



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Episcopal Diocese of Maryland Announces Nominees for 14th Bishop

BALTIMORE – In accordance with the Canons and Constitutions of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Maryland, the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland today announced its slate of four nominees for the office of 14th Bishop of Maryland. The nominees have been presented by a Search Committee comprised of 19 individuals – 10 clergy and nine laypeople – who represent the diocese’s 12 regions. The search process began in February 2007. The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Ihloff, 13th bishop of Maryland, retired on April 10, 2007.

“Eleven months ago the Standing Committee charged the Search Committee with presenting to the Diocese of Maryland a diverse slate of not less than four nominees for bishop. They have worked tirelessly, done an outstanding job, and we have unanimously accepted their slate of nominees. Their charge fulfilled, the Search Committee has presented four exceptionally qualified individuals,” said the Rev. Scott P. Bellows, Standing Committee president.

Nominees

For photographs and detailed biographies, resumes and letters of introduction please visit www.ang-md.org/bishop_search/nominees.php

The Very Rev. Peter D. Eaton, 49, is the dean of St. John’s Cathedral in Denver. Eaton is committed to the vitality of congregations, the leadership of all the baptized, and the mission and unity of the Church.

The Rev. Jane Soyster Gould, 51, is the rector of St. Stephen’s Memorial Church in Lynn, Mass. Gould leads a vibrant urban congregation that offers weekly worship in English and Kiswahili, responds to community needs, and gathers people across lines of color, class, culture, and generation.

The Rev. Dr. John C.N. Hall, 49, is the rector of St. Matthew’s Church in Chandler, Ariz., a diverse parish in suburban Phoenix. Hall founded Matthew’s Crossing, a non-profit corporation providing a food bank and social services, serving 1,200 people each month.

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The Rev. Canon Eugene Taylor Sutton, 54, is the canon pastor of the Washington National Cathedral in Washington D.C. 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.

Public Forums

The next step in the process of electing a new bishop is a series of meet-and-greet sessions commonly known as Walk-Abouts. Scheduled for early March, the anticipated format is small group question-and-answer sessions.

Bishops in the Episcopal Church are elected by ballot by both clergy and lay delegates. The Electing Convention for the 14th Bishop of Maryland will be held at St. James' Church, Lafayette Square, Baltimore, on March 29.

The Walk-Abouts and Electing Convention are being planned by the Transition Committee.

In their final report to the Standing Committee, Search Committee co-chairs the Rev. Richard A. Ginnever and Ms. Neva W. Brown stated, "Each of us has been lifted to a stronger sense of the Church and what it can be, thanks to the work before us and the mature, kindly spirit of each member. We have conducted every meeting enveloped by prayer, we have continuously prayed for one another, the candidates and this diocese."

Petition Process Opens

In accordance with the Canons and Constitutions of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Maryland, there is also an opportunity for clergy to be nominated either by themselves or by others for the office of bishop. The petition period opens today.

Each applicant will be vetted by the Standing Committee and will be required to supply 20 petition signatures as well as a resume, biography and letter of introduction to the diocese as supplied by the Search Committee nominees. All completed materials must be received no later than 5 p.m. on January 29, 2008. Petition information and materials can be found online at www.ang-md.org/bishopsearch.php

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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, the committee performs the duties and powers of the bishop in matters of governance.

The Rt. Rev. John L. Rabb, bishop suffragan of Maryland, was named bishop-in-charge of the diocese by the Standing Committee effective April 11, 2007. He will resume his position as bishop suffragan with the consecration of the new bishop on June 28.

“The people of this diocese can be proud of the lay and clergy who represented them on the Search Committee in this process,” Bellows added.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland is a Christian community of 23,000 households in 117 congregations covering 10 counties and Baltimore City. Please visit www.ang-md.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; www.anglicancommunion.org.

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