

R5: A Resolution to Declare Holy Trinity, Lisbon Parish to be Extinct

Be it Resolved, that this 209th Convention acknowledges with both gratitude and sadness the end of the parish ministry of Holy Trinity, Lisbon and expresses its deep appreciation to the laity and clergy of this congregation for their generations of faithful service to God and to the people of their community; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention accepts the recommendation of the Committee on Constitution, Resolutions, and Canons, in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Ohio (Title II, Canon 7), and declares Holy Trinity, Lisbon to be extinct.

Rationale:

In his convention address of 1860, The Rt. Rev. Gregory T. Bedell, third Bishop of Ohio made reference to his visitation to New Lisbon, “Here we have no church organization nor building, but there are a few families desiring the services of our church.” On April 13, 1863 a group of citizens from New Lisbon, Ohio adopted the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church of America. Under the guidance of the Rev. T. A. McMurphy, they chose the title, The Parish of the Trinity Church. At the Diocesan Convention of 1863 The Parish of the Trinity Church was received into the convention. Although there was no building in which to worship, it is reported that the parish had a “fine choir.”

In 1866 a home was purchased at the cost of \$1850. Vestry minutes note that the “Lady Communicants” of the church played an extremely important part in the financial arrangements to purchase and convert the house into a chapel. In 1886 this building and lot was sold and the property where the present day church is located was purchased. Construction on the “new” church began on August 26, 1886 and the vestry of the parish convened together for the first time in the new church on March 7, 1887. On February 26, 1890 the church was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. William Leonard, fourth Bishop of Ohio as Holy Trinity Church. An active chapter of the Episcopal Church Women was organized in 1959 which commenced to make the United Thank Offering a regular part of parish outreach. Holy Trinity celebrated 100 years of ministry in and around Lisbon, Ohio in 1987. In 2013 the parish observed 150 years of shared ministry.

On August 29, 2025 the Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Twelfth Bishop of Ohio, and the Rev. Canon Jessie Gutsell Dodson met with two members of the congregation and The Rev. Jon Coventry to discuss and finalize plans for closing the parish. The final worship service held in the building occurred over a year ago on July 27, 2024. It is hoped that a formal closing Eucharist can be scheduled in the near future.

The story of Holy Trinity Lisbon encompasses a ministry of perseverance. From its inception until the 1950s the parish experienced extended periods of drought and inactivity with regard to regular worship, active parish members and consistent clergy leadership. Though small in number the communicants of Holy Trinity Church, persevered to be an Episcopal presence in Lisbon for 161 years. They are part of the story of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio and their parish records and history will become part of the permanent holdings of our Diocesan Archives.