

Dear Friends,

On July 7, 2021, Bishop Singh shared with the Standing Committee the culmination of his discernment process for ministry and has concluded that this is the time for him to resign as our bishop. After conversation and prayers with him that evening, we offered our unanimous support and blessings.

In early September we met with Bishop Todd Ousley, Bishop for the Office of Pastoral Development on staff with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, who outlined the next steps for the Diocese of Rochester:

1. Share news of this transition with the diocese.
2. Interview candidate(s) for Provisional Bishop who might serve the diocese on an interim basis in an administrative and liturgical role.
3. The appointment of a diocesan leadership team by the Standing Committee to prepare and facilitate a shared leave-taking and celebration with Bishop Singh.
4. The Standing Committee present to Diocesan Convention on Saturday, October 30, a single candidate for election as Provisional Bishop.

Those are just the basics of what must be done immediately. At convention we will present an outline of further steps in the process of discernment and nomination so that it is clear to all what will be involved and how to become personally involved.

Now is a moment to step back and begin to identify the supremely textured relationships we have had with Prince, and recognize, learn from, celebrate, let go, and resolve over the next several months. The thirteen years of his Episcopacy have woven him deeply into the fabric of this diocese and into each of our relationships to it. Many of us will not recognize the diocese without him.

So in the next few months, we will touch all the feelings and process all of the thoughts that Prince's departure evokes, gather them into our celebrations of his leadership and presence among us, and bless him and one another as we say good bye. Only then will we embark on our next step: looking ahead and entering our own discernment of who we are, what we want in our next ecclesiastical leader and for our common life together as The Episcopal Church in these eight counties of New York.

Let us link our congregations as never before in community, and move forward together, holding one another and Prince in prayer and encouraging one another in our ministries. We commit to open and transparent communications throughout the process and ask your support for the work of the Standing Committee and diocesan leadership. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Leslie Burkardt

Joseph DaBoll-Lavoie

Michael Davis

Floyd Bayley

Ruth Ferguson

Ken Pepin

Carolyn Mok, secretary

Cameron Miller, President