

Ryan Brotherton
07/29/2023

Personal Introduction

Hi, I am Rev. Cn. Ryan Brotherton. I am married to Emily, and we have three daughters: Evelyn, Eleanor, and Elizabeth. I am one of the finalists in the search for the next Bishop of the Diocese of Cascadia. I am excited to be a part of this process and I am continually learning more about myself and our diocese along the way. My hope in this short introduction is to say a few things that I'd like you to know about myself and what I sense to be a calling to serve our diocese as its second Bishop.

It has been a great joy of mine to participate in and serve our diocese for the last nine years as a church planter, priest, rector, and canon. I have a deep love and affection for every parish that I have had the privilege to worship with over the years, as well as the few that I have yet to worship with. My deepest desire is to serve our entire diocese as well as I possibly can. My prayer is that we would walk together in this process, assuming the best of our brothers and sisters as we seek to discern God's desire for us.

Nine years ago, we planted Holy Trinity Edmonds. I say we because I believe that it was a communal work done in response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and it involved other individuals who were also called to this work of planting a new Anglican community in Edmonds, Washington. I was called a licensed lay vicar when we began the work, but we quickly saw a church start to form and realized that there was a great need for a biblically faithful Anglican church in our city. Under the direction of Bishop Todd Hunter and Bishop Kevin Allen we moved forward and began holding Eucharist services in October of 2014. I would lead the ministry of the word and other priests from our diocese would celebrate at the altar for the first couple of months until I was ordained a priest in January 2015. Since Holy Trinity Edmonds began, we have continually grown year after year and today HTE is a church with close to three hundred individuals who call it home and a weekly attendance of over 150. We have three priests on staff, two deacons serving, and two lay staff members. I am grateful that God called me to lead this effort of planting HTE.

During this time our parish has allowed me to use some of my time to serve the diocese as a member of the council, as the Canon for Church Planting, and to serve in many other ways at the pleasure of our Bishop. As the Canon for Church Planting, I have helped our diocese to plant several churches over the past six years or so. During this time, we have been one of the top church planting dioceses in the entire ACNA (since 2018 only two dioceses have planted more churches than we have). I have also had the privilege of helping several parishes find their next rector or vicar, and I have worked with multiple parishes and vestries in thinking about the future and how they can best move forward in doing the work that God has called them to do. I have also worked with multiple denominations to help train and release church planters in their own contexts.

I care deeply about people and seek to invest time into relationships in intentional ways. This allows me as a leader to hear directly from those who are most affected by my leadership so that I can understand what the needs are and how I might serve those individuals or churches better. I believe that I am particularly gifted in building strong and healthy teams that allow individuals to use their talents and strengths to contribute to the good of the whole. Healthy teams continually grow humility, vulnerability and in telling the kind truth to each other. I always aim build a foundation where we can trust each other to move toward growth in those three areas. I am an activator who solves problems and is not afraid to take risks, I believe I am also quick to admit mistakes, make corrections, and apologize when I'm wrong. I am an intuitive and relational leader who leads more by influence than position. I have successfully built

Ryan Brotherton

07/29/2023

structures and systems in churches and other organizations that led to healthy growth and good internal communication. I value communication that is honest and clear. I am well versed and understand how to communicate effectively to an external audience through social media, podcasting, web design, and SEO (search engine optimization). I am an effective communicator of the Gospel, and I am comfortable in the pulpit or at the local coffee shop to declare the good news of Jesus and that all who repent and turn to him can experience true freedom and abundant life in the kingdom of God, right now and for all eternity.

I have worked as a manager where I was responsible for departments with multiple employees and have overseen budgets of up to a million dollars annually. I started, ran, and sold a successful business. I have worked on the staff of churches ranging from a handful of people in church planting to a church of two thousand.

I am confident that God has called me into this process, and I believe that he has gifted me in a way that would serve our diocese well as its next Bishop. I am hesitant to use stronger language around this call, not because I doubt myself, my ability, or calling, but because I know that this call requires the Church, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to discern together who God has called to be our next Bishop. If it seems good to the Holy Spirit and to the Church that it be me, I will serve our diocesan family faithfully and I have no doubt that we will continue to be strengthened in the faith, plant many churches, and grow together in this abundant life that Jesus gives.



**REV. CN. RYAN
BROTHERTON**

RECTOR, HOLY TRINITY EDMONDS

OBJECTIVE

To be considered in the call process for the next Bishop of the Diocese of Cascadia

SKILLS & ABILITIES

Leadership, Communication, Administration, Management, Preaching, Pastoral Care, Team Building, Leadership Development

EXPERIENCE

HOLY TRINITY EDMONDS

2014 - CURRENT

- Organized the planting team and have led this congregation for over 8 years
- Overseen growth from a dozen people to over 150 average weekend attendance
- Oversee a staff of five including two other clergy as well as two Deacons who serve the church as volunteers

CANON OF CHURCH PLANTING

2016 - CURRENT

- Appointed by Bishop Kevin Bond Allen to lead church planting in the Diocese of Cascadia
- Helped oversee and/or encouraged more than eight church plants during this time
- Led our church planting organization through restructuring, re-branding, and re-naming so that we might be more effective in planting gospel centered, biblically faithful, life giving, Anglican churches in the Pacific Northwest
- Only two dioceses in the ACNA have planted more churches than Cascadia since 2018

SNO-KING QUALITY CLEANING

2008 – JANUARY 2015

- Started this company from scratch and grew it over its first six years as Owner/Operator
- Hired and trained my eventual successor
- Sold the business be more available to our church plant
- The company has continued to grow and now employs the owner plus five other employees

NORTH SOUND CHURCH

2010 – OCTOBER 2014

- Started and grew a youth and young adult ministry
- Preached occasionally on Sunday mornings and regularly in our youth and young adult services
- Raised up other leaders and released them to minister according to their gifts

**REV. CN. RYAN
BROTHERTON**

RECTOR, HOLY TRINITY EDMONDS

- Led the church through the process of selecting and implementing a churchwide database system
- Oversaw training of all employees in implementing this system

WESTGATE CHAPEL

2006 - 2010

- Assisted with High School and Middle School ministries
- Oversaw the youth choir ministry for three years
- Planned trips for over 75 students to places in the United States and around the world
- Preached occasionally
- Led small groups
- Helped plan youth camps for up to 150 students
- Developed and led teams for music ministries, student leadership, and adult leadership

SAFEGWAY CORPORATION

1998 - 2008

- Promoted to Produce Manager when I was twenty years old and became the youngest produce manager ever in my district
- Oversaw sales increases in multiple stores
- Responsible for teams of up to 7 employees at each store I worked at
- Responsible for hiring and training all department employees
- Managed large budgets and exceeded sales expectations in multiple stores
- Received two "Excellence in Customer Service Awards"

EDUCATION**MA IN LEADERSHIP, THEOLOGY AND SOCIETY**

REGENT COLLEGE (2017-2019)

This program included ministry and secular professionals with proven leadership in their fields. We focused on the intersection of faith and vocation in the lives of those who follow Jesus in the world. Our professors were theological and secular leaders in their fields who challenged us to think critically about our

**REV. CN. RYAN
BROTHERTON**

RECTOR, HOLY TRINITY EDMONDS

responsibility as Christians in leadership in the secular world in which we live. My work focused particularly on building healthy cultures in churches and church plants from a theological and sociological lens.

BA IN MINISTRY/PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY (2010-2013)

LEADERSHIP

I have led teams professionally since I was twenty years old and working with the Safeway Corporation. Outside of my vocational role as Rector of Holy Trinity Edmonds I currently lead the Mission Cascadia Board as President and Chair and sit on the board of Discover Church Planting and the board of Shoreline Christian School.

Ryan Brotherton
07/27/2023

Summarized Spiritual Autobiography

I was born into a family that has served the Lord as Christians for generations. I am grateful to have grown up in the church with parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins that loved Jesus. The Christian tradition that I was raised in did not baptize infants, so I was dedicated as an infant and made my personal confession of faith at ten years old when I was baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I do not remember a time in my life when I did not desire to follow Jesus; I consider this to be the grace of God on my life.

My high school years were filled with spiritual growth as I participated in my church. I attended weekend services, youth group, sang in the youth choir, served as a student leader, went to bible studies with students from my public high school, and had the opportunity to go on mission trips to multiple countries. This is also the time that, looking back, I can recognize the beginning of my call to ordained ministry. As I graduated high school, I knew that I was called to serve the church. This was something made clear to me from impressions I believed were from the Holy Spirit, as well as a result of words spoken over me by trusted Christians in my life. I was blessed with a good job, and I spent my free time serving my local church by helping with the youth and college ministries. Looking back, I can see the ways that I was partially embracing God's call on my life without being willing to commit my whole life to vocational ministry. I loved Jesus and his church, and I knew I was supposed to serve the church, so I came up with a plan that I thought was faithful to what God was calling me to do. I would keep working my job, pursue my passion of investing in real estate, make money and use my time and money to serve the church. I did this for a few years until there was a need for someone to take over the youth ministry at the church I attended. This forced me to start thinking about what I was going to do with my life. I wasn't ready to admit that God might be calling me to ordained ministry, but I did offer to run the ministry until they could find a permanent pastor. This is when one of my pastors asked me, "Ryan, are you telling me that you are called to be a pastor?" I immediately said, "no" but it didn't take long for that question to change the trajectory of my life. I realized I had been afraid. Fear had kept me from giving up the things I thought protected me and gave me control over my life. Things like a job, money, flexibility. I also married Emily during this time, I owned several properties, and we were starting to try to have children. Certainly, God was not calling me to the instability and low pay of being a full-time pastor, right? I was wrong. This is exactly what he was calling me to, and the Holy Spirit and others in the church (including my wife) would make it clear over the next few years. When I first started working part-time for my church, I was still working as a Produce Manager for Safeway. When I started working at the church my desires began to change quickly and dramatically. I went from loving my job to dreading it; just waiting till I got off work so that I could go and minister to the youth kids. It wasn't long before I quit my job to work full-time at the church. This is when the Holy Spirit gave me eyes to see the way God had been calling me ever since I was young. I remembered words of prophecy that were spoken over me, dreams I had where God was showing me my fear that was keeping me from trusting him with the direction of my life. Things

Ryan Brotherton
07/27/2023

I had ignored or justified were made clear to me and I knew that there was nothing for me to do except surrender and serve Christ and his Church in whatever ways he gave me to do so.

The next chapter of my journey had me feeling called to church planting. It was a familiar story for me: God shifted my desires. I began to have a heart for those who weren't already in an established church and would need a church plant to come into relationship with Jesus and his church. Previously, I didn't think church plants were necessary. In fact, I generally saw them as unhelpful. The Holy Spirit used an article written by Tim Keller to help me see the ways God has used new churches since the time of the New Testament to witness to the kingdom of God on Earth and to bring people into a relationship with Jesus. I started to see needs I hadn't seen before and gifts of mine that I didn't know I had. This led me to North Sound Church where I participated in a church planter's assessment with my wife Emily. In the assessment, others confirmed the call we felt, and we began the process of working toward planting a church. Little did I know at the time, this would draw me into the Anglican Church of North America and ordination as a Priest in Christ's One Holy and Apostolic Church.

My call to be ordained as an Anglican deacon, and then a priest came over the course of a couple of years. I went to school to do an undergraduate degree in pastoral ministries at an Assemblies of God school. This is where I began discovering the ancient roots of the faith, the teachings of the church fathers, and the historical and liturgical form of the church's worship. The more I learned the more I wanted to learn and the more I could see how God was calling me to serve in a way I never expected. I lost all interest in being novel or in innovating ways that worship could be new, different, or exciting. I found rest and peace in a way of worshiping that didn't depend on the charisma of the leader but was shaped by Scripture and was communal and participatory. I was astonished at the ways the Holy Spirit made my call clear to me and to others. I still have a hard time believing how the Holy Spirit orchestrated a Baptist church (whose staff I served on) to help us plant an Anglican Church; and that Bishop Todd Hunter and Bishop Kevin Allen saw something in me and affirmed my call to be ordained as a priest in the ACNA. I finished my undergraduate degree, and I spent a year in the ordination process with the Diocese of C4SO and took my exams. I learned from other priests and from Bishop Kevin and began the work of planting Holy Trinity Edmonds as a licensed Lay Vicar. Maybe the most astonishing thing is that God blessed the work. I didn't have a lot to offer, but I sought to be obedient and to trust that God would provide what was needed. I am grateful to say that he has done just that, time and time again. My family has grown, my wife and I have three beautiful daughters, and we have always had what we needed. The church has grown, and we have always had what we needed. I have had the privilege of raising my girls while planting a church and they have played as big of a part in it as anybody else; and they love the church! My twin fourteen-year-old daughters were confirmed by Bishop Kevin this year and I could not be prouder of them. Recently, my heart has been pulled again and I believe God is shifting my desire toward serving our diocese as Bishop. I love Holy Trinity Edmonds and would be happy and grateful to be their rector for many years, but I can't help but notice the

Ryan Brotherton
07/27/2023

passion and love that God has been giving me for the clergy, laity, and congregations of our diocese. If this is what God is doing, I want to pay attention and make myself available to serve our diocese in the way that seems good to the Holy Spirit and the church.

Statement of Qualifications and Desire to Become Bishop of Cascadia

- **Biblical in Manner and Ministry**
 - Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and I am committed to teaching the whole counsel of Scripture while defending against doctrines that are contrary to the God's Word.
 - In regular prayer, the reading of Holy Scripture, and in study, I am consistently growing in the knowledge and love of God and seeking to lay aside all distractions of the world, and the flesh.
 - I am known in our church and in our city as being patient, slow to anger, quick to repent, and quick to forgive.
 - I am a faithful and generous giver of my time and finances to God's church and his people.
- **A Team Builder**
 - According to my Strength Finders profile I am a good communicator who naturally recognizes the strengths of others and sees how different people can work together using their unique gifts and strengths.
 - I have been in leadership positions where team building was necessary for twenty years in secular work and in the church.
 - I have built successful teams of volunteers and paid staff in multiple churches as well as in the business world.
 - I have been invited to consult with staff and vestry teams at multiple churches to help them build trust with each other and move forward together in their work.
- **A Bridge Builder**
 - For five years I oversaw a multi denominational city-wide worship service, bringing together ten different churches for a night of worship and prayer.
 - I have helped to plant two churches that were jointly sponsored by two Anglican dioceses as well as Baptist churches.
 - As a parish we are currently hosting and helping to plant a new church who worships in Swahili and is drawing refugees from our area.
 - For the last several years I have gathered local clergy together in our parish from multiple dioceses to pray for each other and grow in relationship for the sake of friendship as we witness to God's kingdom together.
- **Mission Minded**
 - Under my direction, our parish helped to plant All Saints Anglican Church in Everett two years into starting our church.
 - We are currently helping to plant St. Stephen's Anglican, and we host their worship services in our building.
 - I am intentionally visible around our city. I wear my collar and pay attention to the people around me, seeking to be available as a representative of God's kingdom. This regularly leads to opportunity to pray with people, tell people about Jesus, or simply demonstrate God's care and love for his creation.

- In my preaching I seek to make a clear call for people to repent and turn to Jesus. This is important as we have people who worship at HTE who have yet to enter the waters of baptism and commit their lives to Jesus.
- As a rector I challenge our church to be people who witness to God's Kingdom in every area of their life, always growing in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control. I also seek to live this way in each area of my own life, by the grace of God.
- Under my leadership our parish contributes a significant amount of time and resources to support global and local mission work that includes helping local immigrants and refugees in the citizenship process, partnering with Bishop Sun Oo and the Diocese of Pyay in Myanmar in various ways, offering financial support for church planting in our diocese each year, helping other local congregations when needs arrive, and ministering to Muslims in our local area.
- **A Relational and Intuitive Leader**
 - Others that I work with acknowledge my intuitive ability and my instincts in decision making.
 - I am a naturally relational person who cares deeply for others.
 - I make a significant effort to connect directly with individuals in my work with our parish, and with our diocese. I regularly reach out to our church planters and other clergy in our diocese to pray with them, hear from them, and encourage them.
 - I am committed to earning trust and working with groups and individuals as opposed to simply instructing them in what needs to be done.
- **Called to the Northwest**
 - I was privileged to be born in and to have lived in the Northwest for my whole life.
 - I have a deep love for this region and those who live here and are yet to find the freedom and life available to them by surrendering their life to Jesus.
 - I have chosen to remain here because God has called me to serve his church in the Northwest.

Calling

I believe strongly that calling to ordained ministry requires the affirmation of the community that God has placed me in. This is why I am so grateful for this process that we are in together as a diocese. Knowing that I have been nominated from within our diocese and that the nominating committee made up of people from across our diocese, both lay and clergy, have agreed that I should move forward as a finalist confirms my own sense that this is something God is calling me to. I personally believe that God has called me and gifted me to serve His Church in the capacity of Bishop and I humbly seek your prayerful consideration and discernment in this calling. I am prepared to serve our entire diocese faithfully and sacrificially, the Lord being my helper, and my family is in full support.

