

Titus Presler installed as Honorary Canon Theologian in Harrisburg

Titus Presler was installed as Honorary Canon Theologian to the Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and to St. Stephen's Cathedral in a festive Evensong at the cathedral on All Saints' Day, 1 November 2008.

In naming Presler to this post, the Rt. Rev. Nathan Baxter, Bishop of Central Pennsylvania, wrote, "I am grateful for your theological support and wisdom to our diocese and hope that your theological expertise will continue to assist me in the shaping of God's people in Central Pennsylvania. I have great regard for your missionary vision and commitment and your ministry as a theologian who has faithfully held the academy in faithful tension with the ministry of the church, especially the local congregation."

"You honor me greatly in this appointment," Presler responded. "I accept gratefully and will do my best to serve the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania in whatever ways you believe will be helpful."

Presler led a clergy conference of the diocese on 26 March 2008 on the theme, "Anglican Mission: Perspectives for Parish Leadership." Presler focused on companionship in mission as especially important in the context of the ongoing crisis of the Anglican Communion, when many inter-Anglican relationships are being strained.

Later Presler collaborated with Bp. Baxter in a review of the 2008 Lambeth Conference, at which both had been present, for clergy and lay leaders of the diocese gathered at St. Matthew's Church, Sunbury, on Saturday, 29 September. Among other things, Presler stressed how the four-part of vision of Anglican identity articulated at this year's Lambeth Conference is distinctly more mission-oriented than the historic four-part Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral that has been taken since the 1880s as defining the structure of Anglican identity.

Presler has provided the diocese with an extensive list of resources for use in exploring Anglican identity, mission, and the current crisis.

Also installed as honorary canons at the Nov. 1 liturgy were six clergy and one lay person of the diocese who, as Bp. Baxter said, "have had long tenures in our diocese, faithful in their local context and extraordinary leaders and supporters of both the diocese and its bishops." Also installed as an honorary canon theologian was the Rev. John Peterson, Canon for Global Justice and Reconciliation at the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, Washington, D.C.