

Pentecost 19
October 3, 2021

To: The People of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. ⁹And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb. Genesis 12:7b-9

Dear Friends in Christ,

I accept with gratitude the nomination of the Standing Committee to serve as Bishop Provisional for the Diocese of Rochester for the next couple of years. It is a joy to be able to return to my home diocese and to serve you in this way. I look forward to renewing my acquaintance with many of you and to meeting the many others who will be new to me.

We are living in times of extraordinary change, as you know well. And the church is now constantly battered by changes that undermine the thing we do best: meet together for worship and decision-making. All the processes we once took for granted are under stress, and that includes the process for discerning and electing a bishop. There is an Episcopal Church playbook, a manual, which will guide us, but we will need to be flexible and adapt to changes on the ground as we proceed. I want to assure you that the Standing Committee and I will do our best to present you with a clear and transparent process for the discernment and election of your next bishop.

The text at the beginning of this note is from Genesis and describes Abram's response to God's call as he moved his extended family toward the Negev Desert. It's my sense that the Christian life is like that. We move through the desert of contemporary life following God's call, pausing frequently for worship and refreshment. Although the end of our journey is not yet clear, God walks with us. We can be confident of God's presence as we undertake this new journey.

If it is your will to elect me as Bishop Provisional, I will join you in February 2022, and we will begin our walk together. Thank you in advance for your trust. I look forward to sharing this time of discernment with you.

For now, let me join with you in thanksgiving for the episcopate of Bishop Singh, who has ministered faithfully here for thirteen years. We give thanks for his life and ministry among us, and we pray God's blessing upon him as he continues his journey following God's call.

Peace,
+Steve Lane

The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane

1400 East Avenue, #313, Rochester, NY 14610

Skill Summary

Building relationships, administration, worship design, preaching, mission development

Education

LeRoy High School (1967); University of Rochester (BA 1971);

Colgate Rochester/Bexley/Crozier (M.Div. 1978)

High School Salutatorian; Trost Award (CRDS/BH/CDS)

Experience

Diocesan Youth Council, Rochester, NY (1971-1975)

Youth Associate for Southwest District and Director, Member of PB's World Hunger Task Force

Christ Church, Corning, NY (1978-1985)

Assistant and Interim Rector, Member of Commission On Ministry (COM)

Zion Church, Palmyra, NY (1985-2000)

Rector, District Dean, Member of COM and Standing Committee, General Convention Deputy, Diocesan Anti-Racism Trainer, Director of Creation Week Camp, Secretary and President of Province II, Participant in Clergy Leadership Project

Episcopal Diocese of Rochester (2000-2008)

Canon for Deployment, General Convention Deputy, Member of Executive Council, Title III Revision Committee

Bishop of Maine (2008-2019)

Bishop, President of Province I, Vice Chair of Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance (3 terms), Member of Missional Network & Bishops United Against Gun Violence

Passions

Following Jesus, encouraging others in their ministries, building consensus, reconciliation

Personal

Three children, seven grandchildren, playing guitar, taking drum lessons