

FAQs

Where is our bishop going?

Bishop Mathes has accepted a call to join the faculty of Virginia Theological Seminary as the associate dean of students. He will be responsible for community formation, admissions and he will serve as a pastor to students.

Why is he leaving?

The bishop has a deep passion for teaching and theological formation. His discernment was that this is the right opportunity, and he feels God's call affirmed. In addition, he senses that the diocese is well-positioned for a transition.

When will the bishop depart?

Bishop Mathes plans to complete his currently scheduled visitations through May. Plans are underway for a final celebratory service and send-off on or around July 1. Stay tuned for more information.

Who is in charge when Bishop Mathes leaves?

Just as your vestry or bishop's committee is in charge when a priest leaves a congregation, our standing committee will be responsible as the ecclesiastical authority in accordance with Article IX, Section 3, of our church laws (canons). There are certain things that, according to the canons and rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer that can only be done by a bishop. There are options, and the standing committee will select the best option for this period until a new bishop is elected.

How do we find a new bishop? Will there be a search committee? Who will be on it?

Our standing committee will work with the office of pastoral development at the Episcopal Church, which traditionally oversees episcopal transitions. Over the next month or so, they will refine the process and timetable for the bishop search, which will be communicated to the diocese.

How long will it take to find a new bishop?

The process to find a new bishop usually takes about 18 months to two years.

What would he like as a going away present?

The bishop and Terri have expressed their sincere love for the people of this diocese and have insisted on no tangible gifts. If so moved, however, you may give to the Clergy Mentorship Fund of the Diocese of San Diego, a fund established as part of our diocesan capital campaign. The bishop hopes that one of his legacies will be a fully operational endowment to support congregations in hiring newly ordained clergy so they will be well-mentored in their first years of service. If you need help making a gift, please contact Hannah Wilder, hwilder@edsd.org, 619-481-5456.