

The Diocese of Virginia

BISHOP SUFFRAGAN SEARCH

WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHOULD WE BE LOOKING FOR IN OUR NEW BISHOP SUFFRAGAN?

From the Education Subcommittee of the Bishop Suffragan Nominating Committee

The model for a bishop is set forth in Scripture. The model of Christian faithfulness set out for an *episkopos* (bishop) in I Timothy 3:1ff is paralleled in the vows taken at the ordination of a bishop, as set forth in the *Book of Common Prayer* (pp. 518ff). The qualities called for by Scripture are the following. The bishop should be:

- Above reproach
- Faithful to his or her spouse (I Tim. says “the husband of one wife”)
- Temperate
- Sensible
- Respectable
- An apt teacher
- Not a drunkard
- Not violent but gentle
- Not quarrelsome
- Not a lover of money
- A disciplined parent
- Well thought of by outsiders



www.thediocese.net/BishopSuffraganSearchProcess

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(continued from the front)

WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHOULD WE BE LOOKING FOR?

The *Book of Common Prayer* asks that the bishop be:

- Faithful in prayer
- Faithful in the study and application of Scripture
- Bold in proclaiming the gospel
- One who both enlightens the minds and stirs up the conscience of the people
- Someone capable of nourishing Christians from “the riches of God’s grace”
- Someone prepared to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church
- Someone merciful to all, compassionate to the poor and strangers and a defender of those who have no helper.

Finally, the bishop should be someone who understands herself or himself to be called and equipped by God for the task of the episcopate.

To find a bishop to be the right fit for our own context in the Diocese of Virginia, the Nominating Committee carried out extensive interviews with Diocesan leadership and staff, as well as an online survey to elicit feedback from the Diocese. For details of the Committee’s findings, visit www.thediocese.net/BishopSuffraganSearchProcess/.

Produced as one in a series of bulletin inserts by the Education Subcommittee of the Bishop Suffragan Nominating Committee. Special thanks to the Education Task Group of the Bishop Coadjutor Nominating Committee, 2006.



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