

From the bishop-elect...

She could not have been more adorable! Her four-foot stature was covered head to toe in wild colors, complete with multi-color hair. The closer she got the wider her smile became. Her outstretched, toothpick-sized arms reached forth to draw me close in a big hug. Looking up at me with her big brown eyes she said, "I am really going to miss you, but I am really excited for you." And with that the nine year old girl that I have known for her entire life ran back to the chaos that was our Halloween Carnival at the church on Saturday night.

Standing there in the electrifying energy of both the carnival and more importantly the affirmation from my young friend I felt incredibly blessed. This is exactly how I have felt for the entire journey of mutual discernment with you all. The chance to learn about a phenomenal faith community with such a rich and diverse history has been incredible. We have all been prayerfully considering what you believe God is calling forth from you as a diocese while exploring if my gifts for ministry and experience may be the right fit. To have this vision turn into reality has been transformative. And now having the opportunity to come and serve with you all is the pinnacle of blessings.

With our level of excitement and anticipation our family is ready to load up the car and head to Minnesota today. And yet, we know the importance of ending well with our church family of thirteen years and our friends of even longer. We also know we want to begin well. As such, there are many details to be tended to and conversations that need to take place. With this in mind I would ask for your prayers for both the good people of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Spokane, and those on your diocesan staff and Transition Committee during this season of leadership change.

With deep gratitude I thank you for the opportunity to serve with you! It is with great anticipation and excitement I look forward to listening, learning and leading in the next chapter of the life of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota!

Blessings,



Brian N. Prior

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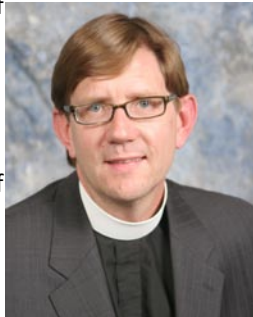
Blessings,



Brian N. Prior

Brian N. Prior elected IX Bishop of Minnesota

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota is pleased to announce that on October 31, Diocesan Convention elected the Rev. Brian Prior IX Bishop of Minnesota.



Prior has been the Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Spokane, Washington since 1996. Among the many boards and committees on which he serves, Rev. Prior is the Vice President of the House of Deputies of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church. He received his M.Div. from Church Divinity of the Pacific in Berkeley, California in 1987. Rev. Prior has been married to Staci Hubbard Prior for 21 years. They have two teenage sons.

Rev. Prior was elected on the 5th ballot. Clergy and laity votes are counted separately and a majority is needed in both orders to win the election. Rev. Prior had 118 clergy votes (103 were needed for a majority), and 153 lay votes (117 were needed for a majority).

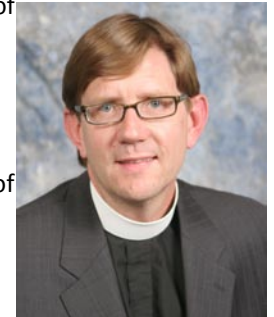
Upon accepting election as the IX Bishop, Rev. Prior said, "I feel overwhelmed and blessed at this moment for the opportunity to come and serve in a place with such a rich history and with so many saints both past and present."

According to the canon law of The Episcopal Church, consent to the election must be secured from a majority of bishops with jurisdiction and a majority of diocesan Standing Committees. If received, Rev. Prior will be Ordained and consecrated as the IX Bishop of Minnesota on February 13, 2010, in a service at the Minneapolis Convention Center with the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding.

Read Brian N. Prior's autobiography, resume, and answers to Search Committee questions on the diocesan website, www.episcopalmn.org. The videos from his walkabout presentations are also on the website.

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