



## **RICHARD T. LAWSON III BIOGRAPHY**

Richard Lawson was born and raised in Guntersville, AL, and became an Episcopalian while attending Auburn University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and was confirmed at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church. He later earned a Master of Divinity from The General Theological Seminary and a Master of Sacred Theology from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

In 2001, Lawson was ordained to the diaconate at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Guntersville, AL. Later that same year, he was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, AL.

Lawson began his ordained ministry at St. John's Episcopal Church in Decatur, AL, first serving as curate and later as rector. During his tenure, he gained extensive experience in pastoral care and parish leadership within a thriving congregation. At the diocesan level, he co-founded and served as chaplain for the Annual Father-Son Retreat at Camp McDowell from 2006 to 2009. He also served on several diocesan committees, including the Investment Committee, Strategic Visioning Committee, Board of Examining Chaplains, and the Bishop Suffragan Search Committee for the Diocese of Alabama.

He later served as rector of Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church and School in Memphis, Tennessee, where the parish flourished and experienced renewal and healing under his leadership. Most recently, prior to his election, Lawson served as Dean of St. John's Cathedral in Denver, Colorado, the cathedral church of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, where he led a dynamic and growing congregation.

On January 31, 2026, Lawson was elected on the first ballot as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama at a special electing convention held at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. He subsequently received the canonically required consent of a majority of The Episcopal Church's diocesan standing committees and bishops with jurisdiction.

Lawson is married to Katherine, a native of Birmingham, Alabama. Together they have two adult children.