



## THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

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THE RT. REV. JACK. LEO IKER, *Bishop*

August 20, 2018

*For immediate release*

### **Fort Worth calls for election of a Bishop Coadjutor**

In a meeting today at the Diocesan Center for Ministry, Bishop Jack L. Iker announced to the diocesan clergy his intention to retire at the end of 2019. With the diocesan Standing Committee, the Bishop is calling for the election of his successor, who will become the fourth Bishop of the Diocese.

Consecrated on April 24, 1993, Bishop Iker succeeded the Rt. Rev. Clarence Pope, becoming the third Bishop of Fort Worth on Jan. 1, 1995. He will celebrate the 44th anniversary of his ordination to the sacred priesthood on Friday, Nov. 9, at the Opening Eucharist of the 36th Annual Diocesan Convention.

A Nominating Committee for the selection of a slate of candidates is to be formed in October. Provisions for the process are set forth in diocesan Canon 40, which calls for two representatives (one lay, one clerical) to be elected from each of the six Deaneries. Eight additional members (four lay, four clerical) will be elected by the Executive Council, and the Standing Committee will elect a further eight committee members (four lay, four clerical) and a chairman. The Nominating Committee is expected to make a report to the Convention in November. The election will take place at a Special Convention on June 1, 2019; the consecration date is tentatively set for Sept. 21, the feast of St. Matthew.

Following is a letter to the Diocese from Bishop Iker.

#### **A WORD FROM THE BISHOP TO THE CLERGY AND LAITY OF THE DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH**

August 20, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After prayerful discernment and reflection, I have decided the time has come for us to begin the search process that will lead next year to the election and consecration of a new Bishop as my successor.

As you know, I am now in my 26th year as your Bishop, and in a few days I will celebrate my 69th birthday. In order to make way for new leadership, it is my intention to retire on December 31, 2019.

The first step is the election of a Nominating Committee, under the provisions of Canon

40, on the "Election of a Bishop." In September and October, 14 clergy and 14 lay members will be elected to serve on the committee, and the Standing Committee will elect a chairman. A profile of the Diocese will be compiled in October, and then nominations for Bishop will be received until the end of December.

The Nominating Committee will research the list of nominees and conduct interviews in the early months of 2019. The Committee will provide the names of at least three nominees to stand for election at a Special Convention on June 1 of next year. The Bishop Coadjutor-elect would be approved by the College of Bishops of the Anglican Church in North America at their regular June meeting, and tentative plans have been made for his consecration on Sept. 21, 2019.

The new Bishop would serve with me until the end of December, and his formal installation as Diocesan Bishop would be held in early January 2020.

As we move forward together in the months ahead, we are confident of God's grace and guidance as things unfold. Thank you for your prayerful support of this process, that it may be led by the Holy Spirit.



The Rt. Rev. Jack Leo Iker  
Bishop of Fort Worth

The Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth was established in 1983 by division of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas and is a constituent member of the Anglican Communion in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. It is made up of 59 congregations from Abilene, Texas, to Monroe, La., and from Wichita Falls to Houston. The Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker is its third Bishop. In 2009 the diocesan cathedral, St. Vincent's, in Bedford, Texas, was the site of the founding of the Anglican Church in North America.

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