
DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY

Election of the 13th Bishop

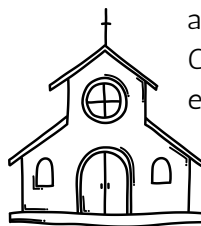


what is happening?

On Sept. 2, 2021, the Right Reverend William H. Stokes, 12th Bishop of New Jersey, called for the election of the 13th Bishop of New Jersey, announcing his intent to retire in June 2023. The Diocesan Search & Nomination Committee has called a slate of five candidates to be called as our next bishop.



This is a result of a year-long process of discernment, or prayerful planning. In January 2023, the five candidates will be in New Jersey for some Meet-and-Greets around our Diocese. This will help us learn more about each of them. At a special Electing Convention on January 28 delegates will elect the 13th Bishop of New Jersey, who will then be ordained in a special service on June 24, 2023 at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton.



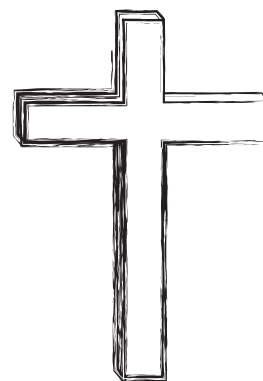
role of a bishop

In 2008, the bishops gathered at Lambeth Conference defined the role of a bishop:

- to gather the whole community in celebration, presiding over the sacraments and ordaining new priests and deacons
- to proclaim the Word of God as an apostolic witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- to be a teacher, guardian and interpreter of the faith and the apostolic tradition
- to be active in making and nurturing disciples
- to be a shepherd (pastor) of the whole people of God, with a special concern for the clergy of the diocese
- to be a prophetic voice for the voiceless.

A bishop in God's holy Church is called to be one with the apostles in **proclaiming Christ's resurrection** and **interpreting the Gospel**, and to **testify to Christ's sovereignty as Lord of lords and King of kings**. You are called to **guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church**; to **celebrate** and to **provide for the administration of the sacraments of the New Covenant**; to **ordain priests and deacons** and to **join in ordaining bishops**; and to **be in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ**. With your fellow bishops you will **share in the leadership of the Church throughout the world**. Your heritage is **the faith of patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs**, and those of every generation who have **looked to God in hope**. Your joy will be to **follow him who came, not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many**.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 517



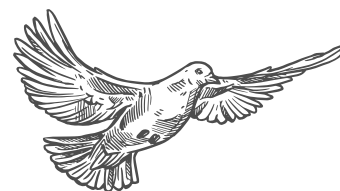
to learn more:
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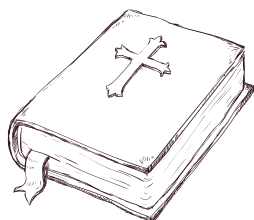
The election of a bishop requires discernment, for the clergy and lay leaders engaged in the search, election, and transition process; for the candidates who have responded to the call; for all the people of the Diocese of New Jersey; and for Bishop Stokes and his family as he concludes his ministry as the 12th Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey. Please keep this process and the people involved in it in your prayers.



prayers

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 818



God of all, hold the diocese of New Jersey in the palm of your hand during this time of discernment. Help us to come together as sisters and brother of Jesus Christ, listening to one another with open hearts and open minds. Enter into our conversations and make them holy and lead us into a peaceful place of unity as we search for our new bishop.

Gracious God, we place our trust in you that you will fill us with your hopes and desires for the Diocese of New Jersey as we search for our next bishop. Open our hearts and our minds to your guidance, that we may be led to the one who will serve as our next bishop.

Loving God who leads us into growth and discovery, give us curious and discerning minds, open us up to the possibilities of newness, and help us be still and listen to your voice as we search for our new bishop.



candidates

- **The Rev. Canon Dr. Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew** / Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Rhode Island
- **The Rev. Canon Dr. Sally French** / Canon for Regional Ministry & Collaborative Innovation, Diocese of North Carolina
- **The Very Rev. Troy Mendez** / Dean, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Phoenix, Arizona
- **The Rev. Janine Schenone** / Rector, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, San Diego, California
- **The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Jose Wilson** / Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church Oakland, California

Election Convention: January 28, 2023

Ordination of the 13th Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey: June 24, 2023



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