

To the people of God in the Diocese of Cascadia,

It is a distinct honor and entirely humbling to be a nominee for your next bishop. Since my name was put forward for consideration at the beginning of this year, the process of discernment by Kelly and me and your nominating committee has been extensive and exacting. I want to comment on the nominating committee for their diligent and prayerful work. They have done an amazing job shepherding everyone involved through the process, all the while showing great humility and concern to discern the Lord's direction.

I want to tell you about us. Kelly and I have been married for almost thirty-four years. I turned 54 in August. I have been a Christian since I was 19, and Kelly has followed Christ since she was 8. I was ordained a deacon in 2004, and then a priest in 2005. We have five children, Ezra (31), Rebekah (30), Asher (25), Elias (22), and Alethea (18). Our three eldest children are married, Ezra to Cristina, Rebekah to Aaron, and Asher to Marissa. We have four grandchildren out of the womb, Juniper and Søren, and Thaddeus and Ezekiel. We also have one grandchild still in the womb! All my children are walking in faith in Christ, which is a monumental blessing. My hobbies are bee keeping, woodworking, hiking, fly fishing, and spending time with my friends and family.

As we get closer to the day of the election, I want to assure you that I meet all the criteria that the Word of God requires for the office of an overseer. I also meet all the requirements that the Anglican Church in North America have stipulated for those to be considered and elected bishops in the Church.

The process for choosing nominees for bishop in Cascadia has borne much fruit. For me and Kelly, we have experienced a growing excitement and anticipation for the future of the Diocese of Cascadia and the possibility of me being your second bishop to serve you. It can only be described as work of the Holy Spirit growing in us a deep affection for you and the people of Cascadia. It is also true that the Lord put the Pacific Northwest in our hearts years ago when I distinctly heard Him tell me, "These are your people. This is your place." We must place our confidence in Him who issues the call and follow Him without shrinking back (Hebrews 10.39). When God calls us, He appoints us to a people, a place, and an office or task. I am certain that I am called to be a bishop to the people of the Pacific Northwest.

We want to see the Lord work with power and love among us that we might grow more and more like Him and so be faithfully proclaiming the Gospel to everyone around us. The words of Ephesians 4.1-7 are the pattern of our common life together in the Church, it is what the world needs to see when they look at us. We are "to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which

you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” There are so many people hurting and lost, and we know Him who alone can redeem, forgive, and bring new life.

As we live this life together, I believe that the Diocese of Cascadia will grow, meeting the ever-changing cultural moment with the practical love of Christ. And, by God’s grace and work among us and through us, we will see our diocese become so potent a witness that new ministries and new works will proceed from us in ways we cannot imagine now. I am praying that we can live this common life together if it is His will.

As the election nears, it will be our singular goal to discern who the Lord has called to lead you as your bishop. We want His will. We want to know who He has already chosen. Please be assured that Kelly and I, our whole family, and many other faithful believers are praying for the Holy Spirit to speak clearly.

You remain in my prayers and in my heart,

Jacob Worley+

Rev. Jacob C. Worley
384 Fossil Rock Dr.
Azle, TX 76020
Tel: 520-373-3817

EXPERIENCE

Pastor/Priest and Deacon, 2004 - Present

I am the rector of St. Andrew's Anglican Church in the Diocese of Fort Worth. St. Andrew's is often called the cardinal parish of the diocese, and it has the distinction of being one of very few evangelical parishes in this diocese. In addition to all the regular responsibilities as a rector, I oversee a budget that approaches \$1,500,000 per year, which includes several foundations. We have almost twenty full time to part time employees and ministers as well as many volunteers. Our focus remains on being an unflinchingly biblical and gospel focused church that disciples each other and spreads the good news to our neighborhoods and other communities.

Prior to my incumbency at St. Andrew's, I was the rector of the Bulkley Valley Regional Parish in the Anglican Diocese of Caledonia. I was specifically asked to take these parishes for two years by the bishop and the archdeacon of the diocese to bring into focus their Anglican identity and foster good Christian discipleship. Being the incumbent for this union of parishes included direct oversight of three parishes ranging from a broadly Anglo-Catholic to broad-church to a low-church expression. During my time in Canada, I was honored to be elected the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Caledonia at their electing convention in April of 2017. However, because of my orthodoxy and biblical fidelity and prior member of the ACNA, the national church refused my election and forced me to leave Canada.

In the past, some of the positions I have held have been as incumbent of five parishes in the Church of Ireland. While there, I was also appointed to the Diocesan Mission Council and the General Synod Mission Council because of my experience in church planting/pioneer work. I was also appointed to be the Chairman of the Board for two Church of Ireland National Schools.

My experience includes being assistant to the senior pastor and an interim rector, but most my experience is as rector. Regarding church planting, I was specifically sought out and solicited to begin a start-up congregation with AMiA and PEAR-USA. We began this project from the ground level and developed volunteers and interest in the mission. In addition, the start-up congregation required vision casting to ensure the success of the church plant. As a part of the calling, biblical preaching, discipleship, teaching, and personal pastoral care formed an integral and indispensable part of the work. The congregation grew in attendance and membership, income, and resources that insured its continuation into the future. My duties also included interviewing, hiring, supervising, and directing personnel.

Specifically, my experience includes:

- Rector, St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Fort Worth, TX. August 2018 to Present
- Rector, Bulkley Valley Regional Parish: St. James' Anglican Church, Smithers, BC., St. John the Divine Anglican Church, Quick, BC., St. Clement's Anglican Church, Houston, BC. November 2014 to November 2017.
- Rector, Kilmoremoy Union of Parishes: St. Michael's Church, Ballina, Co. Mayo, Castleconnor Parish Church, Co. Sligo, Killanley, Kilglass Parish Church, Kilglass, Co. Sligo, St. Anne's Easkey, Co. Sligo and Straid Parish Church, Foxford, Co. Mayo. Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. October 2013 to October 2014
- Interim Rector, Anglican Parish of the North Peace: St. Martin's Anglican Church, St. Matthias' Anglican Church, and Good Shepherd Anglican Church. Fort Saint John, BC. March 2013 - September 2013
- Rector/Church Planter, St. Patrick's Anglican Church, PEAR USA. Las Cruces, NM. 2007-2013.
- Interim Rector, St. James' Episcopal Church, Las Cruces, NM. 2006-2007.
- Assistant Priest for Family Ministry, St. James' Episcopal Church, Las Cruces, NM. 2005-2006.
- Curate, St. James' Episcopal Church, Birmingham, MI. 2004-2005.

Member of the Board of Trustees of the American Anglican Council, 2019 - Present

Member, Diocesan Executive Committee, Diocese of Fort Worth. 2018 - Present

Member, Bishop Coadjutor Nomination Committee, Diocese of Fort Worth. 2018 - 2019.

Chairman of the Board, Leafoney National School and St. Michael's National School, County Mayo, Ireland - 2013 - 2014

Board Member/Teacher, Covenant Christian Academy, La Union, New Mexico — 2006 - 2008

Graduate Student, Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania — July 2001-June 2004

Wildlife Biologist, DDL Omni, Inc., White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico — September 2000-July 2001

As one of two wildlife biologists, I was responsible for surveying and censusing animals and plants in future weapon system testing sites at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) in southern New Mexico for the purposes of developing environmental assessments and determining the impact of the weapons testing projects on the wildlife in the area. This included identifying the presence of endangered species and species of concern, delineating habitat, and providing mitigation plans as necessary according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) protocols with particular focus on the national security mission of WSMR. I also received certification in basic ArcView/GIS analysis.

Contract Wildlife Biologist — January 1996-September 2000

I worked privately as a contract wildlife biologist where censusing and habitat delineation services were used by the United States Forest Service, the International Boundary and Water Commission and Phelps/Dodge Mining company. These projects included:

Contract Wildlife Biologist for Encon International on the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the “Replacement of the Old American Canal in El Paso, TX.” This work involved planning and developing a survey of the habitat along the American Canal in El Paso, TX in order to determine if there were endangered species or species of concern in the proposed area for replacing the American Canal. This included transect surveys, plant and habitat delineation and identification of indicator species within the study boundary. Due to the nature of the maintenance right of way for the canal, many of the plant species observed were invasive ruderals.

Contract Wildlife Biologist for Phelps/Dodge Mining, Hurley New Mexico. Performed a brief survey within Phelps/Dodge Chino Mines property to determine the presence of Parish’s Alkali Grass (*Puccinellia parishii*). This was to help the mining company know, if present, the extent of this species of concern. The procedure applied was a transect survey.

Contract Wildlife Biologist for Phelps/Dodge Mining, Hurley, New Mexico. After a tailings spill at the Hurley, NM smelter site, I was contracted to assess the extent of the spill in the runoff areas. This included extended use of GPS mapping and limited assessment of tailings quantity in the arroyo drainage system surrounding the smelter.

Contract Wildlife Biologist for the United States Forest Service, Gila National Forest, Beaverhead Ecosystem Maintenance Unit (BEMU). As a member of a team, we performed a baseline wildlife survey including large and small mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Mark and release methods were used when surveying small mammals and visual surveys were employed for large mammals. Point-transect surveys were conducted for birds. This contract involved extended stay in very remote and primitive locations.

EDUCATION

Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry, Ambridge, PA — M. Div., 2004

Western New Mexico University, Silver City, New Mexico — B.S. Zoology/Botany, 1995

CERTIFICATES/LICENSES – PAST AND PRESENT

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2004 | Ordination to Deacon, Diocese of the Rio Grande. |
| 2005 | Ordination to the Priesthood, Diocese of the Rio Grande. |
| 2004-2007 | Licensure and Canonical Residency, Diocese of the Rio Grande. |
| 2007-2013 | Licensure and Canonical Residency, Province of Rwanda. |
| 2013 | Licensure in the Anglican Diocese of Caledonia, British Columbia. |
| 2013-2014 | Incumbency and Licensure in the Church of Ireland Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. |
| 2014-2017 | Incumbency and Licensure in the Anglican Diocese of Caledonia, British Columbia. |
| 2018-present | Incumbency and Licensure in the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas. |

I gave my life to Christ in the spring of 1989. I was nineteen—old enough to have definite opinions about Christianity and young enough to think I had it all figured out. Before Christ, I was a naïve young Communist. All the issues that we see in our culture today were my issues that I held very deeply. If there was anything of Jesus in my life, it was only that I had been baptized at ten years old at my grandparent’s church in Oklahoma. My family went to church irregularly and it had no bearing on my upbringing. I started my university studies in Russian and excelled in that. But my other coursework suffered due to the expansive opportunities to get in trouble. Eventually the trouble caught up with me, and I began to realize that I needed a fresh start.

My parents invited me to move back in with them and attend the local state university in southern New Mexico. There was no Russian program, but there was biology, which interested me. I sat in the back of my first class, dressed in a black turtleneck, a red beard, and a ponytail, searching for someone to connect with to start a study group. There were two middle-aged women sitting in the front row and I approached them after class to see if they would like to open the books and study botany. One of the ladies, Judy, invited me to her house, and I gladly went.

When I arrived, I got my books out and arranged them just right. Then she asked me the question that would be the beginning of a radical change in my life and eternity, “Do you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?” I was a communist. I was a budding biologist. And I just got the bait and switch from this middle-aged woman. I was angry and I argued and fought with her about it. But I went back. Week after week, I went to hear her talk about Jesus as though He was real and had a real impact and change in her life. I asked hard questions. Some she answered. Others we searched the Bible for answers together. Ultimately, her kindness, love for me, and passion for Jesus convinced this arrogant communist to sit on her curb and ask Jesus to be my Lord.

Judy took me to church, Church of the Good Shepherd in Silver City, New Mexico. Since I was baptized, I went to take communion. The Lord met me there and I realized in a flash that Jesus suffered for me and died for me. I had a vision of Him at the altar rail. He told me, “I did this for you.” I could hardly leave that spot; it was holy and I was undone.

Soon after, Judy turned to me and said, “Now that you belong to Jesus, you should meet my daughter Kelly.” I did meet her, and the first night after we met, I knew I wanted to marry her. Shortly after, she said yes to me, and we were married by the end of the year. We’ve now been married thirty-three years and have five children.

Almost from the moment I gave my life to Jesus, I was being encouraged to go to seminary. The first time was at our marriage counseling sessions. I had only been a follower for five months and didn’t have my undergraduate degree yet. Throughout the next several years, the same refrain returned repeatedly. Even the bishop, who I had never met, once sat down with me at his episcopal visit and told me to consider ordained ministry.

Once Kelly and I finished our degrees, we pursued wildlife biology and had some success, but the call to ordained ministry never went away (Romans 11.29). I went to seminary in the fall of 2001, in Pennsylvania. I was ordained a deacon on June 19th, 2004, and a priest on July 13th, 2005. Kelly and I have ministered in four different Anglican provinces. We have served in the outskirts of Detroit, southern New Mexico, County Mayo in Ireland, and in the Pacific Northwest in British Columbia, and currently in Fort Worth, Texas. We have been church planters and we have worked in long-established churches. We have served churches with great resources and those that are functioning on a shoestring budget. We have served in low church contexts, broad church contexts, and we are now serving a cathedral-style, low church, Evangelical parish in an Anglo-catholic diocese. Through it all the Lord has proven faithful and has used us to minister His Word and love effectively without shrinking back.

Kelly and I both believe that I am called to be your next bishop in Cascadia. The Word tells us that the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable (Romans 11.29). We also see the pattern in Scripture that the normative way God calls is to a people, to a place, and to an office or task. That pattern is evident in the lives and ministries of the prophets, the apostles, evangelists, teachers, and pastors throughout the Bible and Church history. In 2017 I was elected to be the bishop in British Columbia in the Anglican Church of Canada. The ACoC is very close in theological affinity to The Episcopal Church in the U.S. But my diocese was being a bold witness by holding the line on biblical orthodoxy and faithful Anglican witness. Because I am biblically faithful and I had been a part of the ACNA, they considered me a threat to their social and theological agenda, and the House of Bishops broke canon law and did not consent. We were painfully forced to leave the Pacific Northwest which we know God has called us to. The people of the Pacific Northwest are our people. It is our place where we are called. And I know that I am called to the office of bishop because the local body of clergy and lay have affirmed it once already. I am constantly in prayer for you. And I find myself growing in affection and longing to be there. I am reminded of Paul's words to the Thessalonian church, "...we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, because we wanted to come to you..." (1 Thessalonians 2.17b-16a) I believe this is telling of the Lord's drawing us to you.

My experience as a church planter, a rector of a well-established church with a large budget and staff, and with rural, smaller congregations gives me a balanced insight into the needs of the diocese and local congregations and her clergy. As your bishop, you can count on me to seek to follow the Lord's lead at every turn, remain faithful to His Word in every situation, love the saints of God in every place, pastor the pastors in all love, and lead Cascadia into the future our Lord has for us.

