

Essay Questions

1. Jeremiah 9:24 says “But let those who boast boast in this, that they understand and know me, that I am the Lord.” Tell us about who you understand and know God to be, and tell us how as Bishop you would call us to boast in him.
2. It could be said that each order of ministry has been given gifts for the exercise of that ministry. Looking at your current priestly ministry, do you believe there are gifts you have been given that would continue to be useful to the diocese and do you see yourself as possessing a few episcopal gifts that have not yet been manifested?
3. How have you experienced the creative influence of the Holy Spirit in your ministry?
4. Many are describing our world as post-Christian. How have you responded to this new context creatively in your ministry?
5. What does social justice mean to you? In the Examination of the bishop-elect the last question asked is this, “Will you be merciful to all, show compassion to the poor and strangers, and defend those who have no helper?” How might you demonstrate in your episcopate your willingness to fulfill this promise “for the sake of Jesus Christ?”
6. What do you see to be the greatest needs of today’s youth? How do you think the church must adapt in order to better meet these needs?
7. Likewise, what do you see to be the greatest needs of an aging population. For example, dementia, depression, failing health, Alzheimer’s and the needs of the caregivers?
8. Have you seen successful efforts in any diocese which promote a common vision for the work of that diocese as a whole entity? Have these efforts been effective in coordinating the ministries of the laity, the deacons, and the priests?
9. Tell us how you think meaningful change occurs. How have you helped facilitate changes in the church? What principles helped guide your leadership?
10. What are the most essential elements of the church’s evangelistic witness? How have you modeled this witness in your own life? How would you encourage the church to engage in evangelism in new ways?
11. As Bishop how would you nourish and support all baptized people in their gifts and ministries to encourage diocesan outreach efforts?
12. Why should the church struggle to be more diverse? What equips you help the church effectively deal with the challenges of becoming more diverse?
13. As you have been discerning God’s call in this process, have you received any insight into what you might like to focus your attention upon during the first few months of your episcopate in the Diocese of Southern Virginia?

The responses to these questions will be posted on the Diocesan website, as a part of each candidate’s information.