



# HOLY TRINITY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thursday, February 16, 2023

The Reverend Catherine Sider Hamilton  
St. Matthew's Anglican Church  
135 First Avenue  
Toronto, ON M4M 1W9 CANADA

Dear Catherine,

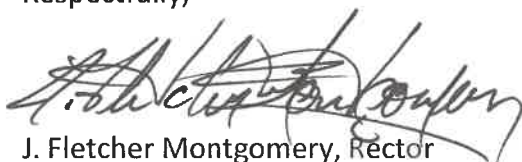
It is a pleasure to write on behalf of the Reverend Joshua Loewen-Samuels. Joshua was my assistant priest here at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Gainesville, Florida from the summer of 2021 to the summer of 2022. We were in employment negotiations for months before that, given his ordination in the Diocese of Florida in the spring of 2021, and the arduous process of his gaining permission to work in the United States, which eventually came through at great financial expense to him. Joshua's fortitude through that process spoke volumes about his work ethic, his care for his family, and his intention at the time to take up employment outside of Canada. Through it all I observed that he was careful, patient, and respectful.

Upon beginning here on our staff in 2021 Joshua not only accomplished the various ministry duties assigned to him, but was also a self-starter in getting to know the members of the congregation, and pitching in where his gifts and talents were most needed. I found him to be both knowledgeable and teachable – a nice combination when a newly-ordained minister is starting out. I appreciated Joshua's respectfulness of me and my office, and was glad to see him take part in the ministries and pastoral relationships in the wider diocese.

Specifically, Joshua is a gifted teacher, preacher, and liturgist. He was able to reach parishioners with his skills and bring them in a closer relationship with God. He is also an evangelist, and spent hours working with any number of people who were searching for faith.

I am grateful for the lessons I learned during Joshua's time here with us. I will be happy to speak with anyone who has further or specific questions.

Respectfully,



J. Fletcher Montgomery, Rector