



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 17, 2010

Contact: Sharon Tillman

410-467-1399

stillman@episcopalmaryland.org

Episcopal Diocese Names Assistant Bishop

Succession Plans for Bishop John L. Rabb's 2011 Retirement in Place

BALTIMORE – The Rt. Rev. Joe Goodwin Burnett, bishop of Nebraska, will serve as assistant bishop of Maryland effective April 1, 2011, following the January 1, 2011 retirement of the Rt. Rev. John L. Rabb, bishop suffragan of Maryland, in accordance with the canons and constitutions of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Maryland.

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, bishop of Maryland, with the support and consent of the Standing Committee, has chosen to appoint an assistant bishop to serve full-time in the diocese for a period of approximately two years until he calls for the election and consecration of the diocese's next bishop suffragan.

"It gives me great pleasure to know my colleague and friend Joe Burnett will be able to accept my invitation to come to the Diocese of Maryland to assist us during these years of transition. He is a known leader in the Episcopal Church, whose experience, intellect and wit will be greatly appreciated by everyone here. We are absolutely delighted that we can use his considerable gifts as we move forward," said Bishop Sutton.

The Rev. Scott P. Bellows, then-president of the Standing Committee and current rector of St. David's Church, Roland Park, in his report to the annual Diocesan Convention on April 30, noted that the appointment of a "long-serving and experienced colleague" would allow Bishop Sutton, who was elected to the office in 2008, more time to grow into the duties and responsibilities as the diocesan bishop, and would "better prepare [the diocese] to discern the gifts and skills we desire in our next bishop suffragan."

In his letter on May 17 to the Diocese of Nebraska announcing this transition, Bishop Burnett stated, "I believe it is a call of the Holy Spirit, and that it offers just what is needed at this pivotal time in my life and vocation—a new and still challenging Episcopal ministry, but also one that moves at a somewhat different pace. I anticipate working with Bishop Sutton for approximately two years, after which I will move toward full retirement."

Bishop Burnett was ordained and consecrated Bishop of Nebraska in 2003. As of next April he will have served that diocese nearly eight years. He is the 10th Bishop of Nebraska. Read his full biography at www.episcopalmaryland.org.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

4 East University Parkway ✕ Baltimore, Maryland 21218

www.ang-md.org

pressroom@ang-md.org



PRESS RELEASE

The Standing Committee consists of eight elected members: four clergy and four lay members of the diocese. An assistant bishop assists the diocesan bishop by providing additional Episcopal services, and is appointed by the diocesan bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee of the diocese. The assistant bishop must already be exercising Episcopal jurisdiction as a diocesan or suffragan bishop. The assistant bishop serves under the direction of the diocesan bishop, and may not serve beyond the termination of the appointing bishop's jurisdiction.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland is a Christian community of more than 42,000 members in 116 congregations covering 10 counties and Baltimore City; our purpose is to sustain our community of churches, congregations and ministries while living into our Baptismal Covenant to proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ, seek and serve Christ in all persons, and strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being. Please visit www.episcopalmaryland.org for more information. 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.

###

Editor's Note: Photographs are available upon request or on the website.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

4 East University Parkway ✠ Baltimore, Maryland 21218

www.ang-md.org

pressroom@ang-md.org