

The Diocese of South Dakota



27 October 2017

Dear People of God in the Diocese of South Dakota:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

We, the members of the Standing Committee, have received with a mixture of joy and sadness the retirement announcement from Bishop John T. Tarrant. We have had the opportunity to meet with him, and to give thanks for his ministry over the past eight years as our bishop.

We are now preparing for the next season of our life together. We have met with the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley of the Pastoral Development Office and have begun the initial stages of planning for this transition in the life of the Diocese of South Dakota.

Because of the Presiding Bishop's schedule, we have a tentative date of the consecration of the new Bishop in early November 2019. That date will be firmed up later this year. All of the other dates for this process will be set after we are informed of the Presiding Bishop's schedule. With this information, we are tentatively setting a date for the election in early May 2019.

We have begun our initial work for naming the Search/Nominating Committee, which will do the work of searching for and nominating a slate of candidates who will stand for election.

At a later point, we will be naming a Transition Committee. That committee will coordinate the transition process and the consecration of the new bishop.

When the membership of these committees has been determined, we will announce them to you via the Diocesan website, e-mail, *Church News*, or phone calls.

We invite your prayers for Bishop John, his family, the Standing Committee and this Diocese as we move into this new season of our lives.

Blessings and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Lauren R. Stanley
President
Rosebud Episcopal Mission (West)

The Rev. Patricia White Horse-Carda
Secretary
Santee & Yankton Mission

Tamara Fonder, Member
Standing Rock Mission

The Rev. Annie Henninger, Member
Rosebud Episcopal Mission (East)

Pat LeBeau, Member
Trinity, Pierre

Deanna Stands, Member
Woniya Wakan/Holy Spirit, Wagner

Joan Sutton, Member
St. Andrew's, Rapid City

The Rev. Hal Weidman, Member
St. Andrew's, Rapid City

A Prayer for the Election of a Bishop
Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen