



FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE  
August 3, 2010

**Four Nominees for Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield  
to be selected at Nominating Synod on Saturday, Aug. 7**

One hundred and thirty clerical and lay delegates from across the Diocese of Springfield (the central and southern areas of Illinois) will gather in the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield, Illinois, on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2010 for a Nominating Synod to select four finalists to be the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield.

The Nominating Synod will begin at 8 a.m. with the registration of Delegates followed at 10 a.m. with the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The business session of the Synod will begin immediately following the Eucharist. Approximately 55 members of the clergy (retired bishops, priests and deacons) and 75 lay delegates will vote on behalf of 5,000 Episcopalians in the Springfield Diocese.

Results of the balloting will be transmitted after each round on the Diocese's website at [www.episcopalspringfield.org](http://www.episcopalspringfield.org).

To be selected as one of the final four, a nominee must receive a simple majority vote in both Orders (Clergy and Laity) on a single ballot. Balloting will continue with members of each order voting for the number of nominations remaining to be filled until four nominees have been selected. One of the four nominees will be elected as the 11th Bishop of Springfield at the Electing Synod on Saturday, Sept. 18 in Springfield.

The Diocese of Springfield, one of 110 dioceses in the Episcopal Church, has been in discernment for a new bishop since December 2008 when The Right Reverend Peter H. Beckwith announced his retirement after 18 years as bishop. After Beckwith officially left office on Feb. 1, 2010, the Standing Committee has been the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese and will be until the consecration of the next bishop scheduled for next spring.

The nominees for the Nominating Synod are:

- The Rev. Canon F. Brian Cox, 60, Rector, Christ the King, Santa Barbara, CA (Diocese of Los Angeles)
- The Ven. Shawn W. Denney, 59, Archdeacon of Springfield & Vicar, St. Luke's, Springfield, IL (Diocese of Springfield)
- The Very Rev. Beth J. Fain, 58, Rector, St. Mary's, Cypress, TX (Diocese of Texas)
- The Rev. Dr. Desmond C. Francis, 57, Rector, Christ the King, Normal, IL (Diocese of Springfield)
- The Rev. Matthew A. Gunter, 52, Rector, St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn, IL (Diocese of Chicago)
- The Rev. Dr. Leander S. Harding, 61, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Dean, Church Relations and Seminary Advancement, Trinity School for Ministry, PA (Diocese of South Carolina)

- The Rev. Robert E. Hensley, 59, Rector, Grace, Vineyard Haven, MA (Diocese of Massachusetts)
- The Rev. Robert M. Lewis, 32, Rector, Church of the Advent, Dunnellon, FL (Diocese of Central Florida)
- The Rev. Daniel H. Martins, 58, Rector, St. Anne's, Warsaw, IN (Diocese of Northern Indiana)
- The Rev. Dr. Ladson F. Mills III, 59, Scholar-in-Residence, Church of the Savior, Johns Island, SC (Diocese of South Carolina)
- The Very Rev. Dr. Robert S. Munday, 55, Dean and President, Nashotah House, Nashotah, WI (Diocese of South Carolina)
- The Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson, 45, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Louisiana, LA (Diocese of Louisiana)
- The Very Rev. Richard A. Swan, 61, Canon Missioner, Hale Team Ministry, Diocese of Springfield, IL (Diocese of Springfield)
- The Very Rev. Gene R. Tucker, 63, Rector, Trinity, Mt. Vernon, IL (Diocese of Springfield)

For additional information on the nominees and the Springfield Episcopal Diocese, please visit [www.episcopalspringfield.org](http://www.episcopalspringfield.org).

For further information:

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