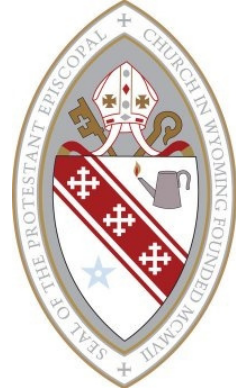


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2010

— IN LARAMIE THIS WEEKEND —

9th Episcopal Bishop of Wyoming to be elected Saturday, March 20, at St. Matthew's Cathedral



Several hundred Episcopalians from around the state will gather in Laramie this Saturday to elect the next Bishop of Wyoming. The Electing Convention begins at 9 a.m. in St. Matthew's Cathedral located at 3rd & Iverson.

Approximately 65 clergy members (priests and deacons), along with 111 lay and youth delegates will vote on behalf of 7,500 Wyoming Episcopalians. To be elected bishop, a nominee must receive 50% + one vote — a simple majority — from both orders of clergy and laity who are present. Several rounds of balloting are expected until a nominee acquires a majority. While 176 lay and clergy delegates are slated to attend (along with scores of alternates and witnesses), the final count cannot be determined until on-site check-in Friday night and early Saturday morning. Bad weather, illness or other unforeseen difficulties may prevent full attendance. (Back-up date for the election is March 27.)

The diocese has been in discernment for a new bishop since October 2008 when the Rt. Rev. Bruce Caldwell announced his retirement after 11 years of service. Wyoming, out of 116 dioceses in the national Episcopal Church, is one of just four dioceses experiencing membership growth — bucking the trend of attendance losses in mainline U.S. churches.

One of these nominees will be elected the next bishop of Wyoming:

- **The Rev. Canon Margaret Babcock**, Canon for Congregation and Ministry Development, Casper, WY / Diocese of Wyoming
- **The Rev. Rebecca “Becky” Brown**, Rector - St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Foxboro, MA / Diocese of Massachusetts
- **The Rev. Sandra Casey-Martus**, Rector - All Saints Episcopal Church, Corpus Christi, TX / Diocese of West Texas
- **The Very Rev. Canon F. Michael Perko**, Dean, Diocesan School for Ministry; Regional Canon; Assisting Priest, Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque, NM Diocese of the Rio Grande,
- **The Rev. Canon Dr. Clark Michael Sherman**, Rector - St. James Church, Bozeman, MT; Regional Canon; University Chaplain / Diocese of Montana
- **The Rev. John Sheridan Smylie**, Rector - St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Casper, WY / Diocese of Wyoming

Nominees for Episcopal bishop are selected by two methods: A search committee issues a call for applications and each candidate is reviewed with the finalists extensively interviewed. The second method of nominating a candidate for bishop comes through a signature process where clergy and laity petition for an individual to be added to the slate. All nominees must pass an Oxford background check.

The Consecration will be July 31 at the Casper Events Center. The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Katharine Jefferts Schori, will attend and preside.

For real-time results of the balloting: Sign up for Email Alerts at www.WyomingBishopSearch.org or follow PamelaGRW on www.Twitter.com and be sure to activate the tweets to your mobile device. Results will be transmitted after each round. For additional background information on the nominees, go to the Documents section of the bishop search website to review their resumes and essays.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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