



Bishop Search News

The Bishop Search Committee Seeks Your Input

What is the role of the bishop?

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops. Be shepherds of the Church of God, which He bought with His own blood.” (St. Paul to the overseers in Ephesus; *Acts 20:28*)

The office of bishop is an apostolic ministry. As such, the bishop is proclaimer of the Gospel and teacher of the Christian Faith; provider of the sacraments; and leader of the Church. The bishop's authority is not merely administrative, it also involves discernment and guidance in various pastoral matters, including the ordination of clergy and the administration of sacraments. The office of Bishop is also a means of unity among diverse Christian communities. (*A Pastoral Teaching on the Episcopate*, The Rt. Rev'd John Bauerschmidt, 2018)

We request your input as we select the Twelfth Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee.

The opportunity to participate in the Bishop Search Process doesn't happen often. But it is happening in November and December, and we want to hear from you in two ways:

The Bishop Search Committee is organizing eight ***Listening Sessions*** across the diocese, where members of our congregations can gather to share their input. You are strongly encouraged to attend one of these sessions. The Bishop Search Committee will be listening and gathering input from all parts of our diocese. The dates and times will be announced soon.

The second way you can participate is to complete an ***on-line survey*** that will be available from Nov 3 to Dec 1. You will receive a link to the survey via email from your parish; there are some check-the-box questions and some free-form answers. Your input will be vital as we endeavor to present a full picture of our diocese and its people for potential bishop candidates in our Diocesan Profile.

[The Bishop Search Hub](#) provides an overview of the timeline for the whole process.