Who Will Lead Us?

*The Lord looks on the heart. (1 Sam 16:7)*

The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New York invites you to consider the gift of becoming Bishop of New York. Spanning a large region within the lower part of New York State, our Diocese is laden with history, breadth and diversity, including 182 active parishes.

The seat of the Diocese, The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, is the world’s largest gothic cathedral, and stands as a great testament to our Christian witness in this part of the United States. Our churches and membership are as varied as any in the entire country -- urban, suburban, and rural -- representing people, traditions, and languages from all over the world. Indeed, the Diocese of New York reflects the kingdom of God in her diversity, range, and opportunities.

We seek a new Bishop who can appreciate and lead within this multifaceted range of contexts and bring the grace of God to bear upon our works of love in this next chapter of our Diocesan life.

Our Committee has taken the above verse from the first book of Samuel as a touchstone in our process. We have held it as an invitation to open our minds and hearts in our search for candidates, and hope it encourages you in your discernment.

Whether you think you fit the outward appearance of a Bishop of New York, God might be seeing the heart of a Bishop in you. We are eager to receive nominations from the widest possible range of candidates, from priests and bishops throughout The Episcopal Church. We invite you to pray about whether you might be called to meet us in the present challenges and joys of ministry in this Diocese.
The Diocese of New York

The history of the Diocese of New York stretches back to the country’s beginnings. Trinity Wall Street was founded in 1697, and churches that pre-date the American Revolution stretch from the Battery all the way up the Hudson River as far as Kingston.

The Diocese has been led by Bishops that formed and shaped the episcopacy, including Samuel Provoost and John Henry Hobart. It is home to some of the earliest-founded Black Episcopal churches, including St. Philip’s Harlem, and St. David’s in the Melrose Community of the South Bronx. Holy Cross Monastery, the first home-grown Episcopal monastic community for men, was started in New York City and has its main house in the Hudson Valley. The first Episcopal church for the Deaf, St. Ann’s, was founded in New York.

The Diocese is home to the headquarters of The Episcopal Church, and to the Church Pension Group. The oldest Episcopal seminary, General Theological Seminary, and the oldest independent seminary, Union Theological Seminary, now including Episcopal Divinity School, are both located in New York City.

The Diocese of New York offers every sort of worship home, from large urban churches to small rural churches. It includes well-known Anglo-Catholic parishes, and historic Broad Church parishes.
The Bishop of New York is the bishop of the NY Yankees (really the Bronx Yankees), the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, and the Staten Island Ferry. The Diocese of New York includes elite restaurants, organic farms, world class theater and arts programming, and beautiful parks and wilderness throughout its vast geographic span. New York Bishops have the opportunity to march in the Puerto Rican Day Parade and the LGBTQ Pride Parade, and to take part in a wealth of other celebrations that represent the vibrant mosaic of this Diocese.

New York City and its surrounding areas were in the epicenter of the HIV pandemic, 9/11, and now COVID. St. John the Divine was on standby to become a temporary hospital in the first wave of the pandemic in 2020. The Bishop of New York has a role as chaplain to the world through such difficult and transformational events. New York City and its surrounding areas also include deep and rich religious diversity. The opportunities for ecumenical and interfaith work are vast.
Extending from Tottenville, Staten Island in the south, well over 100 miles to rural Callicoon, Sullivan County in the northwest, the Episcopal Diocese of New York covers 4,739 square miles in ten counties.

New York City Boroughs
- Manhattan
- The Bronx
- Staten Island

Hudson Valley Counties
- Westchester
- Rockland
- Putnam
- Dutchess
- Orange
- Ulster
- Sullivan

The Diocese is divided into three regions:
- New York City Region II
- the Mid-Hudson Region

These regions contain a total of 21 geographical deaneries.
The Diocese includes 182 congregations with approximately 47,251 members. Clergy include 65 Deacons, 482 canonically resident Priests and three Bishops. Additional bishops in the Diocese serve in parishes.

Among the Diocese’s 182 congregations:

- 89 congregations support full-time priests
  - 19 congregations have more than one priest
- 71 congregations have less than full-time clergy
  - 20 congregations share a priest

Twelve parishes have closed within the last 12 years. Around 25 churches exist on long-term supply, because they cannot afford full-time clergy.

The members of our expansive diocese’s congregations represent the entire spectrum of the diverse local population, regularly holding services in eleven languages: Akan, American Sign Language, Bontoc, Chinese, Haitian Creole, English, French, Japanese, Korean, Malayalam and Spanish.

Las Posadas, Bronx Churches, at St. Margaret’s, Bronx
Other Diocesan Activities

The Diocese includes a number of religious orders and Christian communities, including the Brotherhood of St. Gregory, the Community of the Holy Spirit, the Order of the Holy Cross, the Sisters of St. Margaret, the Third Order of St. Francis, the Companions of Mary the Apostle, and the Community of Francis and Clare.

The Diocese is committed to campus ministry, with chaplaincies at Columbia University, New York University, the United States Military Academy (West Point), Vassar College, and other institutions, and sponsors a Summer Youth Conference. It is significantly involved in prison ministry, with active work in Sing Sing, Bedford Hills, and other correctional settings, and with advocacy for immigrants, through Rural and Migrant Ministry.

Episcopal Futures is working through collaborative teams to reimagine ministry. The Diocesan Anti-Racism Committee and Reparations Committee have been working for years in educating the Diocese on systemic racism and discerning how the Church will address it. The Task Force Against Human Trafficking raises awareness and empowers members of the Diocese to exercise their faith through anti-trafficking efforts. The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force raises up the one in three women in our pews who are victimized, and works to equip first responders.
The office of the Bishop manages or provides oversight of real estate to which the Diocese holds title and provides advice and assistance to congregations regarding property support, maintenance and repair of buildings and land and sale and development options. The Bishop works closely with members of the Bishop’s staff, the Diocesan Trustees, and the Standing Committee on real estate-related matters affecting the Diocese.

Other Diocesan Activities

Stations of the Cross, Task Force Against Human Trafficking, NYC

Christ Church Rye, Youth Board

Rural and Migrant Ministry, Cornwall, NY
Although the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine is the mother church of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the seat of its Bishop, the Cathedral has its own board of trustees, administration and staff, with the Cathedral overseeing all of the real estate at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue. For more information on diocesan structure and related institutions, see here.
Please visit [here](#) to review the full budget spreadsheet, a detailed narrative, and presentation video by the Budget Committee for 2022 and prior years.

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**Diocesan Budget Details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
<th>2020 Budget revision</th>
<th>2021 Budget</th>
<th>2022 Budget</th>
<th>Percent of 2022 Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME SUMMARY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income From Apportioned Shares</td>
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<td>Net Income From Endowment &amp; Other Sources</td>
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<td>Contingency (2%)</td>
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<td>$(165,803)</td>
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<td>$9,358,424</td>
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<td><strong>DISBURSEMENTS SUMMARY</strong></td>
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<td>Assessments to The Episcopal Church</td>
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<td>Convention Expenses</td>
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<td>Staff Support for Congregations &amp; Diocesan Ministries</td>
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<td>$961,000</td>
<td>$984,000</td>
<td>$991,104</td>
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<td>Funding for Strategic/Mission Settings</td>
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<td>Grants &amp; Loans</td>
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<td>Diocesan Finance &amp; Operations</td>
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<td>Capital Expenditures Budget</td>
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<td>Provision for Salary &amp; Benefit Increase</td>
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Opportunities and Challenges

Here are some of the issues facing the Diocese of New York as we seek to live and minister through an ongoing pandemic:

- **Size and Diversity**
  - helping the different geographic areas feel connected
  - effective communication in this complex Diocese
  - pastoral care, given clergy and lay stress in the pandemic
  - finding resources for smaller and larger churches in diverse contexts

- **Resources and Vitality**
  - helping declining churches discern where God is calling them
  - navigating hybrid worship in a pandemic environment
  - helping parishes meet the enormous needs of their neighborhoods with respect to food, housing, immigration, mental health, ministries which grew in pandemic times
  - imagining and discerning new ways to be church

- **Social Justice and Mental Health**
  - systemic racism and white supremacy; owning our silence
  - gun violence and anti-Asian hate crimes
  - fatigue, grief, and depression in communities, especially poor communities of color
  - gender-based and domestic violence, ongoing and exacerbated in the pandemic

At our 245th Diocesan Convention in November 2021, Bishop Diocesan Andrew Dietsche called for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor to succeed him as the XVII Bishop of New York. Candidates can watch Bishop Dietsche's convention address here for a look at the successes the Diocese has achieved and the challenges our next Bishop will face.

Bp. Dietsche’s Address
November 2021
What We Seek

Spirit

- “A joyful, humble, spirit-filled person”
- “Someone deeply grounded in prayer, who takes themself on retreat”
- “A person who walks the way of Christ, reaching out to the community, across faiths, and to the religiously unaffiliated”
- “We need someone to ignite spiritual growth to bring the revolution that we know the Diocese of New York can be”

Vision

- “Someone attuned to the movements of the Spirit, who can help us listen where churches are being called”
- “A leader who sees where there is life in small churches, and not just where we are dying”
- “Someone with a vision of boldness and fearlessness to enter into the future of our Diocese and the wider Episcopal Church with hope”
- “The ability to seek out communities where smoldering fires of faith are present and to fan them”
- “An understanding of how big systems work, and the challenges of leading a small parish”
- “Someone who can guide us in a vision of hope and renewal, pastoring to us while listening with us”
- “A leader with a prophetic voice who is unafraid to speak to events in our world -- the climate crisis, Jan 6, BLM, Ukraine, and others”

Outdoor Chapel Worship, St. Matthew’s Bedford
Collaboration

- “A bridge builder, who can bring all the regions together with a common purpose”
- “Someone who is pastorally attentive to the needs and gifts of lay leaders and clergy, care and celebration of the hard work people are doing”
- “A leader who sees other people’s gifts and engages them in mutual ways -- ways for parishes and non-parish settings to collaborate”
- “Someone who who can put together a strong team and empower them, someone who empowers congregations”
- “Getting committees and parishes out of our siloes, developing systems and processes to help us work together”

Priorities

- Prioritizing youth and young adult involvement and leadership
- Empowering lay leadership
- Promoting the diaconate
- Creating a sustainable diocesan financial structure that partners with churches through transparent and pastoral approaches to apportionment
- Seeing and knowing congregations from many contexts and regions and in all areas of ministry
- Strengthening Latinx ministry
- Addressing racial injustice in our Diocese and our neighborhoods
- Considering undertaking a Capital Campaign
- Pastoring to clergy and lay leaders exhausted from two years of pandemic ministry
Episcopal Diocese of New York
Bishop Search

Does This Sound Like You?

We are eager to meet you, and dream together about the future of our Diocese.
We hope you will pray over this profile and consider submitting your application.

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to reach out to us at application@electabishop.org

Approximate Timeline

- April 8 - May 6, 2022: Nominating period
- Late Spring-Summer 2022: Candidate interviews, reference and background checks.
- August 24-26, 2022: Discernment retreat with selected candidates
- Early to mid-September 2022: Slate of up to five candidates announced; petition period
- Week in mid-November, 2022: Candidates visit Diocese for meet-and-greet sessions
- December 3, 2022: Election of Bishop Coadjutor
- May 20, 2023: Ordination and consecration of Bishop Coadjutor, at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine
- March 16, 2024: Installation of the XVIIth Bishop of the Diocese of New York, at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine

Application & Nomination Forms
bishopsearch.dioceseny.org

Virtual Choir,
Absalom Jones
Celebration Service,
St. Philip’s, Harlem
The Committee to Elect a Bishop

The Rev. Trevor R. Babb
Christ Church, Staten Island

The Rev. Dr. Mary Barber
St. George’s, Newburgh & St. Paul’s, Poughkeepsie

The Rev. Theodora Brooks
St. Margaret’s, The Bronx

De Young Chan
Episcopal Church of Our Savior, Manhattan

Nick Gordon
St. John’s in the Village, Manhattan

The Very Rev. Michelle Meech
St. John’s, Kingston

Yvonne O’Neal
Church of the Holy Trinity, Manhattan

Alice Yurke
Chancellor of the Diocese & St. Bartholomew’s, Manhattan

The Rev. John Zahl
St. Matthew’s, Bedford

Committee Website
bishopsearch.dioceseny.org