

THE REV. WILLIAM A. THOMPSON FIRST BISHOP OF WESTERN ANGLICANS

The Rev. Bill Thompson, Rector of All Saints Anglican Church, Long Beach, California, is the first Bishop of the Diocese of Western Anglicans of the Anglican Church in North America.

“My first reaction upon my election,” the Bishop-elect said, “was to feel very humbled that the College of Bishops felt that I was the person to do this job. Being the Bishop of Western Anglicans is a job that neither I nor anyone else can do on their own. I will need the prayers, support, and hard work, of many to make our diocese what God wants it to be.”

Bishop-elect Thompson has served as rector of All Saints, Long Beach since 1975. He is a graduate of Stanford University and earned his Masters in Divinity in 1971 from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. He was ordained a priest in December 1971. In his thirty-seven years of ordained ministry, the Lord has helped him develop his leadership style in three areas: relational, approachable, and collegial, which he will continue as bishop. His vision for the Diocese of Western Anglicans is “for us to be known by our evangelistic fervor and our effectiveness in planting new churches.”

The Bishop-elect has been Dean of the Western Convocation of the Anglican Communion Network. In June 2008, he was appointed Common Cause Partnership’s Collegiate Vicar to the Association of Western Anglican Congregations (Western Anglicans), whereupon he was elected Chairman and CEO of Western Anglicans. (Common Cause is the forerunner of the Anglican Church in North America, and Western Anglicans was the first diocese to be taken into the new Church.) Thompson serves the Anglican Church in North America as Chairman of The Prayer Book and Common Liturgy Task Force.

The Bishop-elect will be consecrated (ordained) in Southern California sometime in September or October of 2009.