

The Rt. Rev. Carl Walter Wright
VII Bishop Suffragan for the
Armed Forces and Federal Ministries

The Right Reverend Carl Walter Wright is the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries of The Episcopal Church.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland and cradle Episcopalian, Carl was elected Bishop Suffragan at the Fall 2016 House of Bishops Meeting in Detroit Michigan and was consecrated a Bishop at the Washington National Cathedral on 11 February 2017 by The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church.



As DoD appointed Ecclesiastical Endorser, Carl's span of responsibility is for Episcopal chaplains and congregations in the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He travels the globe doing visitations wherever our Chaplains may be found among the more than 800 American bases worldwide.

Prior to being elected Bishop, Carl served as Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Pasadena, Maryland and as Archdeacon for Deployment and Pastoral Care in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland by Bishop Eugene Sutton.

Carl served his country for more than 30 years. He enlisted in the US Air Force in 1978. Following his initial enlistment he graduated from US Army ROTC and was commissioned an Infantry Officer in the Maryland Army National Guard, then a Chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserve. In 1993 he was commissioned a Chaplain, US Air Force until his retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2011. His last active duty assignment was the Deputy Command Chaplain for USAF Global Strike Command, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. The newest Air Force Command in more than 20 years, Global Strike provides combat-ready forces to conduct strategic nuclear deterrence and global strike operations in support of all combatant commanders.

Carl attended Loyola University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Theology. He then attended Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA graduating with a Master of Divinity degree, after which he was ordained a Priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. Later, he furthered his theological education earning a Master of Sacred Theology from the School of Theology / University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. He has been awarded honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees both from Virginia Theological Seminary and The School of Theology/The University of the South.

Carl has been active in the Episcopal Church both as a civilian priest and an Air Force Chaplain in a dozen dioceses. He is a longtime Associate of the Order of the Holy Cross, the oldest religious order in the American Church. A Church musician, he has a keen interest in matters liturgical. He has been in-demand as a preacher and retreat leader, and was elected and served as the 43rd Co-Dean of the Union of Black Episcopalians. He has authored several articles on Church History and has lectured on the challenges of ministry as a military chaplain in combat.

Honorifics: Maryland Cursillo #104; Executive Board Member – National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces; Life Member – Air Force Association; Life Member and Honorary Board Chair – Union of Black Episcopalians; National Chaplain – Brotherhood of St. Andrew; Canon Residentiary – Washington National Cathedral; Canon of the Diocese of Los Angeles and St. John's Cathedral; Member – Standing Commission on Liturgy and Church Music; Member - Association of Anglican Musicians.

Special Interests: In addition to the piano, the organ and fast cars, Carl enjoys hiking. He is an inveterate murder mystery reader. He is fanatical about all things nautical and cruises the world each year.