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Episcopal Diocese to Consecrate First Woman and First Lesbian Priest as Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry will become the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan on February 8

[DETROIT] - The Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry will be ordained and consecrated as the 11th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan at 10:30am on February 8, 2020 at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. Perry will become the first woman bishop as well as the first lesbian bishop in the diocese since it was formed in 1836.

The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, will lead the service as the chief consecrator. A reception will be held in the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center ballroom, following the service. The consecration service will be live streamed on the diocesan [YouTube channel](#). The service will feature prayers and readings in Arabic, honoring the diocese's ministry in the Arab American community.

On February 9, the newly consecrated bishop will be formally welcomed and seated at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit.

Perry was elected by the lay people and the clergy of the diocese on June 1, 2019 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit. Previously, Perry was the Rector of All Saints', Chicago. Perry holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in NYC and a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the College of the Holy Cross. She was ordained deacon and priest in 1990 in the Diocese of Newark.

Perry will succeed the Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., who has served as bishop since 2000 and retired in December 2019.

[PRESS CONFERENCE] Bishop-elect Perry and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will hold a joint press conference at 10:30 am on Friday, February 7 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit. Media credentials are available at edomi.org/media.

The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan is comprised of 77 congregations and more than 16,000 baptized members.

[The Episcopal Church](#), was recently brought to the world stage by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, whose sermon at the [2018 royal wedding of Prince Harry and Megan Markle](#) ignited hearts and minds around the globe. The Episcopal Church is a part of the [Anglican Communion](#) and has a [legacy of inclusion](#), exemplifying God's love for every human being; regardless of sexual identity or orientation.