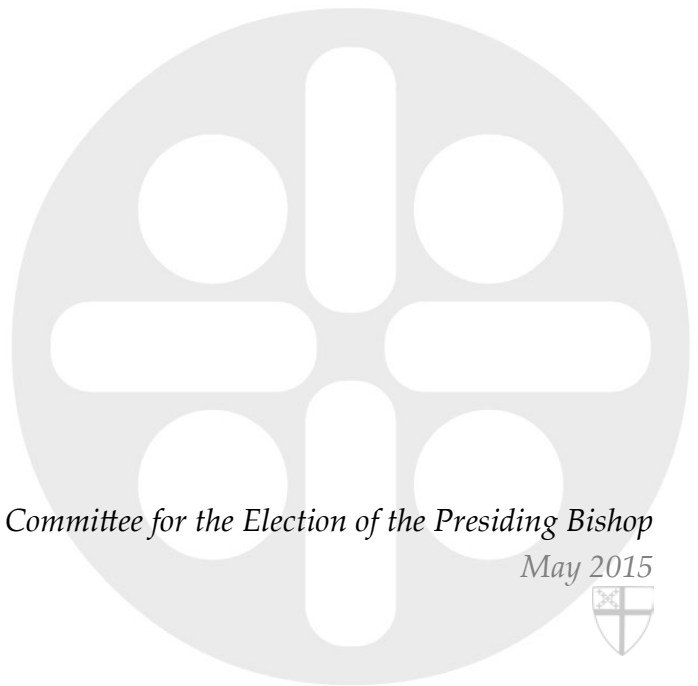


The Election of the  
27th Presiding Bishop

# The Nominees

*Presented by the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop*

*May 2015*



*The members of the Committee are very pleased with the list of nominees and look forward to working with any of them who may be elected Presiding Bishop.*

*Information about the Bishops nominated by the Committee is below. These Bishops may be joined by others who are nominated from the floor. For a full description of the process for floor nominations please see <http://j.mp/floornominations>. The deadline for nominations from the floor is May 12, 2015.*

*All of the nominees will be given the opportunity to address both houses of General Convention on June 24. The names will be officially placed in nomination at a joint session of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies on June 26. Next, on June 27th the House of Bishops will elect and the House of Deputies will vote whether or not to confirm one of the nominees to be the next Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. The new Presiding Bishop will begin his or her 9-year term on November 1, 2015.*

*Members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop include a Bishop, a member of the clergy, and a layperson from each province and two members of the youth appointed by the President of the House of Deputies. The full roster is included at the end of this publication.*

# The Nominees

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Breidenthal  
SOUTHERN OHIO

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The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry  
NORTH CAROLINA

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The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas  
CONNECTICUT

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The Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



# *From the Profile:*

*Our next Presiding Bishop will possess the following attributes or demonstrate strength in the areas of personal and professional gifts and practices:*

AN AUTHENTIC SPIRITUAL LIFE DEEPLY GROUNDED IN PRAYER

---

AN EVANGELIST'S HEART, PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL  
OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH PREACHING AND TEACHING

---

LOVE OF THE PEOPLE, WITH VIBRANT RELATIONAL SKILLS

---

PERSONAL HEALTH AND SELF-AWARENESS

---

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP SKILLS

---

KNOWLEDGE OF, AND EXPERIENCE IN, THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

---

ABILITY TO NURTURE DIOCESES AND CONGREGATIONS IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT

---

ABILITY TO INSPIRE GROWTH AND LEAD THROUGH CHANGE

---

ABILITY TO BALANCE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN  
COMPLEX GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES





*the* **Nominees**

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# THE RT. REV. THOMAS E. BREIDENTHAL

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*Bishop of Southern Ohio*



Bishop Diocesan of  
The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio  
Ordained bishop April 28, 2007

[www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org)

Married to Margaret  
with two adult children,  
Magdalene and Lucy.

“The peace of Christ is always about engagement with the neighbor, beginning with whoever crosses our path or lives close by, and working out from there. So the zone of peace we establish with one another as communities of Christian practice should push us outward into our neighborhood and beyond.”



# A VISION *for* THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*As a way of describing what you would contribute as Presiding Bishop, paint a picture of what the Episcopal Church might look like at the end of your tenure in that role. What steps you would take to bring that vision into being? (In 500 words or less)*

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A new spirit is rising in TEC and the time is ripe to lay hold of it. In our best periods we have viewed ourselves less as a denomination than as a movement, rooted in historic belief and practice but regarding these as a call to embrace connection with everyone around us. Ancient witness, open mind: where these intersect, our tradition comes into its own. Viewed this way, our Trinitarian and incarnational faith impels us to serve justice and the common good, but to do so in partnership with all people of good will. Likewise, our devotion to Jesus remains unapologetic, while in his name we respect other religions and welcome fellowship with them. Similarly, we are proud of being Episcopalians but stand ready to give up treasured but inessential elements of our tradition if they obstruct unity with other Christians. This is our mission: to let the ancient tradition open us outward and, with courage and humility, to share that experience with an open-sourced, open-ended and yet divided world.

How shall we pursue this mission over the next nine years? I see four areas that will benefit from steady attention: (1) encouraging conversations about faith, (2) building ecumenical relations; (3) encountering the unchurched; (4) looking after for one another.

(1) We often refer to the missional church, but we offer little help to the Episcopalian who has not been formed to be a minister of the Gospel. Many of us don't know how to talk about our faith. However, there are resources we can use, e.g., *The Art of Hosting and Fierce Conversations*. In one triennium, 50% of our congregations could be invited into intentional conversation about Christian faith and practice, and thence to greater confidence and humility as we engage the world.

(2) We can build locally on our covenants with the ELCA, the Moravian Church, and our potential partner, the United Methodists. So also with Rome (much to be recovered here), Christian evangelicals, the Jewish community, and Islam. The office of Presiding Bishop is uniquely placed to further these relationships, and to lead our bishops in this effort. We can also rejoice in the Anglican Communion, not ignoring principled differences but modeling appreciation for the discipleship we share.

An Episcopal Church in which average Episcopalians see themselves first as baptized disciples of Jesus will give rise to authentic evangelism, personal witness, deeper service and social prophecy that only the Spirit of God can inspire and that the world cannot miss.

(3) We have or can obtain every resource we need (communications, lay and ordained missionaries, money) to support innovation and experimentation at the margins of the traditional church, whether this be "Fresh

Expressions" ministries with "Nones" who are spiritual but not religious, or those who are religious but who find no place in our pews.

(4) Embracing connection with the world means embracing connection among ourselves. Yet traditionally African-American congregations, like Native American and Appalachian congregations, are ever further at risk. How can we put up with this? Churchwide structures can facilitate a freer flow of monetary and spiritual gifts between rich and poor dioceses, but we need local initiatives that build collaboration across parish lines and demonstrate the give and take of being Christ's body in the world.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### EXPERIENCE

- 2007 – Present Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Southern Ohio
- 2002 – 2007 Dean of Religious Life and of the Chapel, Princeton University
- 1992 – 2001 John Henry Hobart Chair of Christian Ethics, General Theological Seminary
- 1988 – 1992 Rector, Trinity Church, Ashland, Oregon
- 1986 – 1988 Senior Chaplain, Harvard School, Los Angeles, California
- 1983 – 1986 Episcopal Church Foundation Fellow, Oxford, England
- 1981 – 1983 Curate, St. Michael and All Angels Church, Portland, Oregon

### COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AGENCIES AND BOARDS

- 2015 Vice-President, Province 5
- 2011 – Present Theology Committee of the House of Bishops
- 2011 – Present Board Member, Forward Movement
- 2009 – 2015 Board Member, National Association of Episcopal Schools
- 2008 – 2010 Board Member, Anglican Center in Rome
- 2007 – Present Board Member, Bexley Hall (now Bexley/Seabury Federation)
- 2007 – Present Board Member (ex officio), Kenyon College
- 2007 – Present Board Member (ex officio), Cincinnati Children's Hospital
- 2007 – Present Board Member, Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati
- 2004 – 2010 Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue (ARCUSA); co-chair, 2008-10
- 1997 – 2001 General Board of Examining Chaplains



## EDUCATION

- D.D., *honoris causa*, Church Divinity School of the Pacific
- D.D., *honoris causa*, The General Theological Seminary
- D.Phil., Oxford University
- M.Div., Church Divinity School of the Pacific
- M.A., University of Victoria
- B.A., Portland State University

## AWARDS

- 2012 Bridge-Building Award, Hamilton County Community Action Agency
- 2010 DuBose Lecture Series, School of Theology, University of the South

## PUBLICATIONS

- Formation for Mission," *Anglican Theological Review*, 96:1. (2014)
- "Exodus from Privilege: Reflections on the Diaconate in Acts," *Anglican Theological Review*, 95:2. (2013)
- Dubose Lectures: "The Blood of Abel: Atonement and the Neighbor;" "Outside the Camp: the Church as Body Politic;" "The Festal Gathering: Approaching the Mountain," *Sewanee Theological Review*, 54:2. (2011)
- "Sharper than a Two-Edged Sword: Following the Logic of the Text in Preaching," *Sharper than a Two-Edged Sword: Preaching, Teaching, and Living the Bible*, ed. Michel Root and James Buckley (Eerdmans, 2008).
- *Sacred Unions: A New Guide to Life-Long Commitment* (Cowley, 2006).
- "Neighbor-Christology: Reconstructing Christianity before Supersessionism," *Crosscurrents*, 49:3. (1999)
- *Christian Households: The Sanctification of Nearness* (Cowley, reprinted by Wipf and Stock, 1997).

## LANGUAGES

Languages written: English, French, Italian, Russian

Languages spoken: English, French, Italian, Russian (working knowledge)

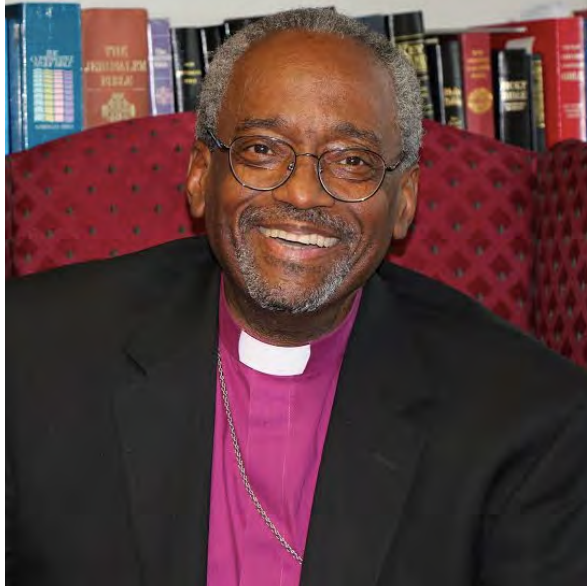
Languages in which you are able to lead worship: English, French, Italian, Russian, Spanish





# THE RT. REV. MICHAEL B. CURRY

*Bishop of North Carolina*



Bishop Diocesan of  
The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina  
Ordained bishop June 17, 2000

[www.episdionc.org](http://www.episdionc.org)

Married to Sharon with two adult children,  
Rachel and Elizabeth.

I pray for a Church passionately committed to making disciples who follow in the way of Jesus of Nazareth in the Episcopal tradition and who in so doing participate in the realization of the dream of God for this world. A church like that will really be a house of prayer for all people. The face of a church like that will reflect the faces of all the peoples of our lands in all our wondrous God-given variety. A church like that will be truly catholic. A church like that will bear witness by its very life to the unconquerable love of God we know in Jesus. That church will proclaim the word of God with power, evangelize as much by listening as by sharing, embody hospitality with authenticity, serve, witness and prophesy deliverance in our local and global societies. The discipleship of a church like that will truly follow in the way of Jesus of Nazareth and make a transformative difference in this world. That's the church I pray for.



# A VISION *for* THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*As a way of describing what you would contribute as Presiding Bishop, paint a picture of what the Episcopal Church might look like at the end of your tenure in that role. What steps you would take to bring that vision into being? (In 500 words or less)*

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*Got my hand on the gospel plow*

*Wouldn't take nothing for my journey now*

*Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.*

- "Eyes on the Prize," adapted from "Gospel Plow" (traditional)

I pray and dream of an Episcopal Church focused on following the way of Jesus of Nazareth, courageously committed to being a part of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century Jesus movement in the world.

Such a church will live together deeply as a community of baptized disciples.

Such a church will be a truly catholic community whose love and embrace, whose inclusion and welcome will be as far and as wide as the outstretched arms of Jesus on the cross.

The face of such a church will reflect the faces of all the peoples of the countries and cultures in which The Episcopal Church is found. That church will be more than just diverse, it will be different. And in that difference it will be a witness to God's dream of the beloved community on earth.

Such a church will witness widely in the world for the cause of God's love, and the realization of God's dream for the entire human family and all of creation. Its service and public gospel witness will be self-consciously grounded in and born out of the teachings of Jesus, the biblical witness and the movement of the Spirit in our time as best we can communally discern.

Such a Church will see itself less as an institution and more a part of the Jesus movement following the risen Christ in the direction of God's dream.

Making such a vision a deeper part of our life together will call for renewed emphasis on formation for discipleship, evangelism that listens as well as shares, gospel witness through personal service and social prophecy, and nurtured Anglican Communion, ecumenical and interfaith relationships in which we join with others to work for the realization of God's dream for the world. Such a vision will necessitate structure and organization that supports the movement. But if the vision is compelling, the mission clear, we together with the Spirit have the capacity to renew the organization to serve this movement.



At a deep level I am suggesting a church-wide spiritual revival of the Christian faith in the Episcopal way of being disciples of Jesus. While not the only player in this, I believe a significant role of the Presiding Bishop is to provide leadership, inspiration and encouragement for that revival. Obviously the Presiding Bishop has CEO (Chief Executive Officer) responsibilities that must be exercised clearly, collaboratively and effectively. But in this mission moment of the church's life, the primary role of the Presiding Bishop must be CEO in another sense: Chief Evangelism Officer, to encourage, inspire and support us all to claim the calling of the Jesus movement.

*Come, labor on.*

*Claim the high calling*

*angels cannot share -*

*To young and old the Gospel gladness bear:*

*redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.*

*The night draws nigh.*

*- Hymnal 1982, #541*

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## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### EXPERIENCE

- 2000 – Present Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of North Carolina
- 1988 – 2000 Rector, St. James' Episcopal Church, Baltimore, Maryland
- 1982 – 1988 Rector, St. Simon of Cyrene Episcopal Church, Lincoln Heights, Ohio
- 1982 – 1988 Chaplain, Bethany School
- 1978 – 1982 Rector, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

### COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AGENCIES AND BOARDS

- Chair, Board of Directors, Episcopal Relief and Development (current)
- Board of Trustees, Saint Augustine's University, an Episcopal HBCU (current)
- North Carolina Council of Churches (current)
- Moral Monday movement (current)
- Chair, Advisory Committee, Office of Black Ministries (current)
- Bishop Visitor, Community of the Transfiguration (current)



- TREC/Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church
- General Convention Committees: Evangelism, Global Mission
- Standing Commission on World Mission
- Union of Black Episcopalians
- Institute of Christian and Jewish Studies of Baltimore
- Ecumenical Clergy on the Square, Revival and Citizens on Patrol (Baltimore)
- Jubilee Ministry, St. James' Afterschool Academy (Baltimore)
- Board, Episcopal Social Ministries, Diocese of Maryland
- Chair and co-chair, Convention Planning Team, Diocese of Maryland
- Commission on Ministry, Dioceses of Maryland, Southern Ohio and North Carolina
- General Board of Examining Chaplains
- Board and faculty, College of Preachers
- Coordinator, The Racism Steering Committee, Diocese of Southern Ohio
- Board, Winston-Salem Urban League

## EDUCATION

- D.D., *honoris causa*, Sewanee, The University of the South
- D.D., *honoris causa*, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale
- D.D., *honoris causa*, Virginia Theological Seminary
- D.D., *honoris causa*, Episcopal Divinity School
- Continuing Studies, The College of Preachers, Princeton Theological Seminary, Wake Forest University, The Ecumenical Institute of St. Mary's Seminary, and Institute of Christian Jewish Studies
- M.Div., Berkeley Divinity School at Yale
- B.A., with High Honors, Hobart and William Smith College

## PUBLICATIONS

- Songs My Grandma Sang (Morehouse Publishing, Spring 2015)
- Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus (Morehouse Publishing, 2013)
- "Some Strange Things Are Happening in Charlotte," opinion (The Huffington Post, Sep. 4, 2012)
- "Stay in the City," sermon (The African American Pulpit, Judson Press, 1999 issue)
- "Abyssinian Annals," weekly column (The Baltimore Times)
- Essay ("Joy," Forward Movement, 1995)
- Article series (Episcopal Life, Sep. 1993-May 1994)
- "Servant Woman" and "There's Power in the Word," sermons (Sermons That Work II, Forward Movement Publications)



## **LANGUAGES**

Languages written: English

Languages spoken: English

Languages in which you are able to lead worship: English

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# THE RT. REV. IAN T. DOUGLAS

*Bishop of Connecticut*



Bishop Diocesan of  
The Episcopal Church in Connecticut  
Ordained bishop April 17, 2010

[www.episcopalct.org](http://www.episcopalct.org)  
On twitter: @ctbishopian

Married to Kristin Harris,  
with three adult children,  
Luke, Timothy, and Johanna.

“Our primary vocation, given to us in baptism, is to participate in God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation. Following Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are agents of God’s love for the whole world. The Church is a result of our faithfulness to this mission of God and not an end to be maintained.”



# A VISION *for* THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*As a way of describing what you would contribute as Presiding Bishop, paint a picture of what the Episcopal Church might look like at the end of your tenure in that role. What steps you would take to bring that vision into being? (In 500 words or less)*

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In October 2024, the world would be different if every Episcopalian embodied and acted upon our baptismal vocation to participate in God's mission of restoration and reconciliation, individually and together as the Body of Christ. In order to do this we need lay and ordained leaders shaped by God's mission in Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit. This requires a radical reorientation of The Episcopal Church at every level. We can no longer afford to be preoccupied with ourselves and our church structures and institutions. Instead we need to discover and join what God is up to in the world. Engaging the Good News of God in our neighborhoods will free us from our church-centered concerns and will give us new life.

Understanding baptism as our fundamental call to participate in God's mission in the world is a relatively new idea in The Episcopal Church. The House of Bishops first acknowledged the mission of God as a primary theological mandate at their September 2001 meeting. In the wake of the horror and loss of life from the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the bishops committed themselves to God's mission of "Waging Reconciliation." Beginning with the theme "Engage God's Mission" of the 2003 General Convention and continuing through the missional vision articulated in September 2014 by the Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church (TREC), "God's mission" has become a common refrain in The Episcopal Church. We need to go further, however, in our faithfulness to and action in the mission of God.

We must become even more knowledgeable of, and articulate about, how Holy Scripture is the story of God's mission in the world. Grounded in the Bible we are called to share our individual and communal stories as disciples of Jesus sent out as apostles in the mission of God. I can picture every Episcopalian in 2024 well versed in Holy Scripture as one's point of orientation and action in God's mission, and actively claiming and sharing our stories of participation in the mission of God.

There are many steps we can take together in order for The Episcopal Church to become more of a movement in and for God's mission in Jesus Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit, and less of an ecclesial institution focused on our needs and ends. I can imagine a redesigned General Convention where each diocese shares inspiring and motivating stories of individuals and communities engaged in God's mission. I can imagine a rejuvenated Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society that raises up and supports over 1000 missionaries working across the United States and around the world through the Anglican Communion. I can imagine the House of Bishops reorganized as a learning community helping dioceses and parishes become more committed to and active in God's mission in the world. By 2024 I can imagine every Episcopalian enthusiastically living our baptismal vows as our commission (co-mission) in God's mission to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.



## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### EXPERIENCE

- 2010 – Present Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut
- 1991 – 2010 Angus Dun Professor of Mission and World Christianity, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1988 – 2010 Priest Associate, St. James's Episcopal Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 2001 – 2006 Consultant to Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold
- 1984 – 1986 Associate for Overseas Leadership Development, The Episcopal Church Center, New York, New York
- 1983 – 1984 Volunteer for Mission, L'Eglise Episcopale d'Haiti (Episcopal Church of Haiti)

### COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AGENCIES AND BOARDS

#### GENERAL CHURCH

- 2015 – Present House of Bishops Pastoral Letter on Racism Drafting Committee
- 2013 – Present House of Bishops Ecclesiology Committee
- 2012 – Present House of Bishops Disciplinary Board
- 2010 – Present Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, Board of Trustees
- 2006 – 2010 The Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, Elected by General Convention 2006, International Concerns Committee, Working Group to Respond to the Anglican Covenant, Chair of INC055 Study Committee on the United Thank Offering
- 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009: General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Clerical Deputy and Deputation Chair from the Diocese of Massachusetts
- 2003 – 2014 Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation, Co-founder, Board of Directors
- 1984 – 2009 Episcopal Seminary Consultation on Mission, Secretary and Convener
- 2006 – 2010 College for Bishops of The Episcopal Church, Advisory Board
- 1995 – 2006 The Episcopal Church Foundation, Founding Organizer and Convener of Fellows Forum, Evaluator of Fellowship Applications
- 2005 – 2006 Special Commission on The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, Co-Chair and Primary Author of Report
- 2006–2008 Theology Committee of the House of Bishops, Academic Member
- 1989–2006 Episcopal Council/Partnership for Global Mission, Founding Member, Steering Committee
- 2003–2005 Church Publishing Incorporated, International Collections Editor
- 1996–2000 *The Witness Magazine*, Contributing Editor, Advisory Committee
- 1992–1997 Standing Commission on World Mission, Secretary, Chair
- 1992–1995 *Anglican and Episcopal History*, International Editor





## ANGLICAN COMMUNION

- 2009 – Present Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion, Member
- 2009 – Present Anglican Consultative Council, Member representing The Episcopal Church, Priest (ACC 14 Jamaica) Bishop (ACC 15 New Zealand)
- 2002 – Present *Journal of Anglican Studies*, Editorial Board
- 2006 – 2010 Theological Education in the Anglican Communion (TEAC), Consultant
- 2003 – 2008 Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops, Design Group Member
- 2001 – 2005 Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism, Member
- 2002 – 2005 Global Anglicanism Project (GAP), Episcopal Church Foundation, Founding Organizer and Management Team, 2002-2005
- 1997 – 2003 Anglican Contextual Theologians Network, Founding Organizer
- 2001 – 2002 Anglican Primates Working Group on Theological Education, Consultant
- 1999 Anglican Consultative Council 11, Dundee, Scotland, Communications Team
- 1998 Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops, Consultant Section III
- 1992 – 1994 Anglican Observer at the United Nations, Advisory Board Member
- 1984 – 1987 Haitian/American Episcopal School Partnership Program, Consultant
- 1985 Anglican Council of North America and the Caribbean, Staff Representative for The Episcopal Church

## EDUCATION

- D.D., *honoris causa*, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- D.D., *honoris causa*, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, New Haven, Connecticut
- Ph.D., Religious Studies/Missiology, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts
- M.Div., Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- M.Ed., Counseling and Consulting Psychology, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- B.A., Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont

## AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

- The Cross of St. Augustine: Awarded by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Rowan Williams, for service on the 2008 Lambeth Conference Design Group
- Commenter for major media and widely traveled speaker offering presentations, addresses, and workshops at diocesan, national, and international gatherings



## **PUBLICATIONS**

- *Understanding the Windsor Report: Two Leaders in the American Church Speak Across the Divide*, Co-author with Paul Zahl
- *Waging Reconciliation: God's Mission in a Time of Globalization and Crisis*, Editor
- *Beyond Colonial Anglicanism: The Anglican Communion in the Twenty-First Century*, Co-editor with Kwok Pui Lan
- *Fling Out The Banner: The National Church Ideal and the Foreign Mission of the Episcopal Church*
- Over 150 academic articles, book chapters, reviews, and popular articles on mission, ecclesiology, The Episcopal Church, and Anglicanism

## **LANGUAGES**

Languages written: English, Haitian Kreol

Languages spoken: English, Haitian Kreol

Languages in which you are able to lead worship: English, Haitian Kreol, French, Spanish

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# THE RT. REV. DABNEY T. SMITH

*Bishop of Southwest Florida*



Bishop Diocesan of  
The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida  
Ordained bishop March 10, 2007

[www.episcopalswfl.org](http://www.episcopalswfl.org)

Married to Mary, with five children,  
Ashton, Dabney, Alicia, Megan, Ben, and six  
grandchildren (and one on the way!)

**This scriptural teaching** continuously inspires me. “If any one is in Christ, there is a new creation:.... All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:17ff.) We are given the blessing and the gift of living for others with God’s love. I am excited for the ministry of the Episcopal Church in living the ministry of reconciliation. I believe it is God’s desire and our purpose.



# A VISION *for* THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*As a way of describing what you would contribute as Presiding Bishop, paint a picture of what the Episcopal Church might look like at the end of your tenure in that role. What steps you would take to bring that vision into being? (In 500 words or less)*

---

I love the Episcopal Church. My father and grandfather were priests before me, so I have an abiding respect and deeply layered relationship with the church. If through God's grace I became Presiding Bishop, I would seek to build a high level of trust within the church's overlapping structures, as well as the wide variety of opinions and concerns contained within. I've learned that my ability to lead is dependent on the ability to draw people together to follow a common vision. For me, this ability requires deep listening, prayer, pleasure in being with diverse groups of people, the capacity to help discern and articulate purpose and vision, delegation of responsibility, enthusiasm, and being a catalyst for God's joy in life.

In my experience, vision is not created individually or privately. Consequently, I would purposefully seek wise counsel from the House of Bishops, the leaders in the House of Deputies, the Executive Counsel and, of course, the Council of Advice before vision casting. Having said that, I would also seek to build upon our healthy and dynamic relationships within the Anglican Communion. I would also continue to value the rich diversity of our church by maintaining and remembering an abiding connection with the "people in the pews."

I was called to a vocation as Evangelist/Pastor. Accordingly, I would seek to rebuild and reconcile relationships with many disaffected by controversies. We can do this sensitive work, without losing pastoral and theological gains made in recent years, and while giving space to all as a people of common prayer in a theologically big-tent church. Our shared life together, in honoring God, is our most compelling witness.

The Presiding Bishop's role can be highly relational and trust building in our governance with evaluation, clarity, and transparency. Greater collaboration within Church governance and the Presiding Bishop can bear rich fruit. Work on concerns such as the releasing of greater resources for diocesan level ministry, recruitment and development of church leadership, and deeper conversations with our seminaries for a more effective ordained ministry can be accomplished. In my present work with the Standing Commission on Evangelism and Mission, I continue to be enthusiastic about the Mission Enterprise Zones. The possibilities Enterprise Zones present for creative and fresh faith communities may also give our existing congregations new models for living, along with their normative congregational life.

We also need to rekindle trust among the people in our congregations, teaching that our governance is not issue driven, but Gospel driven in which issues can be faced – a needed effort for the long term health of the church. To help build this trust, I would hope to spend proportionally more time in the Episcopal Church. I would share encouragement across the church to celebrate the multiple ways that God has resourced us to be involved in loving mission to the world. I want the Episcopal Church to be growing in numbers, faith communities, young ordinands, spiritual depth, and joy. This is an exciting time to be in our church.

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### EXPERIENCE:

- 2007 – Present Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Southwest Florida  
Bishop Coadjutor (March – September 2007)
- 2005 – 2007 Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 1998 – 2005 Rector, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Melbourne, Florida
- 1989 – 1998 Rector, St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, South Bend, Indiana
- 1987 – 1989 Associate to the Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, Port Orange, Florida

### COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AGENCIES AND BOARDS

- 2012 – Present President of Province IV Bishops, Vice-President of Province IV
- 2012 – Present Serve on Presiding Bishop's Council of Advice
- 2012 – Present Serve on Standing Commission on Evangelism and Mission
- 2012 – Present Board of Regents – The University of the South
- 2010 – 2011 College for Bishops Faculty, New Bishop's and Spouses Conference
- 2009 – 2012 Planning Committee for House of Bishops
- 2009 – 2011 Chair of Episcopal Church Building Fund
- 2009 – 2011 Seminary of the Southwest Board
- 2009 – Present Nashotah House Theological Seminary Board
- 2007 – Present Dominican Development Group Board
- 2007 – Present Board of Trustees – The University of the South
- 2006 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Deputy to General Convention, The Diocese of Louisiana
- 2003 Deputy to General Convention, The Diocese of Central Florida
- 1994, 1997 Chair of Diocesan Deputation to General Convention  
The Diocese of Northern Indiana

### EDUCATION

- D.D., *honoris causa*, Nashotah House Theological Seminary
- D.D., *honoris causa*, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary
- D.D., *honoris causa*, The University of the South
- M. Div., Nashotah House Theological Seminary
- D. Min, Advanced Studies in Congregational Development, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary
- B.A., The University of South Florida, Mass Communications – Broadcasting Production

### LANGUAGES

Languages written: English

Languages spoken: English

Languages in which you are able to lead worship: English



# Committee Members

Ms. Sally Johnson, Minnesota, VI (Co-chair)  
The Rt. Rev. Edward Konieczny, Oklahoma, VII (Co-Chair)  
The Rev. Ruth Lawson Kirk, Delaware, III (Secretary)  
The Rt. Rev. Lloyd Allen, Honduras, IX  
The Rev. Devon Anderson, Minnesota, VI  
Ms. Diane Butler, Rio Grande, VII  
The Very Rev. Ellis Clifton, Michigan, V  
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