



July 15, 2025

Dear Beloved in Christ,

One of the great gifts that the Diocese of Tennessee has been able to offer the Episcopal Church is our example of being in healthy and robust relationship with one another in the midst of our various differences. We are a diocese with differences of setting, size, demographics, and geography, differences of liturgical style and theological perspective. We seek to be a faithful witness of what it looks like to be the body of Christ in a time of increasing division in society and the church, loving one another as Christ has loved us.

Our process leading to the election of our next Bishop Diocesan will see us continue to embody this commitment.

As we shared last week, the Standing Committee will be establishing two important committees and appointing people to serve on each in order to help guide the diocese through a healthy, transparent, faithful, joyful, and prayerful process. These two committees play very different, yet equally vital roles.

Today, applications for the *Search Committee* and the *Transition Committee* are open.

We invite you to participate in this sacred work by nominating members of our diocesan community to serve on either of these committees. We hope to gather a group of lay and clergy leaders who reflect the fullness of our diocese – people who love the Lord and the Lord's Church, who are faithful, thoughtful, collaborative, grounded in prayer, and committed to listening to the Holy Spirit and to one another. Please consider where you might be called and how your gifts fit into the constellation of needs.

Please review all the details – roles, gifts & skills, and requirements; responsibilities and guidelines; application/nomination form – by clicking the links found at the [Bishop Search hub](#).

We also suggest that you take some time to review the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Book of Common Prayer regarding Bishops. These will help orient you to the task at hand.

- Article II of the Constitution, ["Of Bishops."](#)
- Title III, Canon 11, ["Of the Ordination of a Bishop."](#)
- Title III, Canon 12, ["Of The Life and Work of a Bishop,"](#)
- Book of Common Prayer, ["The Ordination of a Bishop,"](#) especially pages 510-511 and 517.

Applications will close at midnight Sunday, July 27. Note, this is a day earlier than what we communicated to you last week. The Standing Committee will then take a couple weeks to put together the Search and Transition Committees.

We will write again on Tuesday, July 29, to remind you of this.

We close again sharing our confidence that God has already been preparing the hearts of those with gifts for this work, just as God is preparing the one who will be called to walk among us as our next bishop.

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)