Bishop Search Survey, Diocese of Alabama (Print Version)

Welcome!

The Search/Nominating Committee for the Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama is interested in receiving your feedback about the diocese and in hearing about your hopes for its future and its next bishop.

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts and tell us a little information about yourself. Your contribution is important to our discernment process as the diocese considers its direction for the next decade or more and the kind of person who can best serve as its next bishop.

It will probably take you about 15 minutes to complete the entire survey.

If you would prefer to complete the survey on line, please visit the web site for the Bishop Search at http://bishopsearch.dioala.org and click on "Survey."

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED SURVEYS TO:

Drew Clark, Chair
Search/Nominating Committee
P.O. Box 3010
Auburn, AL 36831

The Search/Nominating Committee thanks you for your participation in this survey.

Please remember our next bishop in your prayers!

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Please start by telling us about your role in the Diocese of Alabama. You can skip most other questions on this survey, but we need you to answer this one.

*** Which of the following best describes your role in the Diocese of Alabama?**

- ◯ Member of a parish but not a vestry member, either now or in the past
- ◯ Member of a parish and a vestry member, either now or in the past
- ◯ Member of the Diocesan Staff
- ◯ Active priest
- ◯ Retired priest
- ◯ Active deacon
- ◯ Retired deacon

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The first question is about the people and parishes of the Diocese of Alabama. Please answer in terms of the parish that you know best.

Please tells us the extent to which you agree that ministries to the following groups are WORKING WELL in the parish of this diocese that you know best:

	Definitely agree	Tend to agree	No opinion	Tend to disagree	Definitely disagree
Ministries to children	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Ministries to youth	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Ministries to young adults	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Ministries to adults	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Ministries to senior adults	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

In the parish of this diocese that you know best:

	Definitely agree	Tend to agree	No opinion	Tend to disagree	Definitely disagree
People are concerned for for the environment as God's creation.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
People effectively communicate their Episcopal identity to others.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Morale is high.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
There is a strong sense of community.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
People share a clear sense of mission and goals.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
There is a strong commitment to social outreach.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

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The next question invites you to think about challenges facing the parishes of this diocese. As before, please answer in terms of the parish that you know best.

Thinking of the parish in this diocese that you know best, please indicate how much of a challenge each of the following is likely to be over the next 10 years.

	No challenge at all	Somewhat of a challenge	A major challenge	Single greatest challenge
Isolation from other Episcopal parishes	◯	◯	◯	◯
Declining membership	◯	◯	◯	◯
Changes in the local population and culture	◯	◯	◯	◯
Christian education, formation and growth	◯	◯	◯	◯
Financial giving and stewardship	◯	◯	◯	◯
Aging facilities	◯	◯	◯	◯
Rising operating costs	◯	◯	◯	◯
Lay leadership (Vestry members, committees, volunteers)	◯	◯	◯	◯
Presenting an Episcopal identity that is attractive to others	◯	◯	◯	◯
Presenting a witness that challenges the surrounding society	◯	◯	◯	◯
Division and conflict in the Episcopal Church	◯	◯	◯	◯

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The next three questions are about the Diocese of Alabama as a unit of the Episcopal Church led by a diocesan bishop. Please answer in terms of the diocese as a whole.

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements about the Diocese of Alabama as a whole.

	Definitely agree	Tend to agree	No opinion	Tend to disagree	Definitely disagree
The Diocese encourages foreign and domestic outreach programs.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Maintaining unity is important to the Diocese.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
The Diocese effectively identifies locations for new missions/parishes.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
When disagreements emerge, the Diocese resolves them effectively.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
The Diocese provides effective college ministries.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
The Diocese celebrates diversity of thought and custom in its parishes.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
The Diocese effectively supports financially troubled missions and small parishes.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Parishioners find it easy to get involved in diocesan work.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
The Diocese attracts and develops high quality clergy.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
The Diocese offers programs and services that help parishes prosper.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

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Next we invite you to think about some of the challenges that may confront the Diocese of Alabama as a whole over the next 10 years.

Thinking of the Diocese of Alabama as a whole, please indicate how much of a challenge each of the following is likely to be over the next 10 years.

	No challenge at all	Somewhat of a challenge	A major challenge	Single greatest challenge
Finding ways to be more inclusive	◯	◯	◯	◯
Acting together as a diocese, not just as a group of independent local congregations	◯	◯	◯	◯
Raising new funds to expand diocesan ministries	◯	◯	◯	◯
Speaking out for social transformation in Alabama	◯	◯	◯	◯
Maintaining a leadership role in the Episcopal Church of the United States	◯	◯	◯	◯
Becoming more attractive to members of minority groups	◯	◯	◯	◯
Managing diocesan funds	◯	◯	◯	◯
Supporting small parishes and parishes in small towns	◯	◯	◯	◯
Working together to accomplish clear goals	◯	◯	◯	◯

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The next question invites you to think about the priorities that should guide the Diocese of Alabama over the next 10 years.

Please indicate how much of a priority each of the following goals should be for the Diocese of Alabama as a whole over the next 10 years.

	Not a priority at all	Somewhat of a priority	A high priority	Single highest priority
Enhancing the strength and vitality of current parishes	◯	◯	◯	◯
Helping to reconcile conflicts within the Anglican communion	◯	◯	◯	◯
Promoting growth in stewardship/annual giving	◯	◯	◯	◯
Establishing stronger ties between parishes and the diocese	◯	◯	◯	◯
Achieving greater diversity in leadership	◯	◯	◯	◯
Improving the image of the Episcopal Church	◯	◯	◯	◯
Helping parishes to retire their debts	◯	◯	◯	◯
Working for social justice	◯	◯	◯	◯
Fostering growth in membership	◯	◯	◯	◯
Establishing new parishes and missions	◯	◯	◯	◯

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We now invite you to think specifically about what kind of strengths, skills and personal qualities the next Bishop of Alabama should have.

In keeping with their priorities, different people might identify different strengths and skills that our next bishop should possess. While each strength or skill could be important at one time or another, over the next 10 years in the Diocese of Alabama, some strengths or skills are sure to be more important than others.

From the list below, please identify the five MOST IMPORTANT strengths and skills that our next bishop should possess, and rank them in order of importance to you, with "1" indicating most important, "2" indicating second in importance, "3" indicating third in importance, "4" indicating fourth in importance, and "5" indicating fifth in importance. Before answering, please take a moment to read the definition of each listed strength or skill.

Because you are ranking these items, you can have only one "1," only one "2," only one "3," only one "4," and only one "5" ranking. Do not assign the same ranking to more than one item, and please choose ONLY FIVE items. If an item seems important to you but is not among the five most important ones, please leave that item blank.

ADMINISTRATION: Ability to manage the organizational and business affairs of the diocese	
CHURCH GROWTH/DEVELOPMENT: Ability to reshape or start over existing parishes and to plant new congregations in the diocese	
LAY MINISTRY: Ability to empower and support lay ministry in the diocese	
NATIONAL LEADERSHIP: Ability to serve as an acknowledged leader in the Episcopal Church	
OUTREACH MINISTRY: Ability to equip and serve the community of faith in ministry to persons in need within and beyond the parishes of the diocese	
PASTORAL CARE OF CLERGY: Ability to provide effective pastoral care to the clergy and their families	
PREACHING: Ability to preach with clarity and to make the Gospel relevant in people's lives	
SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE: Ability to encourage others in the formation and development of a deeper spiritual life.	
STEWARDSHIP: Ability to lead in the development and use of individual and diocesan resources	
TEACHING: Ability to help persons of all ages understand the live the Christian faith	
THEOLOGY: Ability to demonstrate and impart a disciplined understanding of biblical and historical revelation and the perception of God's activity in the world	
VISION & STRATEGY: Ability to articulate goals and lead the diocese towards achieving them	

The next question invites you to identify the most important personal qualities our next bishop should have.

Different people might identify different personal qualities that our next bishop should possess. While each quality could be important at one time or another, over the next 10 years in the Diocese of Alabama, some personal qualities are sure to be more important than others.

From the list below, please identify the five MOST IMPORTANT personal qualities that our next bishop should possess, and rank them in order of importance to you, with "1" indicating most important, "2" indicating second in importance, "3" indicating third in importance, "4" indicating fourth in importance, and "5" indicating fifth in importance.

Because you are ranking these items, you can have only one "1," only one "2," only one "3," only one "4," and only one "5" ranking. Do not assign the same ranking to more than one item, and please choose ONLY FIVE items. If an item seems important to you but is not among the five most important ones, please leave that item blank.

Comfort with technology and new media	
Compassion	
Courage, firmness	
Eloquence, comfort in communication	
Flexibility, open-mindedness	
Humility	
Personal discipline	
Physical health, robustness	
Prayerfulness, spirituality	
Sense of humor	
Serenity, sense of calm	
Sound judgment	
Willingness to address conflict	

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Finally, to understand our survey results fully, we invite you to answer a few questions about yourself.

What is your gender?

- ◯ Female
- ◯ Male

What is your age?

- ◯ Under 16
- ◯ 16-24
- ◯ 25-34
- ◯ 35-44
- ◯ 45-54
- ◯ 55-64
- ◯ 65 or older

How long have your been involved with your current parish?

- ◯ Less than a year
- ◯ 1-2 years
- ◯ 3-5 years
- ◯ 6-10 years
- ◯ 11-20 years
- ◯ More than 20 years

What is the general location of the parish where you worship most frequently?

- ◯ In the Birmingham area
- ◯ Toward the northern end of the diocese
- ◯ In the central part of the diocese (but not in the Birmingham area)
- ◯ Toward the southern end of the diocese

How would you describe your current level of awareness regarding work of the Diocese of Alabama?

- ◯ Unaware
- ◯ Somewhat aware
- ◯ Very aware