

The Rev. Hannah E. Atkins Romero
Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church
Houston, TX



A third generation Episcopal priest, I was ordained in 1996, the first woman ordained a priest in El Salvador. I earned a Masters of Divinity from General Theological Seminary and pursued studies in theology at Universidad Centroamericana in El Salvador. From Douglass College, Rutgers University, I received a Bachelor of Arts in history. I began the Doctor of Ministry program at Sewanee in 2018.

In 2007, I became Rector of Trinity, Houston. Some highlights of ministry include welcoming new Christians to the faith, expanding the Trinity campus, deepening partnerships with homeless and immigrant populations, developing quality programming for all ages, supporting leadership development, heightening the connection between the church and the arts, and community building across opinions while sharing Christ's life-changing love. Before Trinity, I served as Senior Assistant Rector at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C.; Director of Theological and Christian Education in the Diocese of the Episcopal/Anglican Church of El Salvador; Associate Priest at St. John the Evangelist San Salvador; Priest-in-Charge at Holy Trinity Church Santa Teresa in San Martin; and as Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Andrew's Church in Soyapango, El Salvador.



With my husband Elmer Romero, I enjoy parenting our children. Other interests include Astros baseball, photography, music, swimming, and walking with my dog, Paco.

Statement from the Search Committee

The job description for Bishop Suffragan states, "We believe that we are a particular kind of diocese: unified, diverse, and growing." This vision of who we are and who we would like to become challenges and inspires The Rev. Hannah Atkins Romero, who brings 22 years of "diverse, unifying, and expanding" ministry with her. As a Search Committee, we believe that, if elected, The Rev. Atkins Romero would inspire and challenge the diocese to live into this vision by helping the church to deepen its relationship with diversity, by carrying the Christ-centered missional vision that unites us into congregations and communities, and by attending to the calling, raising up, and equipping of new leaders, lay and ordained.

Hannah brings a wide range of experience to the work of forming a diverse Church. As the first female priest ordained in the Episcopal/Anglican Church in El Salvador and later the Senior Assistant Rector of St. John's Lafayette Square charged with Latino Ministries, Hannah has a sense of what it means to be "a trailblazer for change and [an] ardent advocate for the poor, the weak, the sick and the lonely." At Trinity, she has continued to be an active advocate for the immigrant, the refugee, and for the homeless, and she nurtures community that invests in the restoration of dignity to those on the margins. As the Search Committee, we believe that working with El Buen Samaritano and congregations striving to connect and to communicate gospel hope across difference would surely be a passion for Hannah.



Hannah is an articulate and joyful ambassador for the Christ-centered missional vision that unites us as a Church and as a diocese. She believes that "Supporting congregational vitality for future growth and health necessitates affirming and focusing on areas of energy and health in ministries of all types, encouraging growth and new expressions of the church through new collaborations, implementing missional practices of worship and outreach where possible, and being joyful and affirming in the proclamations of the Gospel of Jesus." When asked what aspect of the position of Bishop Suffragan excites her the most, she is quick to respond, "visiting congregations and communities" because she looks forward to walking with them, in all of their variety, toward greater vitality in their particular setting. She is also experienced and realistic enough to know that connection and growth bring change and "change brings

struggle: struggle to express gratitude, to trust God and each other, to learn, to forgive, to speak the truth, to say enough, to let go, to love, to show up, and to share our faith." Hannah has expressed a willingness to be in the struggle and those vulnerable places where we discover our courage and resilience.

In her letter of intent, Hannah writes, "I have a passion and successful track record of calling, raising up and equipping lay and ordained leaders." In 11 years at Trinity, Hannah has accompanied a diverse group of 6 people through the ordination process. She has served on the General Theological Seminary Board, and her work in theological education in the Episcopal/Anglican Church of El Salvador adds scope and insight. As Chair of the Seminary of the Southwest Board, Hannah would bring an appreciation for the breadth and depth of the 3-year residential seminary experience along with a desire to support the Seminary's and Iona's work to expand the availability of theological education.

Letter of Intent

After prayerful consideration and discernment with trusted confidants, I am convinced God is calling me to offer my strengths, gifts and joyful spirit to this ministry of Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of Texas. With 22 years of diverse, unifying and expanding ordained ministry, my experience and skills are a direct match for the unique challenge and breadth and depth of this calling. In particular, I have a passion and successful track record of calling, raising up and equipping lay and ordained leaders.

I've led with vision during my decade with the Diocese of Texas as the Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church. As a result, Trinity has developed a mission roadmap that positions it to sustain our community for a century. To accomplish our ambitious plans I've guided strategic neighborhood partnerships, property expansion, and creative outreach. I thrive when pastoring people in communities of all sorts and conditions. I am honored to have led the rebuilding work after two hurricanes, the work with Interfaith Ministries, Emergency Aid Coalition, ReVision, Cristosal, and Alley Kat Pub, the Signature Music Masses, and expanding the Trinity campus to include the entire city block. In all these aspects of ministry, I share my own enthusiasm for the Gospel and the Church to inspire others to embrace the lavishness of God's love.

In addition to my history as a strong parish leader, I've served in both church-wide and diocesan executive ministries. I currently serve as a member of The General Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, on the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, and as Chair of the Nominations Committee for Diocesan Council. I have been willing to be a trailblazer for change and ardent advocate for the poor, the weak, the sick and the lonely.

It is a joy and fills me with pride to work for and with Diocese of Texas. I share the values of professionalism, joy, bridge-building, humility, integrity, creativity and a Holy ambition. Thank you for your consideration and look forward to an opportunity to discuss the leadership strengths and gifts I can bring to the position.

THE REV. HANNAH ELIZABETH ATKINS ROMERO

Ordained Priest, Iglesia Anglicana San Juan Evangelista, San Salvador September 6, 1996

Ordained Deacon, St. Michael's Chapel, Rutgers University, New Jersey January 27, 1996

PARISH LEADERSHIP

Vision and Mission

- First woman rector of historic, urban program-size congregation working closely with the wardens, vestry and ministry heads to ensure its vision and mission for the next one hundred years
- Led parish wide Kaleidoscope Institute Visioning Process in 2017, implementing findings and continuing work through Trinity Links small group gatherings
- Supported the close relationship with the Lord of the Streets, maintaining this extensive ministry with the homeless in the neighborhood while increasing outreach to immigrant community, the arts community, and new neighbors
- Led vestry and parish through Unity in Mission two-year process culminating in unanimous vote of a diverse vestry to celebrate same-sex blessings and marriages
- Secured purchase of the Bering House property, successfully fulfilling a long-term dream of the parish and expanding the Trinity campus to complete the entire city block
- Organized mission trips to Honduras, New Orleans, South Africa
- Founded an HIV/AIDS Chaplaincy at the National Hospital in El Salvador

Pastoral Care

- Sponsoring rector of 7 vocations to ordained ministry from the parish, four completed, one deferred, two in progress
- Responsible for preaching, pastoral, liturgical, educational and administrative aspects of resource sized parish life; supervised seminarians from Virginia Theological Seminary, participated in two presidential inaugurations and 9/11 services
- Directed pastoral oversight of sizeable outreach ministry, Spanish language congregation, parents' group, multicultural ministries, bible study facilitation
- Officiated and preached at additional weekday services, healing services, First Thursday services, and coordination of ecumenical programs and worship services
- Led Search Committee for the Director of the Chorister Academy and Iglesia San Juan musician
- Served as liaison between English and Spanish groups (Vestry, Youth, etc.) in church and in the community,
- Designed and directed Parish and Confirmation Retreats
- Designed Christian Education Series for children and adults

Administration and Program

- Formalized administrative culture to increase transparency and accountability
- Supervisor of a staff of 17 full and part-time paid and volunteer employees
- Increased active ministries by 30% (see Parish Life Guide at trinitymidtown.org)

- Increased communications: expanded website, online newsletters, weekly worship livestream, social media presence
- Designed signature music masses as part of creative evangelism series including Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo two-time award winning Big Country Mass, Bossa Nova Mass, and Big Band Mass

Financial and Properties Stewardship

- Oversaw the successful completion of a 1.75-million-dollar capital campaign, the negotiation of a land lease agreement for Trinity's parking lot that will bring in significant revenue, and currently planning renovation of the historic home on the property as a multi-use spirituality and community center
- Established and worked closely with two Hurricane Recovery efforts to coordinate repair of approximately 1.2 million dollars' worth of church damage from Ike and Harvey, addressed long standing deferred maintenance of historic designated buildings, and responded to affected parishioners and greater community
- Oversaw successful renovation of the Morrow Chapel which included new floors, walls, seating, asbestos removal, and three new stained-glass windows
- Diversified revenue streams and ways of giving, year-round stewardship model, endowment more than doubled during tenure while being used for first time for major projects (Historic stained-glass window renovation, \$850,000 HVAC replacement, first commercial kitchen replacement in 60 years, etc.) to support ministry and extensive outreach
- Raised funds for the purchase and remodeling of the Casa Pastoral

CHURCH-WIDE LEADERSHIP

- Member: Board of Trustees, The General Theological Seminary, 2016 – present
- Member: Women Embodying Executive Leadership, February 2016 – present
- Participant: Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes, February 2018
- Participant: Gathering of Leaders, 2008-2017, Presenter in 2014
- Preacher and Presenter: Episcopal High School, Houston 2018, Several Ordinations, Installations, Church Revival San Mateo, Leading Women 2017, Wild Goose Festival 2017, Camp Allen Labor Day Family Camp 3 years, Latina Conference at Christ Church Cathedral, Women's Retreats 2009-2016

DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP

- Member: Standing Committee, February 2017 – present
- Served Term: Provisional Synod Representative, elected 2014
- Member: Diocesan Nominations Committee, current Chair
- Member: Interfaith and Ecumenical Committee Representative to Annual Ecumenical Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, 2016
- Chair: 2008 Exploratory Committee to assess feasibility of restoring an historic church and establishing an immigrant service center
- Chair of the Honduras Companion Diocese Committee (2002-2005)

- Co-Chair of Latino Ministry Committee (Organized the first diocesan conference, liturgical celebration and grant review)
- Executive Committee of the Capital Campaign 2006: Spiritual Emphasis Chair
- Directed, designed and implemented all the programs of the Center for Theological and Christian Education as well as the Theological Institute
- Coordinated Companion Diocese relationships
- Chaired Commission on Ministry
- Administered diocesan scholarship program
- Chair of the Theological Education Committee, monthly columnist in local ecumenical newspaper, speaker at national forums, media liaison, and taught theology and sociology of religion in lay leadership program

EXPERIENCE

Trinity Episcopal Church, Houston, TX Rector	September 2007 – Present
St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, DC Senior Assistant Rector	November 1999 – July 2007
Episcopal/Anglican Church of El Salvador Theological and Christian Education Director	September 1998 – October 1999
St. John the Evangelist, San Salvador, El Salvador Associate Priest	November 1998 – October 1999
Holy Trinity Church, Santa Teresa, San Martín Priest-in-Charge	September 1996 – November 1998
Concurrently, St. Andrew's Church, Amatepec, Soyapango Interim Priest-in-Charge, Chaplain and Director of School	February 1997 – August 1997
Iglesia San Andrés Apóstol, Amatepec, Soyapango Youth Minister	August 1994 – August 1995
Mission Field, Chalatenango, El Salvador Missionary/Seminary Intern/ Human Rights Worker	August 1993– August 1994

EDUCATION

The School of Theology, Sewanee: D. Min, Preaching, in progress, accepted 2018
 The General Theological Seminary: New York, New York Master of Divinity, May 1996
 Universidad Centroamericana José Simeon Cañas:
 Salvadoran Jesuit University, San Salvador Master of Theology Program, 1994- 1995
 Douglass College, Rutgers University:
 New Brunswick, New Jersey B.A., History, May 1990 Honors in History, Emily Hickman
 Award for the Promotion of International Understanding