2027 Deacon Faith Statements



Amalia Allman

I was introduced to faith from my childhood friends and always believed in God but didn't really know of His divine love for us, His children until I myself became a parent. My husband and I started our faith journey when our sons were toddlers as we wanted them to know God and have a firm foundation. We began attending church as a family in the early 2000's and a few years later accepted Jesus as our personal Lord & Savior. We moved to Tustin in 2012 and our prayers were answered when we discovered Trinity church. Immediately, we felt welcomed and knew we had found our church family. I am so blessed to be a part of this loving community that supports, challenges and encourages me. I am grateful to have been a part of a few Trinity opportunities over the years including VBS, donut ministry, women's ministries, bible studies and serving as a Deacon on the Communion team. You can also often find me greeting at Trinity's Welcome Cart as well as making magic at Disneyland in Guest Relations. I especially love being a grandparent and sharing our generational faith at Trinity and our time together with Sunday family dinners.
My relationship with God is continually growing and I trust in His promises and provision. He is my hope, strength and comfort in all my days, including life's highs and lows. He is my rock and my salvation. I know God is always by my side and His holy spirit lives in my heart. I hope to share His truth and goodness through my actions and words...to be His salt and light.



Brent Bilodeau

I asked Jesus to come into my heart in a 2nd grade Trinity Sunday school classroom. As a youth, I benefited greatly from growing up in the unconditional love of this church. That love nurtured me, allowing character, talents and gifts to unfold by His design. While my years beyond college took me far from the faith of my youth, God was always calling me home. Returning to Trinity in the summer of 2025, I found that its core was the same - a community marked by God's unfathomable love. It is a privilege and joy to serve with the Ascent Men's Bible Study, Watchmen/Sunday Morning prayer, Activate course, and the Men's Huddle gatherings.



Michael Bold

My Faith Journey goes back to age 14 when I was hit by a car while crossing a street in a cross walk on a bicycle. With the Head Injury that I sustained; it is only by the Grace of God/Jesus that I survived. I have been Blessed ever since to have all my faculties and a normal life. I have been able to complete my Doctorate in school (Dr. of Optometry 1993), get Married and have four beautiful children; ages 19, 23, 26, 29

The Youth Ministry is what attracted my family to come to Trinity. It was very welcoming to know many parents that my children were in similar school and sports activities. I myself have been a member of Chancel Choir and Summer Choir for three years now and have enjoyed every minute. I have also been attending morning Bible study in room 502 at 7 am (Tuesdays) with Pastor Mike for a couple of years and most recently this year with Pastor Rick Duncan. I also have been in small group Bible study at Steve Canto's home for the past few years on Tuesday nights as well. I truly enjoy getting to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and savior so much more through these Bible study groups.

I grew up first in La Habra, Ca and was an Acolyte for several years and part of High School Choir and High School Bell Choir at La Habra United Methodist Church. We moved to Fullerton, Ca. but continued going to

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La Habra United Methodist. My wife and I got married in the Catholic Church with her family having an Eastern Orthodox (Romanian) heritage. My Wife and I were fortunate to build two small Churches in the Mountains of Western Romania where her family was raised. Trinity makes me feel very similar to my time in the Methodist Church both in La Habra and in Chicago where I went to school.

In my Optometry practice I have been Blessed by God to have several Assisted Living Facilities with Special Needs patients call upon my office for care of their patients. These patients are often Non Verbal with Mental and Physical Challenges that can test the Will of many a Doctor. I Believe that I have been given the gift of Patience and Humility. I Believe everyone deserves the Right to See their best. I know full well that God has put me in this position to help these people. I realize and I praise God every day for his Blessings upon my life. I have such an affinity for the Disabled because only by the Hands of God I should have been severely Disabled or Deceased.

It would truly be a privilege to be a part of the Disability Ministry here at Trinity. I am truly grateful to have been even nominated. I truly Appreciate this opportunity to serve.



Corrie DeKam

I became a Christian in 1983 through a very close Christian couple. The couple took me to their church, and I accepted God into my heart. For years I attended their church I had a complex life, but through it all I relied on Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior as part of my life. I attended Trinity's PrimeTimers Christmas party on December 19, 2023, invited by a friend who belongs to another church. I began to volunteer at PrimeTimers in January 2024 with a wonderful couple. They invited me to join Trinity and I began attending services. At this time, I was still attending my old church and was undecided about joining Trinity. I spoke with Pastor Bryan Eckelmann who prayed with me in May of 2024 determining which church God wanted me to belong to. I made my decision on January 12, 2025, and began attending Trinity activate classes. I was proud and pleased to become a covenant partner in March of 2026. I continue to volunteer in many areas and truly enjoy what I am doing. I volunteer at the welcome cart, the decorating committee, and help congregational life set up for some of the church events. I am looking forward to the opportunity and responsibility to serve as a Deacon in our church community.



Jeanine Erickson

I was raised as a Catholic and went to Denver parochial schools through high school and attended church every Sunday with my family. I'm grateful that my parents fostered the habit of weekly worship and that I was introduced to Jesus at an early age at school. High school was a turning point in my faith journey. Jesus came into my life during my sophomore year at camp. After camp I was alive with the Spirit. I became a leader in the program and worked to bring more students to the Lord. It was so exciting.

Fast forward to 1987 when our young family moved to Tustin and we searched for a church. This was hard until we were invited to Trinity where we found the Lord, fellowship, youth programs for our girls, Bible studies and a new church family. I really believe that God orchestrated the California relocation so that I would go to Trinity, grow spiritually and renew my relationship with Jesus.

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I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, died for my sins and came back to life so that I can live with Him and praise Him eternally. He is my Lord and Savior. I met Him in high school and grew that relationship at Trinity. The Biblical preaching helped me, as I never really knew what the Bible said until I started studying it. Teaching inspired me to go deeper. I went to CBS (Christian Bible Study) for 12 years, then came to Trinity with Soul Work and Precepts Bible Study on Wednesdays. It has changed my life. I'm continually learning to lean on Scripture and to do Bible study and devotions.

My husband Dan and I have been members here since the early 90's. During my time at Trinity I was blessed to serve in many ministries: Children's Sunday School Teacher, active in Joint Heirs adult Sunday school, Deacon for New Members, Elder for Adult Discipleship, and active in the Visitation Ministry Team. Thank you for letting me serve.



Julie Fitzgerald

My faith journey began at a very young age. I was raised in a Christian home where I was taught about God and His love for me. I have always believed in God, and my faith began to grow through my family and my church. In high school, I had the opportunity to teach Sunday School at our small church, which helped me learn what it meant not only to grow in my own faith, but also to share God's love with others.

During college, my faith deepened as I developed a more personal relationship with God. After marrying Kevin and having our two children, Ryan and Katie, we tried several churches but had not yet found a place that truly felt like home.

When our daughter, Katie, was in first grade, she was invited to Trinity's Vacation Bible School. She loved it! We began attending choir programs after being invited by some of her classmates, and through those experiences, we decided to attend Trinity as a family.

Trinity has become so much more than a church we attend. It is where I have truly grown in my faith and developed a deeper relationship with God. It is a place where I have found community, purpose, and a church family that feels like home.

Serving in Children's Ministry has been one of the greatest blessings of being part of Trinity. I have been involved with VBS and Sunday School, and for the past ten years I have had the joy of serving with the Trinity Littles in the Yellow Room, as well as helping with their Easter and Christmas celebrations and Littles VBS. Working with children has been especially meaningful to me because I love helping them learn about God and experience His love.

I am grateful for the way God has guided me throughout my life and brought me to Trinity. My faith continues to grow, and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve, worship, and continue my journey with God alongside my Trinity church family.

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RJ Hillis

I was raised Christian by my parents, but it wasn't until High School that I really started to make my faith my own. I joined Trinity after friends from High School introduced me to the music program. Small group leaders from Trinity's high school group started to ask students what being a Christian meant to them, and for the first time I had to really think about my walk with God. In college, I was extremely fortunate to be a part of a small group that met through the Inter-Varsity program. We all lived in the same apartment complex and helped each other as we studied the bible and went through classes. After graduating, I returned to Orange County where I currently work as an Energy Efficiency consulting engineer and returned to Trinity where I joined the Chancel Choir as I started my career. Over the years at Trinity, I've joined bible studies, served as a Deacon for the Community Pantry ministry, and continued to develop and grow my faith as I try my best to live up to the example set by Jesus Christ. While I still have a long way to go by Christ's standard, I've come to learn of the joy that comes from serving others in the community, and I look forward to seeing where God leads me next.

I have participated in the Trinity Chancel Choir for nineteen years since moving back to Orange County. In that time, I alternated between serving as treasurer and librarian for the Chancel Choir for several years. I also served as a Community Pantry deacon at Trinity for three years between 2013 and 2015.



Nina Lascurain

I grew up in a Catholic household and attended a Catholic grade school. My parents had a neighbor that shared the gospel with them and they accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Subsequently. We changed churches and I began to hear that my sin had consequences. I prayed to accept Jesus into my heart in 6th Grade and was baptized afterwards. My parents sent me to the school associated with the church and it was there I learned to not only study the Bible but live out my faith. I would say during my sophomore year of high school I knew absolutely that Jesus was the Lord of my life and I wanted to follow him, the rest of my life. Through deserts and mountaintops, God has been my strength and I'm excited to see what he has next!



Karen Mahoney

I was raised in a Christian home. Our family joined The First Presbyterian Church of Monrovia, Ca, and attending church was part of my DNA.

During high school, a friend invited me to participate in a Christian Concert. It was then that I made a personal commitment to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior.

During college and early adult years, I put my faith on the back burner. During this time I met my Husband Don, we were married and began a family. Our first pregnancy we were blessed with twins. However, I ended up miscarrying late in my 4th month.

We became pregnant again. I did not want to go into this pregnancy without the support of a church community. We joined Placentia Presbyterian Church and remained members for over 30 years. Our

daughter grew up in that church, and I served in several areas of ministry, each helping me grow in my spiritual faith.

My husband and I started attending Trinity in 2017. I became a Covenant Partner in 2020.
I have served at Trinity as a Deacon in the Prime Timers ministry, an usher, the Welcome Cart and Fall Festival. I participate in a Precepts Bible Study, as well as many of the All Church studies, which have helped to grow and mature my faith.

I am honored for the opportunity to serve again as a Deacon and our Church Family.



Esther Noh

I was born into a Christian home and had been a faithful Sunday churchgoer. However, while at UCI, someone asked me, "Have you accepted Jesus not only as your Savior, but as the Lord of your life?" That question deeply challenged me. I realized that I had accepted Jesus as my Savior, yet I had not welcomed Him as Lord. I still wanted to remain in control and direct my life according to my own plans. Through the story of Lazarus in John 11, I recognized that I had been a spectator who wanted to see Jesus' miracles without committing to follow Him. When I read that Jesus wept, my heart was broken, and I surrendered my life to Him as His disciple. Through joyful and difficult seasons, He has always remained good and faithful. I am a debtor to His unfailing love and desire to follow Him closely each day, guided by my life verse, Luke 9:23.



Marni Reed

Growing up, church, Sunday school, VBS, youth fellowship, and choir were all normal parts of life. Yet, I can't say that I felt a true relationship with God until many years later. My father was not a daddy. Gradually I developed a deep gratitude toward my Heavenly Father as my true Abba, and felt His strong yet gentle presence as I endeavored to become the person He wants me to be. But it wasn't until my husband betrayed me in a truly shocking way that I understood my life was His. As I grappled with my pain, Jesus became my dear friend whose love I felt in a very tangible way as I asked Him to guide each of the many decisions I needed to make, and to chart my life's new journey. The beautifully poignant hymn "It is Well with My Soul" assisted my growth in humility and gratitude.
At my previous church, I served as an usher, deacon, leader of fellowship classes, and prayer leader; in my home, I host a caregivers' informal support group. I strive to be aware of God Winks and the joy of using my blessings to share His kindness and compassion with greater patience and acceptance than I had prior to my life crisis.



Steve Sands

My name is Stephen Martin Sands; I grew up in the city of Orange and for sixty years I have never left that wonderful city. As a young child my parents took me to Sunday school at Garden Grove Community Church. In 7th grade I went to Pine Summit Church Camp in Big Bear. This is the first time I ever remember hearing the Gospel. It was after that message that I understood I was a sinner and needed Jesus in my life. Accepting Christ was, is, and will always be the most significant decision that defines who I am. From that moment, my identity has always been found in Christ. It was at this young age that I begin reading and studying the Bible.

As I entered high school, my faith continued to grow, and I began serving in ministry as a leader. I remember bringing many of my friends from school to a wonderful Bible-based youth outreach ministry. I remember a funny moment when, as a leader, and after hearing a message on Romans 10:9-10, I stood up in a room of about 200 kids to publicly confess my faith. My co-leader immediately came over and said, "Wow, I always thought you were a Christian!" I laughed and said "Don't worry, I was, am, and always will be — however, I was just responding to the Word and the Spirit. His look of relief makes me smile to this day.

Then I ended up in a wonderful college group when Saddleback Church first started, and it was during that time that I was baptized. I was married in 1992 and divorced in 1995; this was by far the darkest time in my life, and I "affectionately" refer to those years as "the dark ages." However, I never wavered in my faith and through it all God never left my side. I cannot imagine living those years without Jesus and might I add my Nova Scotia Duck-tolling Retriever, "Norton," who the Lord gave me one random middle of the night as he was rescued from running around up on the 22 freeway in a horrendous storm. Norton lived with me for 17 years and upon reflection, I like the phrase: "Who saved who?" 💔

In 2006, God brought Anne and I together—and "the dark ages" came to an end! We have been happily married for the past 20 years. In 2017, we were attending Santa Ana Calvary when we got invited to visit Trinity. Unbeknownst to us, God had plans for us to start attending Trinity and we have been here ever since. Anne has been involved with women's ministry and teaching, and I have been involved with men's Precepts Bible study. As a side note, God used Covid in a very special way for us. We started attending Street Church and I would say this was a pivotal time for both of us. It was during this time I began to prioritize God in a deeper way and began to study the Word on a much more regular basis. I was due for a revival and I found out later Anne had been praying for me on the side.

My favorite Bible verse is Ephesians 2:8-9 +10 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." It reminds me of the free gift of salvation and how, in gratitude, we are to serve Him.

I am excited for the future and look forward to serving YHWH until His return. I daily thank the LORD for saving me at youth camp, filling me with His Spirit, sticking with me through the "dark ages," bringing Anne and me together, and bringing us to Trinity – a tremendous blessing to us both.