



## Initial Nominees for Tenth Bishop of Albany

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The Profile and Search Committee for the Tenth Bishop of Albany has reported to the Secretary of Convention with an initial list of candidates to be placed in nomination for the Tenth Bishop of Albany.

The initial list of nominees comprises:

- **The Reverend Geoffrey Ward**  
Rector of Saint Christopher's Episcopal Church,  
River Hills, Wisconsin (Diocese of Milwaukee)
- **The Reverend Jeremiah Williamson**  
Rector of Grace and Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church,  
Colorado Springs, Colorado (Diocese of Colorado)
- **The Very Reverend Neal Longe,**  
Rector of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church,  
Amsterdam, New York (Diocese of Albany)
- **The Reverend Scott Garno,**  
Rector of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church,  
Delmar, New York (Diocese of Albany)

A 30-day Independent Nomination Period, in which further nominees may be brought forward, opens on Monday, May 8, 2023. Independent nominees must meet the same requirements as the nominees identified by the Profile & Search Committee. Nomination forms, procedures, and requirements will be available at <https://albanyepiscopaldioceses.org/nominations/>, starting on Thursday, May 4, 2023. The link will become active on that date. The Independent Nomination Period closes on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Basic information on the current nominees can be viewed at <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/bishop-candidates/>. More extensive information will be posted after the Independent Nominees have been identified and have met the nomination requirements.

Before the Electing Convention, the Diocese will schedule a number of opportunities at which members of the Electing Convention and other members of the diocese can meet and get to know all of the nominees. News and information regarding opportunities to get to know the candidates will be posted on the Episcopal Transition page of the diocesan web site (<https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/episcopaltransition/>).

The Electing Convention is scheduled to open on Friday, September 8, at the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany. A formal Call to Convention will be issued soon.

The Profile & Search Committee consists of one lay member and one clergy member (priests or deacons) elected from each of the eight regional deaneries of the Diocese, plus six at-large members elected by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is serving as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese until a bishop is elected, confirmed, consecrated, and assumes jurisdiction.

The process of selecting the initial list of candidates began with a call for recommendations. After reviewing the eligibility and qualifications of those recommended and conducting two rounds of interviews, the Profile & Search Committee identified semi-finalists who attended an intensive discernment retreat. Based on the results of that retreat, the Committee prayed to be guided by the Holy Spirit in submitting the present list of names in its report for nomination. Because of the intensely personal nature of the process, out of respect for the participants and their families, no information on anyone other than the nominees will be disclosed. This is a standard best practice in the election of a bishop.

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany is grateful to all who submitted recommendations, all who were recommended, all who participated in and assisted the screening and discernment process, and all who will continue to support the process of discerning our next bishop. We ask your prayers for all of us, for our Diocese, and for this process.

Information will be published as it becomes available.

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