

## Diocese of Southern Ohio, Standing Committee

Bishop Discernment: Petition Nominee Cover Letter  
The Rev. Jose Rodriguez

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Friends,

Two weeks ago, I was contacted by a group of clergy in the Diocese of Southern Ohio to ask me into a conversation and mutual discernment to be your next bishop. As a Christian dedicated to inclusion and justice, I was moved by how broadly representative of your diocese this group is: from your urban area to Appalachia, men and women, straight and queer, of all ethnicities, and representing all ministers – laity, deacons, and priests. I have never experienced such a blessed community gathering of strangers who have become my friends. In a short time, we visioned and dreamed together, and I can see myself serving the people of Southern Ohio as your tenth bishop diocesan.

Southern Ohio is a diocese with diverse persons that reflect God's fullness in Jesus Christ. If this group is just a hint of the beautiful tapestry of your diocese, then I yearn to discern more fully with the wider Body of Christ, the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio.

Please see my materials attached, including my consent to their nomination. Trusting in God the Holy Spirit I respectfully submit these materials and candidacy to your care and discernment.

Bendiciones y Paz,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "José Rodríguez" followed by a small cross symbol.

The Rev. Dr. José Rodríguez  
Rector, Christ the King Episcopal Church  
Vicar, Iglesia Episcopal Jesús de Nazaret