

## Episcopal & Consecration FAQs

### What titles should we use?

The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Perry will remain the “Bishop-elect” of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan until the “laying on of hands” ceremony during the consecration on February 8, 2020. After the service, she is to be addressed as “Bishop Perry” or “The Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry”.

### What is the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan?

A diocese is an area where a bishop has ecclesiastical authority. The Diocese of Michigan was formed in 1836 and currently consists of 75 congregations in the southeastern region of Michigan, comprising of over 16,000 baptized members. There are four Episcopal dioceses in Michigan, each with their own bishops. [Click here for a map](#) of the footprint of the diocese.

### Who is Presiding Bishop Curry?

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. In the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, the Presiding Bishop is the chief pastor and primate of the national church and its nine ecclesiastical provinces. The Presiding Bishop is charged with responsibility for leadership in initiating, developing, and articulating policy and strategy, overseeing the administration of the national church staff, and speaking for the church on issues of concern and interest. He is the president of the House of Bishops and was elected by the church's General Convention to serve a single nine-year term. The correct clerical style for the Presiding Bishop is "The Most Reverend".

### How was Bishop-elect Perry Elected?

In the Diocese of Michigan, Perry was elected on June 1<sup>st</sup> on the fifth ballot of the Special Electing Convention held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit. She received 64 clergy votes and 118 lay votes. A minimum of 55 clergy votes and 94 lay votes were necessary for election on that ballot.

Perry was the first woman and first openly gay priest to be elected bishop since the diocese was formed in 1836. This also marked the first time in the history of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan that the slate of candidates was comprised entirely of women.

### Women Bishops in the Episcopal Church

- The first woman bishop in the Episcopal Church was The Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris, who was ordained bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts in 1989.
- As of July 2019, “Currently, 24 of the 127 active bishops (diocesan, suffragan, assistant or assisting) are women [...] They make up 18.9 percent of the total. If women and men elected but not yet ordained and consecrated are included, the count increases to 27 women bishops among 131 active bishops, or 20.6 percent.” Read the [full article here](#).
- Bonnie Perry is the 39th woman bishop in the Episcopal Church.

### **Openly Gay Bishops in the Episcopal Church**

- The first openly gay priest to be elected bishop in the Episcopal Church was The Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson, who was ordained bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire in 2004.
- The first lesbian priest to be elected bishop in the Episcopal Church was The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool, who was consecrated bishop suffragan of the Diocese of Los Angeles in 2010.