

***What has happened so far to enable the Anglican District of Virginia (ADV) to become the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic?***

ADV held a Constitutional Convention May 20-21, 2011 at Church of the Epiphany in Herndon, Va. At this event, ADV delegates voted to petition the Anglican Church in North America to become a diocese and adopted new governing documents (Constitutions and Canons). Pending approval of the diocesan petition, ADV elected The Rt. Rev. John Guernsey to serve as bishop of the diocese, to be named the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic.

Then, at the Anglican Church in North America's annual Provincial Council meeting, June 21-22, 2011 in Long Beach, Calif., the Council recognized the formerly named Anglican District of Virginia as a new member diocese for the Mid-Atlantic region. Bishop Guernsey was confirmed as our diocesan bishop by the Anglican Church in North America College of Bishops on Wednesday, June 23, 2011.

Next, our Synod Council formed a Nominating Committee, which solicited nominations for the diocesan Standing Committee, the Constitution and Canons Committee, Trial Court, and Committee on Nominations for Bishops, all to be elected November 18-19, except for the Standing Committee.

On the morning of Saturday, September 10, our Diocesan Synod gathered at Truro Church in Fairfax, Va., to put our diocesan Constitution and Canons into effect and to elect our Standing Committee. Click [here](#) for a list of those elected to the Standing Committee.

On that same day, Archbishop Duncan presided at Bishop Guernsey's investiture as first bishop of the Diocese. [Photos](#) and [video](#) from the service are available.

The Diocesan Synod will reconvene on Friday evening, November 18 and Saturday, November 19 at All Saints' Church in Woodbridge, Va. The focus of that part of the Synod will be on mission, with testimonies from our congregations of what the Lord is doing among us.

***Where will the Diocese office be located, will it continue to be in Fairfax?***

All Saints' Church in Woodbridge generously offered—free of charge—space for the permanent office of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic. The Synod Council and Bishop Guernsey accepted with gratitude. All Saints' new facility is at 14851 Gideon Drive, next to Hylton Chapel, near Potomac Mills Mall, at the Dale City exit off I-95. All Saints' is giving to the Diocese the upper floor of the administrative wing, comprising a suite of five offices, a reception area, workroom, restroom and ample storage, plus a large conference room to be shared with the parish. We are so very thankful for this blessing in our life together.

At our first Diocesan Synod on November 18 and 19, to be held at All Saints' Church, we will bless the new diocesan offices.

***What's going to happen to the Anglican District of Virginia (ADV)?***

With the June 2011 acceptance of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic as an official member diocese within the Anglican Church in North America, the congregations and mission fellowships within the Anglican District of Virginia have transitioned to be members within the new Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic.

Now that our diocesan Constitution and Canons are put in place, our Standing Committee elected, and the investiture of Bishop Guernsey has occurred, ADV has fulfilled its mission and has been fully replaced by the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic.

***What staff will the new Diocese have? Will some ADV leaders transition out of their current roles?***

The Constitution of the Anglican Church in North America says that “the fundamental agency of mission in the Province is the local congregation” (Article IV). That means that the role of the Diocese is to support the congregations, not to do all the mission. So we expect to continue to have a very lean diocesan staff.

ADV’s Synod Council has ceased operation now that the Standing Committee of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic is elected. Members of ADV’s Synod Council were eligible to stand for election for the diocesan Standing Committee.

***What’s going to happen to the Diocese of the Holy Spirit, which was part of the Anglican Church in North America and led by Bishop Guernsey?***

When the Anglican Church in North America was launched in June 2009, the Church of Uganda immediately recognized our new Province and then fully transferred into it Bishop Guernsey and the 53 U.S. congregations and 125 American clergy that had been under the authority of the Ugandan Church. After the congregations were released from Uganda’s oversight, all of them came under the ecclesiastical authority of the Anglican Church in North America. Half of them immediately joined Anglican Church in North America dioceses that had already been formed, but half did not have an appropriate regional diocese to join.

Since congregations must be part of a diocese in order to join the Province, the Diocese of the Holy Spirit was created within the Anglican Church in North America as a temporary, transitional diocese for these former Church of Uganda congregations. With the formation of several new Anglican Church in North America diocesan jurisdictions by the Provincial Council, all of the Diocese of the Holy Spirit congregations have transferred into other regional dioceses and with the blessing of Archbishop Duncan and the Provincial Council, the Diocese of the Holy Spirit has dissolved. Bishop Guernsey has resigned as its Bishop and is serving solely as Bishop of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic. The churches in our region that were under the care of the Diocese of the Holy Spirit have now joined the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic.

***What’s going to happen to the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA)?***

CANA will continue to be in partnership with the Anglican Church in North America as long as it is needed. Until diocesan structures are fully developed for every part of

North America, there will continue to be a need for intermediary structures like CANA.

***Why are some clergy members and churches keeping their CANA connection?***

Some of our churches and clergy will retain their affiliation with CANA, but for all of us our primary diocesan identity will now be the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic, which is a part of the Anglican Church in North America. Congregations and clergy in CANA have a dual citizenship and two virtual passports that allow them to be members of the Church of Nigeria (and thus the Anglican Communion) and the Anglican Church in North America. These decisions were made by churches and individuals and will in no way hinder our unity as a new Diocese.

***Are we still affiliated with Nigeria?***

For those who chose to keep their CANA connection, they will remain affiliated with CANA and therefore the Church of Nigeria. For those who did not or were previously affiliated with other entities, we are now the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic and are part of the Anglican Church in North America.

***How can I learn more about Bishop Guernsey and his vision for the Diocese?***

For background information on Bishop Guernsey and to read his vision statement for the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic, click [here](#).

***How can I pray for the new Diocese?***

Please pray earnestly for your church and its leaders, for our Diocese, and the Anglican Church in North America that we might be faithful stewards of the Gospel, proclaiming the Good News to those who do not yet know our Savior Jesus (1 Corinthians 4:1).