

Frequently Asked Questions

Bishop Kevin S. Brown and the Diocese of Easton

1. What is happening?

The Rt. Rev. Kevin S. Brown, Bishop of Delaware, has been nominated to serve as provisional bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He is expected to stand as the sole nominee for election, during the Diocese of Easton's annual convention to be held on February 26, 2027.

If elected, Bishop Brown will serve both dioceses, continuing as the Bishop of Delaware while also providing temporary episcopal leadership to Easton.

2. What is a provisional bishop?

A provisional bishop is an already consecrated bishop who is elected to provide temporary episcopal leadership to a diocese during a vacancy or period of transition. The role of provisional bishop is specified in Section III.13.1 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

A provisional bishop exercises the authority and responsibilities of a diocesan bishop, including pastoral oversight of clergy and congregations, episcopal visitations, confirmations, ordinations, and participation in diocesan governance.

This arrangement allows a diocese to continue its ministry and mission while discerning its future leadership.

3. Why has Bishop Brown been asked to serve Easton?

The Diocese of Easton is in a period of discernment as it considers its future and the best path forward for its congregations and ministries.

During this time Easton, under the guidance of Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe, has sought a bishop who can provide stability, pastoral leadership, and Episcopal oversight while its people continue that discernment.

Bishop Brown has been nominated by the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Easton to offer that leadership as part of our shared commitment to supporting one another throughout The Episcopal Church.

4. Will Bishop Brown still be the Bishop of Delaware?

Absolutely. Bishop Brown will remain the Bishop of Delaware.

He will continue to provide Episcopal leadership, pastoral care, and oversight to the clergy, congregations, and ministries of Delaware.

His additional responsibilities in Easton do not change his position as our diocesan bishop or his commitment to our diocese.

5. Does this mean Delaware and Easton are merging?

No. There is no proposed merger between the Episcopal Church in Delaware and the Diocese of Easton.

No. The dioceses will remain separate, each with its own governing bodies, congregations, ministries, finances, and identity.

This arrangement is about sharing episcopal leadership during a time of discernment in Easton not endorsing or predetermining any specific course of action that Easton might one day pursue.

6. How will Bishop Brown divide his time between Delaware and Easton?

The specific arrangements are still being developed in consultation with the leadership of both dioceses.

The goal is to establish a sustainable schedule that allows Bishop Brown to fulfill his responsibilities to both dioceses while maintaining strong Episcopal leadership in Delaware.

Additional information will be shared as these arrangements are finalized.

7. Will Bishop Brown still visit our churches and participate in diocesan events?

Yes. Episcopal visitations, confirmations, pastoral care, and participation in diocesan life will continue to be important parts of Bishop Brown's ministry in Delaware.

Scheduling may require additional coordination, but we will maintain the Episcopal leadership and pastoral relationships that are central to our shared ministry.

8. Will this affect the work and priorities of the Episcopal Church in Delaware?

The mission, ministries, and strategic priorities of the Episcopal Church in Delaware will continue.

Bishop Brown will remain engaged in the leadership and direction of our diocese, working alongside the mission support staff, Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, clergy, and lay leaders.

As the practical arrangements take shape, we will continue to communicate any changes that may affect diocesan operations.

9. Will Delaware bear additional financial costs because of this arrangement?

The arrangement is being developed with attention to responsible stewardship of the resources of both dioceses.

Easton will assume a portion of Bishop Brown's compensation, benefits, and expenses currently provided only by Delaware, reflecting his additional responsibilities and the sharing of his ministry.

No additional financial burden is foreseen or expected for Delaware. In fact, Delaware will see a noticeable decrease in its annual costs to fund the bishop.

10. Is this arrangement unusual in The Episcopal Church?

No. Provisional bishops have served in several dioceses throughout The Episcopal Church. Though uncommon, provisional bishops have been increasingly used in recent decades as the demands of church and ministry have evolved.

These arrangements allow dioceses to receive experienced Episcopal leadership while navigating transitions, discerning future directions, or preparing for the election of a new diocesan bishop.

While the circumstances of each diocese differ, the practice of provisional Episcopal leadership is well established.

11. When will Bishop Brown begin serving Easton?

The Diocese of Easton will hold the provisional bishop election during their annual convention on Friday, February 26, 2027.

If elected, Bishop Brown will begin his ministry as provisional bishop that day. Until that election, Bishop Brown does not yet hold the office of provisional bishop of Easton.

12. How long will Bishop Brown serve as provisional bishop?

The duration of this arrangement is expected to be two to three years.

Provisional bishops serve during periods of transition, and the length of service depends on the needs and discernment of the diocese they are serving.

Easton's ongoing discernment will help shape the duration of Bishop Brown's provisional ministry.

13. Will Easton eventually elect its own bishop?

That is among the questions Easton is discerning as it considers its future.

The purpose of provisional Episcopal leadership is to provide stability and continuity without requiring a diocese to make immediate decisions about its long-term leadership.

Bishop Brown's role will be to support Easton during this process, not to predetermine its outcome.

14. Will Bishop Brown need to be consecrated or installed again?

No additional consecration is necessary. Bishop Brown is already a consecrated bishop of The Episcopal Church. There will be discussions regarding appropriate liturgical "installation".

Pending election, he will assume provisional Episcopal authority in Easton according to the Church's canonical requirements.

15. Why is Delaware participating in this arrangement?

At its heart, this is an expression of our Christian calling to care for one another.

The Episcopal Church in Delaware and the Diocese of Easton are neighboring dioceses, but we are also part of the same Church, united in faith, mission, and ministry.

Supporting Easton during this season of discernment is an opportunity to extend the generosity, compassion, and faithful leadership that we seek to embody in our own diocese.

We believe that when we have the opportunity to help provide stability and encouragement to another part of the Church, responding to that call is both good and right.

QUESTIONS?

We recognize that this new chapter of shared ministry may bring additional questions as plans continue to develop. We welcome your questions and are committed to keeping our diocesan community informed along the way.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Cynde Bimbi, director of communications and public relations for the Episcopal Church in Delaware, at cbimbi@delaware.church or 302.256.0374 ext. 107 (o) or 302.345.9392 (c).

