

Re: Special Rules of Order for the Election of a Bishop-Elect  
Submitted By: The Standing Committee  
Contact Person: The Rev. Maria Hoecker, President  
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**RESOLVED** that the following Special Rules of Order be submitted to the Special Convention of the Diocese of Maine called for in February, 2019, to govern the proceedings related to the election of a Bishop Diocesan:

**I. Schedule**

After a suitable period of time for clerical and lay delegates to register, there will be a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

**II. Convention Floor**

- a. Only voting lay delegates and clergy entitled to vote will be seated on the Convention floor.
- b. No election material other than the official brochure will be distributed on the Convention floor.

**III. Order of Business**

- a. The Secretary of the Diocese, on behalf of the Committee on Credentials, reports on the certification of clerical and lay delegates and the number of delegates present and entitled to vote. The Convention votes on adoption of the Report.
- b. The Bishop declares the presence or absence of a quorum.
- c. The Secretary of the Diocese, in accordance with the custom of the Diocese, serves as the Secretary of the Convention; the Convention will be asked to confirm that individual in that office.
- d. The Bishop appoints a Committee on the Dispatch of Business.
- e. The Committee on the Dispatch of Business presents these Special Rules of Order and such other special rules of order as it may choose to present to the Convention for adoption.
- f. The Chair of the Discernment Committee presents the names of those persons nominated by the Discernment Committee. The President of the Standing Committee presents the names of any persons nominated by petition.

#### **IV. Nominations**

- a. Nominations will be made and received only in accordance with Resolution 6 as adopted at the 198<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention (2017). No nominating or seconding speeches are in order for these nominations.
- b. Nominations from the floor will not be in order.

#### **V. Ballots and Voting**

- a. Prayer before Balloting. Each ballot shall be preceded by an appropriate time for silence and prayer.
- b. The Ballot. The names of the candidates presented as previously certified by the Discernment Committee and Standing Committee shall be placed on the ballot in an order determined by random selection.
- c. Voting. Voting shall be by Orders (clergy and lay delegates). Each voter shall cast one vote on each ballot. A concurrent majority in each Order shall be necessary for an election.
- d. Voting Continues. Voting commences and continues until an election is made.

#### **VI. Withdrawal of Nomination**

- a. Voluntary Withdrawal. A candidate may withdraw his or her name in person or by written communication to the Presiding Officer (Bishop), or may give written authorization to one of his or her liaisons to do so.
- b. Mandatory Withdrawal. A candidate's name shall be withdrawn when he or she fails on two successive ballots to receive, in both clergy and lay order, votes equal to ten percent of the total votes cast in the respective orders on each of those ballots.
- c. Support of Other Candidates. No individual withdrawing a candidate's nomination may make any statement to endorse another candidate.

#### **VII. If No Election**

If 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.

## **EXPLANATION**

These Rules of Order are intended to govern the Special Convention to be called for February, 2019, for the purpose of electing the Tenth Bishop of Maine. They are consistent with Resolution 6 adopted at the 198<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention (2017), which governs the entire process of discerning, electing and consecrating the Tenth Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine to succeed the Ninth Bishop Diocesan, Stephen T. Lane.