



The Rt Rev'd David E. & Helen R. Richards

## COLLEGE *for* BISHOPS

March 2, 2015

Dear Bishops & Bishop Spouses/Partners:

We are writing to encourage your participation in an important research project undertaken by the College for Bishops to better understand and serve Episcopal bishops and their spouses/partners.

In 2008-2010, Therese Sprinkle completed a study for us which many of you may remember. Due to the wide participation across the provinces and tenure groups, we gained a deeper understanding of how bishop and spouse roles are perceived and managed. With the high turnover of the House of Bishops, however, that study quickly became dated.

The College for Bishops has, therefore, asked **Marla Martin Hanley, Ph.D.**, who has worked with the New Bishop Spouse/Partners Conference for four years, to complete new research designed by us and for us, and not as part of an academic study for an external audience.

The Spouse Partner Planning Group (SPPG), which represents the community of bishop spouses and partners, supports this project as well. SPPG hopes to benefit from this research when developing activities and facilitating conversations around the needs of the community.

**Each bishop and spouse/partner is receiving this email in order to access the survey instrument.** Specifically, this survey asks bishops and spouses how an episcopal call has affected the wider vocation or life's work of both partners, inside *and* outside the church. What are the immediate impacts after episcopal election, and what changes over the subsequent years? We believe the questionnaire is interesting and thought-provoking; it will take you about a half-hour to complete.

Your answers will be, of course, completely confidential. You will find more information on consent, confidentiality, risks, and benefits at the survey site. Click here to access and complete it:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/4EPSCPL>

We urge your full participation and timely response, in the same generous way bishops responded last year to + Sean Rowe's doctoral research. Through this study, we will understand more deeply what challenges and blessings bishops and their spouses experience and be able to better prepare and support one another in our various ministries.

In Christ's Love,

**The Rt. Rev. F. Clay Matthews**  
Bishop for Pastoral Development

**Jeanne Provenzano**  
Co-Convener, SPPG

**Steve Bruce**  
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