



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

Dear Members of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida:

I am so honored to have been selected as your Bishop Coadjutor Elect. It has been a privilege to be a part of the process and to have met so many wonderful people across our Diocese and communities.

Following the election, there have been concerns about my comments on LGBTQIA relationships and racial reconciliation. I am taking this opportunity to provide important clarification, elaboration, and context. My prayer is that we begin our relationship free of misunderstanding.

My commitment is to be a faithful pastor to all. I am committed to embracing the diversity that the people of the Diocese of Florida represent.

As you all learned throughout the election, I hold the traditional view of marriage expressed in our prayerbook. At the same time, I am mindful of where our culture and our church sit on this important topic. Please know that Resolution B012 from our 2018 General Convention will be followed and upheld to pastorally support both our progressive and conservative parishes. I highly respect those who hold a different view than my own. I have always learned the most from dialogue with those who disagree with me. This is why my first mission as bishop-elect will be to listen, from one end of the Diocese of Florida, geographically and theologically, to the other. I am respectful of the lives, experiences, and opinions of all others, and I hope for the same from others.

Regarding racial reconciliation, you may recall that I talked about being invited to address an all-Black congregation and an all-Black rally in a Sanford, FL park following the Trayvon Martin shooting in 2012. God used that moment to work change in my life which has served my ministry of reconciliation to this day. I was blessed to be a part of an interracial group called Sanford Pastors Connecting, the seeds of which began with a lunch between a Black minister friend, Pastor Loman Oliver, and me. Together, we gathered clergy from a multi-racial and multi denominational group for prayer on Good Friday at Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Sanford, Florida. My friendships and relationships with these Black ministers showed me a higher way of love and hospitality.


It will be my priority as Bishop to lead our diocese in the work of racial reconciliation. This begins with honoring our historic Black congregations. I will encourage all of our congregations to build strong Christian ties with their nearest Black congregation neighbors in other Christian denominations. This is at the heart of what it means to be the Beloved Community.

I promise that I will love you, each and every one, without hesitation or reservation, whether we agree or disagree on any issue.

Thank you, again, for calling me as your Bishop Coadjutor Elect. I look forward to working with the clergy and people of the diocese, with my former Bishop, now Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, and my fellow Bishops to this end, to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ known to our world. Brooke and I are eager and excited to move to Florida this summer so we can begin meeting and building relationships with all of you.

Please pray for the continuing transition process leading up to the consecration. Let us also pray for one another as fellow disciples and for the unity of the church.

I am faithfully yours in Christ Jesus our Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Holt" followed by a stylized cross symbol.

The Reverend Charlie Holt
Bishop Coadjutor Elect, Diocese of Florida