

Title: Nomination of Bishop Provisional

Proposer: The Standing Committee

1. *Resolved:* that the Diocesan Convention shall place The Diocese of West Missouri under
 2. the provisional charge and authority of a Bishop Provisional and be it further,

 3. *Resolved:* that the Bishop Provisional by this act be authorized to exercise all the duties
 4. and offices of the Bishop of the Diocese until a Bishop is elected and ordained for that
 5. Diocese or until the act of the Convention is revoked and be it further,

 6. *Resolved:* that the Bishop Provisional shall be the Right Reverend Diane M. Jardine
 7. Bruce, formerly the seventh Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.
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Explanation:

The Right Reverend Martin Scott Field resigned as Diocesan Bishop on September 13, 2021. The Diocese is without a bishop at this time. Canon III.13.1 of the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church (2018) states, "A Diocese without a Bishop may, by an act of its Convention, and in consultation with the Presiding Bishop, be placed under the provisional charge and authority of a Bishop of another Diocese or of a resigned Bishop, who shall by that act be authorized to exercise all the duties and offices of the Bishop of the Diocese until a Bishop is elected and ordained for that Diocese or until the act of the Convention is revoked."

The Office of Pastoral Development, working with the Presiding Bishop, presented two candidates to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee nominated Bishop Bruce who, if this resolution is adopted, will begin work as the Bishop Provisional on December 1, 2021, for a period of two to three years.

The Standing Committee believes that Bishop Bruce best represents the needs expressed at our diocesan convention last year when it was agreed that The Diocese of West Missouri needs a bishop provisional who will have the skill, stamina, and ability to help the leadership of the diocese, both lay and clergy, take a good and honest look at where we have come from and where we are as the Episcopal Church in West Missouri. We identified the importance of being open to calling a woman and/or a member of a minority. Strengths in the areas of facilitation of healing, trust-building, and growth; conversations about the viability of the diocese; and 'systems work' were noted to be important. Pastoral care, warmth, and accessibility were also named as desirable characteristics of the bishop provisional.