

April 13, 2024

Dear Trinity Episcopal Church Family:

I have difficult news to share with you. On Thursday, the Rev. Jason Myers, our associate rector, was arrested by the Collin County sheriff on a charge of online solicitation of a minor, which is a felony charge involving attempted sexual contact with a person younger than age 17. I learned this news yesterday afternoon when I received a phone call from an investigator in the sheriff's office.

As soon as I informed him of the situation, Bishop Andy Doyle suspended Jason's ministry under the Title IV clergy disciplinary canons of the Episcopal Church. This means that Jason is not permitted to function as an Episcopal priest in any way for the duration of the investigation and legal proceedings now underway. It will not be possible for him to have contact with anyone in our congregation. Please know that he and his family will have pastoral support as the legal situation unfolds.

At this time, we do not have any reason to believe that anyone in our congregation or school has been harmed, but there is much that we do not know or understand, and we have many questions that cannot yet be answered. I want to assure you that we are cooperating fully with law enforcement and will share information with you as it becomes available.

I know that this situation comes as a shock. Please know that I am available to talk with you pastorally and pray with you about this or any related situation. If you have information about this matter that you would like to share, I encourage you to be in touch with the Rev. Canon Lisa Burns at 512-609-1876 or report@epicenter.org. She is the Diocese of Texas' intake officer for clergy misconduct complaints. I also urge you to report any information you have to law enforcement in your community or to the Texas Department of Family and Protective services online or via their hotline at 1-800-252-5400.

Tomorrow at 10:45 a.m., I will be in the parish hall to talk and pray with any of you who would like to gather. As we grieve this news and seek understanding, please join me in praying for everyone affected. We pray for all children and adults who have experienced harm. We pray for our parish family. We pray for Jason's wife and their children. Please also pray for Jason.

May the God of love shelter and surround us as we grieve, this day and always.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Dr. Robert F. Pace