

CANON 2.1

The Election of Bishops

The Appointment of an Assistant Bishop

1. Upon the death, retirement, or resignation of the Diocesan Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor shall become the Diocesan Bishop.
2. If, upon the death, retirement or resignation of the Diocesan Bishop, there be no Bishop Coadjutor, the Suffragan Bishop, if there be one, the Dean, or if absent, the senior Archdeacon of the Diocese, shall forthwith notify and request the Metropolitan or Acting Metropolitan to summon a meeting of the Diocesan Synod within 75 days of the death, retirement or resignation of the Bishop for the purpose of electing a Diocesan Bishop.

If there be no Bishop Coadjutor, the Diocesan Bishop shall, whenever possible, give six months notice of his or her retirement or resignation.

Election of a Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop

3. If the Synod agrees to elect a Coadjutor or a Suffragan Bishop, the Diocesan Bishop shall forthwith notify and request the Metropolitan or Acting Metropolitan to set the date for and to preside at the Electoral Synod.

Appointment of an Assistant Bishop

4. The Diocesan Bishop may appoint an Assistant Bishop from time to time with the approval of both the Synod Council and the Metropolitan or Acting Metropolitan, provided that such appointee be already in episcopal orders.

Procedure for the Election of a Bishop

5. The Chair, failing whom the Vice-Chair of the Synod Council, shall summon a meeting of the Council to be held at least 30 days before the election of a bishop for the purpose of choosing the names of those eligible persons to be placed before the Electoral Synod as candidates for the episcopate.
6. Those entitled to vote at the election of the Bishop shall be the priests, deacons and lay workers of the Diocese in active service and holding the Bishop's license; the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Treasurer, Controller, Secretary of Synod, and Lay representatives duly elected as provided in Canon 4.1 as well as the lay representatives duly appointed according to the provisions of subsection 10 of section 1 of Canon 1.1.

Retired clergy of the diocese and clergy from other dioceses present in the diocese and holding the Bishop's "permission to officiate" may attend the Electoral Synod but are not permitted to vote. The holders of the offices of Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Treasurer, Controller, and Secretary of Synod (unless they be a priest or deacon of the diocese in active service and holding the Bishop's license, in which case they shall be a member of the order of clergy for voting purposes) and lay workers of the diocese in active service and holding the Bishop's license pursuant to Canon 3.2 shall be deemed a member of the order of laity for voting purposes.

7. Voting at the election of a bishop shall be by Orders.
8. Providing two-thirds of both Orders entitled to vote are present and vote, a majority of votes in each Order shall determine the choice of the new bishop, provided, however, if two-thirds of each Order are not then present, two-thirds of the votes of each Order then present shall be required to determine the choice of the new bishop.
9. The Regulations hereinafter set out shall be deemed to form part of this Canon.

SUBDIVISION OF DIOCESE

10. In the event of a subdivision of the diocese, the Bishop shall elect the part to be presided over, and another bishop shall be elected by the clergy and lay representatives of parishes and missions with the boundaries of the district set apart to form a separate diocese. The separated diocese shall be bound in all its public proceedings by the Constitution of the Diocese of which it formed a part, until the said separated diocese be fully organized by the election and Consecration of Bishop, the adoption of a constitution and the incorporation of a Synod.
(new, 1994)

**THE ELECTION OF BISHOPS
THE APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT BISHOP**

Regulations

1. At a meeting of the Synod Council acting as the Nominations Committee, the following procedure shall be followed.

Each member of the Synod Council shall nominate by secret ballot three eligible persons representing more than one gender identity, the first choice of each member to receive three points, the second two points, and the third choice one point. The ten with the largest number of points shall be the nominees of the Nominations Committee. In the event that two or more persons receive the same number of points for the position of the nominee with the tenth largest number of votes, the Synod Council shall determine the exact number of nominees to be nominated.

The names of the nominees so chosen shall be disclosed to the Council in alphabetical order and disclosed to the members of Synod after they have individually consented to allow their nominations to stand. To ensure a wider distribution of points, ballots containing less than three nominations shall be disqualified.

2.
 - (a) A committee of seven persons chosen by the Synod Council and known as the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee shall choose its own Chair and recruit other members, if necessary, and shall secure from the aforesaid nominees their consent to the inclusion of their names as nominees. The Committee shall prepare biographical material on the nominees giving their age, education background, and general experience and other information which in their opinion would be helpful to the members of Synod.
 - (b) Biographical material prepared on the aforesaid nominees shall be provided to that nominee to ensure its accuracy, after which the material on all nominees shall be mailed to the members of Synod not later than eight days prior to the Electoral Synod.
 - (c) Other forms of communication techniques authorized by the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee may be provided to the members of Synod.
 - (d) The committee shall cooperate with the regular officials of the Synod to organize the Electoral Synod.

3. Further nominations in writing by ten members of Synod, and with the consent of the nominee, may be placed before members of Synod as follows:
 - (a) By delivering the nomination to the Chair of the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee at least twelve days prior to the date of the Electoral Synod, in which case biographical material will be sent out with that provided for in 2 (a) and (b) above, or
 - (b) By delivering the nomination to the Chair of The Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee prior to or during the Electoral Synod. The Chair of the Committee will address the Synod, and may give biographical material of any further priest or bishop so nominated.

4. The Synod to elect a bishop shall commence with the Holy Eucharist. A common collect and the prayers of the people bidding God's presence and spirit, will be said in all diocesan parishes, and thereafter the Metropolitan or Acting Metropolitan, or their designate, shall be the Chair of the Synod and preside at the election. Prior to the calling of each ballot, the Chair shall be satisfied as to further nominations.

When there are no further nominations, the Chair shall call for the first ballot and subsequent ballots shall be taken as necessary until a bishop has been elected.

(revised 2017)