



The Very Reverend Tom Malionek, *President*

Sue Ellen Ruetsch, *Chair*

## **BISHOP SEARCH NEWS**

Thursday, March 2, 2023

Congregations are urged to print and make the Bishop Search News available to parishioners who may not receive information electronically.

1. The Profile & Search Committee (P&S) has reviewed recordings of all follow-up Zoom interviews with applicants. Preparations are now underway to initiate background investigations.
2. **TENTATIVE** dates have been penciled in for final steps in the process in order to ensure available space and a date on the Presiding Bishop's calendar.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE DATES ARE BEING DISCLOSED ONLY TO ASSIST IN LONG-TERM PLANNING. NO CALL TO AN ELECTING CONVENTION HAS BEEN ISSUED AT THIS TIME.**

We have *tentatively* arranged to hold the **Electing Convention** at the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany, beginning Friday Evening, September 8, 2023, and extending through Saturday, September 9, 2023.

We have *tentatively* arranged for the Presiding Bishop to come to Albany for the **consecration** of the Tenth Bishop of Albany on Saturday, February 24, 2024.

### **Upcoming steps in the process:**

#### **March 11**

P&S selects semi-finalists and invites them to a Discernment Retreat. *Transition Team* is formed and begins work.

#### **April 17-20**

Discernment retreat: Finalists are interviewed in depth, in person by P&S and the Chancellor.

**Dates are estimates and subject to change.** You can view the entire timeline [HERE](#).

3. We again urge every single person, every Congregation, every gathering in our diocese to pray the [Prayer During a Time of Transition](#) **daily** as we discern the Tenth Bishop of Albany, as well as this prayer:

Heavenly Father, graciously guide the minds and hearts of the Profile and Search Committee as they conduct and review interviews and collect follow-up information in this phase of our search for the next bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany.

Grant them such trust in you that whatever might keep them from following the process put in place through the Holy Spirit's guidance of Christ's church will be overwhelmed by faith and love. Give them clarity and courage to acknowledge and to release into your loving hands any anxiety

*Disciples Making Disciples*

or fear; protect them from anger, bias, agendas, or particular expectations that threaten to distort their understanding of your will or interfere with their unity, good will, and devotion. Heal them of any wounds, and enable them to discern your voice amid the voices of personal needs and concerns that would make it hard for them to hear or follow you.

We ask you, Holy Spirit, to give them humility, trust, wisdom, clarity, and your overall guidance. Give them all true discernment of your voice, your ways, and your will, in Christ our Great Shepherd, to the glory of the Father. Let them follow in the examples of faith set forth by Jesus Christ to trust you to provide the candidate whom you desire to fill this office.

Lord, bless and guard the candidates, so that, from among them, we will receive the shepherd who, by your power, will protect, feed and tend the flock of Christ.

Grant us all grace to obediently follow Jesus, and to receive, in unity, your chosen leader. We pray for discernment to choose a leader who hears your Word, lives your love, and keeps in the ways of your truth; who follows in the steps of Jesus, and will continue the work you have prepared for them to do, so that we, your Diocese of Albany, may bring honor and glory to your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[The Very Rev'd Tom Malionek](#)  
[President of the Standing Committee](#)

[Sue Ellen Ruetsch](#)  
[Chair of the Profile & Search Committee](#)