The 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church was held in Salt Lake City June 25- July 3. On June 27, Bishop Michael B. Curry of the Diocese of North Carolina was elected as the 27th Presiding Bishop.

Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry, 62, was elected by the House of Bishops from a slate of four nominees on the first ballot. He received 121 votes of a total 174 cast. The election was confirmed an hour later by the House of Deputies, as outlined in the church’s canons, by a vote of 800 to 12.

He will serve a nine-year term that officially begins Nov. 1. On that date, Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry will succeed current Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and he will become the first person of color to hold that position. The election also made history by being the first time a presiding bishop was chosen on the first ballot.

A liturgy marking the beginning of Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry’s ministry as presiding bishop and primate will be celebrated Nov. 1, All Saints Day at Washington National Cathedral.
Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry defines his priorities as formation, evangelism, and witnessing in the public square. In an interview with Episcopal News Service after his election, Curry said:

“There’s a lot of suffering in this world. There’s a lot of heartache, there’s a lot of nightmare. We are people who believe that God has a dream and a vision for this world, and that Jesus has shown us how to follow him in the direction of that and how to help this world live into God’s dream and vision for us now.”

At the General Convention’s closing Eucharist, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori read a letter of congratulations from President Barack Obama written to Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry. In part, it reads “Your leadership over the years has reflected your powerful vision for a more inclusive tomorrow.” Read the full letter from President Obama on Episcopal News Service here: http://tinyurl.com/or55gum

Additional Links:
Episcopal News Service full length interview with Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry: http://tinyurl.com/curryinterview

Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry’s sermon delivered at General Convention’s closing Eucharist: http://tinyurl.com/currysermonGC

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori reads letter of congratulations from President Obama to Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry.
Photo: Sharon Sheridan/Episcopal News Service