

April 22, 2017

Dear People of St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church,

It is with much joy that I write to you, eager to enter your fellowship and navigate the waters of ministry with you into our future together.

Some months ago I received a phone call from Bishop Mathes, in which he asked if I'd be willing to put my name in the vicar search for St. Thomas'. "As I've gotten to know you," he said, "I've come to believe you have the gifts and talents that most align with what St. Thomas' wants and needs for a leader. Tim, I think you're the man for the job; I think you'd be a great fit."

Of course, I said to put my name in the pool—this was the bishop calling, after all. I then began to do my homework. And as I did so, the question to frame my analysis was, what is it about me in particular the bishop sees? Here's what I've assessed thus far.

Especially exciting to me is your music ministry. Music, especially in the Anglican choral tradition, has played no small role in my own spiritual journey. To work with accomplished musicians in order to craft effective liturgy is a thing I've longed for in recent years.

I'm also eager to establish and develop a strong working relationship with the day school, its board, director, staff, and families. Prior to ordination I was a career teacher in private parochial and independent schools, experience that should go a long way in a school/church relationship.

Along these lines is Christian formation. A lifelong learner myself, I look forward to strengthening the already strong Christian education program for all ages.

And as for the location! It's no secret that Temecula is beautiful, nestled between the California coast and desert, a perfect opportunity to exercise hospitality.

You can see by what I've written, focuses of ministry for me are music and liturgy, preaching, teaching, and formation. I consider my leadership style to be flexible yet organized, collaborative, and innovative, willing to go in new directions when old ones tire out or fail. Maybe I'm more an artist than a scientist (more a Greek than a Roman), though I believe the two are not mutually exclusive. For fun I like to hang out with my family, cooking, eating, playing bridge, and walking our 12 year-old Labrador, Arwen; and, as I'm able, I like to hike, compose, write, and ride my motorcycle.

Anyway, put these together and it's plain to see that, as the bishop stated, here is a great fit!

Please pray for me and my family in the months ahead. Moving from Yuma to Temecula will not be our only transition. My wife Holly, a teacher, is looking for work; and another one of our kids, number three, is heading off to college in the fall.

May God richly bless us in our life together,  
Father Tim