



June 30, 2025
Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Apostles (*transferred*)

Dear Beloved in Christ of the Diocese of Tennessee,

We give thanks to God for Bishop John Bauerschmidt's nearly twenty years of faithful and loving service among us – for his deep care, steady leadership, and abiding devotion to Christ and Christ's Church. We are deeply grateful for the ways he has walked with us in times of joy and times of challenge, always encouraging us to grow more fully into the one body of Christ. We look forward to celebrating his ministry in the season ahead.

With Bishop Bauerschmidt's announcement, there is new work that begins. The Standing Committee has the holy and canonical responsibility of overseeing the entire process of discernment and transition that will lead to the election of our next Bishop Diocesan. It is our sacred privilege to do so.

Next Tuesday, July 8, we will share more about what comes next as we introduce the work of the Search and Transition Committees.

For now, we encourage your prayers – for Bishop John, for the people of our diocese, and for the path that lies ahead. As we journey through this new season, may we walk it together in faith, grace, hope, and joy, trusting that the Holy Spirit fills us and goes before us into the future God intends for us.

Warmly, 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)

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church and pour out your Holy Spirit upon all who will participate in the process of choosing a bishop for this diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; Grant that all who are called to this sacred office may be filled with the truth of your doctrine, clothed in holiness of life, and devoted to your glory and the flourishing of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, the shepherd and bishop of our souls, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, For the Election of a Bishop and For the Ministry (Ember Days)

All communications can be found on the Diocese of Tennessee website at edtn.org/bishopsearch