



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Episcopal Diocese of Maryland Announces Two Petition 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 that two candidates have been nominated by petition for the office of 14th Bishop of Maryland. The petition nominees were required to submit 20 petition signatures as well as a resume, biography and letter of introduction to the diocese. The petition period closed at 5 p.m. on January 29.

In accordance with the Canons and Constitutions of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Maryland, clergy can be nominated either by themselves or by others for the office of bishop. The Standing Committee certified that each petition nominee met the established criteria at its Jan. 31 meeting.

Detailed petition information and materials can be found online at www.ang-md.org/bishopsearch.php, along with photographs, detailed biographies, resumes and letters of introduction of the nominees.

Nominees

The Rev. Canon Dr. Mark Gatza, 52, has served in the Diocese of Maryland as a lay person, deacon and priest since 1981. He has been chaplain at St. Paul's School, associate rector at St. Anne's, Annapolis, rector of Christ Church, Rock Spring, and canon missionary for Congregational Development and Clergy Deployment on the bishops' staff.

The Rev. Lura M. Kaval, 45, rector of St. Christopher's in Linthicum, has served the Diocese of Maryland for more than 20 years. She has led the life-giving transformation of family, pastoral, program, and corporate parishes and is the co-founder of the Katrina Episcopal Relief Maryland Impact Team (KERMIT).

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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 format is small group question-and-answer sessions.

Bishops in the Episcopal Church are elected by ballot by both clergy and lay delegates. An election is decided when both groups reach a majority on the same nominee on the same ballot. 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.

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. Robert W. Ihloff, 13th bishop of Maryland, retired on April 10, 2007. 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 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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