THE ROLE of BISHOP COADJUTOR in the DIOCESE of CHRIST OUR HOPE

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We are embarking on a journey, guided by the Holy Spirit, to find the next Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of Christ our Hope (DCH). As often happens in our Anglican world, we envision this person serving for some time as Bishop Coadjutor, the next bishop who will eventually lead DCH, but overlapping in partnership with me as I complete my ministry as Bishop Ordinary.

What do I imagine this partnership will look like?

The timing shapes the dream:

- We are currently preparing for an overlapping partnership of up to 3½ years, that is, until the end of 2023 or midway through 2024. The Lord could change that timing through a number of factors, including the specific gifts and callings of the next bishop, but that will be discerned in partnership. For now, we are setting a goal of a relatively extensive overlap.
- By definition, then, that means a slow "ramp up" of the next bishop's ministry, his continuing effective ministry where he currently serves, and a gradual shifting of roles.

My vision is that when God raises up this partner, I will increasingly transfer strategic leadership of the diocese to him while I focus more and more of my energy on the spiritual development of leaders and churches who will sustain the movement. My role will become increasingly supportive of the church-planting, gospel-expanding movement God uses this man to form and lead.

The specifics of time and work distribution are to be determined once the Bishop Coadjutor is identified. I do not tend to be a controlling leader: I have no problem giving things away to those who are called and gifted to go where I cannot go. In other words, we'll pray, talk, and figure it out – as partners in ministry, and as a whole team of staff and lay leaders.

The “other side” of my ministry further focuses this picture. God is clarifying a vision for my ministry as an assisting bishop centered in:

- Multiyear assignments to work in the more isolated, less-resourced deaneries of our diocese to bring stability, strength and maturity through leadership development and pastoral care: New England and the Northeast, West Virginia, Eastern North Carolina, Tidewater Virginia, etc.
- Developing and leading one or more Anglican Missional Pastor (AMP) cohorts for our Diocese, and one or more AMP cohorts for the broader ACNA
- Continuing to build unity in the ACNA
- Building collaboration for mission among Dioceses up and down the East Coast
- Caring for and strengthening particular bishops and their dioceses in East Africa by fostering and supporting vibrant partnerships within our diocese and the ACNA
- Spiritual friendship and spiritual direction with clergy

That means I hope to increasingly give away:

- The role of casting overall vision
- The development of mission strategy, gospel expansion, and church planting
- The strategic leadership of the staff of the diocese
- Oversight of the communications systems
- Strategizing and developing financial needs and resources for mission
- Developing practical tactics to propel churches into more and more effective Gospel mission and spiritual growth