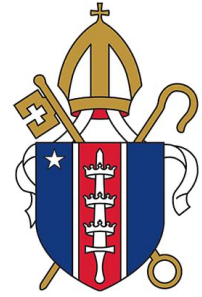


Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Bishop Search and Election Frequently Asked Questions



We're choosing a new Diocesan Bishop? Why?

In May 2023, Bishop Alan announced his plans to retire by the end of this year, 2024, and he called for the election of his successor so that he and the Diocese can have a smooth transition to our new Diocesan Bishop.

What's a Diocesan Bishop?

A Diocesan Bishop is a bishop chosen by the clergy and lay delegates of a Diocese to oversee the Diocese's life and work.

When will the next Diocesan Bishop be chosen?

The next Diocesan Bishop will be chosen at a Special Convention on May 18, 2024. Check-in for the Special Convention will be 7:30–9:30 a.m.

Where is the bishop election?

The Special Convention to choose our next Diocesan Bishop will be held at Trinity Church Boston in Copley Square (206 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA 02116).

Can I attend the Special Convention?

Yes! The Special Convention is open to all members of the Diocesan community, but only voting members and those with assigned credentials will have floor seating. Those entitled to vote may only vote if they attend in person. Non-voting attendees will be seated on a first-come, first-served basis as space allows. All people who wish to attend the Special Convention must register [here](#).

Who is entitled to vote at the Diocesan Convention to choose our next Diocesan Bishop?

Clergy canonically resident in this Diocese and the lay delegates you elected from your parish at your Annual Meeting will vote for the next Diocesan Bishop. If you are not sure who the lay delegates from your parish are, ask your clergyperson in charge, one of your wardens, or a member of your parish's vestry.

What happens after we elect a new Diocesan Bishop? What about Bishop Alan?

After the delegates to the Special Convention choose our next Diocesan Bishop, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's office will be notified. The Presiding Bishop's office will then notify all the other Dioceses in The Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church's canons require that a majority of the Standing Committees of the Diocese and a majority of the bishops exercising jurisdiction consent to the person chosen as our next Diocesan Bishop. Assuming the necessary consents are received, the person chosen at the Special Convention will be ordained and consecrated in October.

Bishop Alan is and will be our Diocesan Bishop until his successor is ordained and consecrated in October.

Who are the nominees for our next Diocesan Bishop? How can I learn about them?

You can find out who the bishop nominees are and learn more about them [here](#).

I'm not a delegate to the Convention. Can I participate in the bishop election?

Even if you are not a delegate to the Convention, you have a role to play in choosing our next Diocesan Bishop. Ways in which you can participate include:

Pray for the Nominees and the Convention Delegates: The process of choosing a new bishop to lead our Diocese and for the wider Church is one of listening to the Holy Spirit in discerning the blessings God has in store for us. We ask all members of the Diocesan community to pray for the nominees for bishop, the delegates to the Special Convention, and our whole Diocesan community using this and other 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.

(The Book of Common Prayer, p. 818)

Attend the Meet and Greets: The Meet and Greets are the time for the bishop nominees to learn more about our Diocese and for the members of our Diocesan community to learn more about the bishop nominees. So please attend a Meet and Greet that is convenient for you. You can find information on when and where the Meet and Greets will take place [here](#).

Many of the Meet and Greets will be livestreamed. The links to access these livestreams will be provided closer to the Meet and Greet dates.

Spanish translation will be offered at some of the Meet and Greet locations. Specifics on which locations are forthcoming.

While everyone has a role to play in choosing our next Diocesan Bishop to ensure that the process is fair to all the nominees and our entire Diocesan community, we ask that you refrain from:

Invitations Apart from Meet and Greets: The Meet and Greets have been carefully planned to provide the nominees with a representative look at our Diocese and to provide the members of our Diocesan community from all over the Diocese with the opportunity to get to know the nominees. So that everyone involved—the nominees and members of the Diocesan community—are operating on as much of a level playing field as possible and from the same information, we ask that you refrain from inviting any or all nominees to gatherings (coffees, talks, meals, etc.) beyond the Meet and Greets. Of course, if you have preexisting relationships with any nominees, you can still get together and talk, but please leave the topic of choosing our next bishop for the prescribed times set by the Transition Committee.

Campaigning/Politicking: First and foremost, this process should be one of listening to the Holy Spirit and discerning, with the nominees and God, who is called to lead our Diocese in the years ahead. Thus, while this process is referred to as “electing” a bishop, it is not like a political election. To maintain this process as a Spirit-led process of discernment, we have asked the nominees not to “campaign” for votes. Similarly, we ask members of our Diocesan community not to campaign on behalf of any nominees. Of course, group discussion and discernment are appropriate, but trying to amass votes for particular candidates tends to make the process more political and less focused on the Holy Spirit.

When will the new bishop be consecrated?

After the electing Convention, and assuming the person chosen receives the required consents, our new Diocesan Bishop will be ordained and consecrated on October 19, 2024.

Where will the new bishop be consecrated?

The ordination and consecration of our next Diocesan Bishop will be held at Trinity Church Boston in Copley Square (206 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA 02116).

Do we still have a Diocesan Convention in the Fall?

Yes! The May 18, 2024, Special Convention is just for choosing our next Diocesan Bishop. Our regular annual Diocesan Convention will take place on November 9, 2024, at Marriott Boston Quincy (1000 Marriott Drive, Quincy, MA 02169).