

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church calls a new Rector

Join us in welcoming the Reverend Robert F. Beicke to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Seattle!

Mark your calendars for his first Sunday with us: June 24, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in the main church.



The Reverend Robert F. Beicke was raised in and around Buffalo, NY and received degrees from Valparaiso University, Christ Seminary – Seminex, and the University of Texas.

Father Robert comes to St. Stephen's from St. George's Episcopal Church and Center, a unique ministry with and for the homeless in Southeast Florida, where he was priest-in-charge since 2014. During his many years in the priesthood, Father Robert served in churches in Tennessee, Texas, and Florida—including time as a missionary developing a new congregation, in an inner-city congregation, and in a 3,000-member downtown regional parish. He also served as a Chaplain with the St. Louis Metro Police Department, and for 12 years in the United States Army Chaplain Corps (active duty and reserve) including a post in Washington at Fort Lewis.

Father Robert and his wife, Patricia Farley, were married in February 2009. When he's not working on something church-related, Father Robert enjoys exploring local events, dancing, introducing his wife to his favorite science-fiction shows, and cooking without recipes. So far, they have survived all of his food experiments!

From the Search Committee:

The Reverend Robert F. Beicke (pronounced Bye-kee) has been serving as priest-in-charge of St. George's Episcopal Church and Center in Riviera Beach, FL, an Episcopalian congregation closely aligned with an outreach program that serves meals and coordinates medical services for the homeless.

Why Father Robert? Why is he the right rector for St. Stephen's at this time?



First, because he comes to us with an undeniable depth of experience in leadership and organization. Father Robert has helped multiple congregations return to vibrancy by working with church leaders to align organizational behaviors and culture with vision and mission. He has a track record of increasing new members and increasing current member engagement.

Second, because Father Robert has a deep conviction in his vocation as a pastor. In his words, "Being a priest is not something you do, it is who you are." He thrives on being with other people. We found him courteous and engaging, but also humble and empathetic. He will give time, thought, energy, and compassion to any parishioner in need.

Third, because he has a passion for liturgy, preaching, and teaching. Education, learning, and liturgy are an important part of St. Stephen's, and Father Robert is energized at the prospect of new opportunities to engage in spiritual formation. "I believe," he says, "the Church should be a safe place of discourse where people can openly exchange ideas and receive help giving meaning to their lives." Father Robert continues, "Church is where people of all ages can engage in dialogue about the changes in their lives, their community and the world, and begin to come to terms with those changes." Father Robert also believes that the church is where rich, deep discussions centered in people's lives and faith are shared, and where new members of the community can be helped to have their faith shaped and deepened.

We are blessed to welcome Father Robert and his wife Patricia to St. Stephen's, and they very much look forward to joining us in Seattle. Father Robert has accepted our call with great optimism and delight because of the potential he sees in St. Stephen's.