

Describe your relationship with Jesus Christ and tell us where you find abiding joy in the Gospel, as well as the basis for your passion for its proclamation.

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and the incarnational manifestation of truth and agape love. At a very early age, I was immersed in the charismatic, incarnational theology of the Catholic renewal movement in the Episcopal Church. A core memory of mine is sitting on the stairs while my parents had Ultreya meetings in the family room. I remember them singing the song, "Have you seen Jesus my Lord?" One of the verses has profoundly shaped me.

*"Have you ever stood in the family,
With the Lord there in your midst
Seen the face of Christ on your brother?
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.
Have you seen Jesus my Lord?
He's here in plain view.
Take a look, open your eyes.
He'll show it to you.*

A deeply mystical experience later in life and daily encounters with Christ have enriched my understanding of this incarnational theology; the living Christ is very present with us.

I find abiding joy in the Gospel through the incarnational experiences of corporate worship, service, Christian community, and the persistence of God's grace in my life and the life of the Church.

My passion for the proclamation of the Gospel is rooted in

- 1) The Baptismal Welcome (BCP 308): "Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood."
- 2) Wisdom attributed to Martin Luther that says, "Every week I preach justification by faith because every week the people forget it."

Describe your approach to ministry in a divided nation and world? How do you go about respecting the dignity of every human being when the understanding of our humanity can be deeply different?

My approach to ministry in a divided nation and world is fundamentally centered on relationships. I believe that when we are truly in relationship with one another, it becomes genuinely difficult to disrespect those with different perspectives, even when understandings of our shared humanity may vary deeply.

This conviction is built upon the importance of manners, kindness, and mutual respect – qualities often diminished on social media and in virtual interactions. My ministry style is pastoral, rather than prophetic. I prioritize deep listening and intentional response. While I do not shy away from political realities, I consistently preach from the pulpit in a way that clearly proclaims the sacred role of the Church and the transformative message of the Gospel.

I firmly believe it is not my right to dictate how people ought to believe or act. Instead, it is my profound privilege to, week in and week out, remind them of the never-ending grace, mercy, and love of Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and was raised in a world no less divided than our own. This Good News of Jesus Christ has profound implications for how we live our lives.

Ministry in a polarized world can feel like walking a tightrope. I currently serve a "purple" congregation, politically diverse, yet our shared focus on relationships means it is difficult to be at odds when we are actively worshipping and serving the Lord together. This relational foundation allows us to honor the dignity of every human being by fostering genuine connection and shared purpose in Christ.

Why this diocese? Explain what excites you about the Diocese of East Carolina.

I'm not seeking the episcopacy for its own sake, but I do feel a strong call to **serve** as bishop in East Carolina. This Diocese is my home; it's where I was formed for ministry. While East Carolina certainly has its challenges, it's a remarkably healthy diocese. Our clergy share a deep respect for one another, and the deep Anglican roots on our coastal plain have cultivated strong, resilient communities and dedicated laity.

East Carolina thrives on relationships, and I have deep, established connections here. The qualities needed for our next bishop are ones I either naturally possess or have honed throughout my ministry. I believe the Diocese would be well-served by someone who already understands the "lay of the land" and has existing relationships within the community.

What truly excites me about the possibility of serving as bishop is the opportunity we'd have to:

- **Worship together week in and week out** in the diverse landscape of East Carolina.
- **Strategically manage and care for Trinity Center** to ensure its long-term sustainability.
- **Develop strong clergy and lay leaders** for every community and region.
- **Create a robust strategy for church planting** in rapidly growing areas of the Diocese.
- **Honor, uplift, and support** traditionally and historically underserved communities within our Diocese.
- **Nurture the faith and future vocations** of our young people.
- **Streamline Diocesan House's administrative functions** and revitalize church governance.