



## **Press Release**

### **Rev. Stephen P. Best Appointed Interim President of Trinity College of Florida**

June 12, 2023 (Trinity, FL) – The Trinity College of Florida Board of Trustees announces the appointment of Rev. Stephen P. Best as interim President with the full responsibilities and authorities of the Office of the President, effective June 5, 2023.

Dr. Mark O'Farrell, who served the college with excellent leadership for 18 years, informed the Board of Trustees at its October 2022 meeting, of his intention to retire along with Billie his wife, who has served the college for 35 years. The Board of Trustees immediately began the search process for Trinity's 9<sup>th</sup> President.

"Over the past seven months, the Presidential Search and Executive Committees received more than 20 inquiries and applications for the presidential position. Following established protocol for our search the Board of Trustees unanimously selected Rev. Stephen Paul Best as the college's Interim President" said Rev. Edward Wm. Brandt III, Chairman of the Board. "This strong confidence in Rev. Best is based on the following credentials and character: He loves Trinity College and is fully committed to our mission; holds extensive experience and qualifications in non-profit ministry, administration, resource development, leadership organization, educational enterprises; understands the uniqueness of Trinity and equally unique demands on the Office of the President and has served on the faculty at Trinity as an Adjunct Professor; works with integrity, diligence, and sincerity; and leads with service and stewardship. The board asks for your support and prayers as together, along with President Best's leadership, we move the college into it's exciting 91<sup>st</sup> year."

Steve is a graduate of Grand Rapids Baptist College (Cornerstone University) and Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary (Liberty University). He has served in church planting and pastoral leadership, global missions leadership, and various education roles including as an adjunct professor of Trinity College of Florida. He is married to Terri Jo Best, and they have 4 adult children and 13 grandchildren.

"I am honored to accept the role of interim President of Trinity College of Florida," said Rev. Best. "I have a deep appreciation and strong connection to the history of the college and am thankful for the opportunity to lead Trinity College of Florida to be the premier provider of Biblically focused, multifaceted, and diversified higher learning to fulfill the great commission in life and career. This will be accomplished for the glory of God and the

kingdom of Christ by the power of the Spirit as our faculty, staff, students, and alumni prepare and live for kingdom impact.”

Trinity College of Florida is a private, nonprofit, accredited Christian Bible college located near the Gulf Coast in Trinity, Florida. Established in 1932 by Dr. W. T. Watson, the school's mission is to *“provide a Biblically centered education, equipping servant leaders for life and career opportunities.”* The college has long legacy of a family-like atmosphere focused on individual development of Christian leaders for every context of life. Distinctly evangelical but also nondenominational, *Trinity is a small Bible college with a large global impact.*