

May 13, 2025

Autobiographical Statement

To the Discernment Committee of the Diocese of East Carolina,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

My name is Brian Cannaday. I am a native Texan and a life-long Episcopalian, growing up an Episcopal preacher's kid in South Central Texas (San Antonio). While presently holding steady at 49 years old, I must disclose that a new decade is on the horizon in early November, and I'm okay with that. Currently, I am in my tenth year as rector of St. Christopher in League City, Texas in the Diocese of Texas. Before my call to the priesthood, I served as a vocational youth minister in the Episcopal Church from 1995-2011. My original desired path of study was choral music with the hope of becoming a high school choir director. While God had other plans (as God often does), music remains a great joy and blessing in my life. I received my Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at San Antonio and my Master of Divinity at The University of the South School of Theology.

I am married to the former Crystal Partin, also a native Texan. We began our 27th year of marriage last July. She is a graduate of The University of Texas at Arlington. Upon graduation, she entered the field of education, leading to an ongoing 22-year career as a schoolteacher in both public and private schools, teaching mostly 3rd and 4th grade. During my priestly formation at Sewanee, Crystal served as the Parents Morning Out coordinator for the School of Theology for 2 years, as well as an administrative assistant to the dean of the seminary. In her college years, she was a peer minister for The University of Texas at San Antonio in the Diocese of West Texas, and also served as an administrative assistant at the Bishop Jones Center (the Diocese of West Texas headquarters). Crystal is an avid reader, a better-than-novice artist, a faithful student of scripture, committed to exercise, a faithful servant of The Church, and enjoys going to the movies regularly, mostly for the popcorn and M&Ms.

Our one and only child is Hailey Grace. She is a 17-year-old senior at Clear Creek High School, hoping to attend The University of the South (Sewanee) upon graduation. Being born with a love and talent for music, one of her greatest joys is participating in all things choir, including performing on stage and serving as a student leader. She recently served on staff for a Happening and was invited to give a talk on faith. Hailey is a gifted academic student, an avid reader, a faithful servant of The Church, a talented writer, authentically cares for all people, and enjoys going to the movies on a regular basis, mostly for the popcorn and M&Ms.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you a snapshot of the Cannaday family. We hope to be blessed to know you as well. May the Holy Spirit give you joy, clarity, and peace in your faithful discernment.

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