

# **SPECIAL EDITION: Chronicle – Reflections on the Election of the Sixth Bishop of Hawai‘i**

The Diocese of Hawai‘i gathered for the Special Meeting of Convention on May 16, 2026, for the sole purpose of electing the Sixth Bishop of Hawai‘i. We are grateful to share that the election proceeded **smoothly, prayerfully, and with a deep sense of unity**, reflecting the strength and faithfulness of our diocesan ‘ohana.

With joy and thanksgiving, we offer our **warmest congratulations to the Bishop-Elect, the Reverend Elizabeth “Libby” Berman**. We hold her in prayer as she enters this next stage of discernment and preparation, and we give thanks for her willingness to offer herself in service to the Diocese of Hawai‘i.

We extend our profound appreciation to the **voting clergy and lay delegates**, whose careful preparation and prayerful discernment shaped the day. We also give heartfelt thanks to the many individuals whose leadership and service helped the Convention unfold with clarity, grace, and a deep sense of shared purpose:

- **The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick**, 5<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Hawai‘i, for his faithful leadership and guidance
- **The Rev. Annalise Pasalo**, Secretary of the Convention, for her steady leadership and careful oversight
- **The Rev. Jennifer Masada**, Vice President of Diocesan Council, and Dispatch of Business Chair, for her dedicated service and support
- **Ms. Martha Im**, Chancellor Emerita, for her wisdom and gracious counsel
- **The Election Committee and Credentials and Registration Team** for their careful preparation and faithful service
- **The dedicated staff of the Diocesan Support Center** for their behind-the-scenes work and steadfast support
- **The many volunteers** who offered hospitality, technical support, and logistical coordination with generosity and grace
- **The ‘Iolani School** for their hospitality and for sharing their beautiful campus with us

Their combined efforts created a Convention marked by order, transparency, and a shared commitment to the mission of the Church in these islands.

## **With Gratitude to All Three Candidates and Their Families**

We offer our **deepest and most heartfelt thanks** to the three faithful clergy who offered themselves for discernment in this election:

- **The Reverend Canon Andrew Arakawa**

- **The Reverend Elizabeth “Libby” Berman**
- **The Reverend Timothy “Tim” Gianni**

We also extend our gratitude to their **families**, who walked alongside them throughout this demanding and prayerful process. Their generosity, courage, and devotion to the Church are gifts to the entire Diocese. We honor their ministry and hold each of them in prayer with thanksgiving.

## **The Consent Process: What Happens Next**

With the election now complete, the next step in the canonical process is the **120-day period for the receipt of consents** from across The Episcopal Church.

In accordance with **Title III, Canon 11**, the Office of the Presiding Bishop has now sent formal notice of the election to:

- **All Standing Committees** of the dioceses of The Episcopal Church
- **All Bishops with jurisdiction**

These bodies are asked to respond within **120 days** of the date the notice was sent. This is a normal and required part of the process for every bishop-elect in The Episcopal Church.

Once the necessary consents are received and verified, the election is formally confirmed.

## **Looking Ahead: Convention and the Ordination/Consecration**

As we move through the consent period, we also look forward to the months ahead, including:

- **The Annual Meeting of Convention** in October, when we will gather again as a diocesan ‘ohana and celebrate Bishop Bob’s tenure at the Ka Ha‘alele ‘Ana
- The continued planning and preparation for the **ordination and consecration of the Sixth Bishop of Hawai‘i on November 14**, followed by celebration at the Ke Kipa‘Ana reception

More information about these events will be shared as details are finalized.

## **With Gratitude for the Work of Transition**

We also give heartfelt thanks to the members of the **Standing Committee, both from the last cohort and the current cohort**, for their faithful work throughout the Bishop Search and Transition journey. We are deeply grateful to the **Search Committee** for stepping forward to undertake a yearlong process of gathering input from across the Diocese and prayerfully shaping that wisdom into a diocesan profile that has earned praise from other dioceses and from the

Office of the Presiding Bishop. We likewise offer sincere appreciation to the **Transitions Committee** for work that began last year and continues even now, including the **Ke Aloha Kakou Meet and Greet** sessions, preparations for the **Annual Meeting of Convention** in October, and planning for the **ordination and consecration of the Sixth Bishop of Hawai'i on November 14**. We also give thanks for the guidance and steadfast presence of **the Rev. Anne Kitch, Bishop Search and Transition Consultant**, and **Dr. Sarah Stonesifer Boylan, Senior Leadership Development Officer in the Office of the Presiding Bishop**. Their dedication, care, and steady leadership continue to guide the Diocese through this season with grace and hope.

## **A Closing Word of Gratitude to You**

Taken together, the many acknowledgments above remind us that reaching this moment—and continuing faithfully into what lies ahead—has required the shared labor of many, and for that we offer our deepest thanks to you.

This election represents not only a transition in leadership but also a testament to the strength, faith, and unity of our diocesan community. Mahalo to every delegate, volunteer, clergy member, lay leader, staff member, candidate, and member of our beloved Diocese who contributed to a process grounded in prayer, respect, and hope for our shared future.

We continue to hold our Bishop-Elect, all candidates, and the entire Diocese in prayer as we move faithfully into the next stage of this journey.

With gratitude for our shared ministry,

Chuck Spence, President

Standing Committee