



August 26, 2025

Dear Beloved in Christ,

The Standing Committee is pleased to announce the members of both the Search Committee and the Transition Committee for the election of our next Bishop Diocesan. Rosters with names and photos can be found [here for the Search Committee](#) and [here for the Transition Committee](#).

In forming the committees, we considered not only the individual strengths of each applicant, but also the mix of gifts, experience, perspectives, availability, geography, parish size and context, and the particular charisms needed for each committee's unique work.

We are grateful that these members have answered the call, and the appointment of the Standing Committee, to help guide the diocese through a healthy, transparent, faithful, joyful, and prayerful bishop search and transition process. We know they will be a blessing to the diocese, even as they are blessed by serving alongside other mature, prayerful followers of Jesus.

There will be opportunities for all of us to share in this journey. This process of discernment will depend on the prayerful engagement and wisdom of the whole people of God of the diocese as we walk together toward the election of our next bishop.

Please see the [Bishop Search Hub](#) for the Timeline Overview of the work that is to come.

We invite you to continue to keep our committees, our process, and our diocese in your daily prayers as we engage this sacred work together.

In Christ,
The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Tennessee

The Rev. Dr. David Barr (St. George's, Nashville)
The Rev. Michael Blaess, president (Redeemer, Shelbyville)
Mr. John Harvey (Grace, Spring Hill)
Mr. L. Jarod Pearson, secretary (St. Agnes', Cowan)
The Rev. Justin Taliaferro (Messiah, Pulaski)
The Rev. Canon Natalie Van Kirk (Good Shepherd, Brentwood)
Mr. John Whitaker (Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville)