



# SPECIAL CONVENTION

Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church Dallas, Texas May 3, 2025



Almighty and everlasting Father, who hast given the Holy Spirit to abide with us for ever: Bless, we beseech thee, with his grace and presence, the bishops and the other clergy and the laity assembled in thy Name, that thy Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may fulfill all the mind of him who loved it and gave himself for it, thy Son Jesus Christ our Savior; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



The Episcopal Diocese of DALLAS



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Rt. Rev. George R. Sumner  
Bishop of the Diocese of Dallas

Diocesan Staff and Volunteers

Saint Michael and All Angels, our generous and gracious host

### STANDING COMMITTEE

The Rev. Perry Mullins, St. Peter's, McKinney, President  
Jolayne Lacour, St. David of Wales, Denton  
The Rev. Terry Reisner, Epiphany, Richardson  
Tom Graves, Incarnation, Dallas  
The Rev. Paul Nesta, St. David of Wales, Denton  
Tim Mack, St. Matthew's Cathedral

### SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Rev. Clayton Elder, St. Philip's, Frisco, President  
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Tony Briggles, St. Michael and All Angels, Dallas  
Cathleen Dolt, St. James, Dallas  
The Rev. Mark Hall, St. Matthew's Cathedral, Dallas  
The Rev. David Houk, St. John's, Dallas  
The Rev. Ian Hyde, Good Shepherd, Terrell  
Adele Ichilian, St. Matthew's Cathedral, Dallas  
Jolayne LaCour, St. David of Wales, Denton  
Matt Lewis, Church of the Incarnation, Dallas  
Stevi McCoy, Transfiguration, Dallas  
The Rev. Noe Mendez, Santa Natividad, McKinney  
The Rev. Cynthia Moore, St. Mark's, Mt. Pleasant  
The Rev. Perry Mullins, St. Peter's, McKinney  
The Rev. Samira Page, Gateway of Grace, Dallas  
Hal Richards, Good Shepherd, Terrell  
Wendy Skorborg, Good Shepherd, Cedar Hill  
The Rev. Kate Smith, St. Paul's, Prosper  
Lee Spence, St. Dunston's, Mineola  
Lance Taylor, St. Philip's, Frisco  
The Rev. Andrew Van Kirk, St. Andrew's, McKinney





## The Episcopal Diocese of DALLAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ. First, I want to appreciate the diocesan process for electing and consecrating a bishop coadjutor. In Acts 1 the apostle Matthias was chosen by lot, so the steps have gotten a bit more complicated in the intervening 2,000 years!

But in another way our process is the same. We still invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and we will believe that the laity, that is, the people, play a prominent role. The key gift, and goal, are discernment of the person who will guard, encourage, envision, and exemplify for us.

The search and electing committees, the standing committee and the staff, have all played their appointed roles. Prayer has surrounded each step. The candidates have their role too, to be candid and thoughtful about the future God is summoning us to, and how they imagine they might aid us. Though I was away, I am sure that, in the walkabout, comida and barbeque made their appearances, as well as humor and esprit.

Thank you to St. Michael and All Angels for their hospitality! We appreciate that this day is a convention, which means a coming together as one. I pray the election itself might be at once joyful and solemn, a kind of liturgy. I thank you in advance for your time, prayers, and heart for our mission. I am confident that the person we choose will proclaim to and for us the Gospel of amazing grace in the Lord Jesus,

Peace.

The Rt. Rev. George R. Sumner  
Bishop of the Diocese of Dallas

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# PROPOSED ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 7 a.m. Registration and coffee in the porte-cochère
- 8 a.m. Call to Order on convention floor, Nave  
Report of the Credentials Committee – Quorum Report  
Report of the Dispatch of Business  
Election of Secretary  
Bishop's Appointments  
Report of the Standing Committee
- 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Nave  
*Guest Celebrant and Preacher*  
*The Rt. Rev. Edward Little, Diocese of Northern Indiana, retired*
- 9:45 a.m. Convention reconvenes, Nave  
Election procedures and voting  
Report of the Credentials Committee:  
    Updated Quorum Report  
Voting begins
- \*\*Voting ends**
- Signing of Testimonials  
Greeting of the Bishop Coadjutor-Elect to convention  
Courtesy Resolutions  
Closing Prayers  
Adjournment  
Dismissal

*\*\*Lunch If the chair determines that a lunch break is required, the chair will put the convention in recess, announcing to all delegates and clergy the time at which convention will reconvene. Lunch, if needed, will be on one's own, off-campus.*

# RULES OF ORDER

## FOR THE ELECTION OF THE BISHOP COADJUTOR OF DALLAS

1. These Rules of Order for the election of the Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, adopted pursuant to Article 8 of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, and shall apply during the Convention for the Election of a Bishop Coadjutor (“Electing Convention”) scheduled to take place May 3, 2025.

2. These Rules accede to the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and of the Diocese of Dallas (collectively, “the Canons”). Except where inconsistent with the Canons or these Rules, Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, the latest edition, shall govern the business proceedings of the Convention. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Convention may, by unanimous consent, take any action not inconsistent with the Canons.

3. The Electing Convention shall be presided over by the Rt. Rev. George Sumner, Bishop of the Diocese of Dallas, Ecclesiastical Authority, and President of the Electing Convention, or his designee.

4. The Convention shall only consider nominees of the Search Committee and any additional nominees resulting from the Nomination by Petition Process conducted by the Standing Committee prior to the Convention. Such nominees shall have been subject to appropriate background checks supervised by the Search Committee or Standing Committee, and a summary of the results of those background checks shall be reported to Convention. There shall be no further nominees for Bishop Coadjutor and no nominations from the floor of the Electing Convention.

5. Those entitled to vote are duly certified Lay Delegates and Canonically Resident Clergy in good standing.

6. The nominees shall not be present at the Electing Convention. Prior to the commencement of the election process, there shall be identified to the President of Convention a person who shall be the authorized representative of each nominee. Such person shall have authority to continue or withdraw the name of the candidate from further consideration of the Convention at any time. Failure to identify such an authorized representative to the President of Convention, or the substantial absence of such representative thereafter, shall, at the discretion of the President, constitute a withdrawal of the nominee from the process.



## RULES OF ORDER - PAGE 2

7. Voting will take place using an electronic voting platform. The President of the Electing Convention will provide a process by which a nominee entitled to vote may cast a vote while not present at the Electing Convention.

8. Speeches and floor debates and demonstrations shall not be allowed, except as permitted at the discretion of the President of the Convention. If a member of the electing convention wishes to speak on any question or deliver any matter to the Convention, the member shall rise to the microphone and area provided and wait to be recognized by the President or his designee.

9. Written materials submitted by each Nominee shall be available to members of the Convention in both electronic and (if requested) paper form, and no nominating speeches shall be permitted at Convention.

10. Following the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, there shall be a First Ballot for the election of Bishop Coadjutor, and successive ballots thereafter as necessary, until the Bishop Coadjutor is elected. The time permitted between ballots, as well as the order of silence, prayer, music, or other activity between ballots, shall be determined by the President of the Electing Convention. If no nominee achieves the required majority in both Orders by 5:30 PM Central Standard Time, or if the President concludes that the stalemate shall likely not be resolved without significant time for further discernment, reflection, and prayer, the President may place Convention in recess and thereafter announce a date, time and location to reconvene.

11. A Nominee may withdraw from consideration at any time during the Convention by means of oral communication, email, or other electronic means with their designated representative to Convention, with a signed letter of withdrawal to follow, prior to the next ballot. If the President of Convention is satisfied as to the legitimacy of the withdrawal, the President may postpone or dispense with the requirement of the withdrawal letter. No nominee shall be removed from a successive ballot for failure to achieve a certain number of votes on a previous ballot.

12. Members of Convention shall not have any communication with members of the press while the Electing Convention is in session. The President of Convention and the President of the Standing Committee shall be the official spokespersons for Diocesan communications with the press concerning this Episcopal election. The floor of the Convention is restricted to those entitled to vote, officers of the Diocese, convention staff and volunteers, a nominee's authorized representative, and others necessary to the orderly operation of the Convention, as the President of the Convention sees fit in his

discretion. A space for observing the Convention through remote means will be provided.

13. During the Electing Convention, no participant shall communicate in any way (e.g. by phone, email, text, social media, or by any other communication application or device) to anyone other than members of Convention about the business of the Electing Convention, except as authorized by the President of Convention.

14. In each ballot, the eligible Clergy and Lay Delegates shall vote electronically and separately by Orders. The vote required for an election shall be determined in accordance with Article 16 of the Constitution of the Diocese (a copy of which is appended to these Rules).

15. When the Secretary has reviewed the balloting and determined its validity, the Secretary shall report to the President the total number of votes cast in each Order, the number necessary to constitute an election in that Order, and the number of votes cast for each Nominee. The Secretary shall verify the presence or absence of the required majority in each order and shall pass all the information to the President. The results will be shared with each Nominee's representative.

16. The President shall announce the report of the Secretary to the Convention after confirming that Nominees have received the results. When a Nominee has received the appropriate number of votes in both the clerical and lay orders based upon the number necessary to constitute an election, and the Nominee has received such information from their representative, the President shall announce the report of the tellers to the Convention and then, jointly with the President of the Standing Committee, shall declare the Nominee elected.

17. Immediately following the election, while the Electing Convention remains in session, the President of the Convention shall arrange to have the signatures of a constitutional majority of the Convention affixed to the testimonial required by Canon III.11.3(a) of the Episcopal Church, attesting to the due and lawful election of the Bishop Coadjutor. The testimonial shall be in substantially the form appended hereto.

18. These Rules of Order shall be effective when adopted by a majority vote of the Executive Council. Once adopted, they may not thereafter be suspended or amended except upon motion duly made and seconded, and approved by two-thirds vote of the Electing Convention.



## RULES OF ORDER - PAGE 4

These rules were duly adopted by formal action of the Executive Council on April 8, 2025

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Secretary, Executive Council  
Episcopal Diocese of Dallas

### TESTIMONIAL OF THE ELECTION OF THE BISHOP COADJUTOR OF DALLAS

We, whose names are hereunder written, fully sensible of how important it is that the Sacred Order and Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that we know of no impediment on account of which the Reverend \_\_\_\_\_ ought not to be ordained to that Holy Office. We do, moreover, jointly and severally declare that we believe the Reverend \_\_\_\_\_ to have been duly and lawfully elected and to be of such sufficiency in learning, of such soundness in the Faith, and of such Godly character as to be able to exercise the Office of a Bishop to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church, and to be a wholesome example to the flock of Christ.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*Excerpt from the Constitution of the Diocese:*

### ARTICLE 16

#### ELECTION OF A BISHOP, BISHOP COADJUTOR OR SUFFRAGAN BISHOP

The election of a Bishop, a Bishop Coadjutor, or a Suffragan Bishop for this Diocese shall take place at the regular meeting of the Convention, or at a special meeting of the Convention called for that purpose. In the election, the vote shall be by ballot and by orders, and concurrent majority of the two orders shall be necessary to a choice if two-thirds of all of the Clergy entitled to vote, who have their principal residence within the Diocese and whose attendance at the Convention has not been excused by the Bishop or the acting Ecclesiastical Authority due to infirmity or other good cause and Lay Delegates from two thirds of the Parishes and Missions entitled to representation are present at the Convention; otherwise, two-thirds of the votes of each order shall be necessary to a choice. In any event, the election may not occur unless a quorum has been determined to exist.

## CANDIDATES



The Rev. Dr. Bill Carroll

The Rev. Dr. Bill Carroll serves as Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Longview, Texas. Baptized in the Episcopal Church as an adult, Fr. Bill has sought to grow disciples and strengthen congregations to share the Good News of Jesus and fulfill our Baptismal Covenant. He is Dean of the Northeast Region of the Diocese of Texas, a trustee of the Episcopal Health Foundation, and a member of the Texas Standing Committee. He was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina. He has previously served as a Rector in the Dioceses of Oklahoma and Southern Ohio, as a Canon to the Ordinary, and on the seminary faculty at Sewanee. He has been married to the Rev. Tracey Carroll for 31 years. Their adult son, Danny, has significant developmental disabilities and lives with them. Their daughter, Rachel McLoughlin, lives with her husband, Alex, in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Certificate in Ignatian Spiritual Direction, Loyola University Chicago  
Ph.D., Christian Theology, The University of Chicago Divinity School  
Certificate in Anglican Studies, The University of the South  
M.Div., The University of Chicago Divinity School  
A.B., Philosophy, Harvard University



## ESSAY QUESTIONS CARROLL

- 1 How have you understood your own call to ministry through the years?  
How do you understand God's call to the next bishop of Dallas?

Not long after I gave my life to Jesus, I was baptized as an adult with the 1979 Prayer Book rite. The foundations of my ministry lie in the grace and covenant of Baptism. The specific form my ministry has taken involved ordination to the priesthood. I was ordained while serving on a seminary faculty. Teaching the Christian Faith remains central to my vocation. But God was calling me to do so as a parish priest, with a focus on growing disciples of Jesus. This change in direction came through personal relationships. Seminarians kept trusting me with profound pastoral care needs. At the request of our dean, I helped with a disciplinary matter involving one of our students. My fears about congregational leadership melted away. I have served as Rector of three parishes. At times, I have followed recent or more distant histories of misconduct and acted to promote healing and integrity in these congregations. This experience laid the foundations for my work as a Standing Committee President, Canon to the Ordinary, and a Title IV intake officer. Along the way, I have learned from my bishops, clergy colleagues, and lay leaders, including exemplary wardens and non-profit executives.

As a Canon, I was involved in the most challenging aspects of our Bishop's ministry. When approached about episcopal elections in the past, I have hesitated, because I am aware of the difficulties that a bishop's ministry involves, as well as its great blessings. At the same time, conversations with my spiritual director have revealed gifts for gathering diverse communities and empowering others to pursue a shared vision. This is what the bishops I admire do. It's all about helping others to serve Jesus Christ faithfully. As I prayed over the profile, I was drawn to the joys and challenges for ministry in the Diocese of Dallas. After consulting with others, I felt called to offer myself for discernment. My excitement about God's possible call for my life has been confirmed through conversations with the search committee, and everything I have been able to learn about the people, clergy, and congregations of the Diocese.

## ESSAY QUESTIONS CARROLL

**2** What excites you most about the life of our diocese and the prospect of shepherding us? Identify a challenge you see for us, also.

I am most excited by the diversity of the people, both inside and beyond existing congregations. The commitment expressed to ministries of evangelism, to the ministry of deacons, and to racial reconciliation is inspiring. So too is the aspiration to renewed ministries of church planting. I would work energetically with our people, clergy, bishops, and staff to build on these commitments.

What I am hearing is a deep desire for a relational leader, who listens to people and cares effectively for everyone. To this end, I would enjoy meeting with people in multiple settings, to build trust and discern opportunities to work together to strengthen the Body of Christ. In my view, the bishop exists to support the ministries of the congregations, developing vision and strategy in close collaboration with our clergy and lay leaders, and supporting those who are carrying out ministry on the ground. This would be my top priority for the period of overlap with Bishop Sumner and beyond. I would hope to learn as much as I could from him, bringing my own perspective to the table. I am confident that God has given us all the gifts we need. There is no challenge we can't face, by God's grace and working together.

The challenges I would see are the flip side of the things that excite me. Today, isolation and distrust are everywhere in our society, often leading to violent divisions. The Bishop needs to be a focus of unity. Christians need to "seek and serve Christ in all persons." Practically, we need to do at least five things: 1) root ourselves more deeply in Jesus and the Baptismal Covenant; 2) host intentional dialog across differences; 3) ensure equitable visitation schedules (both in terms of region and in terms of congregational size); 4) actively raise up new leaders from a variety of backgrounds; and 5) honor the diverse perspectives present in our Diocese, including dissenting ones, to the greatest degree possible.

## ESSAY QUESTIONS CARROLL

### 3 Describe your leadership style and how you have communicated your vision for an organization in the past.

I believe in consultation and collaboration. I rely on focus groups with key stakeholders, parish-wide forums, and surveys. But elected leadership must filter out the noise and look for the good ideas that would spark a change in direction. Day-to-day authority and responsibility for ministry should belong to the people that are actually carrying it out. Vestries, boards, and committees should focus on policy, allocating resources, and removing obstacles. Leaders should define an appropriate process, intervene when necessary, and support the group's work and decisions. The bedrock commitment has to be to build trusting relationships through spending time together, keeping commitments, and communicating clearly. We cannot over-communicate decisions. I believe in repeated, all-channel communication, and that communication should be two ways. Even when it is my decision to make, I prefer to involve others in appropriate ways.

To illustrate this model of leadership, at our parish in Shawnee, I helped lead the silent phase of a capital campaign for much-needed building expansion. To begin with, we gathered all our living senior wardens to assess feasibility. Having taken counsel together, we decided to be bold, realizing that we would be unlikely to entertain another such project for decades. We got advice from our Canon for Development and worked with our architect and the lead donors at the front end of the project. With leadership from our Vestry, the architect then met with the whole parish for a spirited conversation about a design that met our needs. Individual conversations with donors led to \$1.3 million in commitments, all of which held up after I left to join the Bishop's staff. These pledges were supplemented during the public phase of the campaign. With several design changes along the way, the parish was able to complete the \$2 million project with my successor's leadership. By trusting God and working as a team, we were able to do far more than we could "ask or imagine" on our own.



## CANDIDATES



The Rt. Rev. Fraser Lawton

The Rt. Rev. Fraser Lawton is the rector of the Church of St. Dunstan in Mineola, TX., and Bishop Assistant in the Diocese of Dallas. In this latter role, his main ministry is with the congregations of the Affiliated Parishes of North East Texas (APNET), which is a cooperative venture of congregations walking and working with one another. Before coming to East Texas, Bishop Lawton served in the Diocese of Athabasca in the Anglican Church of Canada. After being ordained there as both deacon and priest, he was selected as its Bishop Diocesan in the fall of 2009. In 2018, he and his wife, Veronica, spent several months on a sabbatical in the Diocese of Dallas. While here, he was asked to consider taking on his current position here, and after a time of discernment, perceived God was indeed calling them to Dallas. Bishop Lawton has been married to Veronica for 36 years, and they have four grown children and three grandchildren.

Advanced High School Diploma, St Joseph's High School, Grande Prairie, Alberta,  
B.Sc., University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
M.Div., College of Emmanuel and St Chad, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

## ESSAY QUESTIONS LAWTON

- 1 How have you understood your own call to ministry through the years?  
How do you understand God's call to the next bishop of Dallas?

I truly believe God has not only called me to ordained ministry – something I first sensed as a pre-teen – but has also carried me and given the grace to live it out. Ministry is a trust and privilege: a gift and charge from and for Him, and not my own possession or career. I treasure the great inheritance of the Church and its wisdom. My heart has always been to form, teach, disciple, and encourage the people of God. I am deeply conscious of my need to rely on the Holy Spirit and His grace to know any “success”. I experience great joy in seeing and knowing people encounter God and receive His grace. Ministry is something accomplished by the body of Christ working and worshipping together. We are a corporate entity, needing to rely on one another. One of the prime calls of ministry is to help the people know the truth of this, to encourage and empower, and together be active in the work of the kingdom.

The next bishop of Dallas will need to keep “the main thing the main thing,” not allowing “urgent” issues to shift our focus from the Great Commission. This person will have the tremendous gift of building on a sound foundation and established strength of the diocese. At the same time, we are able to be innovative and creative. Being gospel-centered and Spirit-empowered must not only be concepts, but lived experience, especially as the reality of cultural change is only going to accelerate and may well grow even more hostile to the gospel. We need not fear, but we need to be wise and purposeful. Deepening and developing relationship and unified mission are key to our future. Dallas is a unique and essential asset for TEC and the Communion. We need to treasure and nurture what we are, for our future and the good of the whole church.

## ESSAY QUESTIONS LAWTON

**2** What excites you most about the life of our diocese and the prospect of shepherding us? Identify a challenge you see for us, also.

I love the people of this diocese, and the thought of deeper relationship and the chance to participate in their ministries and parish lives fills me with joy. The people and parishes of Dallas are welcoming, loving, devout, gifted, thoughtful Christians. This diocese is blessed to have so many awesome resources – especially the people –already in place. We have a solid foundation on which to build. We have an emphasis on mission and prayer, with the key asset of an established core of intercessors. There are many creative ideas and approaches to ministry and the gospel. There is a commitment to on-the-ground participation in the lives of the people in our cities. The diocese doesn't simply think or talk about ministry, but we actually do things. There remains something of the exciting frontier spirit here. Dallas has also been blessed with a significant place within the Episcopal church and in communion-wide relationships. We are a bridge across borders and an example of being the church catholic. Dallas has been blessed in so many ways, with an abundance of resources, intelligence, experience, connections, grace, and the presence of God. That is not to say we are yet perfect. We need to improve our "togetherness" – we sometimes share the trait of congregationalism and self-focus. This was raised in several ways in the survey process. Drawing people together in mission and mutuality are exciting things for me, and have always been part of my ministry. I am excited by the prospect of joining together in a vision of mission and deepening relationships. Key to this is nurturing those between leaders and parishes. I feel excited and energized at these, as I believe my gifts and experience are a good fit for these challenges and by the knowledge of our strength and potential.



## ESSAY QUESTIONS LAWTON

### 3 Describe your leadership style and how you have communicated your vision for an organization in the past.

The foundation of my leadership is my own relationship with Jesus and the charge to encourage others in their relationship with him and to always be directed to focus on the gospel. Integrity with the gospel always takes priority in decisions and direction. I always seek discernment, and ask the Lord to lead me in what I do and say for the good of His church. I often seek counsel and the wisdom of others as part of the process. As far as possible within that frame, I seek consensus and to build relationships. This is why I prefer to take time to prayerfully consider situations and not rush to action. My personality is introverted and I am a thinker. While I seek all the data and information I can, I do operate out of intuition. Once settled on a matter, I will persevere in it. I am non-confrontational, and generally am gentle and encouraging. I prefer to help people discover, rather than simply dictate. As necessary, I am directive and firm. Rules (for example, canons) exist for a reason and are an asset and gift to us.

Vision must be biblically based and empowered and led by the Holy Spirit. Imposed vision is not shared vision. I have found success in sharing vision by taking time at the outset to engage with people in teaching and conversation to set the context, need, and direction. This is a multi-step process involving various groups and settings – clergy gatherings, parish gathering, intentional gatherings. It is helpful to have a simple, understandable, and sharable expression to reinforce it. The next step is to make use of multi-faceted opportunities to repeat and encourage people not only in the concept, but especially in practical applications. To truly be vision, it must direct our decisions, actions, and budget and be usefully practical and for people to feel blessed in living into it.

## CANDIDATES



The Very Rev. Rob Price

The Very Rev. Rob Price was born and raised in San Diego as a Methodist "preacher's kid." After receiving a B.A. and M.A. in American History from Stanford University, he became a teacher in a private school in St. Louis, where he met his wife, Kate. Though an atheist, he was welcomed into the Episcopal Church at Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis. He then entered a Ph.D. program in History at Yale University before he met the Risen Jesus and heard a call to ministry. After completing his M.Div. at Yale, he served on the staff of churches in St. Louis and Dallas and as the Rector of St. Dunstan's, Houston, for 13 years. In January 2019 he accepted the invitation from the Bishop and Vestry to begin a new chapter as Dean at St. Matthew's Cathedral and served as Canon for Congregations, as well, from 2020-2022. Along the way, he and Kate have had three boys who are now young adults: Matt, Thomas, and Chris.

Yale Divinity School, Master of Divinity  
Berkeley Divinity School, Diploma of Anglican Studies  
Yale University, Master of Arts in History  
Stanford University, Master of Arts in History  
Stanford University, Bachelor of Arts in History

## ESSAY QUESTIONS PRICE

- 1 How have you understood your own call to ministry through the years?  
How do you understand God's call to the next bishop of Dallas?

I met the risen Jesus as a young graduate student earning a PhD in American history at Yale. I was reading the Bible for academic reasons but the sheer power of the Word of God grabbed hold of me and bent the direction of my life towards the proclamation of the Gospel. After my parish internship and leading a mission trip to South Sudan I had my "second conversion": I went from being in love with God to falling in love with God's people – a passion for parish ministry that has been sustained over 22 years of service as a parish priest.

I am convinced that the local church is the hope of the world: the community of love where through Word and Sacrament lives are transformed to look more like Jesus. After receiving the counsel of many wise friends in this Diocese, I have prayerfully decided to offer myself to the ministry of being your Bishop. I know that God can do great things amongst us – I've seen so many of them personally as a dean, canon, and colleague here! – and I would be absolutely focused on giving our clergy and lay leaders the care, encouragement, and leadership they need to do their best work for Jesus.

As an old Scout with a background of 20 years of work on self and family in the context of Bowen Theory, I believe that I have the experience, temperament, and character to steward a healthy diocesan culture of greater trust, collaborative governance and ministry, and courage to meet the challenges ahead, with God's help.



## ESSAY QUESTIONS PRICE

**2** What excites you most about the life of our diocese and the prospect of shepherding us? Identify a challenge you see for us, also.

The Diocese of Dallas is blessed with a deep commitment — shared broadly by people across the spectrums of size, theology, ethnicity, and region — to do great work for Jesus. Our people care passionately about making disciples and reaching people in their community with the Good News, including a diverse engagement with social justice. There is a strong commitment amongst the many clergy and lay leaders I know to do the hard work of growing parishes and equipping people for vital ministry within and beyond the walls of the church. I cannot imagine a more durable and dynamic common ground from which to lead than that, and I enthusiastically greet the opportunity to move the diocese from strength to strength.

However, in any family system there are obstacles to flourishing. I think our primary obstacle is relational and is expressed by the sense of a “lack of trust” in the diocese. I think this is a systemic symptom of weak relational connections with one another and with the center of diocesan life. There is a sense of being isolated, of one’s hard Gospel work not being known and valued, of being an outlier/outsider. I think this pervasive experience is the key leadership challenge in the diocese and its primary obstacle to flourishing. It will require a bishop who is trusted, thoughtful, wary of quick fix strategies, and able to be in meaningful connection with a wide variety of clergy and lay leaders over the long term.

## ESSAY QUESTIONS PRICE

### 3 Describe your leadership style and how you have communicated your vision for an organization in the past.

I think that I have a gift for seeing the positive in and for others; for finding opportunity in challenging situations; for setting inspiring goals; for focusing on assets. Perhaps cheerfulness is my leadership style – or more classically, fortitude: an act of the will and intellect that reckons with the real challenges one faces but meets them with a greater confidence in God’s grace. Through 22 years of parish ministry I have observed that a group does its best, most creative thinking when it is “light on its feet,” when laughter is shared, and the tone of discussion is defined by hope. I think people are willing to trust a leader who trusts them and has confidence in their gifts in ministry. I don’t need to be the one in the room with all the ideas. Collaboration is necessary in a place like EDOD, and my openness to and trust in others attracts team members who enjoy working a problem together and celebrating the group’s success.

After the devastating fire at my parish in April 2022, my text for the sermon the following Sunday was from Acts 27:33: “just before daybreak.” Carried from the pulpit into personal conversations, the point was that if we trust in one another and God’s love for us, resurrection life could dawn in a surprising way. We could “abandon the ship” as Paul did and prepare for something New. Incredibly creative group problem-solving and flexibility ensued: short-term workarounds for children’s ministry were found, a new Montessori preschool has been started in the renovated facility, and the parish has grown significantly among young families. The congregation trusted the vision, and it was wonderful to watch God bring about a new flourishing. I think the whole congregation owns our success and is enthusiastic about the growth that is still to come at St. Matthew’s.

# VOTING TALLY SHEET

	Ballot 1		Ballot 2		Ballot 3		Ballot 4		Ballot 5		Ballot 6		Ballot 7	
	Clergy	Lay	Clergy	Lay	Clergy	Lay	Clergy	Lay	Clergy	Lay	Clergy	Lay	Clergy	Lay
<i>Votes Cast</i>														
<i>Votes to Elect</i>														
<b>Carroll</b>														
<b>Lawton</b>														
<b>Price</b>														

	Ballot 8		Ballot 9		Ballot 10		Ballot 11		Ballot 12		Ballot 13		Ballot 14	
	Clergy	Lay	Clergy	Lay	Clergy	Lay	Clergy	Lay	Clergy	Lay	Clergy	Lay	Clergy	Lay
<i>Votes Cast</i>														
<i>Votes to Elect</i>														
<b>Carroll</b>														
<b>Lawton</b>														
<b>Price</b>														



The Rev. Dr. Bill  
Carroll



The Rt. Rev. Fraser  
Lawton



The Very Rev. Rob  
Price



# PARKING INSTRUCTIONS

for the Electing Convention at Saint Michael and All Angels

All attendees will park in the parking garage at 8111 Douglas Avenue, located just north of the Saint Michael church campus. The garage is situated between the Lincoln Property Group building and a residential tower on the Private Drive.

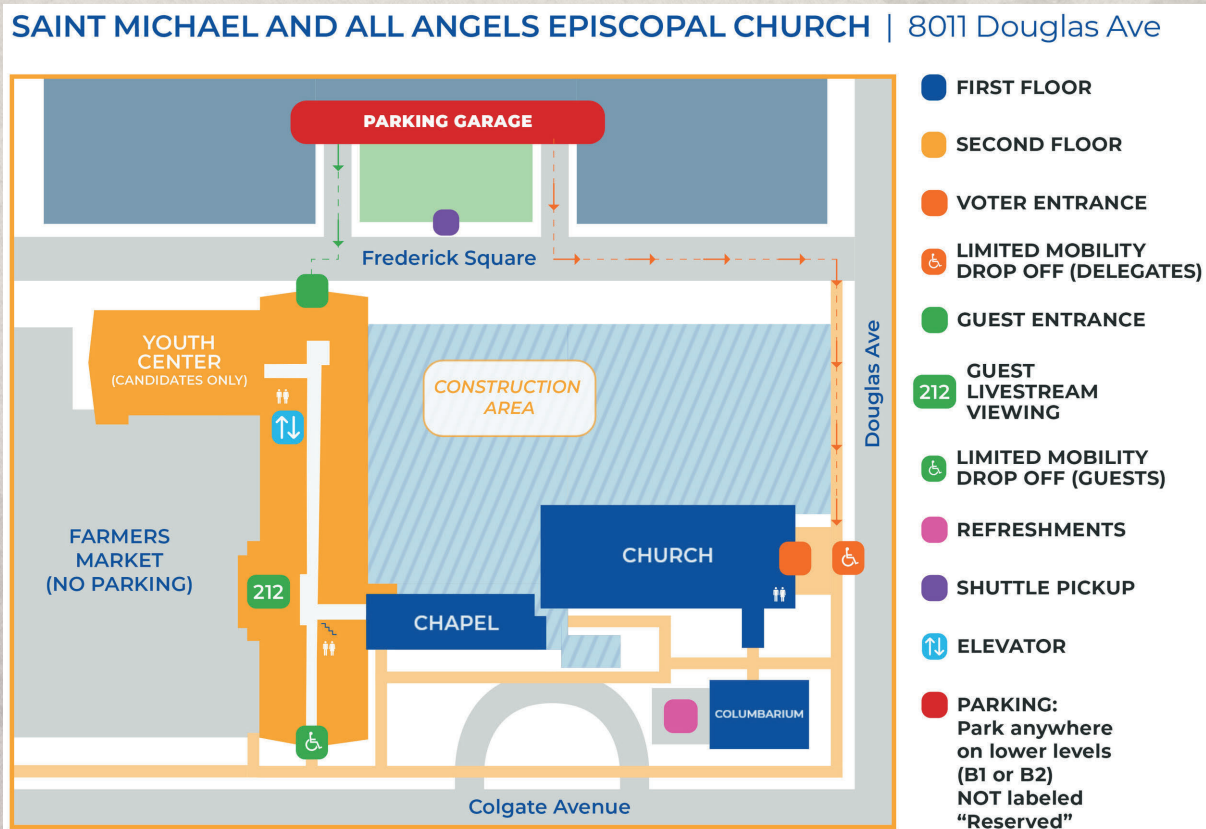
You may turn onto the Private Drive from Douglas Avenue or Lomo Alto and enter the garage from either the west or east side entrances. Then proceed to the lower levels, B1 or B2, and park in any non-reserved space, then take the elevators, which are centrally located in the garage, up to the ground level.

**Voting Clergy and Lay Delegates:** Exit the garage and walk east toward Douglas Avenue.

**Non-voting clergy and guests:** Use the designated north entrance, located in the middle of the green construction fence facing the garage.

Shuttles will run from the garage, dropping off attendees at their designated entrances.

*\*Please note: Parking in the West Lot is closed due to the Farmers Market.*







Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. Amen.

