

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 // The Rev. Ben Robertson

What is a Presiding Bishop?

Every Sunday, during the Prayers of the People (the prayers after the Creed), we pray for lots of different folks: members, friends, and family on our prayer lists, those celebrating a birthday or anniversary, the President of the United States and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and our bishops, including Michael, our Presiding Bishop. The Presiding Bishop (or PB) is the Chief Pastor, President, and Chief Executive Officer of our Episcopal Church. The PB is elected by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church and serves for a nine-year term (confused yet? To learn more about the Presiding Bishop, [click here](#)).

This June, the triennial General Convention of the Episcopal Church will gather in Louisville, KY, to elect the next Presiding Bishop. The four nominees, announced last week, are J. Scott Barker, Bishop of Nebraska; Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez, Bishop of Pennsylvania; Robert Wright, Bishop of Atlanta; and Sean Rowe, Bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Others could be nominated by petition. To learn more about these candidates (including introductory videos) and the election process, [click here](#).

The election of a Presiding Bishop is an exciting moment for the Church. It provides an opportunity to broadly discern our goals and tone for the next few years and who will lead such efforts. The election is also a time for prayer: prayers for the candidates, prayers for the deputies and fellow bishops who will vote, and prayers for the mission of the Episcopal Church. I invite you to pray for all these folks. They need our prayers, including on June 26, the day of the election.

Our Episcopal Church is a hierarchical institution, and (honestly) her structures can be confusing and sometimes frustrating. However, these structures also provide leadership, discipline, and best practices as All Saints and all of the parishes, schools, and other ministries of the Church answer the call to do the good work Jesus calls us to do. The PB is the administrator and an integral part of this important work. So, I hope you will follow and be excited about this process and, let us pray.

