



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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Summary of Bishop Election Procedure for Potential Nominees

In order to facilitate the election process for the position of Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod and to be sure that all nominees are prepared the Transition Team has prepared this summary. Experience has shown that with prayer and preparation the whole election process is enhanced.

The first ballot will be a paper nomination ballot where any rostered minister of word and sacrament in good standing in the ELCA can be nominated for the position of bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod. Nominees can be from any synod and can currently be called, on leave from call, or retired. A space for contact information will be included on the ballot to connect with nominees promptly who are not in attendance at the Synod Assembly.

Before the second ballot, all nominees who do not want to be considered for the position of bishop must complete the Request for Withdrawal form and turn it in to Kevin Anderson by 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 14, after the Plenary Session 2.

All candidates remaining on the ballot must complete biographic, disclosure, authorization, and background check forms. These must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 14. Potential nominees are encouraged to complete and submit these forms in advance of the assembly knowing that all content will be held until nominees have been determined. Candidate information for only the final 7 candidates will be released simultaneously before the 3rd ballot. These forms once completed should be emailed to BishopElection@metrodcelca.org.

The second ballot will be a pre-printed paper ballot including all the nominees from the first ballot who have not withdrawn. There will be no room for additional nominations.

Before the third ballot, the final 7 nominees (or more depending on ties) will have the chance to address the Assembly during Plenary Session 4. Each candidate will be allotted 4 minutes. We recommend that the candidates pray and practice their 4 minute statement beforehand. The third ballot will then be conducted either in

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paper or electronic format determined by the final number of candidates and the ability to have them all listed on the same screen.

Saturday morning the conferences will meet over breakfast to determine questions to pose to the remaining 3 candidates. The three candidates will have this time on their own to use for their own prayer and preparation.

The then remaining 3 candidates will spend 30 minutes in 3 separate hearings answering questions prepared by the conferences. Each candidate will spend 30 minutes in a hearing with two combined conferences to answer their questions, will move to another room to meet with another two conferences, and will repeat one more time. Each Hearing will have questions tailored by those conferences. We recommend that the candidate save the final 2 minutes of each hearing to summarize their candidacy.

Should there be a need for a fifth ballot the remaining two nominees will each make a 7 minute statement to the Assembly prior to the ballot. Once the bishop has been elected the Assembly will respond in affirmation with a round of applause.

The Bishop-Elect will have 5 minutes to address the Assembly during Plenary Session 7.

Survey results from the Pre-Assembly Listening Survey will be distributed in advance of the Pre-Assembly Conference Meetings to help all potential candidates gauge the feelings throughout the synod of the hopes for the path forward.