

TRINITY CENTER

OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA

The Rt. Rev. Robert S. Skirving
BISHOP

Penn Perry
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 5, 2020

Dear Friends of Trinity Center:

The Board of Managers of Trinity Center of the Diocese of East Carolina has made the extremely difficult decision to close Trinity Center to all guests and campers through September 7, 2020. This decision was not an easy one to make. Our goal in this beautiful setting on Bogue Banks is to bring people closer to God, principally through Spirit-filled interaction with other people. Under the present circumstances, protecting our guests overrides all other considerations. The whole nature of our existence conflicts with the guidelines we need to follow to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Our sleeping, dining, swimming, and meeting facilities do not allow us to social distance and sanitize as recommended. Our staff brainstormed all sorts of scenarios to continue our programs in some fashion. The bottom line was that we just could not carry on in any fashion that assured safety.

The repercussions of this decision are far-reaching. Not only are the campers who will not attend Camp Trinity affected, but our Sound to Sea day campers, guests who planned to attend meetings or conferences, and the staff and their families due to an extended time without work.

As chair of the Board of Managers, my heart aches as I compose this letter. For the past 92 years, the Diocese of East Carolina has had a summer camping program, even during World War II. As the former director of Camp Leach and the first camp director of Camp Trinity, we still had a camping program in 1985 when we had no camp after the sale of Camp Leach and before Trinity Center was built. I realize these circumstances in no way compare to today. It just emphasizes the gravity of this decision.

We all need to pray for the world, as no one is totally unaffected by this pandemic. I ask that you pray for all who love Trinity Center, its staff, and those directly affected by this temporary shutdown.

A core of essential employees will still be on property staffing the office and carrying on maintenance. Again, we are all suffering due to these circumstances and we appreciate your love, prayers, and concern for Trinity Center.

Ed Hodges

Chair of the Board of Managers

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