

Dear People of Grace and St. Thomas,

I am honored and excited to accept the call to serve as your next Rector!

Since first engaging with the search committee, I was immediately drawn to your passion for serving your neighbors and sharing your commitments with each other. Our visit confirmed this passion, while also strengthening my respect for the people and ministries at Grace and St. Thomas. I am extremely excited to get to know each of you personally.

I have spent the last three years as the Associate Priest and Director of Student Ministry at Christ Church Episcopal, in Tulsa. Prior to coming to Christ Church I was the Primary & Middle School Chaplain at Holland Hall School in Tulsa.

I am married to Carmen, and we have an almost 13-year-old named Aidan. Carmen was born in Oklahoma and has lived there her entire life. She has worked in financial services for many years. She loves a vast array of music, travelling, and has a voice that will blow you away. We are both classically trained opera singers. Aidan is an amazing, baseball loving kid. He loves camping, shooting, riding his four-wheeler, and hanging out with his friends. I was born and raised in Wisconsin. My father is a retired Episcopal priest, and we moved several times between Wisconsin and Oklahoma. My mother and I moved to Tulsa in 1988, and I have been there ever since. I love to hunt and fish, the outdoors, camping, golf, and coaching youth baseball. Our family loves music, food, and spending time together with friends.

I cannot wait to join you all in worship on Sunday, January 7. In the meantime, I humbly ask your prayers for my family, and me, and for the people at Christ Church, Tulsa as we do the difficult work of saying goodbye and then look ahead to a new season. And please continue to pray for your Vestry and ministry leaders as you move through the remaining days of transition. Know that I am already praying for you and am so very excited about beginning our journey together. I am confident that the Holy Spirit is about to open the flood gates for our future together.

Gratefully,

The Rev. Justin Boyd+

Tulsa, Oklahoma