

The Rev. Canon Kristin Uffelman White

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Dear Members of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio Search Committee,

I give thanks for this opportunity to enter into discernment with you, as you search for the person who will serve as the Tenth Bishop of Southern Ohio.

Your profile details a clear-eyed hope for your future as a diocese, as well as an honesty and a sense of longing that took my breath away. You recognize disparate accomplishments in the diocese, as well as the challenges you face, while seeking a coherent mission to frame who you are called to be as the Body of Christ throughout Southern Ohio. You name the desire for a bishop who will be present with you, particularly, in this time and place. These are the reasons – both in the work that you name and in the ways in which you articulate it – that I am compelled to explore this calling with you.

I believe and trust that God is at work in our midst: right here, right now. That is the lens through which I view the ministry I am privileged to practice, together with the people of God.

The Episcopal Church has been my home for the whole of my life. As a lay leader, I served in small churches in rural communities and mid-sized churches in the city. As a priest, I collaborated to lead mid-sized and large congregations through periods of change, toward greater alignment with their unique call to be church. As a trainer, and now a director, for the College for Congregational Development, I believe that churches of every size, location, and condition can become more healthy, more faithful, and more effective communities of faith.

Our diocesan College for Congregational Development welcomed a team of leaders from the Diocese of Southern Ohio upon the launch of our College in the summer of 2021. It was a delight to get to know the participating leaders, and to hear about how they implemented their learning within their congregation when they returned.

As canon to the ordinary for congregational development and leadership in the Diocese of Indianapolis, I work to align our initiatives and resources to help us live ever more fully into the mission that the people of this diocese developed with our bishop in the early months of her episcopate. I strive to equip leaders, both lay and ordained people, with what they need in order to lead well.

Equipping leaders with what they needed in these past years has meant more than I would have imagined. In the early days of the pandemic shutdown, it meant gathering information to develop a plan that we believed would keep people safe, while continuing in essential ministry that helped them connect through that time of separation. In the aftermath of George Floyd's murder,

it meant listening to local leaders of Black Lives Matter and inviting our congregations to commit to dismantling systemic racism. In the past year, it has meant rebuilding our diocesan youth ministry so that young people in central and southern Indiana can be nurtured together in their lives of faith. Throughout it all, it means continuing to tell the stories of how our congregations and leaders are living into our call to serve as beacons of Jesus Christ.

I was born in Anchorage, Alaska, and grew up in Prineville, Oregon, where my parents still live. I was a high school teacher for nine years before going to seminary. My husband John and I met in college and have been married since 1994. John's family comes from Oregon, and from the communities around Dayton and Columbus. Our adult daughter Katherine Grace is married and lives in Germany, and we give thanks for the technology that allows us to be in touch regularly. We have two dogs who make up in affection for what we have not yet entirely accomplished in training. We are blessed by family connections and friendships that span miles and decades.

This is holy work that you are doing together as a search committee. You are in my continuing prayers as you discern God's call through these next months. May the Holy Spirit kindle your hearts and illumine the way.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristin Uffelman White', with a small cross-like mark at the end of the signature.

Kristin Uffelman White