

January 7, 2026

Dear Friend in Christ,

It is truly a privilege to share with you about Trinity Church from my perspective, as well as what this congregation has meant to my family and me.

I came on as Trinity's lead pastor in July 2017, following a beloved pastor (Rev. Jon Opgenorth) who had served in this role for 18 years. As I look back at my nearly 9 years at Trinity, it seems to me there have been *three primary chapters* in our God-weaved story of ministry together.

The first chapter was pre-pandemic (July 2017 to March 2020), which was a season of exciting and explosive growth (that started before I came when Trinity moved into its new facility). Of course this brought its own challenges with growing pains, but it was a season of strong momentum, including discernment to enfold First Reformed Church of Hospers and become a multi-site church.

Then came the hardest chapter – the season of Covid-19 with all the political, social, and denominational upheaval (April 2020 to December 2022). It was the perfect storm of anxiety and loss connected to a global pandemic, political polarization, racial justice tensions, and uncertainty in the RCA. As painful as this chapter was, I look back and see how deeply transformational this time was for Trinity. It was clearly a season of “pruning.” It was also a time when Trinity gained clarity on *who we are* and *what core convictions and values* will drive how we show up together and do ministry. Ironically, this chapter was *both* the hardest stretch of my tenure *and* the one that I am most proud of in terms of how our staff and consistory led with such humility, courage and integrity.

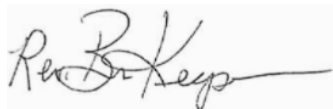
The third key chapter, which is where Trinity finds itself now (January 2023 – present), has been a season of new beginnings, greater emotional/spiritual health, resilience and flourishing. This is not to suggest that Trinity is free of any challenges. It is only to say that I believe you are engaging with Trinity in a season that is so hopeful and generative. In many ways, Trinity is truer to our DNA now than we have ever been. New members have described Trinity as “a safe place for healing” and a congregation that is genuinely hospitable and where people are willing to be vulnerable with one another.

I love this congregation deeply. And Trinity has loved my family and me so well, especially through the hard stretches. I am confident that you (and your family) will also experience their loving embrace should God call you to be their next lead pastor.

Trinity is a community of disciples that is truly centered in the gospel of Jesus Christ and committed to being a missional presence in the region of NW Iowa (and beyond). More than any church I've served, mission is the vital heartbeat of this congregation. Trinity is a model of what it means to embrace unity with diversity, welcome “the outsider,” and join the Holy Spirit's work of reconciliation and bridge-building in Jesus' name.

There is no doubt in my mind that, should your own key convictions and values align with Trinity, you will find this church to be a tremendous gift – a beautiful sign, foretaste and instrument of God's kingdom for the life of the world. May God give you wisdom and clarity as you discern His will.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Dr. Keepers" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Dr. Brian Keepers