



PRESS RELEASE

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Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles Elects the Rev. Canon Mary D. Glasspool, Marylander, as Bishop Suffragan

Glasspool is the canon to the bishops for the Diocese of Maryland

BALTIMORE – In accordance with the Canons and Constitutions of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Los Angeles, the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland today announced that the Rev. Canon Mary D. Glasspool was elected bishop suffragan of Los Angeles. Glasspool was elected on the 7th ballot from a slate of three nominees, after two nominees withdrew. Total number of votes: 356 out of 629 possible.

Glasspool was elected on the second day of balloting for one of two bishops suffragan positions for the Diocese of Los Angeles. The election for two bishops suffragan positions was held Dec. 4 and 5 at the Riverside Convention Center. The Rev. Diane Jardine Bruce was elected Friday, Dec. 4 on the third ballot. Bruce is the first woman elected bishop in the LA diocese.

Following the election, the bishop suffragan-elect said in a statement to those gathered in convention in Los Angeles, “I’m deeply and forever grateful for the trust you’ve shown in me, and I look forward with great excitement to serving together with you in furthering the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in the world – in whose name we are all honored to serve.” [Click here](#) to read Glasspool’s statement to convention.

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, bishop of Maryland, said, “This is a great day in the life of the Episcopal Church. I have often said that the staff of the Diocese of Maryland is one of the finest in the Church. When one of its members is called to other important positions in the church, then all of us are honored. As canon to the bishops since 2001, Mary has distinguished herself as a faithful and gifted priest who is well prepared to assume the mantle of leadership incumbent upon a bishop. Our prayers are with Mary, the Diocese of Los Angeles and the whole Church.”

The Rt. Rev. John L. Rabb, bishop suffragan of Maryland, said, “In nominating Mary Glasspool for bishop suffragan of Los Angeles, I noted her leadership in the Diocese of Maryland and in the Episcopal Church. I have great respect for her ministry as well as her excellent preaching and articulation of the Christian faith and ministry. She does exemplary work in congregational development, and this will be a great gift to the Diocese of Los Angeles.”

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

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Bishops in the Episcopal Church are elected by ballot by both clergy and lay delegates. More than 680 people attended the diocese's annual Convention. Of that, the voting Orders consisted of 414 lay delegates representing the diocese's 147 churches and 269 clergy. Each cleric who is canonically resident in the Diocese of Los Angeles has a vote. Clergy serving under the jurisdiction of the diocesan bishop are canonically resident in that diocese. The two Orders vote by ballot separately and when one nominee receives a majority in each Order of the votes cast, then that person has been duly elected.

Two elections were held to fill the vacancies of the co-equal positions.

The Rev. Scott P. Bellows, president of the Maryland diocese's Standing Committee, immediately following the election said, "I applaud the actions of the Diocese of Los Angeles in electing the Rev. Canon Mary D. Glasspool as one of their two bishops suffragan. While we in Maryland will be saddened to lose this outstanding servant leader from among our ranks, we are confident that we will continue to benefit from Mary's wisdom as she takes her rightful place in the greater councils of the church."

Consents and Consecration

The next step in the process is the Consent for Ordination, which is given by a majority of both Standing Committees and diocesan bishops of the Episcopal Church. With a majority consensus of both parties, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, notifies the Standing Committee of the electing diocese and the bishop-elect of the church's consent for ordination to bishop.

A Standing Committee's role is similar to that of a board of directors. The committee serves as the council of advice to the bishop(s), and when there is a vacancy in the office of bishop, the committee performs the duties and powers of the bishop in matters of governance.

With that consent, Glasspool and Bruce will be ordained and consecrated a bishop by the presiding bishop on Saturday, May 15, 2010. A location and details will follow. As details of the Consecration become available they will be posted online at ang-md.org and ladiocese.org.

There were six nominees in the Los Angeles diocese's bishops suffragan election. Glasspool was the only nominee not from California. The diocese sought the election of two bishops suffragan. The slate was announced August 2 by the Rev. Julian Bull, chair of the Search and Nominating Committee.

The Rt. Rev. J. Jon Bruno, Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles, held one-on-one meetings with the nominees whom the committee selected and notified the committee that he would consider it a blessing to work with any of the six.

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The newly elected bishops will succeed Bishop Suffragan Chester L. Talton and Bishop Assistant Sergio Carranza, who will retire in 2010 after 19 and seven years, respectively, of service to the LA Diocese.

According to the canons of the Episcopal Church (III.11.10), "a bishop suffragan shall act as an assistant to and under the direction of the Bishop Diocesan." Bishops suffragan have historically been elected without right of succession as Bishop Diocesan. The term suffragan is said to come from the Latin *suffragari*, which has been translated "to support with one's vote."

*With 70,000 members in 147 congregations, the **Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles** includes all of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and part of Riverside County. www.ladiocese.org*

*The **Episcopal Diocese of Maryland** is a Christian community of more than 21,000 households in 116 congregations covering 10 counties and Baltimore City. Please visit www.ang-md.org for more information. The Episcopal Church is a community of 2.4 million members in 100 nationwide dioceses, 10 overseas dioceses and six extra-provincial territories; www.episcopalchurch.org. The Anglican Communion is a global community of 77 million Anglicans in 38 member churches/provinces, of which the Episcopal Church is a member; www.anglicancommunion.org.*

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