

The Rev. Canon Shawn Wamsley - Application Cover Letter

Dear Search Committee Members:

With deep respect and heartfelt enthusiasm, I submit my application to serve as the next Bishop of the Diocese of San Joaquin. Your profile speaks with remarkable genuineness, reflecting a diocese that has navigated profound challenges with courage and faith. Your vision for an inclusive, empowering, engaging, and nurturing leader resonates deeply with my ministry and sense of calling.

Your commitment to creating a culture of invitation inspires me. In my ministry, I have sought to nurture communities where the love of Christ is made visible through hospitality, reconciliation, and shared purpose. I come from a land where prayers for rain are both practical and spiritual, and I know the transformative power of faith coupled with grit. Like you, I believe that the Church is called to be a compelling witness that reflects the diversity of God's people and proclaims the Gospel with authenticity and joy.

I am particularly moved by your focus on empowering congregations and reinvigorating diocesan life. Supporting lay and ordained vocations has been a cornerstone of my ministry. I share your passion for equipping the Church to meet today's challenges while stewarding its heritage for future generations. Formation honors our Episcopal identity and inspires the kind of vibrant relationships that can transform communities. The Church is called to be one.

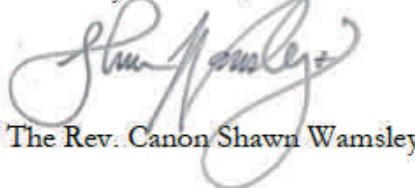
Much of my ministry has been shaped by walking alongside congregations as they discern their next faithful steps. Whether revitalizing ministries through creative outreach, navigating the complexities of conflict, or shepherding communities through change, I have learned that transformative leadership begins with listening, builds on trust, and flourishes through shared vision. The Church is called to be present.

I have also been privileged to witness the breadth and beauty of the Church in diverse contexts—from rural congregations to global communities in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Rome. These experiences have taught me the importance of fostering relationships that transcend boundaries and are rooted in our shared mission as the body of Christ. The Church is called to be a place of belonging.

What draws me most to your diocese is your courage and faithfulness in naming who you are, who you hope to become, and who you are called to be. I see the Holy Spirit at work in your transparency, humility, and hope. If I am called to be your bishop, I would be honored to walk with you as a fellow pilgrim, discerning together how best to live into God's mission for the Diocese of San Joaquin.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of my application. Please know of my prayers for you in this sacred process, trusting that the Holy Spirit will guide you with wisdom and grace as you discern who is called to be your next bishop.

Faithfully in Christ,



The Rev. Canon Shawn Wamsley