Social Media and Online Communication Policy

Trinity holds a philosophy that its facebook page and other social media platforms functions as a space for information sharing, especially as regards church news and events, and also for community discussion. Members and non-members of Trinity alike are invited to participate in these discussions, provided they abide by the policy below. Trinity social media sites are not forums for those wishing to air grievances against the church, its members or staff. Such matters are better addressed through direct, private communication with the offending people or with the church's leadership (Matthew 5:22-24).

Trinity DOES welcome candid and even spirited sharing of differing views on our facebook page and on other social media platforms. Different viewpoints offer the potential for learning and growth through our encounters with one another as members of the Body of Christ with different gifts to offer one another (1 Corinthians 12). To ensure that conversations remain constructive, however, any views expressed need to follow these basic guidelines:

1. Those who post (i.e. "posters") are requested to speak for themselves and their own experiences. Phrases like "we all know" or "everyone believes" are a good clue that a post is straying from this norm.
2. Posters will address one another with civility and respect. Name-calling, blaming, attacking, denigrating, bullying, shaming, and assigning motives to other people (i.e. "clearly so-and-so is trying to do such-and-such") are not acceptable (Matthew 7:1).
3. Posters will debate points and not people.
4. Posters will use clean language (or images), i.e. language that does not violate the FCC standards for indecency and profanity under which broadcast television and radio operate during primetime hours (6 a.m. to 10 p.m.). (For more information, see http://www.fcc.gov/guides/obscenity-indecency-and-profanity).
5. In the spirit of 1 John 4, posters are encouraged to consider the following questions about something they wish to say before they post: Is it kind? Is it constructive? Is it something I'd want my boss to see me saying? Is it in the spirit of love, friendship, and understanding? If the answer to any of these questions is "no," that indicates that the post is inappropriate and should be reworded or abandoned.

The decision as to when a post steps outside of these norms will be made by two or more lay members of the Admins/Editors on our facebook page. Posts deemed inappropriate will be removed. People who persist in posting inappropriate content will be banned from posting on Trinity's facebook page and other media platforms by a 2/3 majority vote of Editors/Admins *or* of a quorum of Vestry members.

Adopted by the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church, this 10th day of September in the year 2017.