyone will like it. When the question of blessings for same-gender couples came up some years ago-- this is before marriage equality became the law of the land and when the wider church was still struggling-- the clergy met with parishioners on all sides of the issue, engaged in a listening process, invited the Bishop to meet with the parish, and prepared the congregation to celebrate these joyous occasions with LGBTQ+ parishioners they had come to know, love, and value. This was important to us in our role as the Cathedral and sent a signal that, truly, “all are welcome here.”



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Mar 25, 2024)

Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Southwest Florida

Cathedral Dean | Receiving Names until 05/01/24.

Contact: rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Very Rev'd Stephen B. Morris	Cathedral Dean	2008-01	2023-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Very Rev'd Russell L. Johnson	Cathedral Dean	2004-01	2008-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Very Rev'd Randall K. Hehr	Cathedral Dean	1998-01	2002-01

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
Yes	10	40

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
2	22	3	75

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Mar 25, 2024)

Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Southwest Florida

Cathedral Dean | Receiving Names until 05/01/24.

Contact:
rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Worshipping Community Web site: spcathedral.org

Media Links:

Online References:

Facebook
Instagram @spcathedral

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev'd Douglas F.
Scharf

phone: 941.556.0315 email: dscharf@episcopalswfl.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev'd Canon Richard
Norman

phone: 941.556.0315 email: rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

Lucas Fleming

phone: 727.278.6034 email: jslucas75@gmail.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Karen Torrisi

phone: 850.264.1534 email: kmtorrisi@gmail.com

Search Chair

Ray McColgan/Judy Stark

Ray: 727.510.1507; rmccolgan@me.com and Judy: 727.773.7684;
judystark@yahoo.com

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader