



Dear People of the Diocese of Florida:

It is a tremendous honor to be selected to the slate to find your next Bishop Coadjutor.

The prospect of coming home and serving the great people of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida brings me tremendous joy and excitement. Born in Gainesville and raised in Jacksonville, I am a graduate of Episcopal School of Jacksonville and the University of Florida. My grandmother was a member of St. Paul's, Federal Point.

To borrow a page from my old bishop, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, my aim in serving as Bishop would be to work together to “make disciples who make a difference.” My focus would be to rally around the Great Commission and Great Commandment work Jesus called the church to fulfill.

The first work of a bishop is to build personal relationships of sincere love with the clergy and laity of the diocese. But beyond that there is much exciting work to do together. Shifting population patterns, recovering through COVID, and changing expectations of people for the church will challenge us all - but what challenges us, changes us.

In the strong foundation laid down by generations of faithful Christian witnesses, the Diocese of Florida has a wonderful legacy in its cathedral, missions, college and prison chaplaincies, diverse parishes, Episcopal schools, and Camp Weed and Cerveny Conference Center. Vibrant population growth makes the region a seedbed for new missions, church plants, and schools. The local colleges and universities are training grounds for new clergy, missionaries, lay leaders. The small towns and major cities each provide unique contexts to proclaim the Good News in word and deed. Let us raise up generations of Christian disciples together for the sake of the Gospel!

At the heart of it all, though, is the cross and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Lord would have us lose ourselves in him so that he might redeem and renew our faith. Living water and abundant life are always available when the people of God seek the way, the truth, and the life.

I look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us all as we seek to discern the mind of Christ under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

I am praying for you, and I am faithfully yours in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Charlie Holt+