

February 1, 2006

Dear Friends,

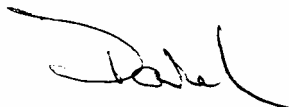
After many months of discernment, the Nominating Committee for the election of the next Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan reported today that my name will be among five that have been submitted to their Diocesan household. The next part of the process will take place over the weekend of April 2<sup>nd</sup> when the other candidates and I will be touring the Diocese and spending time with its people. Then the Diocese will hold its Special Convention to elect a Bishop on May 6<sup>th</sup>, and the elected nominee will begin serving in September of 2006.

I must tell you that I struggled when I was asked if I would consider being nominated. And it was only after a lot of prayer and a good number of conversations with family, colleagues and friends that I agreed to be open to this call. I have been honored to have been so challenged and encouraged by them as I have reflected on this possibility to serve Christ and the Church in new ways.

I do not approach this call because I want to leave Christ Church and the ministries that we share. This is a remarkable place and as I have said many times, the things that we do in this place touch lives near and far. That is something that is hard to find in today's Church. It is hard to imagine serving elsewhere. And I thank God daily for the ministries that we have together. So, I find myself pulled and pushed at this time in my life - because of the attraction and uncertainty of the future and my deep sense of satisfaction in the present!

During this time, I would deeply appreciate your prayers for me. I also ask your prayers for the other candidates (The Rev. Canon Margaret Babcock, The Rev. Bruce William Gray, The Rev. Canon Gordon Okunsanya and The Very Rev. Dr. Robert Schiesler), for the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, for my family and for our parish as this news is shared among our people. Pray for the Spirit's presence to be dynamic among us as we continue to live out our ministries in the days ahead.

Faithfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel", written in a cursive style.

The Rev. Daniel S. Appleyard