

SEARCH
FOR THE
NINTH
BISHOP

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF
NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

2026 BISHOP SEARCH PROFILE

Walk with us in this new season.





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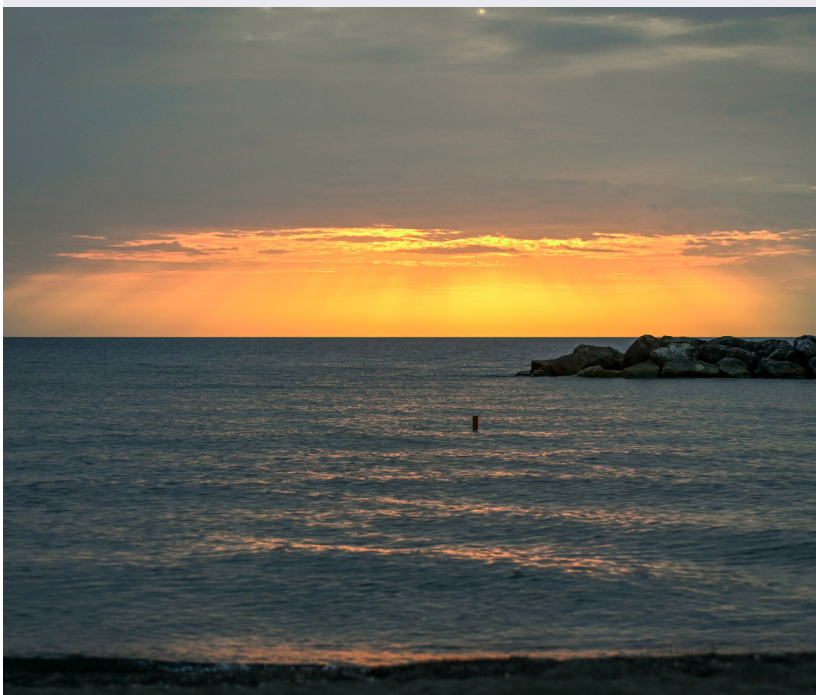
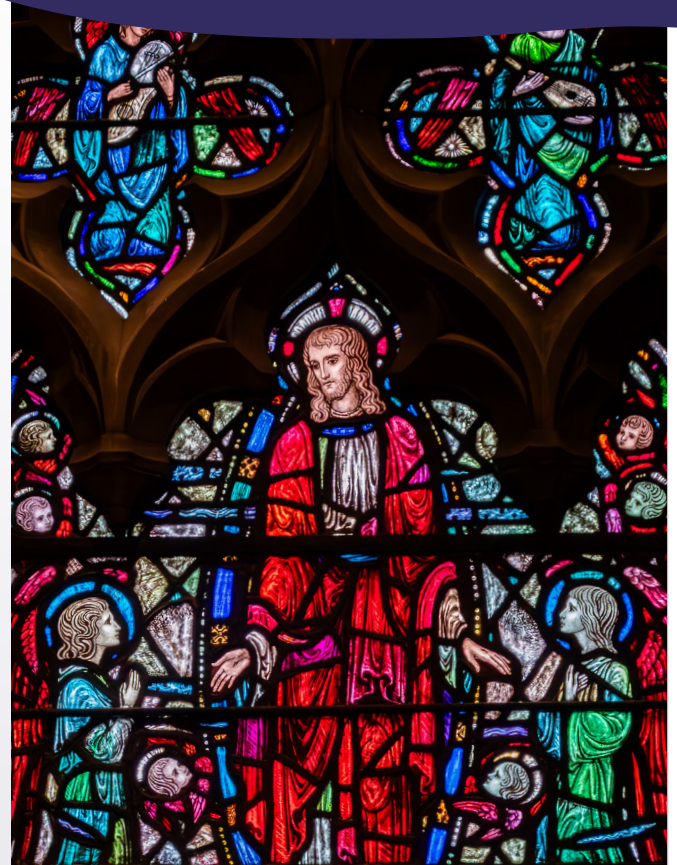
FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

WELCOME & INVITATION

Dear Friend in Christ,

The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania is *delighted* to have you pick up this profile, to learn more about us in this season of our diocesan life and to join us in the process of discerning our next bishop.

Our process began almost a year ago, as we began discerning whether to call a bishop jointly with our partnership diocese at the time, Western New York, or to do so independently. In both dioceses, the Holy Spirit was clear in summoning us to a new season, in which we would each call bishops to our respective dioceses. Following that decision, the Search Committee began our work. We held multiple spaces for listening to the people of our diocese, and what we learned forms the backbone of this profile. The data from across the diocese offered clear priorities for our next bishop: **We seek someone who is 1) pastoral and approachable, 2) inspiring and visionary, and 3) practical and effectual.**



We invite you to start at the beginning, with our history. Who we have been *grounds who we are* and informs this season in our life together. Our context matters deeply.

Our region is beautiful: forested trails and sandy beaches, autumn colors and warblers aplenty, local art galleries and universities. Equally, this region is heartbreaking: old oil derricks and abandoned factory spaces, WIC signs in windows and Victorians with peeling paint, a sense of loss and faded dreams. We are all of those things and so are our parishes.



Our congregations are places of **imaginative collaborations** dealing with diminished populations, incredible mission and outreach in the face of increased poverty, joy and hope amid the challenges.

We are sometimes unsure how to move forward but this we know: the gospel of Jesus Christ **compels us forward** and through resiliency and relationships, humor and humility, care and collaboration, we are as stubborn as this region in our refusal to disappear.

This region needs **the Episcopal way** of following Jesus.

We need a bishop who will join us in this joyful, challenging, and creative work.

This is a new season in our diocese, and we are excited to see whom God is calling to serve in this place and at this time for the **sake of the gospel's love** reaching the region.

Faithfully,

The Very Rev. Melinda Hall, Search Chair

PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT IN OUR BISHOP SEARCH

Creator God, who raises up shepherds for your Church, be with us in this time of discernment. Unite us as we seek a bishop who will know and love your people, proclaim your gospel, and guide us in faith and unity. Keep us mindful of those on the margins, and open our hearts to the Spirit's leading, that we may find a pastor to help us live our baptismal covenant and share Christ's renewing love. Through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer we pray. Amen.



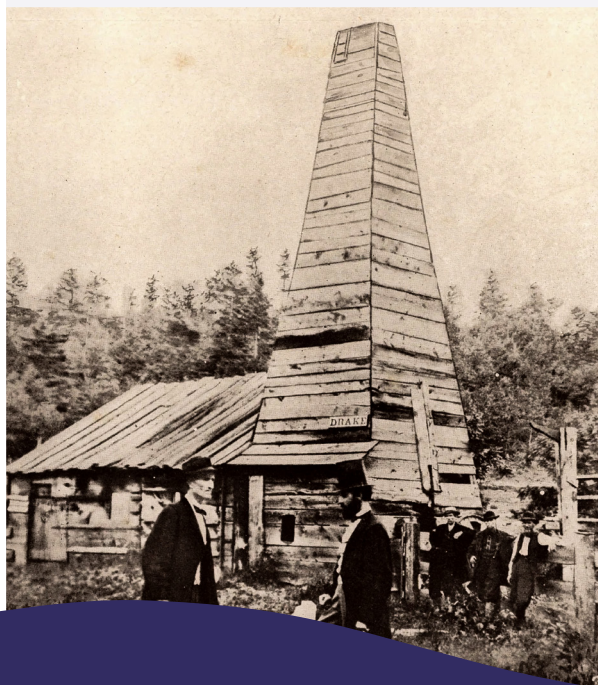


PAST SEASONS IN OUR DIOCESE

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.” - ECCLESIASTES 3:1

In order to **know who you are** and where you are going, it is necessary to know from where you have come and how it has formed you.

The story of our diocese *begins in 1910*, when the 13 counties that made up the northern deanery of the Diocese of Pittsburgh left that diocese. Then, as now, this part of Pennsylvania is more rural and forested than it is urban or suburban. **Erie is our largest city at just under 100,000 people.**



To honor the 13 counties and to de-center Erie, the diocese was renamed around 40 years ago to Northwestern Pennsylvania. When this diocese was formed, money gushed forth from the oil wells, first discovered in Titusville, in the center of our diocese, and soon derricks began springing up all over. Trains carried timber across the country and tanneries thrived. **It was a season of expansion**, and wealth flowed through the area creating other industrial sites and goods traveled through the ports on Lake Erie to Canada.

The Episcopal Church benefited from such wealth and grew.

That season of prosperity gradually drifted into a season of halted industry and depopulation.

Additionally, the kind of oil Titusville and the derricks produced was primarily for candles, so the invention of the electric light dimmed the economics of the area. Today the region suffers from a *lack of industry* and no small amount of rural poverty.

Many of the towns that dot the landscape are much smaller and grayer than they once were. The churches of the region were equally impacted. Many of them shrank and some closed.

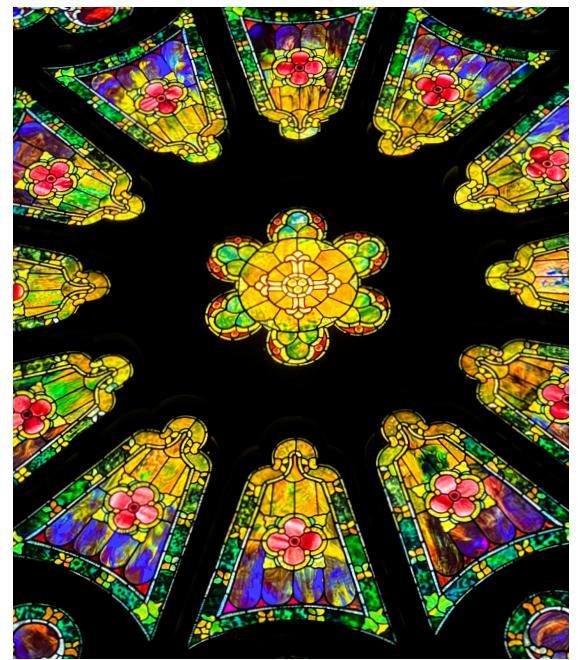


And yet, the region is marked by an independent streak, fostered by those rugged economic endeavors, and there is a refusal to give up.

Small towns are finding new ways to appeal in this time, with breweries and wineries, converting rails to trails, reinvigorating the arts, and leaning into newer industries like injection molding. Many of our towns are full of folks who take pride in their locality and care deeply about it and the surrounding land. It is a season of trying to *reinvent*, trying to *renew*, and trying to *overcome* endemic poverty and the problems of depleted populations.

The diocese reflects the region: It is marked by resiliency and a refusal to disappear. As with most organizational systems, this diocese has had seasons of trial and periods of flourishing; we have experienced visionary episcopal leadership and troubled tenures. Even before our latest bishop, this diocese discerned a call to church planting and innovation, reflected in calling several bishops with innovative inclinations. The life of our congregations mirrors the life of our region: We are small, we have fewer resources, and yet, we continue to follow the Spirit in each new season, trusting God will do a new thing — we can sense it springing forth.

We care about our region, and so we seek the welfare of the city in every place we have a congregation.





SEASONAL AND REGIONAL

WINTER DELIGHT • SPRING FORTH
SUMMER FUN • AUTUMNAL BEAUTY

A WORD ABOUT ERIE

Our region's history of relying on natural resources for industry has given way to enjoying those resources for recreation. Lake Erie and our many forests provide incredible outdoor experiences for people in the region all year round. Northwestern Pennsylvania is more than snow!

The average summer temperature in Erie for 2025 was 71.4 degrees and in the winter, it was 34 degrees. *We have four distinct seasons, which is a joy.*

Here are a few seasonal, regional highlights.

WINTER DELIGHT

- Learn to cross country ski at **Wilderness Lodge** or take your own skis to rail trails or parks; if you like to downhill or snowboard, **Peak n' Peek** or **Holiday Valley** are the places for you.

- Take in a game: there are professional sports teams in **Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Buffalo**. Become a Cavs fan, root for the Bills, or pick the Pirates.



- Enjoy a **Philharmonic** concert at the Warner Theatre in Erie.

- Visit one of the many museums across northwestern Pennsylvania, such as the **Venango Museum of Art, Science, and Industry** or the **Erie Maritime Museum**.

- Explore more about the region and the city of Erie in particular by watching **WQLN's series Chronicles**, which won a Great Lakes Emmy.



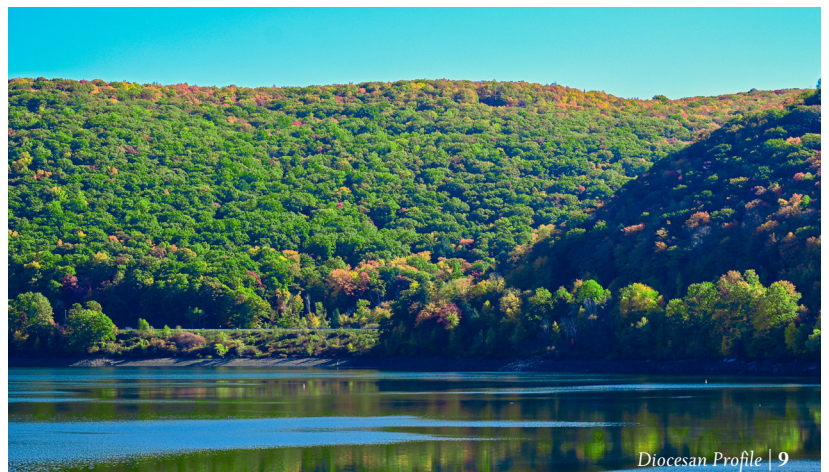
SPRING FORTH

- View the **Kinzua Bridge in Mt. Jewett**, once one of the highest railway bridges in the United States.
- Check out one of the 14 breweries on **Lake Erie Ale Trail** or one of the 23 wineries on **Lake Erie Wine Country trail**.
- **Birdwatching** is the new hip hobby and Erie is the place for it: the **annual warbler and other song bird migrations** draws an incredible amount of birds and people from across the country.
- Grab a book from one of the **great local libraries** across the area – and don't forget to get a card from **Penn State**, who lends to any Pennsylvania resident.



SUMMER FUN

- Shop for some new summer duds: the **Outlets in Grove City** have got you covered.
- Hit the beaches or ride the trails on **Erie's Presque Isle State Park**. Don't forget your surfboard and sand shovels – and if your car is electric, be sure to hit the free charging at Beach 8.
- Don't miss the blooming mountain laurel in **Cook Forest State Park** in June – and take a hike in one of the 14 state parks in the region. We love **Oil Creek, McConnells Mill, and Clear Creek State Park**.
- Take a trip down the **Allegheny River & Samuel Justus Trails**, from Oil City to Emlenton, taking in historic **Foxburg**.



AUTUMNAL BEAUTY

- Take a drive in one of the **four state forest districts** and relish the changing leaves. We think **Moshannon State Forest** is gorgeous.
- Learn **how to hunt** or enjoy the fruits of someone else's trout catch, turkey shoot, or deer hunt.
- Don't miss **Apple Fest** in Franklin or **Wine Fest** in North East.



- Go view the elk – yes, a whole herd – in Elk County. Listen for their bugling!
- Take the kids to play at **Port Farms** in Waterford or visit their pub – don't forget to grab a pumpkin – or if it is late in the year, a Christmas tree.





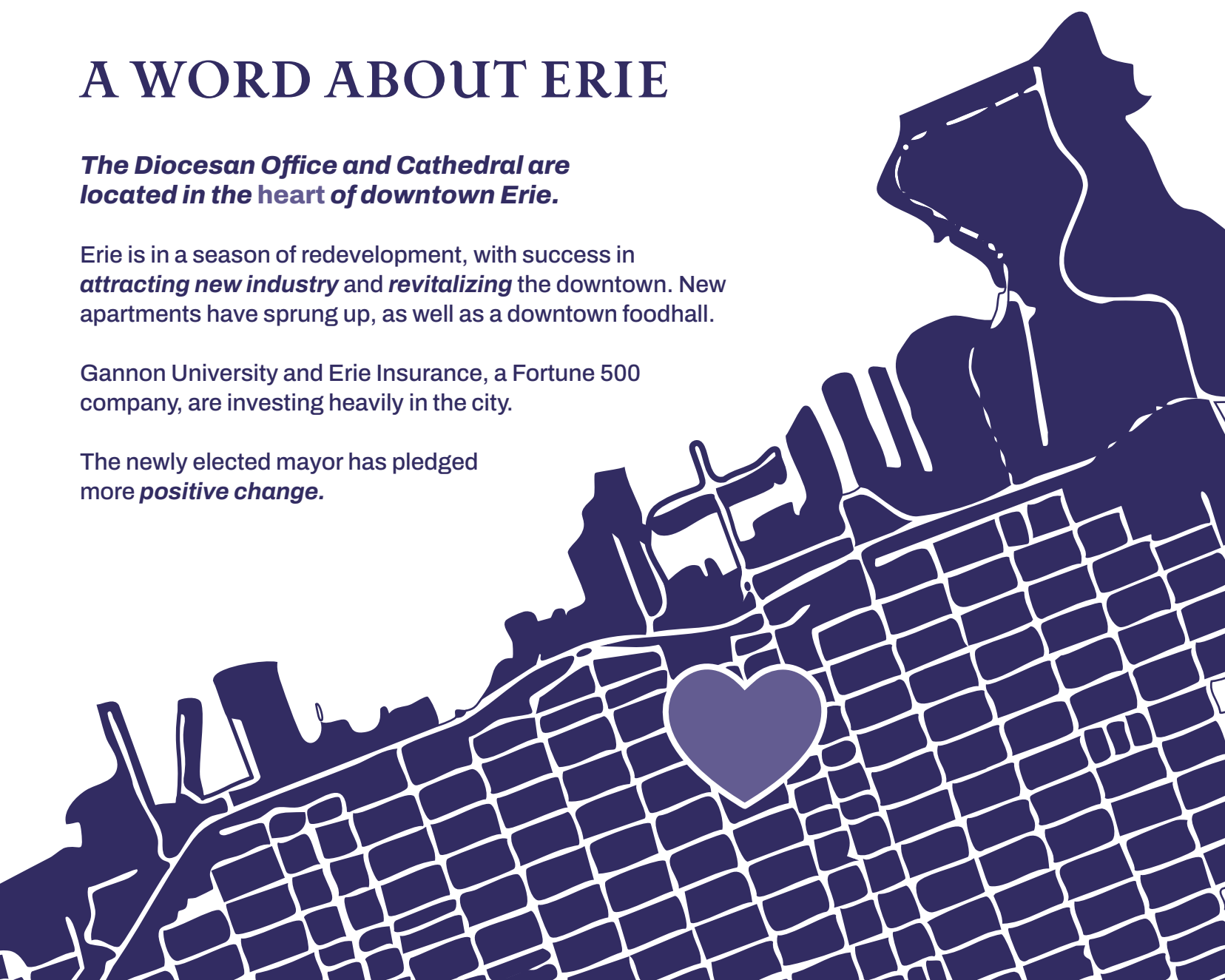
A WORD ABOUT ERIE

The Diocesan Office and Cathedral are located in the heart of downtown Erie.

Erie is in a season of redevelopment, with success in ***attracting new industry*** and ***revitalizing*** the downtown. New apartments have sprung up, as well as a downtown foodhall.

Gannon University and Erie Insurance, a Fortune 500 company, are investing heavily in the city.

The newly elected mayor has pledged more ***positive change***.





A FEW ERIE HIGHLIGHTS



Home to Presque Isle,

3,200-

acre state park with 11 hiking trails and 14 multipurpose trails making for 25 miles, inlets for kayaking, and sandy beaches for swimming.



Cost of living is

13%

lower than the national average.



Home to **4** universities:

Gannon, Mercyhurst, Penn State Behrend, Penn West.

Close to Erie Bluffs, with

587

acres of forest along the coast of the lake, with hiking and mountain biking trails.



Erie is located in the center of a triangle of

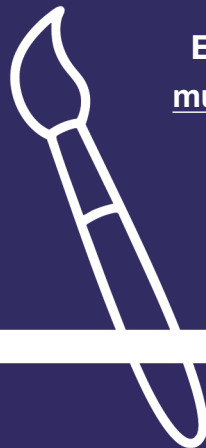
3 cities:

128 miles to Pittsburgh, 115 miles to Cleveland, and 98 miles to Buffalo – all with airports.

Erie also has an airport.



Erie is engaging the arts. There is an art museum and numerous local art initiatives (1020 Collective, FEED, City Gallery, Grounded Print Shop), as well as seasonal gallery nights.



Erie has

28

parks (check out Asbury Woods particularly), multiple free tennis and pickleball courts, basketball courts, a public splashpad, and several dog parks.



The city is family friendly with expERIENCE Children's Museum, Erie Zoo, indoor Splash Lagoon,

23

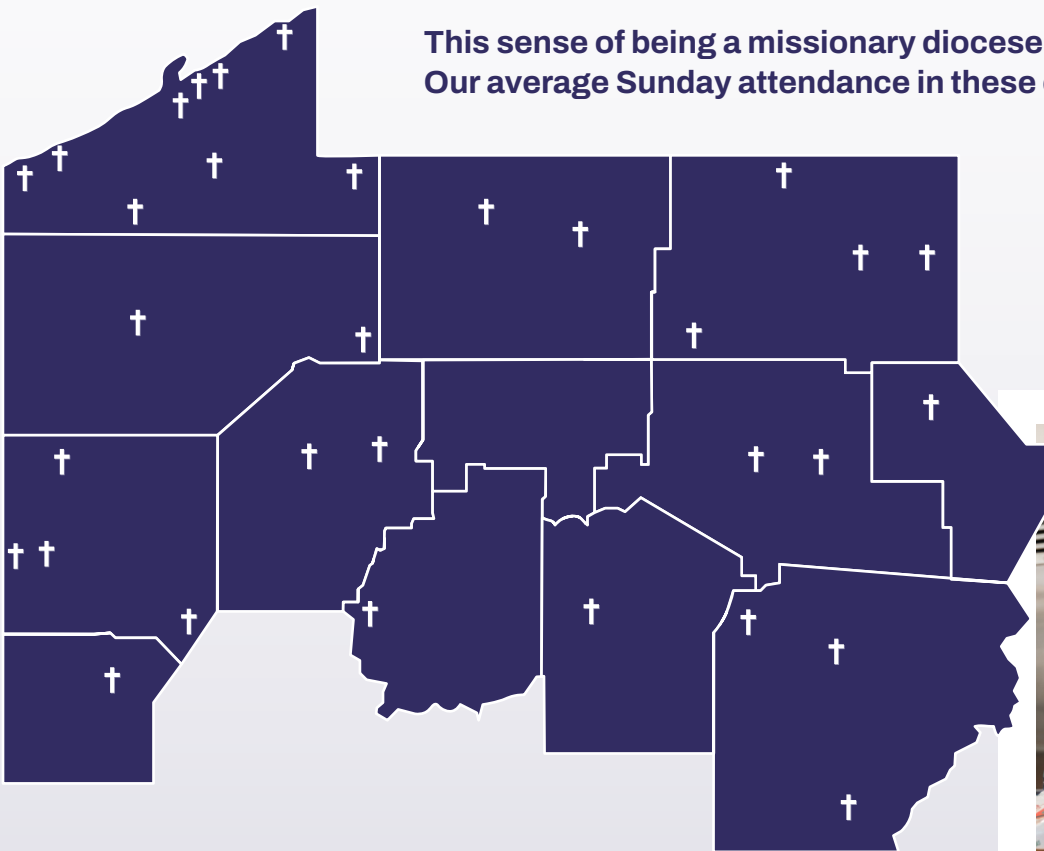
 playgrounds, and plenty of jump parks.



MISSION AND MINISTRY

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” - 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7

The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania is made up of **32 congregations** dispersed throughout many of the small towns that make up our corner of the state. Many of our congregations are mission status. As missions, our congregations are able to receive more assistance from the diocese, and their mission status is an honest recognition of the challenges they face in attaining full-time clergy.



This sense of being a missionary diocese is part of our culture. Our average Sunday attendance in these congregations is 30.

These numbers belie our impact in our communities, as we strive to **seek and serve Christ** in all people.



32 Congregations
1,004 ASA 2025

Over one third of our congregations are actively engaged in distributing food to those in need and over half of those provide free meals to the community on a regular basis. There are also specific food programs aimed at children.

Many of our congregations have blessing boxes where food staples, personal hygiene products, socks, and a range of other items are placed in accessible places. Those who find themselves in need are welcome to help themselves and those who have extra add to what is available.

Nearly half of our congregations provide space for various community gatherings, such as scouting and recovery groups.

We also collaborate with non-profits and local organizations such as the United Way, local schools, and the YWCA, supporting their work and co-hosting events. Epiphany, Grove City partners with those in their community working to support those fleeing domestic violence.



**“Will you seek and serve
Christ in all persons, loving
your neighbor as yourself?”**

“I will with God’s help.”



Our involvement with other groups facilitates conversations with our neighbors in the community, so we better understand their needs. Collaboration also takes the form of participation in local festivals, food drives, benefit events for nonprofits, and in some cases, local politics.

Some of our congregations have special charisms that benefit not only the local community, but the wider region: Holy Trinity, Brookville offers concerts and Christ Church, Oil City has featured local artists in their nave; there is contemplative worship at the Cathedral and healing services at Christ Church, Meadville.





While serving our communities, we have been faithful to our promise to ***continue in the apostles' teaching***, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers by offering weekly Sunday services in every parish, either Holy Communion or Morning Prayer. **Ascension, Bradford** hosts Sunday worship at the local university, and **St. John's Franklin** offers Celtic worship on Saturday evenings.

Many of our congregations offer Bible studies, like **St. James, Titusville**, Christian formation for adults and youth, and seasonal studies, like those in **St. John's, Sharon** to help us read, mark, and inwardly digest scripture.

Every year we have one week of **summer camp** for the whole diocese. For *over 40 years* our diocese has held our camp at **Camp Nazareth**, an American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox camp in Mercer, sharing their space. In June, kids from second grade through twelfth come and experience the joy of camp: campfires and cabinmates, Taizé and healing services, frisbee and nature, singing and art. **Kids return year after year**, creating a culture of belonging and intergenerational care, which never fails to include new campers.



All this mission and ministry is incredible for our size.

We are blessed with many strong lay leaders as well as eight full-time priests, seven part-time priests, 13 deacons (most retired), eight non-stipendiary clergy, and 22 nonparochial clergy.

We work well together, enjoy our bi-annual clergy retreats, and are always looking for new ways to proclaim the gospel in our diocese.





The diocese still faces financial challenges.

The annual assessments that the diocese collects from congregations have yielded less revenue as congregations have numerically declined. This trend has forced the diocese to rely more heavily on endowment income to fund diocesan staff and cover other centralized costs. Demographics have added to the difficulties. Like most of Pennsylvania, the northwest corner of the state is home to an aging population.

And yet the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania possesses the financial wherewithal and acumen to help address the population shift. Some of our congregations have stemmed the shift or even reversed it as they use diocesan grants to explore new ways of serving the faithful and their communities.

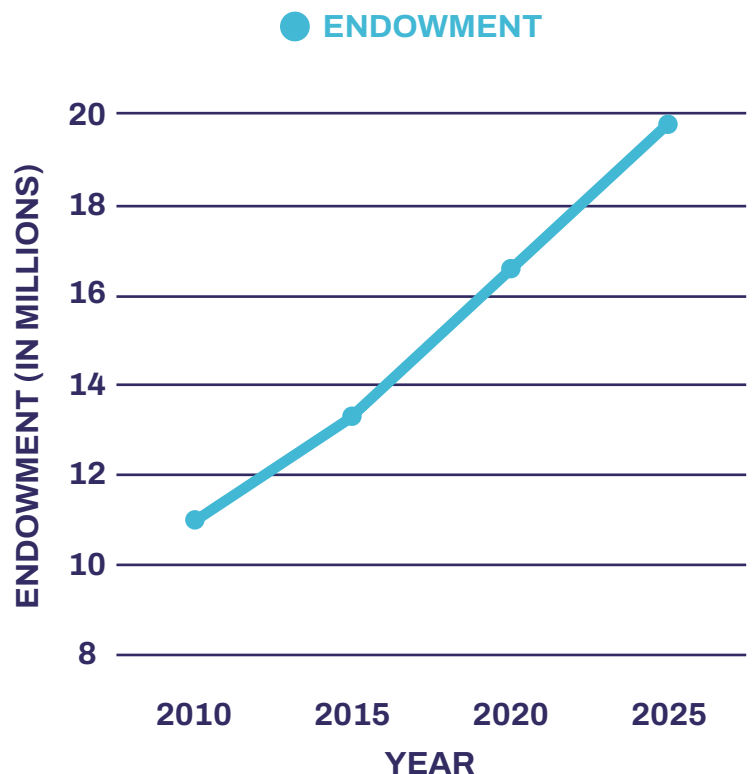
Our average pledge is around \$2,000.

Ministry and mission require financial backing.

This diocese has taken seriously the endowment with which it was entrusted and has been creative in growing ‘our talents’ over the past two decades, through creative diocesan staffing and investment. The finances of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania *are sound and set up for the future.*

Conscientious stewardship and a vigilant investment strategy have blessed the diocese with an endowment of nearly \$20 million – an amount large enough to allow the diocese to award grants to congregations while still drawing on the endowment to fund operating expenses. *Our endowment growth was designed to have more funds to support congregations through grants,* which is tied to the overall strategy of parishes becoming missions. Maintaining our properties, supplementing clergy incomes, and seeding mission enterprises are ways we use the funds.

**Our Endowment Value:
\$19,925,665.00**



The 2026 diocesan budget is balanced at \$1,129,740.

Diocesan assessments account for revenue of \$704,661, or 62%.

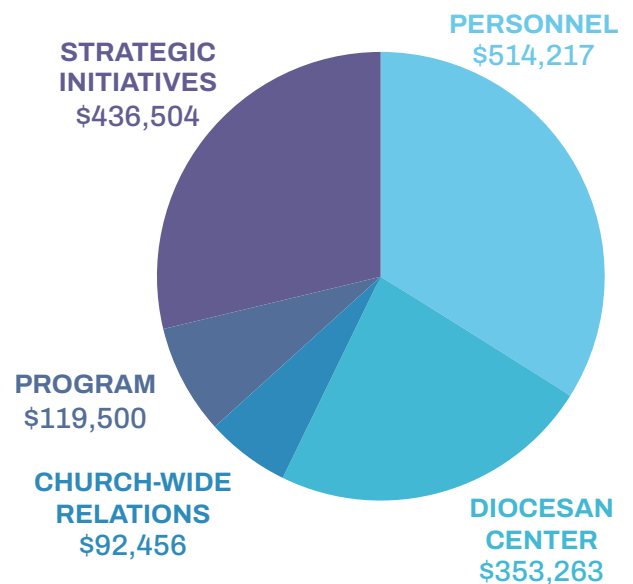
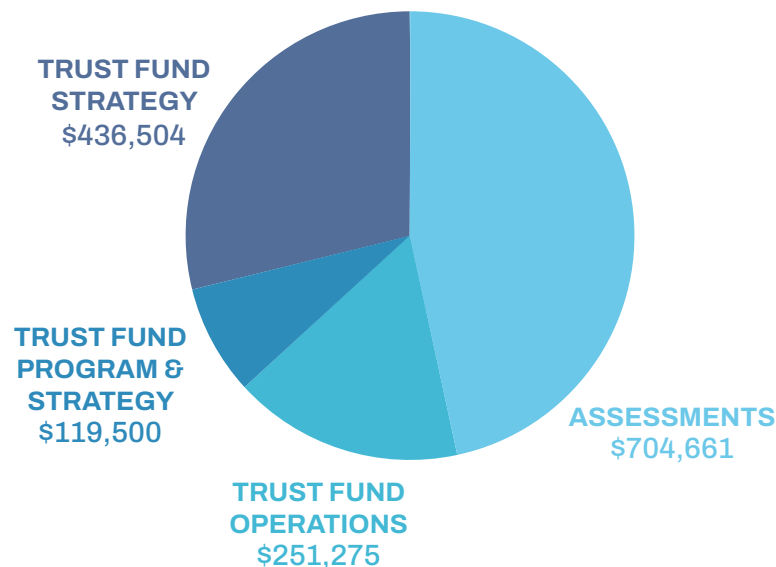
Endowment income accounts for \$425,079, or 38%.

Assessment revenue is up from \$695,077 in 2025, for an increase of \$9,584.

The diocese's chief financial officer, treasurer and Diocesan Council have adopted a prudent approach to examining these figures and fashioning a budget.

Keeping the endowment draw at a sustainable level represents a key part of the plan.

This conservative strategy honors the financial gifts that our forebears so selflessly bequeathed to the diocese. *The strategy also reflects the character of the diocese and northwestern Pennsylvania as a whole – a hardworking, practical region that values its resources and the opportunities they can provide.* Our desire with these funds is to grow the kingdom in this region, helping communities seed adaptive endeavors to incarnate the gospel more effectively.



Despite adversity, our budget, investments and endowment are healthy. We will need to continue this pattern, with some increasing creativity as our region's demographics continue to shrink.

We are able to develop ministry and mission projects, and we are able to fund them.

A TIME TO COLLABORATE

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” - 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7



Experimenting with how we are the church in our area is part of our culture.

For several decades, this has been a place of trying out different collaborative models for the sake of the gospel.

We want The Episcopal Church to remain a vital part of our region.

We must adapt to changed realities so we can thrive and continue to be a place where people of all races, genders, sexual orientations, education-levels, and income-levels can come and see. In past seasons, congregations have shared one leadership body among three congregations, we have planted churches, we have shared clergy.

In our current season, ***multiple congregations collaborate with one another.*** In the northern-center of the diocese, Trinity, Warren and St. Francis, Youngsville have partnered as the **Episcopal Mission of Warren County**, sharing clergy and lay staff, as well as lay leadership. Erie Episcopal is a collaboration between the **Cathedral of St. Paul** and **St. Mark's** in Erie. **CORE Ministries** creatively links five congregations working together in the center of the diocese. **St. John's, Franklin** and **Grace Lutheran** have been worshipping together for 16 years and collaborating for over 25.

Each partnering has a different configuration depending on the needs of those congregations; it is all incarnational.



This is ongoing, exciting work that carries promise. These experimental efforts have expanded beyond congregations. The diocese as an entity has consistently ***experimented with shared governance structures***. We began the experiments with Bishop Sean Rowe's interim time with the Diocese of Bethlehem and continued with our deeper collaboration with the Diocese of Western New York. Each time, we found that sharing taught us new things and stretched us; we learned that the jar of flour was never spent, the oil never ran dry. This willingness to partner and share resources at every level is an ethos in this diocese, believing we are called, as Bishop Sean said, "to experiment for the sake of the gospel."

Our largest experiment was with the Diocese of Western New York. The structure of the partnership meant that the dioceses shared one staff and one bishop, communications and programming; we collaborated for a joint Commission on Ministry and Commission to Dismantle Racism. The Standing Committees and Diocesan Councils remained separate, meeting together online, and the finances remained separate. Clergy joined one another for retreats; parishes partnered to host events. Parishes and projects received funds and local collaborations started.





The dioceses voted to end the formal partnership at a special convention in May 2025, and we did so with gratitude for the experiment. We entered into the partnership with discernment and we dissolved it with discernment, including a lenten study done in many congregations and many online opportunities for conversation. Additionally, outside consultants reviewed the partnership, engaging leadership, clergy, and lay members of both dioceses in listening sessions and surveys. Their work made clear that the partnership had strengths and weaknesses and offered several ways forward. The legal differences between New York and Pennsylvania made calling a shared diocesan bishop an especially complicated and uncertain process.

At the special convention, a clear majority in both orders and both dioceses voted to dissolve the partnership. The vote revealed that the Holy Spirit was calling us each to do a new thing in this new season of change.

We do not consider the experiment with this partnership a failure. This diocese has a history of trying new structures for the sake of the Gospel. We have learned much over the last decade about how shared structures can benefit a diocese and how challenging uniting different cultures can be. The desire to maintain our culture of experimentation is important to us, as we understand this is how we move forward in discerning the new things to which God is calling us in each new age. In our listening sessions and in our survey, we heard very clearly that folks are ready to try new collaborations and sharing in their parishes. The data also pointed toward a desire to reconnect with one another in this season and disclosed little interest in another diocesan partnership or merger at this time.



A TIME TO LEAVE

“Almighty God...We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations.” - BCP 838

We recognize that our relationship to the Presiding Bishop is unique.

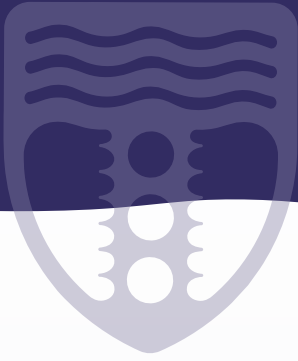
The Most Reverend Sean Rowe deeply impacted this diocese, and we are proud of him and his calling as our Presiding Bishop. Bishop Sean grew up, was educated, and was ordained in our diocese, serving only one congregation, St. John’s, Franklin, before his election as our Bishop Diocesan. He served seventeen faithful, loving, and dynamic years in ministry in that office.



Bishop Sean leaves a lasting legacy in our diocese. His understanding of family systems theory and its impact on congregations taught us how to shape our culture. His commitment to leadership development benefited clergy and lay people alike. His humble and personable manner pastored us. Bishop Sean drew us together and inspired us.

We understand that following a tenure such as his could be considered daunting, **but we are not seeking to replicate Sean Rowe**. We are grateful for the gifts he gave us, the vision he called forth from us, and the experiments he fostered. They were necessary and important. We recognize we are in a new place, and we are seeking a leader who will bring their own gifts. We hope our next bishop will build on the foundation in place and adapt for the current state of the church and world. We are excited to see what new things will spring forth. When this diocese called Sean Rowe, he was the youngest bishop in The Episcopal Church.

In this we have not changed: We are entirely open to the guidance and surprise of the Holy Spirit as we seek our next bishop.



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?” - ISAIAH 43:19

Our bishop search discernment process *included four listening sessions and an online survey.*

We also used our diocesan convention as a time to go deeper into data from the listening sessions. The data tell the story of a diocese that feels ambivalent about its current circumstances. The results show respondents are neutral regarding the current state of the diocese, neither agreeing nor disagreeing that the current mission plan inspires us, and inconclusive in regards to whether the diocese is in better standing than three years ago.

We are not, however, ambivalent about where we want to go. *Participants overwhelmingly ranked support for smaller parishes and the desire for strategic vision ranked highest.* That might tell a story of a diocese that simply wants to keep existing as it is; however, ranking right beside the desire for supporting small parishes is a desire for fostering new opportunities between parishes and creating opportunities for lay and clergy leadership development. When asked what issues are most pressing, participants agreed they are addressing our shifting demographics, supporting congregations in innovation and collaboration, and creating shared community in the diocese. **There is a desire to strengthen our already close bonds across the diocese and to do so with a bishop who values relationships.**

Taken together, this is a diocese that is facing regional and church decline and wants to address those issues with new collaborations that build on the strength of our current relationships.



That information, combined with responses to characteristics participants would like in our next bishop produced three top priorities. **Our diocese seeks a bishop who is:**

PRIORITY 1: PASTORAL AND RELATIONAL



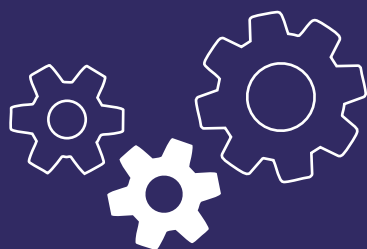
Our diocesan culture is relational; we are small and know one another. We value our many long-standing connections between parishes and people, and we value being in relationship with our bishop. Northwestern Pennsylvania is unpretentious, and we seek a bishop who is interested in knowing us, working with us, and strengthening the connections between parishes and people. We seek someone who listens, who builds trust, and who has relational skill – which includes the ability to discern boundaries and say the truth in love. We hope such a person will continue to foster a culture of mission solidarity, noncompetition among our parishes, and a steadiness when the seed sown doesn’t always land on fertile soil.

PRIORITY 2: INSPIRING AND VISIONARY



This diocese wants to spread the gospel to our neighbors, to be ambassadors for Christ. The data again and again pointed to our desire to engage our communities and thrive — even if that means adapting to new realities in demographics and priest shortages. In this new season, we seek a bishop who can inspire us toward our mission and help us imagine how we can grow. To flourish, we will need to invest in more innovative collaborations and models, which will require a vision for how resources are used to support development across the diocese – particularly in small missions. We hope the person called as our bishop will get to know us, and in getting to know us, capably craft a vision for how The Episcopal Church in northwestern Pennsylvania can impact our region for Christ. We have gifts, we have heart, we have money for mission — we need someone to weave the strands together into a coherent vision for who we are called to be in this place and time.

PRIORITY 3: PRACTICAL AND EFFECTUAL



We seek someone who can articulate a vision and enact it. Inspiration is accompanied by action; vision, by follow through. We seek a bishop who understands how to accomplish the necessary steps and processes to bring to fruition the vision that we cast for our diocese. We are intent on the Episcopal tradition’s continued presence in our communities. The bishop we seek will have knowledge of creative models and a willingness to run experiments grounded in research. This will include the ability to manage staff, to delegate, and to empower leadership.

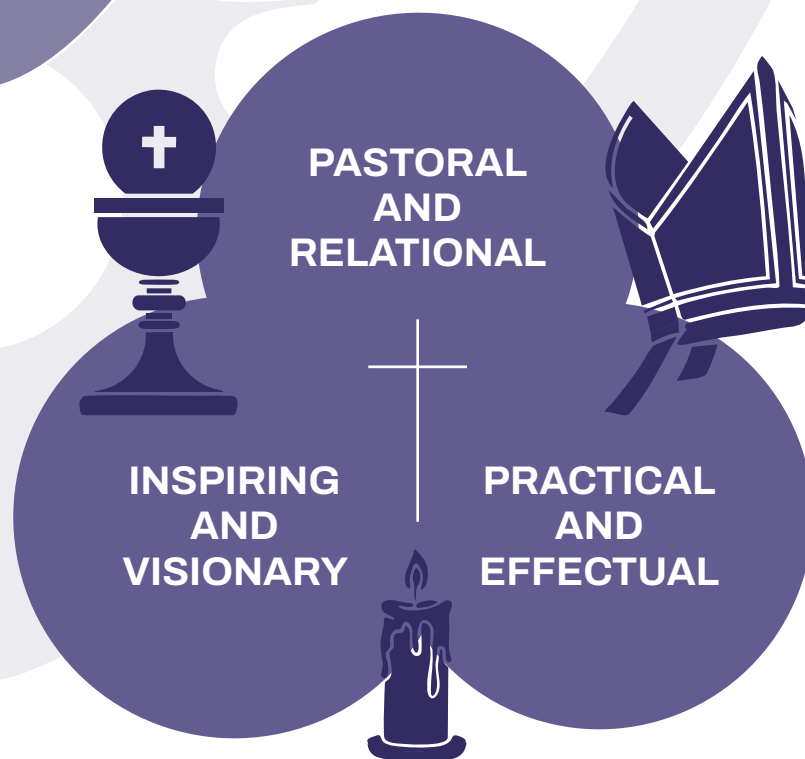
ALL THREE PRIORITIES WEAVE TOGETHER.

We seek someone who will know us, listen to our hearts, and walk with us. In so doing, our next bishop will combine what they have learned from dwelling among us with their own imaginations and skills to develop a vision, calling us toward it in compelling ways, capably and creatively using the resources available to move the vision into reality.

Above all, we want to sustain the Episcopal way of following Christ in our region – not for our sake alone, but for the sake of those who do not yet know they are the beloved ones of Christ.

We want to be salt and light and leaven in our communities.

And we want someone to join us in this mission and summon us beyond our own imaginations.





NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

As you read through this profile and spent time learning about who we are and the characteristics of the bishop we seek, do you hear the voice of the Spirit drawing you to discern with us?

If you feel any stirring of the Holy Spirit within you, we invite you to enter into discernment with us.

Our process conforms with the Canons & Constitution of The Episcopal Church which means:

- **No nominee shall be excluded because of race, color, ethnic origin, immigration status, national origin, sex, marital or family status (including pregnancy and childcare plans), sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disabilities or age, except as otherwise provided by [the] Canons. (Title III, Canon 1, Section 2).**
- **Applicants must be at least thirty (30) years of age (Article 2, Section 2).**
- **Applicants must be an ordained priest in good standing (Title III, Canon 11, Section 3).**

To enter discernment with us, we ask that applicants complete this application form.

As you read this profile, did the Holy Spirit bring to mind someone whose gifts and charisms resonate with who we seek as our next bishop?

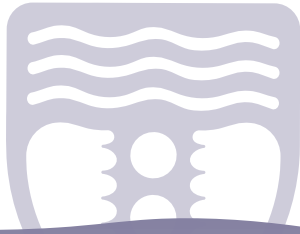
We invite you to nominate them with this [link](#).

Please know you will need to provide both the nominee's email and phone number.

Please note that, in addition to biographical information, we request from you:



- **A cover letter stating your desire to join us in discernment**
- **Your current resumé**
- **Three essay responses**
- **A signed release agreement**



Unsure if you should enter our process?

Please feel free to reach out to The Very Rev. Melinda Hall, bishop search committee chair, at bishopsearch@dionwpa.org, or Walker Adams, search consultant, at walker@episcopalconsulting.com.

Let's discern together.

TIMELINE

Applicants discerning with us should hold the following dates in their calendar:

DATE/TIMEFRAME	MILESTONE/ACTION
<i>February 2nd, 5:00 EST</i>	Application Deadline
<i>February - May</i>	Interview Process
<i>April 20th - 24th</i>	Discernment Retreat With Finalists
<i>July 6th - 10th</i>	Diocesan Meet & Greet
<i>August 8, 2026</i>	Electing Convention
<i>December 12, 2026</i>	Ordination of the 9th Bishop Diocesan

For more information on the search process and for the latest updates, visit <https://dionwpa.org/bishop-search/>.

WITH GRATITUDE

Thank you for joining your prayers to ours in this discernment process.

- The Very Rev. Melinda Hall (chair) | The Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie
- The Rev. Canon Martha Ishman (vice chair) | Retired
- Dr. Renee Gordon | St. Mark's, Erie
- Michel Harris | St. James, Titusville
- The Rev. Tim Kroh | Holy Trinity, Brookville and Church of Our Saviour, DuBois
- Ed Palattella | The Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie
- Caleb Raught | The Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie
- Kaycee Reib | St. John's, Franklin
- The Rev. Canon Brian Reid | Retired
- Franci Titus (designer/photographer) | The Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie
- Cassandra Reese (photographer) | Episcopal Diocese of NWPA