



PRESS RELEASE

Media Advisory

Contact: Jack Pannell and Sharon Tillman
410-467-1399 or by cell at 202-285-1899

Episcopal Diocese to Consecrate XIV Bishop of Maryland *The Rev. Canon Eugene T. Sutton to become first African-American Bishop of Maryland*

BALTIMORE – (Monday, June 23, 2008) The Rev. Canon Eugene T. Sutton will be consecrated as the XIV Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland on **Saturday, June 28 at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC.** Over 3,000 people are expected to attend the festive consecration service, where the presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, will be the chief celebrant. Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori is the first woman head of The Episcopal Church. Nearly 30 Episcopal bishops from around the country and throughout the Anglican Communion will also participate in the service. The Rev. Dr. Barry C. Black, a native of Baltimore and the first African-American Chaplain of the US Senate, will preach at the service.

WHAT: Consecration of the XIV Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

WHO: Bishop-elect Eugene T. Sutton with the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, USA as the chief consecrator. The Rev. Dr. Barry C. Black, US Chaplain of the US Senate will preach.

WHEN: Saturday, June 28, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

Camera and audio set ups by 9:30a.m. Please call to acquire credentials.

WHERE: Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.
Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenues.

-more-

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

4 East University Parkway ✕ Baltimore, Maryland 21218
www.ang-md.org pressroom@ang-md.org



PRESS RELEASE

Background:

Bishop-elect Eugene T. Sutton will be the first African-American bishop of the Diocese of Maryland. He was elected on the first ballot at a special convention of the diocese on March 29. He shares this distinction with only one predecessor, the first Bishop of Maryland, John Claggett, who was invested as a bishop in 1792. Prior to his election, Bishop-elect Sutton was the canon pastor and director of the Cathedral Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage at the Washington National Cathedral. Bishop-elect Sutton succeeds Bishop Robert Ihloff, who retired in April 2007.

Sutton will deliver his first sermon as the new Bishop of Maryland on Sunday, June 29 at a Welcoming and Seating service at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Baltimore. Sutton will begin the day at The Church of the Guardian Angel, which is an Episcopal parish with a focused outreach to homeless people in Baltimore. Following his visit and breakfast with the congregation, Sutton will lead a procession --- a Bishop's Urban Walk through the streets of Baltimore --- to the Cathedral, just over a mile away from Guardian Angel. According to Anglican custom, Sutton will knock on the cathedral doors and will be greeted by a delegation from the cathedral congregation. Sutton will be joined on his Urban Walk by young people who have spent the week in a homeless shelter. The Bishop's Urban Walk and sermon will be his first official activity as the leader of 44,000 Episcopalians in a geographical region that includes rural and urban Maryland, including the cities of Baltimore, Annapolis and Frederick. The diocese also contains 116 parishes, many of them established over 200 years ago.

For more information about the Diocese of Maryland, Bishop-elect Eugene T. Sutton and consecration events, please visit www.ang-md.org.

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The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland is a Christian community of 22,000 households with nearly 44,000 members in 116 congregations covering 10 counties and Baltimore City. The Episcopal Church is a community of 2.4 million members in 100 nationwide dioceses, 10 overseas dioceses and six extra-provincial territories; www.episcopalchurch.org. The Anglican Communion is a global community of 77 million Anglicans in 38 member churches/provinces, including The Episcopal Church; www.anglicancommunion.org.

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THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

Guidelines for Media Presence:

Consecration Service for the 14th Bishop of Maryland, Rev. Canon Eugene T. Sutton.

Representatives of media outlets are invited to attend this historic occasion. Broadcast and radio outlets are encouraged to notify the office of communications before Friday, June 27. Please contact Jack Pannell, Director of Public Affairs, at jpannell@ang-md.org or at 202-285-1899.

Camera set ups must be in place by 10 a.m. There will be a music prelude at 10:00 with the consecration service beginning promptly at 11 a.m. The service will last approximately two hours. Key participants in the service, including Bishop-elect Eugene T. Sutton and the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, will be available for stand-up interviews on the plaza in front of the west entrance of the Cathedral. Please indicate your desire for an interview before the event to Jack Pannell at jpannell@ang-md.org or at 202-285-1899.

Members of the media will have special seating and camera set ups in the South balcony of the cathedral. A mult box will be available. On arrival at the National Cathedral, please check in at the press table to receive their badges and media kits before proceeding to the press section. **The press table will be at the entrance through the South doors.** The press table will be staffed from 9-10:30 a.m.

All media representatives are expected to conform to the following guidelines:

- For coverage of Consecration service, media representatives will be restricted to the press section in the South balcony. A representative of the media office will be present to address any concerns or questions.
- We kindly request that media interviews be restricted to the areas outside of the cathedral. Please coordinate with the media team for an interview.
- Photography and videography will be permitted from the designated press area in the balcony of the sanctuary. No still camera flash or video lighting will be permitted during the Eucharist. During the procession and designated moments (to be determined), flash lighting may be used.

A press kit will be provided and also available via the web at www.ang-md.org.

Media relations contact for the Consecration:

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The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

The Diocese at a Glance

- Congregations: 116
- Baptized Members: (ca.) 44,000 *
- Clergy: (ca.) 325
- Church Schools: 24
- Retirement Residences: 2 (Fairhaven and Buckingham's Choice)
- Camp and Conference Center: 1 (The Bishop Claggett Center)
- Church founded in Chestertown in 1789 – site of the first convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church.
- Web site address www.ang-md.org
- # Pledges received by churches in 2006 10,156 *
- In 2005 the average pledge in the Diocese of Maryland was \$1,729, slightly below the national average of \$1,974.

Source: Research Office, Congregational Development, Episcopal Church

- Average Sunday Attendance: 12,816 *
- 2006 top five churches in average Sunday attendance: **
 - St. John's Church, Ellicott City 624
 - St. Anne's Church, Annapolis 452
 - Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore 443
 - All Saints' Parish, Frederick 389
 - St. Margaret's Church, Annapolis 368
- Baptisms in 2006 733 *
- Confirmations in 2006 372 *

* Source: Parochial Reports, 2007

** Source: Parochial Reports, 2006

6/27/2008

The Rev. Canon Eugene Taylor Sutton

The Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, 54, is canon pastor of Washington National Cathedral, and director of the Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage. A frequent leader of retreats and conferences on prayer, preaching, spirituality and mission, he directs the cathedral's national and local programs in building spiritual community through pilgrimages, gatherings and courses.

Prior to his call to the National Cathedral, Sutton served as the associate rector for Mission and Spirituality of St. Columba's Church, and as priest-in-charge of St. Margaret's Church, both in Washington, D.C.

In addition to his ministry in parishes, he has taught homiletics and liturgics at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, New Brunswick Theological Seminary and General Theological Seminary. He also served as assistant to the bishop in the Diocese of New Jersey. The author of several articles on spirituality and preaching, he is a contributor to the book *The Diversity of Centering Prayer*.

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori

“Shalom” – peacemaking defined by the Prophet Isaiah and reiterated by Jesus in Luke’s gospel – is a ministry priority for Katharine Jefferts Schori, who took office November 1, 2006, as 26th Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church.

Bishop Jefferts Schori was elected to this office on June 18, 2006 by vote of the 75th General Convention, in Columbus, Ohio. This Convention also set the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as the Episcopal Church’s top mission priority. In her full endorsement of these goals, Bishop Jefferts Schori calls upon Episcopalians and the wider global community to work together for their implementation.

Bishop Jefferts Schori’s career as an oceanographer preceded her studies for the priesthood, to which she was ordained in 1994. She remains an active, instrument-rated pilot – a skill she applied when traveling between the congregations of the Diocese of Nevada, where she was elected bishop in 2000 and ordained to the episcopate February 24, 2001. At the time of her election as bishop of Nevada, she was assistant rector of the Church of the Good Samaritan in Corvallis, Oregon.

Bishop Jefferts Schori holds a B.S. degree in biology from Stanford University (1974), an M.S. (1977) and Ph.D. (1983) in oceanography from Oregon State University, an M.Div. from Church Divinity School of the Pacific (1994), and an honorary D.D. (2001) also from CDSF.

Bishop Jefferts Schori was born March 26, 1954, in Pensacola, Florida. She grew up in the Seattle area and later moved with her family to New Jersey. Bishop Jefferts Schori and her husband, Richard Miles Schori, a retired theoretical mathematician (topologist), were married in 1979. They have one adult daughter, Katharine Johanna who is a first lieutenant and pilot in the U. S. Air Force.

Bishop Jefferts Schori brings to her ministry emphases on baptismal ministry and adult education. As Presiding Bishop, she will serve as chief pastor to the Episcopal Church’s 2.4 million members in 16 countries and 110 dioceses. As Primate, Bishop Jefferts Schori will join in consultation with other principal bishops of the 38 member Provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion, seeking to make common cause for global good and reconciliation.

To learn more about the Episcopal Church, visit www.episcopalchurch.org.

Consecration Preacher: Chaplain Barry Black

A rising voice in faith and politics who understands spirituality of reconciliation has been named the preacher for the bishop-elect's consecration. Dr. Barry C. Black, chaplain of the U.S. Senate and retired Navy rear admiral, works across the lines of faith and tradition to heal the discord in the Senate.

Biography

On June 27, 2003, retired Rear Admiral Barry C. Black was elected the 62nd chaplain of the United States Senate. He began working in the Senate on July 7, 2003. Prior to coming to Capitol Hill, Black served in the U.S. Navy for more than 27 years, ending his distinguished career as the chief of Navy chaplains. The Senate elected its first chaplain in 1789. Black is the first African-American chaplain of the Senate (Bishop Claggett was the third Senate chaplain).

Commissioned as a Navy chaplain in 1976, Black's first duty station was the Fleet Religious Support Activity in Norfolk, Va. Subsequent assignments took Black from Philadelphia, Annapolis and Okinawa, Japan to Long Beach, Calif., Newport, R.I., and back to Norfolk, Va.

As rear admiral, his personal decorations included the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (two medals), Meritorious Service Medals (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals (two awards), and numerous unit awards, campaign and service medals.

Chaplain Black is a native of Baltimore and an alumnus of Oakwood College, Andrews University, North Carolina Central University, Eastern Baptist Seminary, Salve Regina University and United States International University. In addition to earning a master's in divinity, counseling, and management, he has received a doctorate in ministry and a doctor of philosophy degree in psychology.

Black has been selected for many outstanding achievements. Of particular note, he was chosen from 127 nominees for the 1995 NAACP Renowned Service Award for his contribution to equal opportunity and civil rights. He also received the 2002 Benjamin Elijah Mays Distinguished Leadership Award from The Morehouse School of Religion. In 2004, the Old Dominion University chapter of the NAACP conferred on him the Image Award, "Reaffirming the Dream -- Realizing the Vision" for military excellence.

On the Spirituality of Reconciliation

Celebrations are both joyous and anxious because they mark times of profound change. God continually makes all things new, but God also calls us to pay close attention to our history. We must honor the past with its stories, traditions and ways of being that have been handed down.

At the same time, God is always doing something new, and that brings us to this moment in the diocese. What will this new thing mean for us? Who is this new bishop, and what will he do to us? What is his vision for this diocese?

First, I want to say that the important thing is not my vision, but *our* vision; the vision that God gives to all of us. We will discern what the Spirit is saying to us as we move forward together in ministry.

There are a few things, though, that are very dear to my heart. These things have marked my identity for a long time, and I will bring them with me as your new bishop. I group my core values in ministry into the “spirituality of reconciliation.”

St. Paul said, “if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself.” (2 Cor 5:17-19) The reason why Paul summarized the ministry of Christ as one of reconciliation is because the world is profoundly broken in many ways.

First of all, we need to be reconciled *spiritually*. Individuals need to be reconciled with God, because that relationship has been severed. We have turned our backs on God, sometime because of painful, traumatic experiences in our lives or because we are afraid to trust God to lead our lives. Instead, we all too often choose our own personal willfulness over faith in God.

I spent my formative spiritual years at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church, a large African-American Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. It was there that I learned the great stories of the Bible and was nurtured by the exuberant praise for a loving God. It was because of that spiritual upbringing that I chose to follow Christ when I was 17 years old, a decision that began my journey of prayer.

Prayer is the bridge to communion with God and with each other. In my episcopate I will call you to times of prayer, which I consider to be the core of my ministry as your bishop. As Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still and know that I am God.” God calls us to stillness and silence before God calls us to action.

The second level of reconciliation is *social*. Here the question is: in a society that has seen so many broken relationships, how can we be reconciled to one another? All families have periods of conflict when it is difficult to hold all their members together.

This is also true in our diocesan church family; we sometimes have strained relationships between black and white, rich and poor, male and female, conservative and liberal. We often build walls of division rather than bridges of cooperation.

Despite our many differences we are still one family. However, unity does not mean uniformity. In the mystery of the Trinity, we have come to know that God is unity, but God is also a community of persons. Similarly, we express our unity in the midst of our diversity.

One of the strains in our diocese, as well as in our society, has been the evil of slavery. We need only to read the newspapers to be reminded that the legacy of slavery and its residual effects remain with us today. I am very gratified to know that our diocese is courageously looking at its own past involvement in this injustice, and is working its way forward toward full racial reconciliation.

The third level of reconciliation is *global*. Again, St. Paul emphasized that it is *all* of creation that needs to be reconciled under God, not just individuals. In the public arena, our systems of caring for each other have broken down. In the city of Baltimore, for example, the public school system neglects the poorest, most vulnerable people in our society. It is a moral priority for the church when only 35 percent of Baltimore's children graduate from high school. I believe that God is calling us to do our part in providing better quality educational opportunities for all of God's children.

Finally, global reconciliation must include our stewardship of the earth, which is God's creation. It is a sin to waste the world's resources. We have carelessly depleted our resources with little regard for the generations that will follow us. Could it be that the Spirit of God is calling this diocese, from western Maryland to the Chesapeake, to take a greater role in the healing of the environment?

With these three levels of reconciliation – spiritual, social and global – we *will* make all things new in our service to God. The world is crying out for healing, and wherever there is division and brokenness we are called to build bridges.

-The Rev. Canon Eugene T. Sutton, Bishop-elect

About Bishops

Q: What is the ministry of a bishop?

A: The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ's ministry.

Catechism, BCP, p. 855

What is a Bishop?

The word 'bishop' comes from an Old English derivation of the Greek word 'episcopos.' This Greek word literally means to 'over' (epi) 'see' (scopos). In the New Testament we find 'overseers' identified as shepherds of the flock, *Acts 20:28*, who are entrusted with God's work, *Titus 1:7*, and who must be respectable and above reproach, *1 Tim 3:12*.

What Does a Bishop Do?

As the church grew in the earliest centuries, bishops became regional spiritual leaders who continued the ministry of the apostles. These bishops took seriously the job of guarding the faith that had been handed down by Jesus himself.

Bishops are ordained by other bishops prayerfully laying hands on them. The spiritual nature of the apostolic ministry of the bishop is signified by the laying on of hands by bishops who had hands laid on them, who, in turn, had hands laid on them – on back to the time of the apostles.

For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless, he must not be arrogant or quick tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain; but he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout and self-controlled. He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able to both preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it. Titus 1:7-9

Bishops of Maryland

Thomas John Claggett	1792-1816
James Kemp	1816-1827
William Murray Stone	1830-1838
William Rollinson Whittingham	1840-1879
William Pinkney	1879-1883
William Paret	1885-1911
John Gardner Murray	coadjutor 1909-1911 bishop 1911-1929
Edward Trail Helfenstein	1929-1943
Noble Cilley Powell	1943-1963
Harry Lee Doll	1963-1971
David Keller Leighton	1971-1985
William Cox, suffragan	1972-1980

A.Theodore Eastman	1985-1994
Charles Longest	suffragan 1989-1994 bishop-in-charge 1994-1995 suffragan 1995-1997
Robert Wilkes Ihloff	1995-2007
John Leslie Rabb	suffragan 1998-2007 bishop-in-charge 2007-present
Eugene Taylor Sutton	bishop-elect 2007

What is the Standing Committee?

The Standing Committee’s role is similar to that of a board of directors. The committee serves as the council of advice to the bishop(s), and when there is a vacancy in the office of bishop, or Episcopate, the committee performs the duties and powers of the bishop in matters of governance. The Standing Committee consists of eight elected members: four clergy and four lay members of the diocese. This committee will oversee the transition of, and search for, a new bishop for the diocese.

Who has been in charge since Bishop Ihloff’s retirement?

The Standing Committee delegated the duties of bishop of Maryland to the Rt. Rev. John L. Rabb, who is serving as bishop-in-charge of Maryland. Bishop Rabb will resume his role as suffragan bishop after the consecration on June 28. There have also been two assisting bishops – the Rt. Revs. Michael W. Creighton and Rodney R. Michel, both retired bishops – who are charged with assisting Bishop Rabb with church visitations, confirmations and celebrations of new ministry. The Rev. Canon Mary D. Glasspool, canon to the bishops, has continued to perform her regular duties, including pastoral care, church visitations and parish development.

Rt. Rev. John L. Rabb

Bishop-in-Charge

John L. Rabb was elected Bishop Suffragan of Maryland on March 28, 1998 and was consecrated on October 10, 1998 in Alumni Hall of St. James School in St. James, Maryland. Bishop Rabb was named bishop-in-charge upon the April 2007 retirement of Robert Ihloff.

Born in Des Moines, Iowa on October 11, 1944, Bishop Rabb received a B.A. in history from DePauw University in 1966, a M.A. in history from the University of Iowa in 1969 and an M.Div from the Episcopal Divinity School in 1976. He has done continuing education with the College of Preachers, 1981, 1982 and 1991, the Institute for Servant Leadership, 1988, 1991 and 1994 and the Alban Institute, 1992 and 1997.

Prior to beginning seminary in 1973, he was a graduate student in history and taught at Eastern Iowa College in Davenport, Iowa. In 1970 he joined the Historical Evaluation and Research Organization (HERO) in Washington, DC as a research associate.

Bishop Rabb began his ordained ministry in 1976 as Curate at the Church of the Ascension in Gaithersburg, Maryland. He was also assistant rector and priest-in-charge. In 1979 he became Rector of the Church of the Holy Apostles, Arbutus, Maryland. In 1988 he was called as Rector of St. Anne's, Atlanta, Georgia.

Bishop Rabb has a deep interest in the development of and nurture of the ordained ministry and served as Chairperson of the Commission on Ordained Ministry in the Diocese of Maryland and the Diocese of Atlanta. He is also deeply concerned about social justice and ecumenism, and served as President of the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta in 1996.

His wife, Sharon, works for Campaign Consultation, a fundraising firm in Baltimore. They have two daughters: Alison is an attorney in Chicago; Jennifer is a public school teacher in Washington, D.C.

Bishop Rabb is also an avid rosarian.

Rt. Rev. Michael W. Creighton

Assisting Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Michael W. Creighton served as the Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania from November 1995 to November 2006. He is married to Betty and they have recently moved to Annapolis, MD. They have two adult sons. Chris, Heather and their daughters Hallie and Kate live in Indiana where Chris is the Football Coach at Wabash College. Ken, Olga and son Leo live in London, England where Ken works for the International Accounting Standards Foundation.

Before being elected in Central Pennsylvania Bishop Creighton served at St. Mary the Virgin, San Francisco, CA, the Episcopal Church in Almaden, San Jose, CA, and St. Stephen's, Seattle WA. Prior to seminary he was a Line Officer in the U.S. Navy. His undergraduate work was at Trinity College, Hartford Ct., and his seminary was The Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, MA. The Creightons have been friends of the Ihloffs since seminary days, and the Rabbs since 1995.

Bishop Creighton's main interests have been in social ministry and congregational development. He served on the Standing Committee that gave birth to the "2020 Vision" for The Episcopal Church. He has been devoted to developing healthy congregations where people can grow in grace, in numbers attending and in service. Bishop Creighton has been involved with HIV/AIDS ministry at the Masereka Foundation in Kasese, Uganda where Central Pennsylvania supports a medical clinic and educates orphans. Central Pennsylvania is Companion to the Diocese of Sao Paulo, Brazil and he has also served on the ECUSA/Brazil Bi-Lateral Committee. He recently joined the 14th Work Crew from Central Pennsylvania helping to rebuild in Pascagoula, MS after Katrina. He is the author of "For Starters" – prayers for those who find themselves beginning again, and again, and again.

Bishop Creighton says, "I very much look forward to helping Bishop Rabb and supporting the people of the Diocese of Maryland during this coming year of transition."

Rt. Rev. Rodney R. Michel

Assisting Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Rodney R. Michel is the Retired Seventh Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island. He retired after ten years as Bishop Suffragan and now lives, with his wife, in Ephrata, Pennsylvania. Bishop Michel was born and raised in Nebraska and graduated from the University of Nebraska and Seabury Western Theological Seminary. He served the Church in Nebraska, North Dakota and for twenty years in Long Island, New York. He served the larger Church in a variety of ministries and particularly as Chair of the HIV/AIDS Commission and the House of Bishops Standing Commission on Religious Communities.

Rodney and Marie Michel are the parents of four children: Anne, who lives in Arlington, Virginia with her husband, Win Boerckel and two daughters, Madeleine and Kathryn. John and his wife Kristy will be moving to Columbia, Maryland in the summer as he takes up his professorial duties at Towson University. David lives in Catonsville and Andrew in Long Island.

Bishop Michel enjoys iconography, walking his labradoodle, Farley, and working in the garden and the kitchen.

The Rev. Canon Mary D. Glasspool

Canon to the Bishops

An ordained priest since 1981, Canon Mary Glasspool served in parishes in Philadelphia, Boston and Annapolis (St. Margaret's) before becoming Canon to the Bishops in 2001. She has served on Diocese of Maryland's Standing Committee, the board of Episcopal Community Services of Maryland, and has twice been Deputy to General Convention.

Canon Glasspool's responsibilities are varied and range from pastoral care to development. She serves as pastor to clergy and their families, provides counseling to congregations in crises, oversees parish and mission retreats, and attends Sunday visitations with congregations. Her development responsibilities include leadership development and training, performing demographic studies, assisting parish Wardens and the Wardens' Conference, serving on the Diocesan Council Planning Team, and overseeing parish, mission, vestry and advisory board retreats.

Historical Timeline of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

- 1608: Captain John Smith oversees the first Christian worship in Maryland.
- 1632: Virginia establishes trading post on Kent Island; the Rev. Richard James is chaplain.
- 1649: Lord Baltimore persuades the Maryland Assembly to pass the Act of Tolerance, affirming the legal rights of all Christians.
- 1650: First permanent Anglican ministry begins with the Rev. William Wilkinson at St. George's, St. Mary's City.
- 1671: In what is now the Diocese of Maryland, a second St. George's Church is established in Perryman on the upper Western Shore.
- 1692: 30 parishes established with eight clergy.
- 1700: The Rev. Thomas Bray becomes the first commissary sent by the Church of England to the new world.
- 1776: 44 parishes and 53 clergy
- 1779: Assembly passes the Vestry Act, allowing churches to retain title to land and buildings.
- 1780: The American Revolution causes a crisis of conscience for clergy. Only 15 remain.
- 1789: Chestertown, Md. is the site of the first diocesan convention; Protestant Episcopal Church of USA is established, uniting churches in eight states.
- 1792: Thomas John Claggett of Maryland is the first bishop consecrated in America.
- 1812: Episcopalian, Francis Scott Key, celebrates Maryland's patriotism in his now-famous poem.
- 1816: James Kemp succeeds Claggett as bishop, promotes the first African-American congregation in the South, St. James' in Baltimore.
- 1827: Kemp dies
- 1829: Diocese elects William Stone bishop
- 1838: Stone dies

- 1840: Diocese elects William Rollinson Whittingham, a professor at the General Seminary in New York and a staunch Union man.
- 1840-1879: Whittingham increases membership from 3,381 in 1839 to 12,267 in 1868 and consecrates 70 churches in 15 years. The Eastern Shore churches are set apart, creating the Diocese of Easton.
- 1870: William Pinkey is elected assistant bishop.
- 1883: Pinkey dies
- 1883: William Paret succeeds Pinkey.
- 1895: Paret divides the diocese and the Diocese of Washington is founded.
- 1911-1929: John Gardner Murray is bishop.
- 1925: Murray elected Presiding Bishop of the national church.
- 1929-1943: Edward Helfenstein is bishop, serves from Depression to start of World War II.
- 1943-1963: Noble Cilley Powell is bishop, increases membership, congregations and clergy.
- 1963-1971: Harry Lee Doll is bishop, oversees new ministries in social services.
- 1971-1985: David Leighton is bishop, leads diocese through revisions to the Book of Common Prayer and Hymnal, and the ordination of women.
- 1972-1980: William Cox serves as bishop suffragan.
- 1985-1994: Theodore Eastman is bishop, builds diocesan center.
- 1989-1995: Charles Longest serves as bishop suffragan, then bishop-in-charge in 1994.
- 1995-2007: Robert W. Ihloff serves as 13th Bishop of Maryland.
- 1997: Longest retires.
- 1998: John L. Rabb becomes bishop suffragan.
- 2007: Rabb named bishop-in-charge during bishop search. The Rt. Rev. Michael Creighton and the Rt. Rev. Rodney R. Michel named assisting bishops.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Resources

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland (diocesan center, office of the bishop)
4 E. University Parkway
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
410-467-1399
800-443-1399
410-554-6387 (fax)
www.ang-md.org

Episcopal Church Center (office of the presiding bishop)
815 Second Ave.
New York, NY 10017
212-716-6000
800-334-7626
www.episcopalchurch.org

The Press Office (office of the archbishop of Canterbury)
Lambeth Palace
London SE1 7JU
Tel: 020-7898-1200
Fax: 020-7261-1765
www.anglicancommunion.org

Anglicans Online
www.anglicansonline.org

Bishop Search & Transition Fast Facts

Electing Convention: Two Orders, clergy and lay delegates, vote by ballot separately and when one nominee receives a majority in each Order of the votes cast, then that person has been duly elected. For this convention, voting Orders consist of 146 lay delegates representing the diocese's 117 churches and 225 clergy. More than 450 people are registered for this convention.

Search Committee: Charged with interviewing, vetting and presenting candidates to the Standing Committee.

Transition Committee: Charged with making a smooth transition between bishops; celebrate the outgoing bishop, plan and execute the Walk-Abouts for nominees, work with the Convention Planning Team on the electing convention, plan and execute the Consecration.

Standing Committee: This committee is similar to a board of directors; serves as council of advice to bishops, and when there is a vacancy in the office of bishop, or Episcopate, the committee performs the duties and powers of the bishop in matters of governance. The Standing Committee named the Rt. Rev. John Rabb, Bishop-in-Charge. Bishop Rabb will resume his duties of Suffragan Bishop after the consecration.

Timeline

Jan 8:

Slate of Search Committee nominees announced and petition candidate period opens

Jan 29:

Petition candidate period closes

Jan 31:

Petition candidates announced

Mar 4, 5, 7, 8:

Nominee "Walk-Abouts" (this is a series of presentations of the nominees held throughout the diocese, includes small group discussions with clergy and laypeople)

Mar 29:

Electing Convention; St. James' Church, Lafayette Square (the bishop is elected by vote by both clergy and lay delegates in a system similar to senate/house of representatives)

June 28:

Consecration of the 14th Bishop of Maryland at Washington National Cathedral

June 29:

Seating of the 14th Bishop of Maryland at the Cathedral of the Incarnation

Web site: www.bishopsearchmd.org specific search and transition information

Web site: www.ang-md.org general information on the Diocese of Maryland

What Happens Next?

An explanation of post-election proceedings

Consents for Ordination

After the election of a bishop, if the date of the election is more than three months before the next meeting of the General Convention, the Standing Committee of the electing diocese shall send a certificate of election to the standing committees of all the dioceses of the Episcopal Church for their consent to the ordination of the bishop-elect. If a majority of the 111 standing committees consent, evidence of the consents shall be forwarded by the Standing Committee of the electing diocese to the Presiding Bishop, who communicates this to the 111 bishops of the Episcopal Church exercising jurisdiction. If a majority of those bishops consent, the Presiding Bishop then notifies the Standing Committee of the electing diocese and the bishop-elect of the church's consent.

If the election of a bishop takes place within three months of the General Convention, consent must be given by the House of Deputies at Convention. If the House of Deputies consent, notice is sent to the House of Bishops. If a majority of bishops exercising jurisdiction consent to the ordination, the Presiding Bishop notifies the Standing Committee of the electing diocese and the bishop-elect of the church's consent.

There have been occasions when the granting of consent has been more than a formality, especially when the bishop-elect was a controversial figure in the Episcopal Church. For example, James DeKoven (1831-1879) was elected to be Bishop of Illinois in 1875, but the consents were not given because of his controversial reputation as a ritualist.

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Consecration

The majority of bishops and Standing Committees of the Episcopal Church consenting, the bishop-elect will be ordained and consecrated a bishop by the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, and all bishops of the Episcopal Church on Saturday, June 28 at Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Seating of the New Bishop

On Sunday, June 29 the newly-consecrated bishop will be formally welcomed and “seated” at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore, by the diocese at the 10:30 a.m. service. During the course of the Sunday service the new bishop is seated in the “cathedra” or bishop’s chair that is symbolic of office.