

*The Incorporated Trustees of The Anglican Church
in The Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago*

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO
HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL - INSTALLATION OF THE DEAN**

On Sunday March 18 2018, at 4.30 pm, the Reverend Shelley-Ann Tenia will be installed as the thirteenth Dean and Rector of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port of Spain. The new Dean will be the first female to hold this position in the Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago and in the Province of the West Indies.

The Reverend Shelley-Ann Tenia was ordained a deacon on May 14th 2005 after completion of a Bachelor of Science Degree at Old Dominion University, and her training for ministry and successful completion of a Master of Divinity at the Virginia Theological Seminary.

On finishing her studies and training, she was placed at the St. John Parish Church in Barbados as a deacon in training under the supervision of Canon Mayers. She was ordained a priest, in Trinidad, by Bishop Calvin Bess, in 2006, at the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity. She served as Deacon and Assistant Curate at the Cathedral. In 2008 she moved to All Saints Parish where she served until 2012. She became Parish Priest at Holy Saviour in 2013 and was installed as Rector of the Parish in December 2015. Rev. Shelley was appointed to the Cathedral as Dean and Rector in December 2017.

For more than six years prior to her ordination, Rev. Shelley worked in diverse community settings, delivering psychosocial care and support to vulnerable youth and families, at home and in the United States. This included the care and rehabilitation of street children at the Credo Centre in Port of Spain, and, as a House Manager at The Dwelling Place – this involved active engagement with homeless families in Norfolk, Virginia as they sought to improve the quality of their lives. She became a life time member of Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity and Psi Chi International Honours Society and is also a lifelong member of Phi Beta Kappa an academic honours society, having completed an Associate of Science in Education, with honours, at Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach Campus. Those early experiences have informed her sense of call and were an integral part of her vocational formation.

With a keen eye on the Church's institutional development, and on opportunities for strategic partnerships that promote the gospel and the well being of all God's people, Rev Tenia has served on the Diocesan Council, on the Diocesan Capacity Building Team, the Project Management Team and the Diocesan Strategic Planning Team of the Anglican Church. She was appointed to the Board of the Family Planning Association, has worked on policy positions with Faith-based organizations and has had oversight of the CARICOM Local Capacity Building Initiative for Faith-based Organizations. As the Vice-Chairperson of the Faith-based Network of Trinidad and Tobago, she is an advocate for interfaith dialogue and collaboration in matters of social transformation.

She continues to be fervently committed to youth and children's development through her work as a Personal Development Facilitator with the Franciscan Institute of Personal and Family Development (2006 – 2012). She also served as Chaplain to the Happening Movement (2006 – 2011) and Chair of the Children's Ministry Team, participating in the Provincial Youth Gathering (2009) as clergy delegate, and co-facilitator of a young adult leaders formation group (2010 – 2012).

The Cathedral - Church of the City

The Holy Trinity Cathedral was consecrated on May 25, 1823. The present building replaces a wooden structure which was destroyed by fire in 1808. The Cathedral is a major landmark in the city of Port of Spain and contains many historical references to public officials from the colonial era, including a statue of former governor Sir Ralph Woodford. The Cathedral clock was

restored in 2011 by Michael J Williams, a former Senate President, and Time Keeper Trinidad and Tobago. The clock once again keeps time in the city with its hourly chimes.

On the grounds of the Cathedral, the Labyrinth, the only one of its kind on the island, and The Garden of Peace, were established in 1998 as sacred spaces for the people of POS, under the guidance of then Dean Dr Knolly Clarke and Bishop Rawle Douglin, to mark the 175th anniversary of the Parish Church of Holy Trinity and the 125th anniversary of The Anglican Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago.

Reach of the Cathedral Parish

The Cathedral is the main church in the Anglican Diocese, hosts major Diocesan services and has oversight of three primary schools and one secondary school. It is also used for numerous services of municipal and national interest. As Dean, Rev. Tenia will lead the Cathedral Chapter which includes the Archdeacons and six Canons of the Diocese and is responsible for the conduct of business related to the Cathedral.

For further information, please contact Petal-Dawn Hinkson, Diocesan Secretary at 622-2308