



ELECTION

BISHOP COADJUTOR

The Episcopal Diocese of DALLAS



“We who are many
are one body,
for we all partake
of the one bread.”

I Corinthians 10:17b, NRSV



Heavenly Father,
to Whom all the Saints in heaven and earth
adore and bend the knee:
Look graciously on your Church
and pour out your Holy Spirit upon our Bishop,
the Search Committee, and the Delegates
who will choose a bishop for this diocese,
to feed and tend the flock of Christ
and exercise without reproach
the high priesthood of this calling.
Grant that they and we may have all wisdom and discernment,
a spirit of revelation and the knowledge of your will,
and the confidence in your guidance
in the decision to be made;
through him who is the shepherd and the bishop of our souls,
even Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.
Amen



The Episcopal Diocese of DALLAS

October, 2024

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Whether you are discerning personally or nominating someone to become our next pastoral leader, we are glad and grateful to welcome you. This is a time of great excitement, hope, and prayerful anticipation as we seek a Bishop Coadjutor who will serve alongside our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. George Sumner, and after a time will succeed him as the Eighth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas.

The Episcopal Diocese of Dallas is a vibrant and diverse community, deeply rooted in our faith, with a commitment to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and embodying His love in the world. We are blessed with parishes and missions that represent a rich tapestry of people, perspectives, and ministries, all striving together to be the hands and feet of Christ in North Texas and beyond.

We are a diocese that is eager for growth—both spiritually and in mission. We seek a Coadjutor who will walk with us on this journey, who will be a pastor to our clergy and laity, and who will be a visionary leader and shepherd to all.

In this profile, you will find a picture of who we are, where we have been, and where we believe God is calling us next. If you are a priest or bishop interested in discerning a call to be our Bishop Coadjutor, we pray that you will have a nominator complete the nomination form at the end of this profile. If you are a layperson or clergy, we invite you to nominate a priest or bishop from anywhere in the church whom you think would be willing to discern God's will in this sacred call.

Please pray that the Lord will continue to be with our diocese and search committee and that our work is guided by the presence of his Holy Spirit. May his will be done!

In Christ's love and service,

The Bishop Coadjutor Search Committee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Bishop We Seek

Gifts and Duties	3-5
------------------	-----

Our Region

Expanse and Statistics	6
Living in the Dallas Area	7
Fun Facts About our Region	8
Congregations, mapped	9

Our History

Bishops Past and Present	10-13
--------------------------	-------

The Diocese Today

Bishop Sumner	14-15
Diocesan Staff	16-19
The Diaconate	20-21
Stanton Institute	22
Governance, Commissions and Convocations	23-25
Ministries of the Diocese	26-29
Congregations, listed	30
Schools and Key Statistics	31
Financials	32

Our Future

Survey and Listening Sessions	33-35
Challenges and Opportunities	36-37

Search Timeline

Calendar of Events & Link to Nomination Form	38
--	----

THE BISHOP COADJUTOR WE SEEK

- 1 Will embrace, embody, and preach our mission – to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ, We seek a Bishop who will boldly preach the gospel, guard the faith, prayerfully consider their work, and encourage all people to utilize their spiritual gifts for the building up of God's kingdom.
- 2 Will serve as our chief pastor – our next Bishop will build relationships with our clergy and be an empathetic listener. They will prioritize spending time to encourage and support the clergy across the diocese, pastoring the pastors.
- 3 Will be relational and collegial – exhibiting hospitality, possessing strong interpersonal skills, and showing a genuine desire to meet and develop relationships with the people of this diocese and to listen to their stories. The Diocese of Dallas has a lot to say!
- 4 Will be eager to learn & understand the complex needs of our diocese and provide support for churches during times of change or struggle. Our next Bishop will equip congregations, clergy, and other leaders with strategies to enable them to reach new members.
- 5 Will work effectively with congregations of all sizes and geographic locations – our next Bishop will aid the diocese in recognizing trends in the larger society and help us to nimbly adapt, prophetically respond, and strategically resource our churches.
- 6 Will be a visionary strategic leader – who in partnership with Bishop Sumner, will provide a shared vision to create unity of purpose among the diverse groups across the diocese. Our Coadjutor will have experience identifying and developing new leaders, both lay and clergy. We seek a bishop who will light a fire in our diocese for discipleship and evangelism.
- 7 Will serve as a trust builder – our next Bishop will build trust by giving opportunities for consideration of different approaches, opinions, and beliefs. Our Coadjutor will be committed to addressing conflict and cultivating communion across differences. He or she will commit to transparent decision making and rotate membership through various diocesan committees and boards. Though some decisions are solely under the bishop's discretion, we hope our Coadjutor will remember the advice from Proverbs 11:14 "in the multitude of counselors there is safety."
- 8 Will encourage and support missional engagement with various ethnic communities – since the Dallas metroplex is one of the most racially, religiously, and ethnically diverse metropolitan areas in the U.S., diverse mission engagement is of the utmost importance as we seek to faithfully share the gospel. Engagement with our Hispanic populations is particularly, though not exclusively, vital to this mission.

DUTIES OF THE BISHOP COADJUTOR 1 OF 2

The Bishop Coadjutor will assist the Diocesan Bishop in all manner of episcopal ministry. This role will be functionally similar to that of a Canon to the Ordinary, even as the Coadjutor is prepared to be the Diocesan Bishop, administratively, pastorally, theologically, and spiritually. Specific duties include:

Visitation:

The Coadjutor will have a full schedule of Sunday episcopal visitations from the beginning. He or she will have a chance to develop his or her own pattern and style of visitation.

Collegiality:

The Coadjutor will meet weekly with the Diocesan Bishop to discuss both work and the nature of the office. He or she will help to think about, and will take part in, Clergy Conference, Leadership Day, and other important gatherings.

Teaching:

The Coadjutor will also have an equal share in the teaching office. This could include weekly blogs, curate camp, discernment retreat, lectures on special occasions, providing resources for congregational development, and the like. In so doing he or she will articulate the Faith for our moment.

Episcopal Formation:

This will include what is fondly known as the “baby bishops” programs of The Episcopal Church but might also include other events, such as the program at Canterbury. He or she will be given time to meet with a coach.

Chief of Staff:

The Coadjutor will oversee the staff, with the background and support of the Diocesan Bishop.

Placement:

The Coadjutor will help parishes and missions with the search process, in consultation with the Diocesan Bishop. This will include help in finding appropriate supply and interim priests.

Curacy:

The Coadjutor will relate to the Commission on Ministry, visit the seminaries, and support the curates once placed.

DUTIES OF THE BISHOP COADJUTOR 2 OF 2

Committees:

The Coadjutor will serve on such committees as are suited to interest and gift.

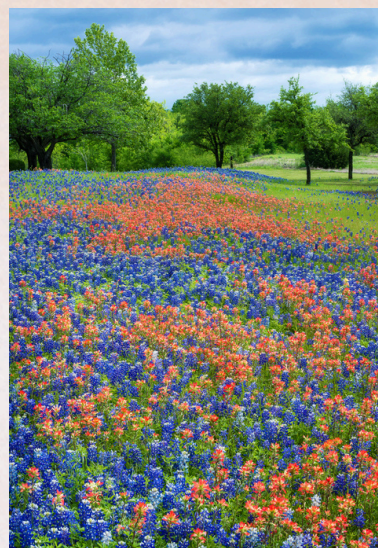
Pastoral Exigency:

The Coadjutor will be included in ministry to clergy in crisis, to Title IV, to the needs of clergy families, and to the retired.

Budget:

The Coadjutor will be included in the process from initial draft to approval at Convention. He or she will attend the Executive Council and Finance Committee.

In all of the above, the Bishop Coadjutor's primary responsibility will be getting to know the people and congregations of the diocese, assessing our gifts and challenges, and working with the Diocesan Bishop toward a shared vision for the future, with the goal of a seamless leadership transition upon the Diocesan Bishop's retirement.



OUR REGION

The Episcopal Diocese of Dallas covers 25 counties in North and East Texas, with a population of 6.2 million people. Spanning approximately 17,500 square miles from Irving to Texarkana and Corsicana to the Oklahoma border, the diocese includes rural farm and ranch country, gorgeous lakes, small towns, exurbs, suburbs, and the humming urban center of Dallas.

Our region is marked by warmth, friendliness, and hospitality. We like to be ourselves, be together, and bring that Texas spirit along the way.

Dallas is the 9th largest city in the U.S. with a population of 1.3 million and growing. In recent years, the Dallas metro area has seen many corporate relocations and continues to be a destination for immigrants and refugees. Our region is home to nearly 20 universities along with notable community colleges. While there is much to celebrate, far too many of our residents are left behind and struggling. We see a significant mission for our Diocese to serve, gather, and be fishers of the people on our doorsteps: the harvest is plentiful!

Our people want to know and be known by their Bishop. Highway travel is essential to participation in our diocesan life: the distance from the Cathedral to the furthest parish is approximately 200 miles with a drive time of 3 hours. At least a third of our congregations are more than 30 minutes' drive from the Cathedral complex, which is home to the Diocese of Dallas office.

Living in the Dallas Area

Our winters are generally mild, and our summers are anything but. Transplants from other states acclimate to the summer heat but you won't find too many who say they enjoy it! Fall and spring months are the best kept secret with ideal temperatures and beautiful colors that vary from city to rural settings: think fall leaves in the city and spring wildflowers in the country.

The city of Dallas and nearby suburbs hold abundant options for housing to suit anyone's preference, from dense to spacious. We have excellent urban and suburban public schools, Episcopal schools, and other private school options. Families find a comfortable welcome in Dallas with an abundance of parks, activities, and places to connect.

Whatever your answer to "What do you like to do for fun?", there is a place to do it here. Our amenities include:

Run/Walk/Bike: fantastic and growing urban trail network

Excellent music: symphony, opera, choral, and more



Theater: multiple delightful venues for plays and musical theater with many well-known shows each year.

Art: The Dallas Arts District is the largest contiguous urban arts district in the nation and home to the Dallas Museum of Art and the Nasher Sculpture Garden, with a phenomenal deck park for the city to enjoy.



Restaurants: Dallasites love to dine and there is always something new to try or a favorite to return to again and again. Dallas is known for its Tex Mex, barbeque, and fine dining steakhouses; however, its delectable offerings stretch to every type of cuisine and budget.



Shopping: Shopping is in the DNA of Dallasites. Between Northpark Mall, Highland Park Village, the Knox District, and other boutiques, there are myriad options from budget to luxury.

Professional sports: football, baseball, basketball, hockey, soccer, cricket, and racing—need we say more?

Fun Facts

BBQ: Texas BBQ favors brisket. Depending on who you ask it's either all about the woodsmoke flavor or all about the sides.

Tacos, tacos, tacos. There are no fewer than 10 taco-specific spots within a few minutes of the EDOD office. Everyone has a favorite.

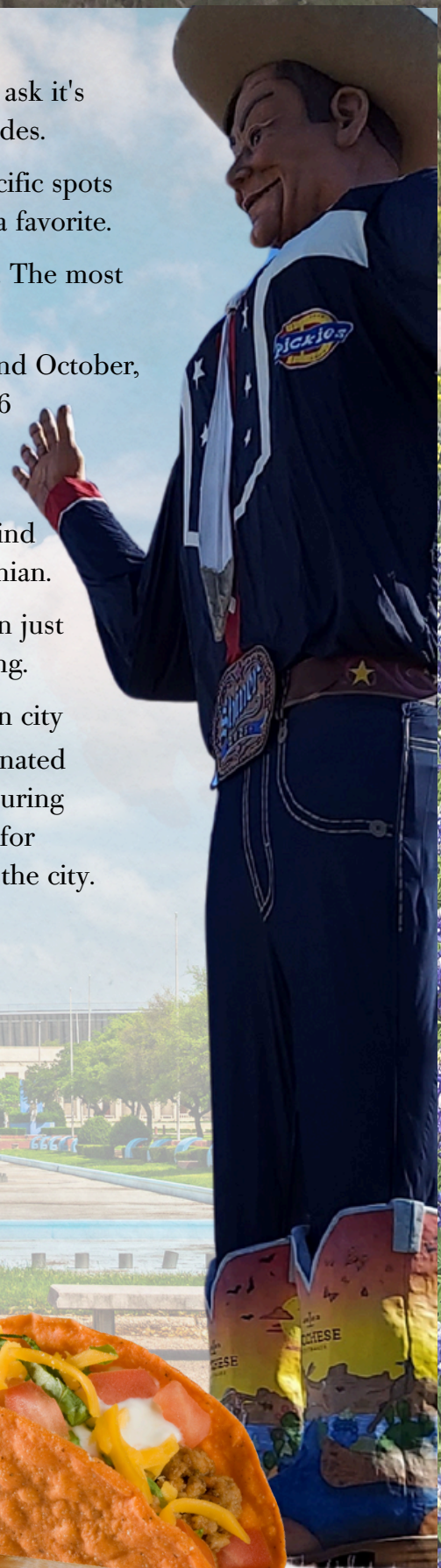
Some may call it a corn dog, but here it's **conry** with a Y. The most famous are at the **Texas State Fair** each fall.

Dallas is home to the Texas State Fair each September and October, where fried everything is on the menu. Built for the 1936 Centennial Exposition world's fair, Fair Park is home to preserved art deco architecture to enjoy year round.

The **frozen margarita** was invented in Dallas. You can find the original Mariano's margarita machine at the Smithsonian.

Our state flower, the **bluebonnet**, emerges abundantly in just about any empty field and along the highways each spring.

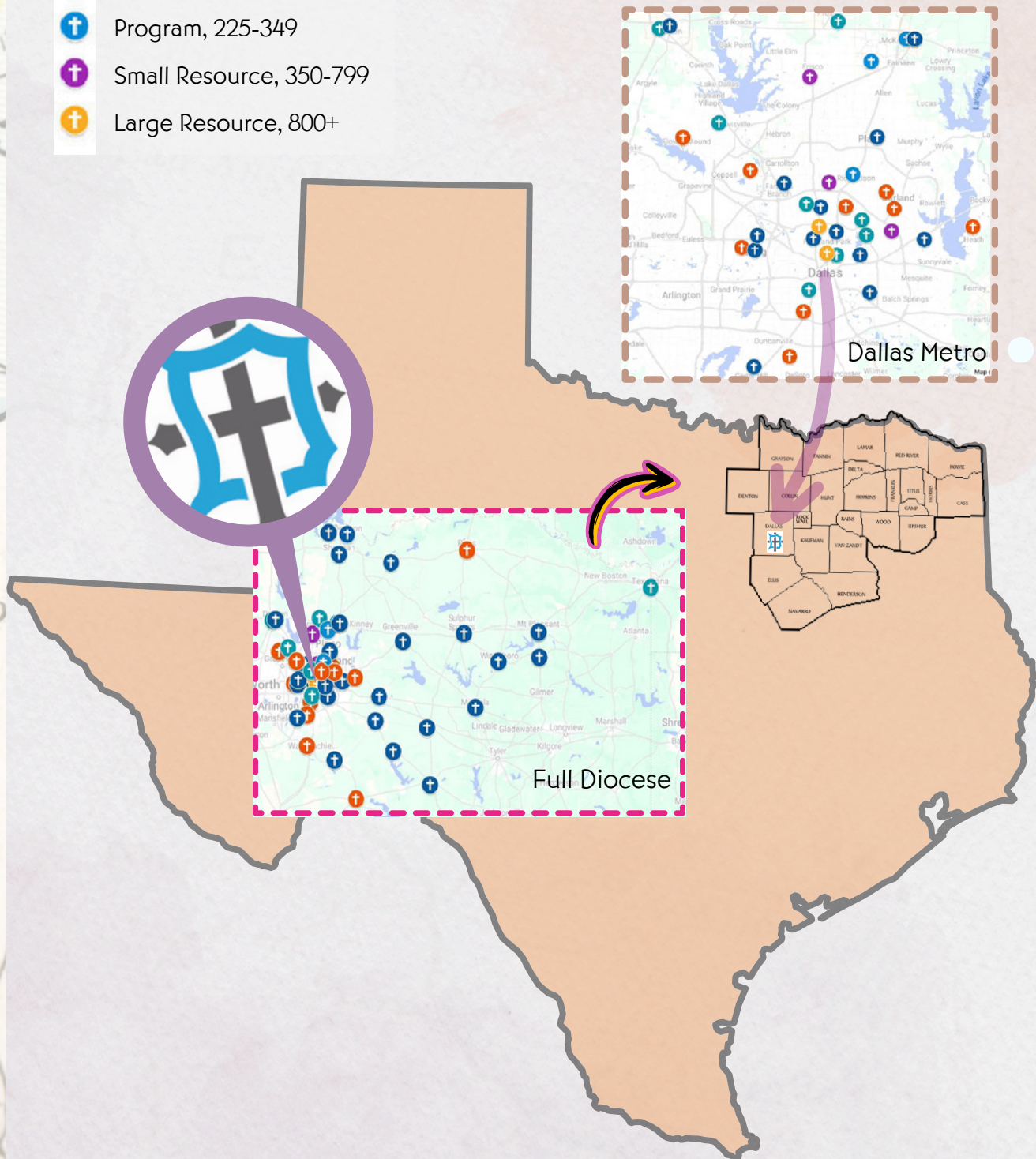
We have a reputation for being flashy and our downtown city lights go all-in with coordinated color displays. Initiatives during migratory bird season call for darkening lights all across the city.



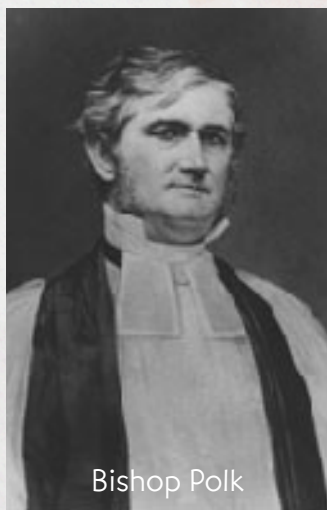
CONGREGATIONS

Shown by size, according to Average Sunday Attendance

- Family, 1 - 74
- Pastoral, 75-149
- Transitional, 150-225
- Program, 225-349
- Small Resource, 350-799
- Large Resource, 800+



OUR HISTORY



Bishop Polk

On Saint Patrick's Day, 1839, Bishop Leonidas Polk was the first Bishop of The Episcopal Church to embark on a foreign mission when he crossed the Red River into the Republic of Texas. That started 185 years of the Episcopal Church's presence in Texas and what is today the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas. The first Episcopal Church service in the city of Dallas was held by The Rev. George Rottenstein on May 24, 1856. The altar was composed of two dry goods boxes covered in orange calico and the congregation size was four, including the Rev. Mr. Rottenstein. This congregation grew and in 1857 it became the first parish in the area that would become the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

The Birth of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas

Bishop Garrett 1874–1924

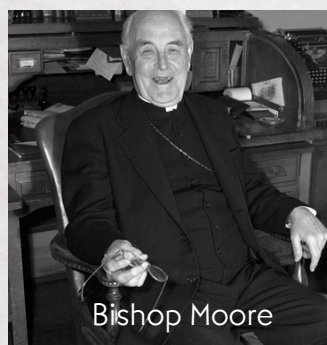
Soon, as the population growth became such that the State of Texas was too big for one bishop or diocese, it was split into the Diocese of Texas, the Missionary District of Northern Texas and the Missionary District of Western Texas. In 1874, the first Bishop of Northern Texas, Charles Alexander Garrett, began serving in what would later become the Diocese of Dallas in 1895 with 14 founding parishes. Bishop Garrett served until February 1924, almost 50 years as the Bishop of the diocese. During his tenure, the diocese grew from 4 parishes and 10 missions with a total of 365 members into 20 parishes and 22 missions with over 5,700 members. His energy and drive to plant congregations to reach our communities with the Gospel is still felt in the diocese today.



Bishop Garrett

Boom and Bust

Bishop Moore 1917–1946



Bishop Moore

Bishop Harry T. Moore was elected in 1917 as Coadjutor and became the Ordinary upon Bishop Garrett's death in 1924. This period was one that started with a lot of growth, but was curtailed by the Great Depression and World War II. While the number of new congregations did not grow much, the number of members in those congregations grew from about 5,720 to over 10,000.

Photograph courtesy of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection

Postwar Explosion

Bishop Mason 1946-1970



Bishop Mason

During Bishop C. Avery Mason's tenure, the Diocese of Dallas grew exponentially during the postwar boom and the popularity of air conditioning. These advantages were used with evangelistic zeal to plant new congregations and to spread the Kingdom of God. In his first address to the Diocesan Convention in 1946, Bishop Mason quoted Mother Cabrini saying: "Work until you can work no more – until your body and mind are exhausted, then kneel in the presence of our Blessed Lord and say, 'My Jesus, I can do no more,' but having said it, get up and work again. You have all eternity to rest." He exemplified this spirit, leaving a total of 125 parishes and missions and almost 40,000 members of the diocese.

Forming a New Diocese

Bishop Davies 1970-1982

Like Bishop Garrett before him, Bishop A. Donald Davies was Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Omaha, Nebraska when elected as the fourth Bishop of Dallas. He strengthened the diocese and guided it through the budding off of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth in 1982, leaving to become the first Bishop of Fort Worth. The decline of mainline Protestant churches had begun and the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas was hard hit by the controversy surrounding the ordination of women and the new Book of Common Prayer. The total congregations in the diocese numbered 115 with 39,000 members before the split. Of this total, 30 parishes and 24 missions started the new diocese.

Guiding us through Turmoil

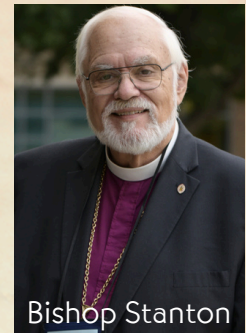
Bishop Patterson 1983-1992

The shortest serving of our first six bishops, Bishop Donis D. Patterson had to cope with a significantly smaller budget and diocese, both due to the reduced size of the diocese and because of the economic situation in Dallas at the time. He did so with as much vigor and zeal as possible. The oil bust, the Savings and Loan crisis and the resulting recession hit the diocese hard, but even during this period, the Lord was glorified as the diocese grew from 61 congregations to 68. The "new prayer book" became accepted and Bishop Patterson ordained the first female priest in the diocese. Bishop Patterson retired in 1992 due to ill health.

Renewed Growth and Renewed Turmoil

Bishop Stanton, 1993–2014

Bishop James Monte Stanton found a diocese that was sharply divided where political factions seemed to enjoy fighting each other at Diocesan Conventions. One of his first tasks was to get the clergy and delegates working together by building two Habitat for Humanity homes during the first day of his inaugural convention. This idea that brothers and sisters in Christ should work together rather than tear at each other marked Bishop Stanton's tenure. As the spiritual health of the diocese improved, so did the growth of the diocese as a whole. The ordination



Bishop Stanton

of the first openly gay bishop led congregations, including Christ Church in Plano, the congregation with the largest ASA in the nation at the time, to leave the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas. While this did hurt the diocese physically, financially, and spiritually, we preserved and continued to grow. During his tenure, Bishop Stanton encouraged younger men and women to become priests in the church and he reinvigorated the Diaconate, a legacy continued by Bishop George Sumner, who was elected on May 16, 2015 as the Seventh Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas.

Our Rich Inheritance

We are grateful for the Christian theological and moral vision that we have inherited. We are a catholically-minded diocese, committed to sacramental ministry, Scripture, and the Apostolic tradition. And we are called to be an evangelistically minded diocese, going out into our communities to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to all people.

Recent Key Events

Bishop Sumner, 2015–Present

In mid-March, 2020, when states began implementing shutdowns to prevent the spread of COVID-19, churches were abruptly forced to adapt to the strange new reality. In-person services and gatherings ceased. But the need for “restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ” and being a “Resurrection People” only became more pronounced. Churches introduced new ways of worshiping, administering the sacraments, gathering as the body of Christ, carrying on existing ministries, visiting the sick and hurting and reaching out to surrounding communities. Many of these changes, such as virtual worship and eucharistic experimentation, have enabled new groups and communities to engage with the church. Nonetheless, the pandemic negatively impacted church attendance and financial engagement across the board and exacerbated the struggles of many parishes. While some churches are approaching pre-pandemic ASA and giving metrics, many still need assistance, showing the vestiges of the pandemic remain. In light of the lingering challenges, Bishop Sumner and the incoming Bishop Coadjutor will continue to strategically assess parish and clergy support.

Cathedral Development Project

In the fall of 2021, St. Matthew's Cathedral sold 4 acres of its campus to Trammell Crow Residential for a new 380 unit multifamily development, incorporating affordable housing in a portion of the units. The proceeds of the sale were used to renovate Garrett Hall, the east wing of the Cathedral complex, in order to provide a new home for the diocesan offices, which were demolished to make way for the development, and new office space for the Cathedral. An essential aspect of the vision for the new space was to provide efficiencies for both the Diocese and the Cathedral in shared classroom and meeting spaces that could hold both parish programming and diocesan offerings such as the Stanton Institute. On June 1, 2024, the third floor of Garrett Hall, which houses the diocesan offices, was dedicated as the James and Diane Stanton Center for Diocesan Ministry or, "The Stanton Center," in honor of the Stantons' ministry in and to the Diocese of Dallas.

The ground floor of Garrett Hall was then renovated into a Montessori preschool, providing quality childcare for working parents. Additionally, the proceeds provided capital for a new welcome entrance for the Cathedral, the creation of the Cathedral Green, an outdoor space for concerts and other public events, additional parking for the Cathedral, and more resources to invest in the Cathedral's ministries, such as outreach to Old East Dallas's homeless and impoverished populations.

The entire Cathedral complex now fulfills its traditional vocation as a center for diocesan life and events, from diaconal ordinations and the Mass of Collegiality to Parish Leadership and Mission Days.



THE DIOCESE OF DALLAS UNDER BISHOP SUMNER

Renewing Holy Orders

Since 2015, the Diocese of Dallas has ordained 35 men and 8 women to the priesthood and 8 women and 3 men to the permanent diaconate. The majority of the priests ordained during this time were under 35 years old at the time of their ordination.

The diocese has especially encouraged and sponsored for ordination young women and men “on the Canterbury trail,” those coming from non-liturgical traditions who have found in Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church a rich theological tradition, sacramental worship, holistic spirituality, and a historical connection to the Church catholic.

Communion Across Difference

The Episcopal Church is rich in diversity, including theological diversity. While a historically conservative diocese, under Bishop Sumner’s leadership and participation in Communion Partners, the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas has sought to work proactively and positively within the larger Episcopal Church, maximizing our communion, collaboration, and involvement.

A Focus on Congregations

Recognizing that local parishes are the place where members of this diocese worship, are formed as disciples, and are centers for outreach and mission work, Bishop Sumner has prioritized the ways in which diocesan resources can best support congregations. Financially, this has meant a change to diocesan staffing, streamlining of summer camp services and the revitalization of the Cathedral funded by the sale of underutilized Cathedral property. Strategically, this has meant the consolidation of our East Texas parishioners into a regional partnership called APNET, the Affiliated Parishes of Northeast Texas, which is described more fully in the Ministries section of this document. These five APNET parishes have found that in sharing clergy and resources they have grown

in fellowship with one another and have strengthened their ministries and outreach.



Racial Reconciliation and Refugee Ministry

Bishop Sumner and Carrie Headington, Canon for Evangelism, have teamed up with the Greater Dallas Coalition, a collaborative, missional movement established to transform the city of Dallas spiritually and socially. Working with this network, the Diocese has held Reconciliation, Healing and Justice days, webinars, book groups, and pilgrimages to South Dallas. The Unity in the Gospel initiative brings together pastors from African American congregations with priests for study, fellowship, and prayer. In addition, the Diocese partners with local South Dallas Churches and ministries to provide meals, groceries, and other services to those who are in need in the southern sector of Dallas. The Diocese has also supported refugee ministry by partnering with Gateway of Grace, a nonprofit ministry founded by The Rev. Dr. Samira Page, an Iranian refugee who was later ordained in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas. Gateway trains volunteers and churches to adopt refugee families, helping refugees start over by assisting them in finding housing and jobs, learning English, and more.



Development of Latino Strategic Vision

By 2050, half of Texans will come from families where Spanish is their first language. Demographic trends make it clear that we must continue our development of a



deliberate, structured strategy that affords us the opportunity to reach the influx of Latino members coming to and living in North and East Texas. Efforts to date have included the expansion of Spanish worship services, deliberate recruitment of bilingual clergy, coordination and teaching of stewardship responsibilities, and fostering partnerships between congregations.

Clergy Collegiality and Formation

Recognizing the numerous demands on clergy members' time, Bishop Sumner has reduced the number of clergy gatherings to five times a year: Clergy Conference, Parish Leadership Day, Mission Day, Pre-Convention Leadership Day, and the Mass of Collegiality. Priests and deacons look forward to the annual Clergy Conference at Camp Allen as a chance to get away, with ample time for fellowship, fun, and reconnecting with one another. The programmatic parts of the overnight getaway have featured presenters such as Malcolm Guite and Flemming Rutledge. Parish Leadership Day is devoted to providing speakers and resources to support the ministries within the church, such as Sunday school, vestry, and stewardship. Mission Day is designed to energize clergy and lay leaders through a series of presentations focused on evangelism. In recent years, our annual Diocesan Convention has included a Leadership Day, preceding the convention, for clergy and lay delegates to hear from a speaker whose focus is either on a theological topic, the church's mission, or parish life.

THE DIOCESAN STAFF

Our wonderful diocesan staff office in the heart of Dallas, in the newly renovated Stanton Center, adjacent to our historic St. Matthew's Cathedral.

THE OFFICE OF THE EPISCOPATE



Bishop George Sumner is the Ecclesiastical Authority for the diocese.



Assistant Bishop Fraser Lawton serves as the pastoral leader for the Affiliated Parishes of North East Texas, a geographical group of collaborative churches that are linked together in mission, prayer and resource sharing. Lawton also serves as the Rector of the Church of St. Dunstan in Mineola and assists in visitations and confirmations.



Assistant Bishop Michael Smith serves the diocese in many areas including congregational development, clergy deployment, church renewal, visitations, confirmations and other responsibilities. Additionally, he is a lead teacher at the Stanton Institute and has developed critical programming focused on formation and practice.

PROGRAM AND MINISTRY STAFF



Canon Theologian-in-Residence Victor Lee Austin

lectures, teaches classes, leads theological reading groups, and writes a weekly blog for the newsletter. He visits parishes throughout the diocese to teach and preach, and he is the author of several books.



Communications Director Kimberly Durnan Davis oversees all communications for the diocese including newsletter, social media, direct mail, publications, website, blogs, print materials, videos, podcasts, photography and organizational identity. She also serves as a resource for communication needs of parishes and mission churches.



Canon for Youth Programming Deacon Katie Gerber develops and oversees all youth programming and formation activities including a robust summer camp, confirmation retreats, mission trips and leadership conferences. She also brings together church youth ministers for monthly roundtables, and serves as deacon at St. Matthew's Cathedral.



Dean Louis Harris oversees the Stanton Institute, which provides theological education and spiritual formation to students who take classes for personal growth or certification programs to become deacons, evangelists, catechists and spiritual directors in their churches. His role is part-time.

PROGRAM AND MINISTRY STAFF



Canon Evangelist Carrie Headington directs programming for all mission and evangelism efforts. She meets with parishes to provide the tools they need to reach out to their own communities. Headington teaches personal and congregational evangelism and brings together ecumenical partnerships to further share the Gospel.



Administrator of the Stanton Institute Erica Lasenyik assists the Stanton Institute Dean. She facilitates hybrid learning classrooms with in-person and online participants. Additionally, she is the project manager for the annual Mission Day, Leadership Day and two annual Benedictine retreats. Her role is part-time.



Canon Pastor David Petrash provides pastoral care for all retired clergy, their spouses, clergy widows and widowers, as well as active clergy as needed.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF



Executive Assistant Amy Maceo provides administrative support for Bishop Michael Smith as well as the Commission on Ministry. She also facilitates the placement of curates, assists with diocesan convention and provides clerical assistance for the Standing Committee.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF



Missioner of Diocesan Services Susan Lee Mills is the insurance administrator, maintains the database, oversees parish reporting and the annual parish financial reviews. She provides clerical support for Executive Council, Finance Committee, and the Corporation of the Diocese. She is also the Safe Church program contact.



Missioner of Finance Becky Roach is a full-charge bookkeeper for the diocese. She assists with developing the budget, is the liaison for the annual audit, manages cash flows, and produces financial statements among other tasks. She also guides churches on best practices in non-profit accounting.



Receptionist and Registrar Cassie Roberts serves as the receptionist for the diocesan office and provides hospitality for meetings and receptions. She oversees registrations for diocesan convention and most other events. Additionally, she makes updates to the diocesan website calendar and takes care of all collateral needs of the office.



Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Haley Rossi assists Bishop Sumner with his administrative needs. She coordinates activities related to visitations, confirmations, ordinations, the annual Clergy Conference, clergy and parish Leadership Day, the Diocesan Convention and other events. She also manages travel and activities for visiting dignitaries.

THE DIACONATE

“At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ’s people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.”

The Bishop’s charge to a new deacon at ordination. (BCP 543)

Deacons in EDOD: Ensuring Our Outward Focus

When Bishop James Stanton was consecrated in 1993, there were only a few deacons serving in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas. A strong believer in the ministry of deacons, Bishop Stanton set about building a strong diaconate, including the infrastructure and academic resources to prepare deacons for their ministry. At his retirement in 2014, there were 27 deacons serving in EDOD.

Bishop Sumner has likewise understood the unique ministry of deacons. Presently, there are 24 deacons serving in the diocese. Some of our deacons are “graying,” but there are individuals in the discernment process who, God willing and the people consenting, will begin to help balance the age demographic. Raising up a new generation of younger deacons will require a focused, intentional effort in the years to come.

The Ministry of Deacons in the Diocese of Dallas

The deacons of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas are highly committed to serving the entire gamut of human need. Our deacons lead and support ministries from providing food, water, and clothing, to providing assistance for migrants and refugees forced to flee their home countries. Our deacons provide pastoral care and support to the sick and the grieving, as well as instruction, spiritual formation, and support for individuals who are incarcerated. Other diaconal ministries in our diocese include:



- partnering with disadvantaged schools (reading programs, teacher support);
- mentoring disadvantaged students;
- supporting community gardens ministry;
- offering EDOD summer camp (financial assistance provided for those in need) and youth mission trips;
- supporting EDOD’s partnership with African-American churches and ministries;
- serving needs in Dallas’ southern sector; and,
- supporting mission trips to Central America and Africa (medical mission teams, construction teams).

In all these ways, our deacons carry out a “special ministry of servanthood directly under” their Bishop, serving particularly, “in the name of Jesus Christ . . . the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.” (BCP 543)

THE DIACONATE 2 OF 2

The Future: Maintaining an Outward Focus

Many studies have shown that a recurring characteristic of healthy, vibrant churches is that they maintain an outward focus toward the community around them. Young people want to see a church that is not inwardly focused, but a church in action, connecting and serving the community around them. Assisted by a thriving diaconal ministry, our parishes can develop and maintain outward-focused ministries that will strengthen engagement with the community and support the parish's efforts to attract new members.



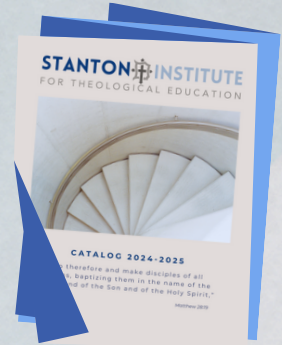
Because having a deacon helps a parish grow the outward focus that is essential to its health and vibrancy, the deacons of the Episcopal Diocese have a vision for raising up a deacon for every parish and mission in the diocese that does not have one. The presence of a deacon reminds all the baptized of their vow to “seek and serve Christ in all persons,” loving our neighbors as ourselves (BCP 305). And we believe that a congregation so committed to the teaching and example of Christ cannot help but attract new, and younger, members.

STANTON INSTITUTE

FOR THEOLOGY & PRACTICE

The mission of the Stanton Institute is to equip and sustain lay and ordained leaders, enabling them to carry out the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. The Institute assists the Diocese in nurturing and maintaining the sacred traditions of the Church, enabling all Christians to answer the call to ministry received by all in Baptism.

The Institute offers a variety of courses in theology and spirituality designed to meet the needs of all Christians who desire to grow and mature in their discipleship. Diploma programs for lay leaders include concentrations in Spiritual Direction, Christian Studies, Evangelism, Catechesis, and Pastoral Care. The Institute also offers a curriculum that provides education and preparation of individuals seeking ordination to the Diaconate in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas.



Evangelism Class, online with Kenya



The Episcopal Diocese of DALLAS

GOVERNANCE

Diocesan Convention

The Diocesan Convention meets annually in November. It consists of all clergy members canonically resident in the Diocese and lay delegates elected by and representing the parishes and missions of the Diocese. With the Bishop as its presiding officer, the Convention elects new members to various diocesan bodies, considers amendments to the Constitution and Canons, approves the annual diocesan budget, and considers resolutions and other business properly brought before it.

Standing Committee

Consisting of three priests and three lay members elected at the Diocesan Convention and serving three-year terms, the Standing Committee serves as the Bishop's Council of Advice. If the office of Bishop becomes vacant and there is no Coadjutor or Suffragan, the Standing Committee becomes the Ecclesiastical Authority for the Diocese. Under certain circumstances, the Standing Committee must consent to the dissolution of a parish and any disposal of its assets. All Candidates for Holy Orders must receive Standing Committee approval for ordination.

Officers of the Diocese

Treasurer: Rebecca Wellborn

Chancellor: Cory Floyd

Secretary: Robert Buchanan

The Officers are nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Diocesan Convention.

Executive Council

The Executive Council administers the missionary, outreach, and other work of the Diocese and its Commissions. It also prepares the annual Diocesan budget, which it submits to the Diocesan Convention for its consideration and adoption. The Council consists of the Bishop, who serves as its President; the President of the Standing Committee; the Treasurer; the Chair of each Convocation of the Diocese; along with six clergy and twelve lay members elected by the Diocesan Convention to three-year terms.

Diocesan Corporation

The Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas is a nonprofit benevolent and charitable association organized under Texas law. The Corporation holds title to all real property acquired for the use of the Church in the Diocese, including all parishes, missions, and other Diocesan institutions. The Corporation may also receive, hold, and administer funds and properties acquired by gift for the use and benefit of the Diocese. The Corporation's affairs are administered by a seven-member Board of Trustees made up of lay members in good standing and clergy members canonically resident in the Diocese. Trustees are elected to five-year terms by the Diocesan Convention. The Bishop serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

University of the South Seminary Trustees

The Episcopal Diocese of Dallas is one of 27 Episcopal dioceses who make up the Board of Trustees for the University of the South. Bishop George Sumner and Assistant Bishop Michael Smith serve as Trustees. The Diocesan Convention elects three other Trustees, one clergy and two lay, to three-year terms.

DIOCESAN COMMISSIONS

Commission on Ministry

Assists the Bishop in matters pertaining to the enlistment and selection of persons for ordained ministry; interviews those discerning a call to Holy Orders and makes recommendations to the Bishop; assists discerners in their journey through the discernment process; facilitates discernment by the laity for lay ministry.

Evangelism Commission

Provides workshops, resources, and support to equip parishes to share the good news of the Gospel; supports parish-level visioning to develop an evangelism outreach plan; provides resources to help parishes engage with seekers.

Racial Healing, Justice & Reconciliation Commission

Seeks to equip parishes to be agents of healing, justice and reconciliation in their lives and communities; provides theological, historical, and sociological formation on the issue of race; promotes change through prayer, discernment, education, relationships, and action.

Commission on Episcopal Schools

Establishes guidelines and standards for the establishment, recognition, and certification of all Episcopal Schools operating in the Diocese; works to promote a Christ-centered education in the Episcopal Schools; provides resources and assistance for churches in establishing Episcopal Schools and strengthening their school's mission.

Disaster Planning & Preparedness Commission

Promotes awareness and provides resources to assist parishes in advance planning to respond to natural disasters that affect our Diocese or nearby areas.

Clergy Family Commission

Provides opportunities for fellowship and special events to the clergy family community in the Diocese.

CONVOCATIONS

The Episcopal Diocese of Dallas is divided into six geographic Convocations

Central Convocation

Dallas County between Stemmons Freeway, Woodall-Rodgers Freeway and Central Expressway

Eastern Convocation

Dallas County east of Central Expressway plus Rockwall County

Northeastern Convocation

The Counties of Lamar, Delta, Hopkins, Rains, Wood, Upshur, Camp, Franklin, Titus, Morris, Cass, Bowie, Red River

Northern Convocation

The counties of Grayson, Fannin, Denton, Collin, Hunt

Southern Convocation

The counties of Kaufman, Van Zandt, Henderson, Navarro, Ellis

Western Convocation

Dallas County west and south of Stemmons Freeway, south of Woodall-Rodgers Freeway and west of Central Expressway

MINISTRIES OF OUR DIOCESE

Safe Church, Safe Communities

The obligation to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being is binding for all the baptized. The authority with which leaders—ordained persons and adults who minister with minors (children and youth) and vulnerable adults, as well as youth in leadership roles—are entrusted, creates an inherent power imbalance in the pastoral relationship. This power imbalance derives from the leadership role and, in the case of clergy, the symbolic authority of an ordained person. Christian leadership is intended to provide occasions for guidance and grace, and its abuse is always and unequivocally wrong.

In response to the Safe Church Model Policies that were adopted by The Episcopal Church in 2017, the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas has adopted its own policy to protect children, youth, and vulnerable adults.



Evangelism Initiative

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave His followers a final charge, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15). Our baptismal covenant asks, "Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?" We respond, "I will with God's help."

The Evangelism Initiative exists to equip parishes throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas to share the good news that God in Christ is reconciling the world to himself, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our charge is to equip, resource and encourage all toward the work of human flourishing: the salvation and healing of souls and bodies. The Evangelism Leadership Network is a network of clergy and lay leaders in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas who are dedicated to being further equipped for evangelism and outreach. These



individuals serve as evangelism leaders in their respective parishes. Workshops to equip parishes and missions include Sharing Our Faith, Engaging the Questions, and Mission Vision. Canon Evangelist Carrie Headington and others from the Evangelism Leadership Network are available to preach and speak at Sunday services, outreach events, adult education, retreats and seeker series. They are also available to consult with parish leadership and explore together how to best reach out to surrounding communities with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Affiliated Parishes of North East Texas (APNET)

This is a unique ministry focused on rural parishes in our Diocese. Congregations worship in their own space and retain their own structures, but they also share clergy and other resources. The members worship and fellowship together at special times.

The Episcopal Foundation of Dallas

Established in 1950, the Episcopal Foundation of Dallas (the “Foundation”) was created to invest and administer the trust funds of the Diocese and its parishes and missions. The Foundation is overseen by a Board of Trustees comprised of members with expertise in finance, law, accounting, commercial and private equity investing, philanthropy and marketing. The Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas serves as an ex-officio member of the Board.

In addition to providing investment services, the Foundation offers direct financial support to the Diocesan community through an annual grant program funded from the Episcopal Fund, the Foundation’s own unrestricted endowment. Since its establishment in 1964, this program has awarded over \$3 million in grants to the Episcopal community.

Harvest Prayer Network

The Harvest Prayer Network is an intercessory prayer movement birthed in the Episcopal Church to mobilize the power of prayer for evangelism and ministry in our parishes.

Communion Partners

Current and past Diocesan, Suffragan, and Assisting Bishops in the Diocese are members of this episcopal-led fellowship of individuals in the provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

All parishes and missions in the Diocese that have an active men’s group are encouraged to participate with the Brotherhood and those that do not have an active men’s group are encouraged to form one.

The Order of the Daughters of the King

This is a spiritual sisterhood of women dedicated to a life of Prayer, Service and Evangelism. We have made a commitment to Jesus as our Savior, and we follow Him as Lord of our lives.



Gateway of Grace

A ministry for refugees led by The Rev. Dr. Samira Page.

Greater Dallas Coalition

The Greater Dallas Coalition exists to see the flourishing of the under-resourced southern sector of Dallas. The organizations and individuals that comprise the coalition come from a wide range of Christian traditions. Some are denominational, others are independent. Some are charismatic, others liturgical. In all things this group agrees on the fundamentals of faith as they share ministry with the worldwide Church.

Jubilee Ministry

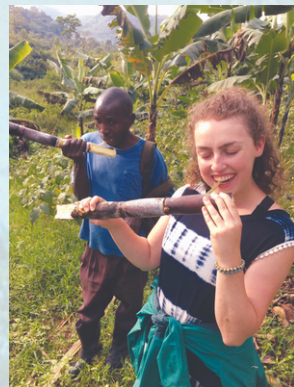
To be a ministry of joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people, wherever they are found, to meet basic human needs and build a just society. Diocesan Jubilee officer is The Rev. Rosemary Trei, our Archdeacon.

The Open Table

The ministry, which was born out of a Methodist Church, is about helping people who are in some sort of transition by providing them with small group support and accountability. The person being helped is considered the CEO who creates a plan for their life and the team members serve as a board of directors.

Global Mission

The Diocese maintains a working relationship with the wider Anglican Church through attendance at Global mission conferences and mission trips with groups such as The Kellerman Foundation. The Kellermann Foundation's mission is to provide resources for health, education, spiritual outreach and economic empowerment for the benefit of the Batwa and adjacent communities. Bishop Sumner has developed additional pathways of partnership through dioceses in the Global South.



Kairos Prison Ministry

Kairos is an inter-denominational Christian prison ministry that presents the Gospel of Jesus Christ to incarcerated individuals during a retreat-like weekend. The offender-participants are formed into “prayer and share groups” where they make themselves accountable to each other for their Christian lives. Kairos team members make return visits to support and encourage the participants in their ongoing accountability and fellowship meetings. The result is the formation of a Christian community within the facility that in the power of the Holy Spirit helps offenders make positive change and transform their lives. Clergy and laity of the diocese are ministering in the maximum-security units of Beto, Michael, and Coffield; the Hutchins State Jail; and the Lane Murry and O’Daniel women’s units.

Foreign Language Worship

The Dallas Diocese benefits from a culturally diverse population that includes a high number of immigrants and refugees from all corners of the world. As a result, some of our parishes offer services in Spanish, Farsi, and Igbo. Other congregations such as those from the Sudan and from Myanmar (Burma) have blended into our churches with services in English.

Farsi

Grace Community, Plano

Nigerian (Igbo)

Emmanuel Anglican, Garland

South Sudanese (Dinka)

St. Philip's, Dallas

Spanish

Christ Church, Dallas

San Francisco de Asis, Dallas

San Bernabe, Garland

San Marcos, Mount Pleasant

St. Mary's, Irving

Holy Family, McKinney

Iglesia De La Santa Natividad, McKinney



CONGREGATIONS OF OUR DIOCESE

In 2023, the 62 congregations making up the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas ranged in ASA from 11 to 965, and in location from urban to rural. Whether family size or resource size, our parishes and missions are active and enthusiastic. There is a lot going on!

We encourage you to explore the stories and ministries of the wonderful clergy and parishioners in our Diocese.

ASA = 0-74 Family
 ASA = 75-149 Pastoral
 ASA = 150-224 Transitional
 ASA = 225-349 Program
 ASA = 350-799 Small Resource
 ASA = 800 + Large Resource

Congregation	City	ASA	Congregation	City	ASA
@ St. Matthias	Athens	36	Emmanuel Anglican	Garland	75
@ Holy Trinity	Bonham	12	Holy Trinity	Garland	67
@ St. Justin the Martyr	Canton	21	St. Barnabas/San Bernabe	Garland	130
@ Good Shepherd	Cedar Hill	55	St. Paul's	Greenville	58
@ Apostles	Coppell	91	Holy Trinity by the Lake	Heath	137
@ St. John's	Corsicana	102	Redeemer	Irving	62
@ Ascension	Dallas	140	St. Mark's	Irving	53
@ Christ	Dallas	150	St. Mary's	Irving	86
Good Samaritan	Dallas	22	Our Merciful Saviour	Kaufman	19
@ Good Shepherd	Dallas	220	St. James on the Lake	Kemp	50
@ Incarnation	Dallas	965	Annunciation	Lewisville	181
Our Saviour	Dallas	11	Holy Family	McKinney	18
@ San Francisco	Dallas	355	Santa Natividad	McKinney	121
@ St. Augustine	Dallas	87	St. Andrew's	McKinney	255
@ St. Christopher's	Dallas	36	St. Peter's	McKinney	252
@ St. James	Dallas	162	St. Dunstan's	Mineola	64
@ St. John's	Dallas	183	St. Mark's	Mount Pleasant	29
@ St. Luke's	Dallas	71	Holy Cross	Paris	76
@ St. Matthew's Cathedral	Dallas	162	St. William Laud	Pittsburg	27
@ St. Michael & All Angels	Dallas	887	Grace Community	Plano	40
St. Philip's Sudanese	Dallas	119	Holy Nativity	Plano	39
@ St. Thomas the Apostle	Dallas	72	St. John the Apostle	Pottsboro	51
@ Transfiguration	Dallas	499	St. Paul's	Prosper	214
@ St. Luke's	Denison	61	Epiphany	Richardson	232
@ St. Barnabas	Denton	59	St. Stephen's	Sherman	27
@ St. David of Wales	Denton	171	St. Philip's	Sulphur Springs	29
@ St. Anne	DeSoto	107	Good Shepherd	Terrell	58
@ St. Thomas	Ennis	43	St. James	Texarkana	151
@ St. Andrew's	Farmers Branch	45	St. Paul	Waxahachie	135
@ St. Nicholas	Flower Mound	95	St. Francis	Winnsboro	11
@ St. Philip's	Frisco	420			

EDOD EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS

School	City	Ages	Parish Affiliation
Ascension Day School	Dallas	Preschool	Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Cathedral Montessori School	Dallas	Preschool	The Cathedral Church of St. Matthew
Episcopal School of Dallas	Dallas	PreK-12	
Good Shepherd School	Dallas	PreK-8	Church of the Good Shepherd
Incarnation Academy	Dallas	Preschool	Church of the Incarnation
Parish Episcopal School	Dallas	PreK-12	
St. Christopher's Montessori	Dallas	Preschool	St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
St. James Montessori	Dallas	Preschool	St. James Episcopal Church
St. John's Episcopal School	Dallas	PreK-8	St. John's Episcopal Church
Saint Michael Episcopal School	Dallas	Preschool	Church of St. Michael and All Angels
St. Luke's Parish Day School	Denison	Preschool	St. Luke's Episcopal Church
St. Philip's Episcopal Preschool	Frisco	Preschool	St. Philip's Episcopal Church
St. Paul's Episcopal School	Greenville	Preschool	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Redeemer Montessori School	Irving	Toddler-6	Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
Montessori Episcopal School	Lewisville	Preschool	Church of the Annunciation
Holy Family School	McKinney	Preschool	Church of the Holy Family
Holy Cross Episcopal Day School	Paris	Preschool	Church of the Holy Cross
St. Paul's Episcopal School	Prosper	Preschool	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
St. James Day School	Texarkana	PreK-7	St. James Episcopal Church

KEY STATISTICS

2023 Baptisms and Confirmations

As of August 16, 2024

391 Baptisms

Clergy

465 Confirmations

144 Male Active and Retired Clergy

49 Female Active and Retired Clergy

101 Active Priests and Deacons

92 Retired Priests and Deacons



Ordinations	2022	2023	2024 YTD
Permanent Diaconate	2	0	0
Transitional Diaconate	13	2	1
Priest	10	5	4

FINANCIALS

Our proposed 2025 diocesan budget of \$4,237,445 is supported through parish assessment revenue (92%) and grants and other interest income (8%).

We visualize our operating expenses against three key strategic pillars set forth by Bishop Sumner.

Flourishing

Grants and resources for congregational development and youth ministry, along with new programs to support our churches in their efforts of evangelism, stewardship and financial organization.

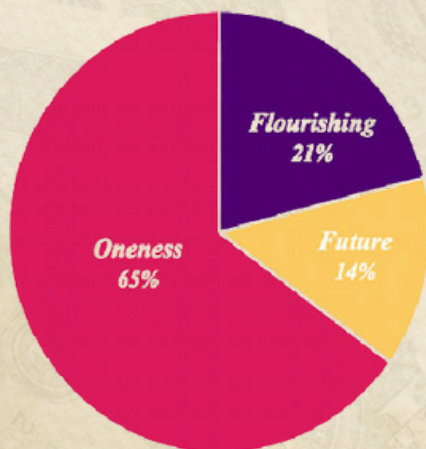
For the Future

Future-focused investments such as clergy vocations and development, evangelism, Christian formation, renewal, mission, and a return to a priority of planting new churches.

Oneness

Support for Episcopal Church ministries, ecumenical and diocesan commitments, and funding a diverse staff of ministry, programs and administration. The work of staff directly relates to our ability to provide support to the broader diocese. In this area we have rearranged the budget, bringing the entire staff into one section to more clearly define the important investment of our talented "human resources."

Diocese of Dallas
2025 Operating Expenses



REVENUE	2024	2025
Parish	3,688,977	3,887,597
Grants	215,000	330,000
Other	80,000	20,000
TOTAL	3,911,977	4,237,597

EXPENSES	2024	2025
FLOURISHING		
Congregational Support	939,511	828,500
Youth Ministry	80,500	83,500
FOR THE FUTURE		
Clergy Development	411,400	419,000
Church Planting	85,000	87,300
Evangelism and Mission	87,000	75,600
ONENESS		
Episcopal Church Ministries	543,000	603,000
Ecumenical and Dio	113,979	106,000
Office of the Episcopate	77,500	214,000
Diocesan Staff Expenses	12,500	10,000
Personnel - Episcopate & Admin	1,302,173	1,454,245
Diocesan House Expense	278,954	356,300
TOTAL	3,931,517	4,237,445

SURVEY AND LISTENING SESSIONS

To inform this search and our path forward, the Diocese of Dallas, assisted by [Holy Cow! Consulting](#), performed a diocesan wide survey in July. Our 1,835 responses represents all 62 parishes and missions, equivalent to 23% of 2023 diocesan ASA of 8,026.

We conducted nine listening sessions (eight in person, one virtually) across the diocese during August and September. Two sessions were for priests, one was for deacons, four were held regionally for laity, one was for EDOD staff, and a final virtual session was for those unable to attend the previous sessions. Our listening sessions shared feedback from the survey results, providing the opportunity to celebrate our successes and hear firsthand about the challenges and opportunities in our diocese.

We learned from both the survey and the listening sessions that there is energy and excitement in our diocese to spread the gospel and transform lives. Those who work and volunteer in the Diocese of Dallas have high morale, high engagement, and feel the diocese is doing a good job supporting its congregations. The diocese has found success in the recruitment and ordination of young clergy and in our church planting. We celebrate the expansion of our foreign language services and congregations in response to our changing demographics. There is joy in taking classes and teaching at Stanton Institute for Theological Education. We enjoy collegial opportunities such as [APNET](#), [RADVO](#), clergy gatherings, [summer camp](#) and diocesan committee work. Yet the longing for increased collegiality, particularly among clergy, is strong.

We discovered that people's perception of the diocese was highly correlated with the following factors. If people perceive the Diocese is performing well in these areas, then the data suggests that their perception of the Diocese improves, while poor performance diminishes satisfaction and energy levels.

Critical Success Factors	
What would increase Satisfaction? <i>Peaceful Contentment</i>	What would increase Energy? <i>Passion & Purpose</i>
• Our Diocese leadership has done a good job of developing a shared vision that unites us. • The whole spirit in our Diocese makes people want to get as involved. • Our Diocese is effective in recognizing trends in the larger society and in helping us adapt. • In important decisions in our Diocese, adequate opportunity for consideration of different approaches is usually provided. • I trust our Diocesan leadership to provide strong and competent support to my congregation during challenging times.	• There is not a disturbing amount of conflict in our Diocese. • I experience a high level of collegiality as members work together in various Diocesan functions. • Our Diocese leadership has done a good job of developing a shared vision that unites us. • Most important decisions about what our Diocese should do as a whole are really made by the same, small group of people. • Persons serving in various Diocesan endeavors exhibit a genuine hospitality toward one another and new persons

The top three priorities identified in the survey and listening sessions for our leadership were to:

- Equip Clergy and other leaders in congregations that enable them to reach new members
- Take a leadership role in working with churches that are struggling, and
- Cultivate a higher level of trust within our Diocese.

Members of the Diocese expressed that we had missed opportunities to recruit and retain a more diverse group of clergy, particularly women, Latinos, and vocational deacons. Given our recent turnover in the Canon to the Ordinary role, our clergy expressed a desire for a “Pastor to the Pastors.”



Evangelism and Outreach emerged as a common theme. Members of our Diocese seek engagement in global Anglican communion and inter-diocesan collaboration. They also wish to increase collaborative efforts across denominations. We heard the desire to do additional outreach to the disadvantaged, diverse communities, and rural areas. Church planting remains a priority.

Children, youth, and family programming are also a priority for Diocese of Dallas parishioners. They crave the enhancement of youth programs, leadership initiatives, and feel we’ve not done enough to foster college ministry. For financial reasons, the diocese transferred its camp lease with the caveat that it could still be utilized for a month each summer for camp. So even though summer camp continues, we heard grieving over this decision.

We heard feedback on desires for the diocesan staff. This included increasing staffing and the time devoted to congregational development, a need for increased staff cohesion, and encouragement to streamline diocesan administrative practices, including better communication and budget alignment with mission goals.



Our diocese tends to stick to established ways of doing things and is slow to change, so frustration was expressed regarding how the diocese adapted to COVID and its speed in responding to other social issues.

Diversity and inclusivity across a multitude of markers is seen as another opportunity. Several groups—smaller churches, rural churches, the three alternative oversight parishes, members of the LGBTQ+ community, refugees, and people of color—expressed themes of disconnection. A desire to have more resources and services accessible in other languages was also a recurring theme. At listening sessions, some advocated for the inclusion of same-sex partnerships and marriage teachings; others wished to retain traditional beliefs on marriage as outlined in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.

Given these differences, the change management skills and conflict management skills of our Diocesan Bishop and Bishop Coadjutor will be essential. The survey and listening sessions revealed a need for strategic leadership that provides a strong shared vision, strong communication, and support for churches during times of change. We seek leadership development that supports different approaches in decision-making, listening to and understanding others, building trust, and having strong representation of the overall diocese. We hope our new bishop will cultivate relationships and manage differences in healthy ways, growing a sense of hospitality across the Diocese, and enabling us to focus our efforts on supporting spiritual growth.

Our diocese is geographically large and diverse and our people come from different political and theological persuasions. There can be significant challenges in this, but also an incredible opportunity to build gracious fellowship and community that transcends these divisions as the Body of Christ, united in a common mission.



WE ARE RESURRECTION PEOPLE

The mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. We have the privilege of being the Church in a time of both great need and great hope. Where the eyes of the world might see risk and decline, the church sees opportunity for life and life to the full. We are called, then, to see our challenges and opportunities through Gospel lenses.

Challenge

Profound loneliness, isolation, despair, and polarization exist in our society, along with declining literacy in the Christian worldview. This prompts us to teach, lead, and model the Gospel more thoroughly, and to bear witness to the hope of Christ.

Opportunities

- Teach and inspire us to live out God's call
- Provide clergy training and collegiality around ministering in our cultural contexts
- Deepen discipleship for all ages
- Promote and provide community, healing, and prayer

Challenge

ASAs, which have not yet recovered from pandemic declines, remind us that we must be zealous in renewing our evangelistic fervor.

Opportunities

- Emphasize church planting
- Train and equip clergy and lay members for evangelism
- Raise up leaders with a heart for the lost
- Engage with and grow our diverse parishes and missions

Challenge

The differences between us, which at times threaten connection, remind us that we are Christ's Body – his hands and feet to the world—and that we are whole only through him.

Opportunities

- Unify our Diocese
- Build trust within our Diocese
- Model Christ's love for his body through relationship



Challenge

Reduced financial resources across the Diocese lead us into better stewardship and more profound generosity in service of our kingdom mission.

Opportunities

- Provide assistance, resources, and training for church renewal
- Evaluate Diocesan structure to emphasize training for and understanding of stewardship and generosity
- Consider creative pooling of resources for flourishing
- Grow diaconal ministry

The Episcopal Diocese of Dallas is energized to confront the challenges of our era, and we are eager to welcome a Bishop Coadjutor who will join Bishop Sumner to unite us around a shared vision of growth and evangelism.

Psalm 133:1

How good and pleasing it is
when God's people live together in unity!



TIMELINE FOR SEARCH PROCESS

October 10	Nomination Process Opens
October 31	Nomination Process Closes
November – December	Interviewing Process
January	Semi-Finalists Selected
February	Discernment Retreat
March	Candidates Selected and Published
March	Petition Process is Opened and Completed
March - April	Final Slate is Published
March - April	Walk Abouts for Candidates to Visit Diocese
May 3, 2025	Special Election Convention <i>St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church</i>
Late Fall 2025	Consecration Held After Obtaining Consents



Visit the [Coadjutor Election Hub](#) for Nomination Forms
and additional communications from the Search Committee.

