



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MAINE

The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane

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Dear Friends in Christ,

After lengthy conversation and prayer and in consultation with the Standing Committee, I today call for the election of a Bishop Diocesan to be the Tenth Bishop of Maine. (A Bishop Diocesan succeeds the seated bishop immediately upon consecration.)

My wife, Gretchen, and I have been gathering information about Episcopal transition since late last fall. With that knowledge and with the advice of the Presiding Bishop's Office of Pastoral Development, I have decided to retire from my position as Bishop in June of 2019. I will then be 70 years old. The 22 months between now and then give us ample time to discern, elect, and transition to the next bishop.

Accompanying this announcement is a letter from the Standing Committee outlining the discernment and transition process. The Standing Committee met with Bishop Clay Matthews of the Office of Pastoral Development late in May and has been preparing a transition plan ever since. At our upcoming 2017 Diocesan Convention, the Standing Committee will present a resolution concerning discernment and transition, and the proposed Diocesan Council budget will include monies for discernment and transition. Details will be found in the pre-Convention materials that will be circulated in September.

Serving as your bishop is the greatest joy of my life in the Church, and I look forward to continuing that service for the next two years. The work of following Jesus goes on even as we make preparations for our diocesan future, and I will remain fully engaged as your bishop until the moment I pass the crozier to my successor. There will be time for farewells as part of the transition process.

This announcement initiates a long and careful process. I invite all Maine Episcopalians to take part, through prayer and discernment, and by continuing the faithful work and worship that are going on all over the diocese. I ask your prayers, and promise you mine, as we make this journey together.

Faithfully,

+ Stephen T. Lane

The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane
Bishop of Maine