

The Rev. Brian Cole elected Bishop of East Tennessee

The Rev. Brian Cole, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lexington, Ky., for the last five years, was elected fifth bishop of the Diocese of East Tennessee July 28 on the fifth ballot. He will be ordained and consecrated Dec. 2, at the Church of the Ascension in Knoxville.

He is a native of southeast Missouri and was graduated from Murray State University (Murray, Ky.) with a degree in business administration. He is a graduate of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and did additional study at the School of Theology at Sewanee. He taught in the Religion Department at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, N.C., and served on the Program Staff of the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center in Berea, Ky.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 2002 in the Diocese of Western North Carolina. He served as the vicar of Church of the Advocate in Asheville, N.C. The Church of the Advocate is a homeless worshipping community in downtown Asheville. Before moving to Good Shepherd in 2012, he was the Sub-Dean at the Cathedral of All Souls in Asheville.

Brian served on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church from 2006-2012 as the clergy representative from Province IV. He also served on the Province IV Executive Committee for those six years.

He is married to Susan Weatherford, who is a graduate of Berea College and the University of Kentucky. Their son, Jess, is a junior at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.