

Search Committee Report to Convention

Submitted by the Rev. Jordan Bishop, Co-Chair

The Bishop Search Committee began its work in March 2026 following a joint retreat with the Standing Committee and Transition Committee in Riverton, Wyoming. Since that time, we have focused on listening across the Diocese, preparing the diocesan profile, and building the process we will use to discern candidates for the next Bishop of Wyoming.

Listening Sessions

From April through June 2026, the committee held 18 listening sessions across the Diocese.. Those sessions gave clergy and laypeople an opportunity to speak directly about the life of the Diocese, its strengths and challenges, and the leadership they believe Wyoming needs in its next bishop. The committee gathered responses, and carefully worked to identify the major themes that emerged from those conversations.

Diocesan Profile and Candidate Discernment

We spent much of the summer developing the diocesan profile. The profile introduces prospective candidates to the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming and gives an account of our common life, ministries, history, challenges, and our hopes for the future.

We have begun developing the interview process and questions for candidates. After the application period closes, the committee will review applications using criteria drawn from the diocesan profile and listening process. We will conduct interviews, contact references, complete background checks, and narrow the field to a smaller group of semifinalists.

We will invite those semifinalists to an in-person discernment retreat in early 2027. The retreat will include interviews, worship, Eucharist, Bible study, conversation, and prayer. After the retreat, the committee will continue its discernment and select a slate of nominees for submission to the Standing Committee.

Timeline Ahead

The current timeline anticipates:

- **September 30, 2026:** Diocesan profile published and nomination process opens
- **Fall 2026:** Application review, references, background checks, and interviews
- **January–February 2027:** Candidate discernment retreat
- **February 2027:** Search Committee submits its slate to the Standing Committee
- **March 1, 2027:** Slate announced and petition period begins
- **March 15, 2027:** Final ballot established
- **April 2027:** Candidate walkabouts

- **May 1, 2027:** Election of the next Bishop of Wyoming
- **October 9, 2027:** Ordination and consecration of the new bishop

As candidates enter the process, we will protect their confidentiality while continuing to provide the Diocese with appropriate updates about the progress of the search.

We remain grateful to everyone who has participated in the process and to the Diocese for its continued prayers.

Amount spent on “Apostolic Fund”: \$29,299