



JUNE 14-15 2019

FORWARD
TOGETHER
with courage and hope



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work Our hands

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON D.C. SYNOD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2019

Process for an Ecclesiastical Ballot

ELCA Definition of "Ecclesiastical Ballot"

In response to requests from synods for a definition of the ecclesiastical ballot and guidance on the use of such a ballot, the Church Council adopted the following definition in 1994:

To define an "ecclesiastical ballot" for the election of a bishop in synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as an election process:

1. In which on the first ballot the name of any eligible individual may be submitted for nomination by a voting member of the assembly;
2. Through which the possibility of election to office exists on any ballot by achievement of the required number of votes cast by voting members of the assembly applicable to a particular ballot;
3. That precludes spoken floor nominations;
4. In which the first ballot is the nominating ballot if no election occurs on the first ballot;
5. In which the first ballot defines the total slate of nominees for possible election on a subsequent ballot, with no additional nominations permitted;
6. That does not preclude, after the reporting of the first ballot, the right of persons nominated to withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot;
7. In which any name appearing on the second ballot may not be subsequently withdrawn;
8. That does not preclude an assembly's adoption of rules that permit, at a defined point in the election process and for a defined period of time, speeches to the assembly by nominees or their representatives and/or a question-and-answer forum in which the nominees or their representatives participate; and
9. In which the number of names that appear on any ballot subsequent to the second ballot shall be determined in accordance with provisions of the governing documents (or, if the governing documents are silent, in accordance with rules adopted by the assembly).

Who is eligible for nomination?

Any rostered minister of word and sacrament in good standing in the ELCA may be a nominee. Pastors can be in a current call, on leave from call, or retired. They can be from the Metro D.C. Synod or another other synod.

DRAFT AGENDA (Updated 3/7/19)

Friday, June 14, 2019

Plenary Session 1
11:50 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Prayer & First Ballot for Bishop, nominating ballot (handwritten)—75% needed for election

Midday Prayer
1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 pm
Report of the First Ballot for Bishop

Plenary Session 2
4:30 p.m. deadline

3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Withdrawal from Election of a Bishop AND Candidate Information, Background Check, Authorization and Release, and Disclosure Forms Due for those keeping their names on the ballot

Plenary Session 3
5:21 p.m. – 5:35 p.m.

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Second Ballot for Bishop (all remaining names)—75% necessary for election

Plenary Session 4
7:35 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.
7:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
8:16 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Report of the Second Ballot for Bishop
Statements from the Candidates for Bishop (7 nominees, 3 minutes each)
Third Ballot for Bishop (7 names)—66% necessary for election

Saturday, June 15, 2019

Plenary Session 5
10:45 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Report of the Third Ballot for Bishop

Hearings for final three nominees

Hearing One 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Hearing Two 11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Hearing Three 12:25 p.m. – 12:55 p.m.

Plenary Session 6
2:06 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Fourth Ballot for Bishop (3 names)—60% necessary to elect
Report of the Fourth Ballot for Bishop

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Statements from bishop nominees (2 nominees, no more than 7 minutes each)

3:01 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.

Fifth Ballot for Bishop (2 names)—51% necessary to elect
Report of the Fifth Ballot for Bishop

Plenary 7
3:55 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Comments from Bishop-Elect (5 min.)

