

A Resolution Concerning the Discernment, Election and Consecration of the Tenth Bishop of Maine

Be it resolved, that the following rules for the Election of a Bishop Diocesan be adopted:

1. The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Office of Pastoral Development, shall create, organize and oversee the process for the discernment, election and consecration of the Tenth Bishop of Maine.
2. The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Finance Committee, the Diocesan Council and the Trustees of the Diocese, shall create a budget for the election and consecration of the Tenth Bishop, including funds for the transition of the departing bishop and the new bishop. All expenses shall be paid from diocesan budgets, reserves, other available funds and special contributions.
3. The Standing Committee shall create a Discernment Committee and a Transition Committee and other such committees, groups and administration as it deems necessary for an orderly election and consecration; it shall determine qualifications and characteristics desired of committee members and the duties of each committee; it shall provide for such staffing and other support as may be needed by the committees to perform their duties. It shall appoint the chairs or co-chairs and shall retain the responsibility for general oversight to maintain the canonical integrity and budgetary efficiency of the process.
4. Persons interested in serving on one of the Committees or nominating someone to serve should be in touch with the Standing Committee via the nominating form on the diocesan website no later than November 10, 2017.
5. The Discernment Committee and Transition Committee will determine their own processes and procedures, subject to the requirements of this resolution, the Standing Committee and the applicable canons of The Episcopal Church.
6. The draft calendar for the Election and Transition is as follows:
 - Sep- Oct 2017 - Enabling legislation
 - Oct 28 – Nov 10 2017 – Committee nominations received
 - Late Nov 2017 - Committees, Chairs, Chaplain announced

- Dec 1 & 2, 2017 – Standing Committee, Discernment and Transition Committees, Chaplain and administrative support staff meet with Consultant for planning retreat
- Jan-Apr 2018 - Discernment Committee surveys diocese, creates and presents diocesan profile
- May – Sept 2018 – Discernment Committee conducts formal search process. Candidates for nomination are screened and interviewed.
- Oct 2018 - Finalists for nomination participate in retreat in Maine with the Discernment Committee and consultant.
- Nov 2018 - Slate of Nominees is presented to the Standing Committee for approval and is announced to the diocese. Petition nominations received.
- Dec 2018 - Nominees by Petition are added to the slate upon successful completion of background checks and other requirements.
- Jan 2019 - Walkabout and interviews across the Diocese
- Feb 2019 - Election of Tenth Bishop in Special Convention
- Spring 2019 - Transition period for both 9th and 10th Bishops of Maine
- Early Summer 2019 - Consecration and Seating of Tenth Bishop (subject to the schedule of the Presiding Bishop)

7. The Discernment Committee will seek the best candidates for bishop from across The Episcopal Church, taking steps to insure the full participation of women, people of color, and other persons representative of the diverse membership of The Episcopal Church and its statements on full inclusion.

8. The Discernment Committee will submit to the Standing Committee for approval, a slate of candidates for nomination. Each candidate shall execute a written declaration of intent to serve if elected and shall complete such background and financial investigations, medical and psychological evaluations as required by The Episcopal Church and the Standing Committee. With the consent of the Standing Committee, the candidates will be the Nominees for Bishop Diocesan and their

names shall be announced and submitted to the Electing Convention.

9. Following the release of the slate of Nominees, the Standing Committee shall accept petitions submitting names of candidates for Nomination by Petition, for a period not to exceed 7 days. Each petition shall be signed by a Nominator and by at least eight other persons, four clergy and four laity, who collectively represent at least four different Areas, all of whom are canonically resident clergy or lay communicants in good standing.
10. Candidates for Nomination by Petition shall answer the questions asked of the other Nominees, shall execute a written declaration of intent to serve if elected, and shall complete such background and financial investigations, medical and psychological evaluations as required by The Episcopal Church and the Standing Committee. With the consent of the Standing Committee, Nominees by Petition who have successfully completed the screening and interview process shall be added to the slate of Nominees for Bishop Diocesan and their names shall be announced and submitted to the Electing Convention.
11. The election of the Bishop Diocesan shall be held at an Electing Convention in February 2019, with provision for a snow date.
12. The Bishop, upon the recommendations of the Transition Committee and in consultation with the Standing Committee, may adopt special rules and procedures for the conduct of the election, including, but not limited to, time for prayer, methods for voting, guidelines on the use of social media, and limitations on access to the floor of the Electing Convention by persons other than delegates to the Convention.
13. The Tenth Bishop shall be elected from among Nominees for Bishop Diocesan. Nominations from the floor will be ruled out of order. Any Nominee may withdraw from the election at any time in person or by phone or designated representative.
14. In the event the time provided for the election expires without an election, the Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee, may recess the Convention to a date certain or to a date to be set by the Standing Committee; or by a vote of the Standing Committee, the Bishop may declare the election to be at an end, may vacate the nominations, dissolve the Discernment and Transition Committees, and order the appointment of new Committees and a new election and transition process.

15. The election and consecration process of the Tenth Bishop shall be subject to the satisfactory completion of the examinations required by The Episcopal Church and the receipt of the necessary consents from the Bishops and Standing Committees of the several dioceses. It shall further be subject to the signing of a Letter of Agreement establishing compensation and other financial matters between the Bishop-elect and the Standing Committee.

Explanation

The proposed rules for the Election of the Tenth Bishop are drawn from the *Raising Up of Episcopal Leadership*, the Transition Manual of the Office of Pastoral Development (the body charged with overseeing episcopal elections). They are intended to offer guidance and parameters for the Standing Committee and the various Committees responsible for the transition process. In order to give those involved the greatest possible flexibility, the guidelines are offered without specific target numbers, except for the number of signatories required for Nomination by Petition.

Our process needs to acknowledge that our capacity as a diocese to field large committees, while maintaining our standing bodies, is diminished. The current recommendation as to the size of Discernment and Transition Committees is twelve (12) each. The Standing Committee intends to have Discernment and Transition committees fully representative of our diocese within these recommendations.

This election takes place in the context of smaller pools of candidates than in the past. The recommendation as to the ideal size of the slate of Nominees is no less than three (3).

Since the last transition process, the roles of the Discernment and Transition Committees have changed. The Discernment Committee is responsible for creating the electronic Profile of the Diocese, seeking candidates and presenting a slate of Nominees. The Transition Committee seeks and interviews Nominees by Petition, organizes the presentation of Nominees (the Walkabout), the electing convention, and, in consultation with the Ninth Bishop and the Presiding Bishop, the transition and consecration.

Members of Committees must be canonically resident clergy or lay communicants in good standing of a parish or mission in union with the Diocese; and must be able to attend frequent meetings for a year and actively participate in the work of the committee. It would be helpful if committee members are knowledgeable of the polity and ministries of The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Maine.

Attachment #1 – Map of the Areas of the Diocese