

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE
September 15, 2010

11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield to be elected
Saturday, Sept. 18 at St. Paul's Cathedral, Springfield

On Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010, 129 clerical and lay delegates from across the Diocese of Springfield, which encompasses the central and southern areas of Illinois, will gather in the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 815 S. Second St. in Springfield, to elect from three candidates the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield.

The Electing Synod will begin at 8 a.m. with the registration of Delegates and guests, 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 74 lay delegates will vote on behalf of 5,000 Episcopalians in the Springfield Diocese.

The three candidates, from which one will be elected as the next bishop of Springfield, were selected from among fourteen nominees at a Nominating Synod held on Aug. 7, 2010, in Springfield. The names of the three final candidates are:

- **The Rev. Matthew A. Gunter**, 52, Rector, St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn, (Diocese of Chicago)
- **The Rev. Daniel H. Martins**, 59, Rector, St. Anne's, Warsaw, Ind. (Diocese of Northern Indiana)
- **The Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson**, 46, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Louisiana, La. (Diocese of Louisiana)

In order for an election to take place, a candidate 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 until a bishop is elected. The consecration of the new bishop is scheduled for next spring.

The Diocese of Springfield is one of 110 dioceses in the Episcopal Church. It 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. Since Beckwith officially left office on Feb. 1, 2010, the Standing Committee has been the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese and will be until the spring consecration of the 11th bishop.

For additional information on the candidates and the Springfield Episcopal Diocese or to view the results of the ballots, please visit www.episcopalspringfield.org.

For further information:

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