Messages from the candidates for bishop for the Diocese of El Camino Real

The Rev. Deon Johnson

“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice…”

I rejoice and give thanks to God for the election of the Rev. Canon Lucinda Ashby to serve as the 4th Bishop of the Diocese of El Camino Real. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you have chosen a gifted prophet, pastor, and priest to be your companion in this new season of ministry as you seek to follow Jesus along the way.

My prayers are with you, Bishop-elect Lucinda, and her family as together you prepare for a grand adventure with our loving, liberating and life-giving God. Yours is a diocese of inspiration and innovation and I am convinced that God will continue to move you from strength to strength in this new adventure. It has been an honor to be a part of this Spirit-filled journey and to be one of the recipients of your Christ-centered hospitality. My prayer is that you and Bishop-elect Lucinda will support each other when the way is easy and especially when the way is rough, that together you may be bearers of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

May God continue to richly bless and keep you in all ways.

In Christ,
Deon

The Rev. Janet Waggoner

Dear Friends in the Diocese of El Camino Real –

Today, you gathered, the Spirit moved among you, and you elected Canon Lucinda Ashby to be your bishop. I am so very glad for Lucinda and for you. Together as bishop and people you will journey from height to height in the love of God.

I am sad not to be traveling further with you as a diocese. As we journeyed around the diocese on walkabout, it was a delight to get to know you and to celebrate the amazing things that God is doing in and through you.

What I have gained in this discernment process is new vision, new courage and new companions in the Way of Love. I thank you all for that. I am especially grateful to the Search and Transition Committees, the Standing Committee, and the diocesan staff, as well as for the companionship of Lucinda and the other candidates -- Deon, Janine, and Channing.

My prayer for you and your new bishop-elect is that God’s love so infuses you on your journey together that the light in your lives and congregations is a beacon of hope, reconciliation, and transformation.

I very much look forward to the ways and places our paths will cross in the future.

Blessings and love,

Janet+
The Rev. Channing Smith

Together, we met and with the Holy Spirit discerned the will of God and elected The Rev. Canon Lucinda Ashby as our 4th Bishop! I look forward to all that God will do through us as a result of her leadership. I am honored to have been a part of this process. It has been a hugely enriching experience for me. It is said that intentional conversation leads to conversion. I don't believe that we are the same diocese that began this discernment process. We have been changed. I have been changed. Our experience in this discernment process of being present and listening to one another and to the Spirit, asking God for guidance, and our deep and thoughtful reflection has brought us to a new place in our growth as a diocesan community of faith. The Spirit has been generous, the Spirit has been generous....and I hope we continue to offer ourselves to the Spirit's leadership. What an important experience to take with us into the next chapter of our diocese! May God continue to bless our diocese with courage and inspiration to be a "resilient and dynamic Gospel presence in a rapidly changing world."

God's peace,
Channing+

The Rev. Janine Schenone

During my recently cycling tour of Provence with friends, I often stopped at churches, cathedrals, monasteries and abbeys along our route to tour them, photograph them, and pray in them. Like many Americans, I noted how ancient many of the churches are, especially in comparison to churches in California. While they cherish what has been, the Diocese of El Camino Real seeks the church that does not yet exist.

I greatly appreciated the honor of participating in your discernment process, from the very first contact from your search committee to the election day. I enjoyed meeting you, hearing your questions and concerns, and dreaming with you about ways in which the Episcopal Church can grow in El Camino Real to reach those who hunger for divine connection and love.

I am truly thankful for the many volunteers who supported the walkabouts and election. I am also grateful for the search and transition committees who managed this process with such care and prayerful thoughtfulness. I am especially thankful to the shepherds for their holy attention during the walkabouts. And finally, I am grateful to Bishop Mary and the diocesan staff for their outstanding leadership and integrity.

Finally, I am grateful to God for this opportunity to serve our beloved Church as a candidate. Please know that I pray for you and Bishop-Elect Lucinda Ashby in the coming months. May you thrive spiritually as you proclaim the Good News of Christ’s love to the people of your region.

Your sister in Christ,
The Rev. Janine Schenone