

Canon 2 — Vacancy in the Office of Diocesan Bishop

Division 1 -- The Episcopal Election Committee

201. Upon the announcement of the intent of the Diocesan Bishop to resign or retire, the Diocesan Council shall, within thirty days, appoint an Episcopal Election Committee ('the Committee') using the following criteria:

- (a) The Committee shall consist of ten members:
 - (i) Five clergy, drawn from the canonically resident bishops, priests and deacons of the Diocese and
 - (ii) Five lay members who are qualified under Canon 1401 to be members of their Parish Vestry and have been so for at least two years.
- (b) The membership of the Committee shall reflect the diversity of the Diocese in terms of
 - (i) gender,
 - (ii) age,
 - (iii) ethnic and cultural identity, and
 - (iv) theological perspectives.
- (c) The members of the Committee shall be drawn from all the regional archdeaconries of the Diocese.
- (d) The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by Diocesan Council. If Diocesan Council does not appoint a Chair, the Chair shall be elected by the members of the Committee itself.
- (e) The Committee is responsible to establish an electoral process that is
 - (i) transparent,
 - (ii) fair,
 - (iii) accountable,
 - (iv) committed to discernment and

(v) guided by a pastoral concern for the nominees.

(f) The Committee shall determine how electronic and social technology is to be used in the electoral process.

202. Diocesan Council shall provide the Committee with the requisite financial resources to complete its responsibilities pursuant to this Canon and any relevant Regulations.

Division 2 --- The Administrator

221. Upon the resignation or retirement of the Diocesan Bishop, the Administrator of the Diocese shall be

(a) the Suffragan Bishop or, in the absence of or inability to act on the part of the Suffragan Bishop,

(b) the Dean of the Diocese or, in the absence of or inability to act on the part of the Dean,

(c) the most senior Archdeacon who is able and willing to act as Administrator.

222. The seniority of the Archdeacon shall be determined by the date of appointment as an Archdeacon to the office of Archdeacon. If they have equal seniority in this respect, then seniority between them shall be decided by which of them has been licensed as an ordained person in the Diocese for the longest length of time.

Division 3 --- Nomination of Candidates

231. The election of a Bishop shall be made at an Electoral Synod called pursuant to the provisions of this Canon, the Rules of Order of the Diocese and any relevant Regulations.

232. Diocesan Council, within thirty days of receiving notice of the intention of the Diocesan Bishop to resign or retire, shall obtain permission from the Metropolitan pursuant to the Provincial Canons to summon an Electoral Synod for the election of a Bishop. The Electoral Synod shall be convened by the Metropolitan on a date approved by Diocesan Council within three months of the effective date of the Bishop's resignation or retirement.

233. The Metropolitan shall chair the Electoral Synod unless the Metropolitan shall be unable or unwilling to act or is a candidate for election as Bishop, in which case, the next senior Bishop in the Province who is able and willing to act and who is not a candidate for election as Bishop shall chair the Electoral Synod. The Chair of the Electoral Synod shall not be entitled to a vote.

234. The Episcopal Election Committee shall

- (a) receive the nominations of persons eligible for the office of Bishop;
- (b) oversee the process of vetting the qualifications of those persons nominated for the office of Bishop;
- (c) plan and execute a fair and transparent process by means of which qualified nominees are presented to the members of the Electoral Synod for their review; and
- (d) ensure that all necessary information regarding the nominees is available to the members of the Electoral Synod no less than fourteen days before the date of said Synod.

235. No person shall be nominated for the office of Bishop unless that person qualifies for such position according to the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Constitution and Canons of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon.

236. All nominees shall be required to undergo a process to confirm their qualifications for the office of a bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada which will include a criminal records check with vulnerable sector.

237. Each nominee must be nominated by six members of Synod, three ordained members and three lay members. The names of the nominators shall be made public and no nominator may nominate more than one candidate. The Nominee must consent to her or his nomination.

Division 4 -- The Electoral Synod

241. On the day and at the place appointed, after the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Chair shall proceed to organize the meeting in accordance with the Rules of Order of the Synod.

242. The Members of the Electoral Synod shall be the Voting Licensed Clergy within the meaning of paragraph 104 of Canon 1 and the Lay Delegates within the meaning of Division 6 of Canon 14.

243. If, on the calling of the roll, two-thirds of the Licensed Clergy and two-thirds of the Lay Delegates are present, the Episcopal Election Committee shall formally table the names of the nominees for the Office of Bishop. After the nominations, the members of the Electoral Synod shall vote in their respective orders. All voting shall be by secret ballot and conducted as follows:

- (a) On the conclusion of each balloting the Chair shall declare the voting on that balloting closed.
- (b) The ballots shall be counted and a written report from the Returning Officer shall be given to the to the Chair, indicating,
 - (i) the number of ballots not included in the results of the voting and the reasons why these ballots are not included;
 - (ii) the number of votes of each order required for an election;
 - (iii) the results, by order, of the voting.
- (c) Upon receipt of the report of the Returning Officer, the Chair shall announce:
 - (i) the number of ballots cast in each order,
 - (ii) the number of ballots not included in the results of the voting and the reasons why these ballots are not included in the count,
 - (iii) the number of votes in each order required for an election,
 - (iv) the number of votes cast in each order for each candidate,
 - (v) whether or not there has been an election.

244. No person shall be held to be duly elected Bishop unless that person shall have first obtained the majority of the votes of the members present and voting of both orders on the same ballot.

245. If the balloting does not result in an election, balloting shall continue pursuant to paragraph 243 with the exception that the names of the following candidates shall be removed from the list of candidates for election:

- (a) any candidate who has received no votes in either or both Orders,
- (b) any candidate who has (or, in the case of a tie, the candidates who have) received the lowest number of lay and clerical votes in aggregate, unless the number of votes received, although the lowest of all candidates, is at least one-fifth of the votes in either order, and
- (c) any candidate who has given or caused to be given signed written notice to the Chair stating that the candidate wishes to withdraw from the election.

246. If no candidate is elected after ten ballots, the Chair shall determine the will of the Electoral Synod as to whether the Electoral Synod shall be adjourned or whether further balloting shall take place.

(a) If the Electoral Synod chooses to adjourn, it shall reconvene pursuant to paragraphs 241, 242 and 243 above.

(b) If the Electoral Synod chooses to continue balloting, balloting shall continue until there are two nominees remaining.

(i) Prior to any ballot on which there remains only two nominees, the Chair may prescribe that, if an election does not occur after a specified number of ballots, the Electoral Synod shall be adjourned for not less than seven days nor more than thirty days.

(ii) When the Electoral Synod reconvenes, balloting will continue until one of the two nominees is elected or the Electoral Synod chooses to adjourn.

(iii) If the Electoral Synod chooses to adjourn, it shall reconvene pursuant to paragraphs 241, 242 and 243 above.

247. If the balloting does not result in an election, the Electoral Synod shall be adjourned by the Chair indefinitely. During the adjournment new nominations may be made whose candidacy will be reviewed according to the requirements of this Canon above and any relevant Regulations. Any new nominations must be submitted within sixty days of the adjournment of the Electoral Synod.

248. The Diocesan Council shall determine the date and location of the reconvened Electoral Synod in consultation with the Metropolitan. Notice shall be sent to the members of the Electoral Synod fourteen days before the reconvening of the Electoral Synod as well as any requisite information regarding any newly-nominated candidates.

249. When the Electoral Synod reconvenes, the Electoral Election Committee shall table

(a) the names of those candidates who were validly nominated previously who have not withdrawn their names and who have consented to their names being re-submitted to the Electoral Synod, and

(b) the names of any candidates nominated pursuant to paragraph 247 above.

Division 5 - Confirmation of Election

251. In no case shall the person be considered as elected as Bishop until the election is confirmed by a majority of the House of Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon in accordance with the Canons of the Ecclesiastical Province.

252. The person elected to the office of Bishop shall, prior to that person's Consecration and/or their installation, promise obedience to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.

253. The person elected to the Office of Bishop shall, prior to that person's Consecration and/or installation, agree to fulfill the shared commitments and obligations of the clergy of the Diocese.

254. The Consecration of the Bishop-elect is within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan.

Division 6 -- Returning Officer

261. Diocesan Council shall appoint a Returning Officer and a Deputy Returning Officer to oversee the balloting process at the Electoral Synod. The Returning Officer shall have the power to appoint such assistants as the Returning Officer shall deem appropriate. The Deputy Returning Officer shall undertake such duties as are assigned by the Returning Officer and shall act as the acting Returning Officer in the absence of the Returning Officer.

Division 7 -- Regulations and Electoral Synod Rules of Order

271. Diocesan Council may:

- (a) pass regulations not inconsistent with this Canon to give effect to this Canon and matters related to the nominating and election of a Bishop;
- (b) pass Rules of Order for the Electoral Synod not inconsistent with this Canon, and
- (c) maintain, review and revise a Diocesan Profile.

Division 8 -- Mandatory Review of the Electoral Process

281. Within thirty days of the consecration of the Bishop, Diocesan Council shall establish an Electoral Process Review Task Force. The Task Force shall review the electoral process just completed and shall report back to Diocesan Council with any recommendations regarding the electoral process which may include revisions to the Canon and to any relevant Regulations.