

Biographical Information about WV Bishop Coadjutor Slate
The Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia
August 2, 2021
Supplement to Press Release and Photographs

The Rev. Canon S. Abbott Bailey

The Rev. Canon S. Abbott Bailey currently serves as Interim Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Virginia, after serving as Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of California from 2018 to April 2021.

She delights in supporting ministry vitality and community engagement in congregations.

Abbott was the rector of St. Andrew's Church for 10 years and associate rector of St. Stephen's Church for two years, both in Richmond, VA. As rector at St. Andrew's, she was also chaplain and board member at St. Andrew's School and co-executive director of Grace-on-the-Hill, an Episcopal Service Corps program.

Before ordination, Abbott worked in several regional and statewide nonprofit organizations in community health care, health policy, and health philanthropy.

Originally from West Virginia, Abbott maintains a great love of the outdoors, enjoying wandering in the woods, swimming in lakes and rivers, playing tennis, and walks with her pups, Alice and Thunder.

The Rev. Canon Patrick A. Collins

The Rev. Canon Patrick A. Collins was ordained to the diaconate and priesthood in 2006 after graduating from the General Theological Seminary.

He served the first 10 years of his ministry in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, first in a curacy at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Harrisburg, then in three small congregations as either rector or long-term supply priest.

While in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, he served for many summers as the director of the Episcopal camping program in partnership with Camp Mount Luther. He also served in that diocesan office as the Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator and as the Diocesan Transition Minister.

In 2016, he accepted a call to serve a split ministry as the Vicar of All Faith Chapel in Tunis Mills, Maryland, and as the Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Easton.

Patrick's hobbies include stained glass, martial arts and barbershop choir singing.

The Rev. Matthew D. Cowden

The Rev. Matthew D. Cowden is the Rector of Saint Michael and All Angels in South Bend, Indiana.

With family roots in West Virginia, he was born and reared in northern Virginia. After an early career as a college theater professor, he received his Master of Divinity degree at Virginia Seminary in 2006.

As a Trainer in Congregational Development ministries, Fr. Matthew has led rural and suburban congregations in developing a shared vision for implementing new ministry. He currently serves on the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, connecting larger Church resources with local congregations.

He is married to Melissa Cowden, his best friend and partner in ministry. Melissa is an early childhood teacher with a master's degree in multicultural education. They have three young-adult children: Meghan, a nurse; Nicholas, a ballet dancer; and Joshua, a computer science major.

Matthew loves hiking, running, making memorable meals, folklore, and storytelling.