

THE REV. CANON CARRIE SCHOFIELD-BROADBENT

September 5, 2022

Dear Diocese of Maryland Search Committee,

It is with joy and enthusiasm that I express my desire to discern with you as you seek to call your next Bishop. The faithfulness, integrity, and strength of your diocese shine through in your profile.

I've had the privilege of getting to know your diocese through my work with the College for Congregational Development as a trainer with your launch team. There, I met congregational leaders who are dedicated, open-minded, grounded in mission, and fun to be around. Glimpsing some of your congregations, I heard stories of creativity, resourcefulness, resilience and courage. I find myself imagining what it would be like to share ministry with you as your bishop.

I am inspired by your faithfulness looking at the sins and tragedies of the past with courage and accountability, moving into a place of restoration and healing. I've witnessed from afar your good work of truth-telling and healing in response to Heather Cook's very public and tragic crimes. And, I am deeply moved and inspired by your commitment to reparations and justice as you continue to confront the trauma of racial injustice—both in your past and in the ways this history shapes your present.

I see myself in the qualities you're looking for in your next bishop. My own core values of ministry include trust and relationships, truth and transparency, and compassion and faithfulness. And these qualities reveal themselves in who God has created me to be: a bridge-builder, someone who's not afraid of tough conversations, and an encourager. I am a person grounded in integrity, creativity, and the love of Jesus.

I've known your state for as long as I can remember, visiting relatives in Maryland as a young girl, and now traveling there often to see my sisters and their families. As I've begun to get to know you, as a diocese, more deeply over the past two years, I've felt a growing fondness and admiration for the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. The Diocese has been in my daily prayers as you seek to call a new bishop for the next chapter of your ministry.

Having chaired a Bishop Search Committee, I have a good idea of the important, hopeful, and difficult work before you. I am praying for you as a search committee in this time of searching, discernment, and transition. I hope this experience is as transformative for you as it was for me. I fell more deeply in love with the Church during that time, and felt the never-failing presence of God and the creative workings of the Spirit in brand new ways. I wish the same graces for you all. I'm excited to enter into this mutual discernment together.

Peace be with you,

Carrie Schofield-Broadbent +