The Reverend Dr. Brandt L. Montgomery

March 31, 2025

Dear Nominating Committee Members:

I humbly submit for your consideration my application materials to discern with you a possible call to serve as the Diocese of North Dakota's XII Bishop. I do so encouraged by your diocese's faithfulness to God, openness to his will, and commitment to unity across difference noted in your profile.

I have been honored to serve God and his people in ordained ministry for almost thirteen years in a combination of parish and academic ministry in three dioceses. The lessons I have learned from over a decade of ordained service in parishes and Church schools have equipped me with experience to help the Diocese of North Dakota be the "visible, inclusive, diverse, and actively engaged presence within the faith community and...broader public" it strives to be. My service on an anti-racism commission in a previous diocese and on its equivalent provincial body gave me abilities to encourage among North Dakota Episcopalians and throughout the broader faith community open, truthful, and respectful dialogue with every person, making room for their inclusion in our life together in Christ.

I am now in my sixth academic year serving as the Chaplain of Saint James School, a Second through Sixth Form (Eighth through Twelfth Grade) Episcopal boarding school situated six miles southwest of Hagerstown, Maryland. In addition to planning and overseeing the regular and special liturgies offered in the school's Saint James Chapel and teaching Second and Third Form Introduction to Religion and Fifth Form United States History, my duties have included overseeing service-learning activities. Through the service-learning program, I have sought to impart to my students how every kind of work can be used to advance the cause of justice and goodwill toward others throughout the world. Whether it be via science, technology, or math or as a teacher, athlete, financial planner, or any other job, all subjects and professions can aid us in living God's commission to reconcile all people to unity with him and each other in Jesus.

My Saint James service has also included, since May 2023, serving as the part-time Vicar of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Boonsboro, Maryland. Established in 1849 by the then College and Grammar School of Saint James, St. Mark's is the only Maryland Episcopal parish to be started by a school. A statement by the Diocese of Maryland's former CFO regarding St. Mark's soon after starting my ministry with them adequately described the situation: "It looked like things were hopeless." In addition to the parish's low membership, its financial situation, particularly its approaching \$200,000+ "balloon payment" on a diocesan Middendorf Loan for its fellowship center, debilitated morale and discouraged parishioners from attempting to engage in missional work. Furthermore, I had officiated eight funerals during my first year at St. Mark's. Having laid out my vision for renewal, I asked parishioners to join with me in faith, seeing what God could do for us.

Though things looked previously hopeless, that same former Maryland CFO then stated after seeing for himself some improvements, "Now things look hopeful." Average Sunday worship attendance has increased from twenty before I arrived to twenty-four; our finances, including a refinanced Middendorf Loan absent of a balloon payment, have increased and become better manageable; new ministries such as an Outreach Committee and Hospitality Committee have been formed; and a \$250,000 three-year capital campaign for the historic church's preservation has been successful with 70% of the goal raised eight months following the campaign's launch. This campaign has helped our parish increase its visibility throughout Washington County, Maryland, bringing our neighbors the news that we are still an active worshipping community and of our efforts to missionally engage with them. St. Mark's renewed vitality and missional work is due to the faithfulness and glory of God. I was privileged to propose a vision forward; God has given it the growth.

Having read your profile, I see the Diocese of North Dakota's mission and goals aligning with who I am and what I seek to do for God's people. The expressed skills and qualities and focus areas you hope for from your next bishop and your wish to be faithful to God's direction have brought me to offer myself for consideration for this call. If given the privilege of being called as your XII Bishop, all that I will do will be for God's greater glory and the flourishing of all the diocese's people.

Thank you for your consideration of my application. I pray for God's blessing to be with you all.

Respectfully,

Brandt L. Montgomery

Brandt L. Martymay



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 31, 2025)

The Rev. Dr. Brandt Leonard Montgomery, Maryland

Priest, Since Dec 2, 2012

Preferred Contact Information

It is my mission to be a faithful and compassionate servant of Jesus Christ, particularly through my gifts in theology, Christian formation, and pastoral care, emphasizing the Good News of God in Jesus Christ offered for all people.

Current Compensation

Required for New Position

Negotiable

Healthcare Needed

Clergy only

Housing/Rectory

Housing/Rectory Detail

Housing Required for

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Education

2003-2007 Bachelor of Arts, Music, University of Montevallo

2009-2012 Master of Divinity (cum laude) The General Theological Semin

Position Preferences

Academic Research Assistant / Associate / Curate Campus Missioner Cathedral Staff Chaplain

2016-2021 Doctor of Ministry, The University of the South

Open to Consider New Position

Full time Part time, personal choice



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The Rev. Dr. Brandt Leonard Montgomery, Maryland

Priest, Since Dec 2, 2012

Work History and Skills

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) May 2023

St. Mark's Episcopal

Boonsboro, Maryland

Church

& Leading services; preaching; pastoral care; administration

Currently have liturgical, pastoral, and administrative oversight of this family-size parish in the

Diocese of Maryland, founded with the help of nearby Saint James School in 1849.

Chaplain, School

Aug 2019

Saint James School

Hagerstown, Maryland

& Leading services; counseling; preaching; pastoral care; teaching Plan and direct the liturgies of the Chapel of Saint James of Jerusalem and advise the chapel's Guild of Sacristans and Vestry; teach Introduction to Religion and United States History courses; offer pastoral care; and supervise the completion of students' service-learning requirements at this historic Episcopal Church boarding school steeped in the historic Anglo-Catholic tradition.

Assistant / Associate / Curate

Aug 2017 to Jul 2019

Episcopal Church of the

Lafayette, Louisiana

Ascension

Pastoral care, & priestly presence; preaching and teaching; Christia Assisted in the liturgical, pastoral, formational, and administrative ministry of this program-sized parish and parochial day school of the Diocese of Western Louisiana.

Chaplain, School

Aug 2014 to Jul 2019

Ascension Episcopal School

Lafayette, Louisiana

Assistant / Associate /

Curate

Jul 2012 to Jul 2014

Canterbury Episcopal
Chapel and Student Center

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Seminarian

Sep 2011 to May 2012

St. Thomas Episcopal Church New York, New York

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Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 31, 2025)

The Rev. Dr. Brandt Leonard Montgomery, Maryland

Priest, Since Dec 2, 2012		
Other Contact Information		
Date of Last Background Check	c Company performing check	Diocese requesting
Sermons Preached		Resources Created > https://dspace.sewanee.edu/bitstream/handle/11005/21747/MtgomeryDevelopmentSOT2021.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y > http://epiphanytallassee.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/brand-montgomery-thesis.pdf
Online References: > https://www.linkedin.com/in/brandt-montgomery-b627a122/		What Others Have Written > http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2013/sep/22/universi alabama-leaders-tread-lightly-segregati/ > http://www.cbsnews.com/news/desegregation-still-in-process-univ-of-alabama/
Groups and Associations. > https://www.stjames.edu/ > https://www.episcopalschool	ols.org/about-naes/the-board/	
Languages Written English	Languages Spoken English	Languages in which you are able to Lead Worship English

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 31, 2025)

The Rev. Dr. Brandt Leonard Montgomery, Maryland

Priest, Since Dec 2, 2012

Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of success and fulfillment

When I started my part-time ministry at St. Mark's Church in Boonsboro, Maryland, a major financial hurdle facing the parish was an impending May 2027 \$200,000 "balloon" payment on what is called the "Middendorf Loan" on the now ten-year-old Fellowship Center. Upon initial investigation, it was found that the parish's finances may not have been what they were said to be when the project was proposed, making the parish actually unable to afford the loan. This caused the Middendorf Loan to become a financial burden, affecting morale and proposed mission work. Upon starting at St. Mark's, one of my goals was to have the loan restructured in a way that would not pose a risk to the parish's long-term viability. After many conversations with the Diocese's CFO and one with the bishop, the loan terms were restructured in late October 2024 allowing for a longer repayment period and eliminating the massive "balloon" payment. This has reenergized parishioners to engage in missional work and helped increase stewardship and freewill donations. I am glad to have helped achieve this goal for parishioners.

Describe your liturgical style and practice.

My liturgical style and practices lean towards Anglo-Catholicism. Through Anglo-Catholicism I have experienced the importance of maintaining a rule of life inclusive of worship, prayer, and commitment to God's mission. Yet, despite my Anglo-Catholic preferences, I value all the liturgical traditions that make up the Episcopal Church, seeing how they respectively point to the importance of and a commitment to God's mission. I can see and appreciate any parish's liturgical tradition and work comfortably within it and with its people.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

I value being in community with others. I take seriously the role of the Church's liturgy equipping and enabling God's people to participate in His work. But I don't limit this view solely to liturgical worship but extend it to all facets of the Church. I view part of my priestly vocation as helping empower God's people to do the work of ministry, doing so with any and every opportunity that presents itself. This commitment helps me to learn about who they are and new things from them. I have no problem doing ministry with people of all ages, for working and being with others composes a major facet of what makes me "me."

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Priest, Since Dec 2, 2012

How do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Spiritually, I pray, at least, twice a day and intentionally set aside time for Scripture study. I also utilize the Sacramental Rite of Reconciliation on a regular basis. I take care of myself emotionally through such activities as practicing my trumpet, reading a biography, traveling to and touring nearby historic sites, and enjoying the company of good friends outside of a church context. Physically, I exercise each day (weather permitting) by walking a set course around the Saint James School campus. This period of exercise also serves as another time of prayer.

Describe your involvement in either the wider Church or geographical community,

Beyond my ministries at Saint James School and St. Mark's Church, I serve on the Diocese of Maryland's Standing Committee, Board of Examining Chaplains, and as the Standing Committee's liaison to the Commission on Ministry. I have also served the Diocese of Maryland as the First Alternate Clergy Deputy to the 81st General Convention and will do so again at the upcoming 82nd General Convention. In the wider Church, I serve on the Governing Boards of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal Schools Association and the National Association of Episcopal Schools. Locally, I am involved with the Hagerstown Area Religious Council and the South Washington County, Maryland Ministerium.

How do you engage in pastoral care for others?

When I offer pastoral care, I seek to bestow the ministry of presence. This entails me engaging in a process of intentional listening, allowing me to discern, with the Holy Spirit's help, how to best guide the person speaking along this current trek of life's journey. With this process comes my attentiveness to the necessity for prayer, that I may help lead the person speaking in the right way and that the person speaking will come to see God's love, compassion, and mercy for them from the words that I say.



Ministry Portfolio

The Rev. Dr. Brandt Leonard Montgomery, Maryland

Priest, Since Dec 2, 2012

Tell about a ministry project that exists because of your leadership. What was your role in its creation? Who can be contacted?

A project that now exists not just because of my leadership, but with help from the Saint James School Faculty Diversity Committee, is the School's Diversity Statement. This statement is the first such statement the School has ever had. It was a "strong" recommendation from the Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools during Saint James's October 2019 reaccreditation review. Working on the draft statement encompassed respectful conversation among and discernment by Committee members (some of which was not easy) about how to make the statement simultaneously reflect what Saint James is and hopes to be going forward. The Rev. Dr. D. Stuart Dunnan, Saint James's Headmaster, can be contacted for further information about this project.

How are you preparing yourself for the Church of the future?

As an Episcopal school chaplain, I have come to see how increasing numbers of people are coming from non-religious backgrounds. For instance, I find in my Introduction to Religion classes a lack of knowledge of some of the classic Bible stories and characters ("Jacob's Ladder," "Noah's Ark," "Jonah and the Whale," etc.) that wasn't the case in previous generations. This, in turn, I find to be the result of perceptions that Christians are judgmental and prejudiced against others (which, unfortunately, in some circles is true). Serving in Episcopal school ministry these past twelve and a half years has helped me realize that the Church's traditional ways of doing ministry must be reevaluated in order for the Gospel to reach all in need of it. Christians must actively be the Church by going outside their local parish's walls and living Jesus' Great Commission, proclaiming His Good News among all people. Radical change can and will happen when we who confess Jesus' Name are actively His hands and feet, loving others in the way He commands. Though we are being called to different ways of doing ministry, the saving message of Jesus remains the same.

What is your personal practice of stewardship and how do you utilize it to influence your ministry in your worshipping community?

At an Alabama clergy day some years ago dedicated to the discussion of stewardship, the guest speaker started his presentation by saying, "The money we have in our wallets and in our purses does not belong to us. It belongs to God! Therefore, we should be good stewards of God's money and give back a portion of that which God has blessed us with." Hearing that immediately changed my view of stewardship. It made me realize that my own stewardship practice needed stepping up and incited in me a want to be a better example. It is upon that presenter's statement in which I now base my own personal stewardship practices. The best way, I feel, to provide influence in the doing of ministry among worshipping communities is by taking sincere action to give back a portion of God's money to His Church. At Saint James School, I do this through monthly payroll deduction. For St. Mark's, Lappans, I have a monthly check drafted from my bank account. I aim to be a good influence in helping my people see the importance that stewardship plays within a Christian's life.



The Rev. Dr. Brandt Leonard Montgomery, Maryland

Priest, Since Dec 2, 2012

What is your experience of conflict involving the church? And what is your experience in addressing it?

There is a parishioner I have worked with who has felt that the work she has done has not been appreciated by others. She has also felt that because she does not possess the same level of education as do some other parishioners that she is not respected. But with her having been told by fellow parishioners how they do recognize and appreciate her work, I know her thoughts to be coming from an unfortunate place of insecurity. This insecurity has at times caused her to lash out at those she feels question her intelligence and abilities. I have sought to address her concerns by regularly checking in with her and reminding her how all the work she has done has gone a long way in helping the parish's renewal efforts. These conversations have included some truth-telling about how her behavior has hurt others and of her need to not jump to immediate conclusions. Since doing this, her outbursts have lessened and her working relationship with other parish leaders has become more positive. Most importantly, she has begun to realize how others do love her and are appreciative of all she has done for the parish.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

The University of Alabama was involved in a scandal pertaining to sorority recruitment, with specific sororities charged with intentionally denying bids to several African-American "potential new members" based solely on their race. This led to a mass demonstration on the steps of the University's main administration building. As an African-American alumnus of a fraternity whose chapter was heavily integrated, thus not being the norm in many places in the South, I felt compelled to participate. In doing so, I chose to wear my old fraternity jersey. Seeing me in my old jersey, a couple of reporters asked if they could ask me some questions. In my mind, I thought that the quotes I gave where only going to be in the local newspapers, but was soon told that my quotes made it onto the websites of CBS News, the Washington Post, and several other online news outlets. Many people who saw these stories thanked me for the small role I played and that by doing so, I helped provide an example of what it truly means to be in community with all people. That experience taught me that whatever role you play, however small you may think it is, it could have a much bigger impact than you ever imagined.