



The Episcopal Diocese in Hawai'i

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick
Bishop

A Letter from the Bishop to God's People in the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i

Friday in Easter Week: April 25, 2025

"Thanks be to God, who gives us this victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! As a result of all this, my loved brothers and sisters, you must stand firm, unshakable, excelling in the work of the Lord as always, because you know that your labor isn't going to be for nothing in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 (Common English Bible)

Aloha iā my dear Siblings in Christ Jesus,

During this most holy season in the Church's calendar, I write to give thanks to God for you. I want you, God's People in this Diocese, to know that I love you. I am blessed to be your Bishop.

At this joyful time having basked on Saturday in the glow of the new fire at the Great Vigil of Easter, I write to share that I have formally informed the Presiding Bishop and our Standing Committee of my intention to resign as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Hawai'i in November 2026 (about eighteen months from now).

In the language of the Canons, I am "resigning for reasons of advanced age." In the eyes of the Church, a bishop remains a bishop and canonically never "retires" (the Church Pension Fund, however, does use the term "retirement"). A bishop "resigns" jurisdiction. Like Bishops Kennedy and Chang before me, I hope to live in the Diocese for the rest of my life and to support my Bishop – the next Bishop of this Diocese – as she/he thinks best.

With this announcement, I hereby call for the election of the sixth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i to take up jurisdiction immediately upon ordination and consecration to the episcopate.

As a Diocese, we will formally begin the process to discern, elect and ordain the next Bishop Diocesan. The Canons of the Episcopal Church (III.11.1.a) direct that "the Standing Committee shall have oversight of, and responsibility for, any search, nomination, transition, and election processes." We are blessed with an insightful and diligent Standing Committee: Mr. Douglass Adams - Lay At-Large - 2026 (Holy Apostles, Hawai'i County); Mr. William Bonnet - Lay At-Large - 2025 (St. John's, Maui County); the Rev. Jazzy Bostock - Clergy At-Large - 2028 (St. John the Baptist, Honolulu County); Ms. Mary Carpenter - Lay At-Large - 2028 (Cathedral of St. Andrew, Honolulu County); the Rev. Keleawe Hee - Clergy At-Large - 2027 (Good Samaritan, Honolulu County); the Rev. Andrew McMullen - Clergy At-Large - 2026 (St. Michael's, Kaua'i County); Mr. Chuck Spence - Lay At-Large - 2027 (Trinity, Maui County): President; and the Rev. J. A. Hau'oli Tomoso - Clergy At-Large - 2025 (Trinity, Maui County).

You will be hearing from the Standing Committee within the next few days. They will share more details about the process and the Search Committee. They have already been in conversation with the Presiding Bishop's Office. They have also begun a listening tour of the Diocese. These sessions are not directly related to search and transition of the next Bishop, but they are truly meant to be a "talk story" for them as the Bishop's Council of Advice. You are invited to come share about your congregation and community. The next "Talk Story" with the Standing Committee will be on O'ahu at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, 1801 10th Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816, on Saturday, May 17th, at 1:00 PM. Other times are planned.

The Standing Committee President, Chuck Spence, asked me to share some key dates to add to your calendars as you plan for the rest of this year and for 2026:

- ⇒ **Soon after April 25, 2025:** Be on the lookout for a Standing Committee letter and invitation to the Virtual Town Hall regarding the Search Committee and their work.
- ⇒ **May 3, 2025 at 12:00 NOON:** Standing Committee Virtual Town Hall for the Diocese regarding the search and transition processes.
- ⇒ **May 17, 2025, at 1:00 PM (O'ahu):** Standing Committee Talk Story Tour – Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, 1801 10th Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816.
- ⇒ **June 21, 2025 at 8:00 AM:** Standing, Search and Transition Committee members in-person meeting for prayer, discernment, orientation and breakout session – Von Holt Room, Diocesan Support Center, 229 Queen Emma Square, Honolulu, HI
- ⇒ **July 18 (East Hawai'i) and 19 (West Hawai'i) 2025:** Big Island Standing Committee Talk Story Tour with details forthcoming
- ⇒ **August 25-27, 2025:** Annual Clergy Conference at Grand Nanihoa Hotel, Hilo, with Guest Speaker, the Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson, Canon and Senior Advisor to the Presiding Bishop. Registration Webpage: <https://www.episcopalhawaii.org/2025-clergy-conference.html>. Attendance this year is particularly important.
- ⇒ **September 20, 2025 at 1:00 PM (Maui):** Maui Standing Committee Talk Story Tour at Trinity Episcopal Church By-the-Sea, 100 Kuilanihakoi St, Kihei
- ⇒ **October 24-25, 2025:** Education Day and the Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Convention at 'Iolani School. Delegates and clergy are strongly encouraged to attend both days. Others are welcome to attend – especially at Education Day. Please come to help build community at this important time in the life of the Diocese.
- ⇒ **April 2026:** Ke Aloha Kākou 'meet and greet' tour of Candidates for the Sixth Bishop of Hawai'i with details forthcoming.
- ⇒ **May 16, 2026:** Special Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai'i with the single purpose of electing the sixth Bishop of the Diocese. Details will follow closer to the time. All voting delegates and clergy will need to plan to be at the designated electing site on O'ahu from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Clergy with Saturday evening liturgies will need to make provision for supply or lay led Evening Prayer.
- ⇒ **October 23-24, 2026:** The Annual Meeting of Diocesan Convention. Delegates and clergy need to plan on being in attendance both full days. Again, clergy with Saturday evening liturgies will need to make provision for supply or lay led Evening Prayer as the scheduled conclusion of the business meeting on Saturday will be 4:00 PM. The plan is for the

Bishop-elect to be in attendance at this meeting. It will also be my last Convention as Bishop Diocesan. Ka Ha‘alele ‘Ana ‘farewell’ reception and dinner planned for Friday evening.

⇒ **November 14, 2026:** Ordination and consecration of the sixth Bishop of Hawai‘i in the Cathedral of St. Andrew, Honolulu. The Presiding Bishop has this date on his calendar. All clergy are expected to be in attendance. It is also important that the congregations, schools and Camp are well represented. All Wardens and members of Vestries/Bishop’s Committees need to plan on being present. Ke Kipa ‘Ana ‘welcome’ reception for the sixth Bishop of Hawai‘i to follow the ordination.

As all this unfolds over the next eighteen months, our ministry together continues. Amid the hectic activity, God’s Mission for the Church – through our Diocese and congregations – is of primary importance. My ministry as your Bishop is my priority. I will be making my final visitations to congregations. We will have island wide gatherings. Knowing our Diocese, we will have ample time to give thanks for our shared ministry, to talk story, to laugh, and to eat ‘ono food.

I began this letter with a quote from St. Paul. I conclude with the words of Jesus Christ in the last two verses of the Gospel of Matthew (28:18-20):

Jesus came near and spoke to them, “I’ve received all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age.”

With the certainty that Christ Jesus is with us always, please know that I pray for you every day. Please pray for me.

Yours in the love of God,

Robert L. Fitzpatrick

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick, Bishop Diocesan
The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i
The Episcopal Church in the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and Saipan

