

Deon Johnson named bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

People in the [January 1, 2020](#) issue



(Photo courtesy of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri)

Deon Johnson, an openly gay man, has been elected bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. He will replace George Wayne Smith, who retires this spring after 18 years as bishop.

According to local press reports, Johnson won the three-way election in a landslide—earning 113 of 164 delegate votes.

After the election, the husband and father of two spoke to the delegates by video, thanking them for the opportunity. “We are so looking forward to continuing this adventure that God has called us to with you and the amazing people who make up the diocese.”

In an introduction penned for the Missouri Diocese, Johnson described his incarnational view of liturgy: “Liturgy, for me, is about gathering together to be energized, equipped, and engaged to seek and serve Jesus present in our communities, neighborhoods, and cities,” he said.

Johnson currently serves as rector at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Brighton, Michigan. —*Century* staff