

Procedure for Electing Synod Council Regional Representatives in the Diocese of Niagara

1. Delegates to the Diocesan Synod will be asked to self-nominate as regional representatives to Synod Council by indicating to their regional archdeacon their willingness to serve.
2. At a time or times designated in the agenda of Synod, the members of the Synod shall assemble in groups according to their regions needing to elect members and/or alternates to Synod Council. Members of Synod not representing a parish shall be eligible to self-nominate and to vote with the regional assembly in which they are a member of a parish vestry. The Bishop, Dean, Chancellor, Secretary of Synod, Treasurer and diocesan directors shall not be eligible to vote.
3. The regional archdeacon, or in the absence of their archdeacon the Bishop's designate, shall chair the assembly corresponding to their region. Such person shall have the right to vote.
4. The chairperson shall appoint three scrutineers from among those who have not been nominated.
5. The members who have been nominated may be identified and may provide information to those assembled. The chairperson shall indicate how many representatives and alternates are to be elected.
6. Each member shall vote for his or her first choice among the nominees to serve on Synod Council.
7. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be deemed elected. In the event of a tie where two candidates may be elected, it shall be deemed that both have been elected; unless both candidates are from the order of clergy or only one representative is needed, in which case further votes between those so tied shall be taken. After three electoral rounds, if the tie remains the chairperson shall cast a second vote to decide the issue. The candidate receiving the second vote will be deemed elected; the other candidate may be deemed an alternate provided that position is available.
8. If the region has representation from the Order of Clergy, the second representative shall be elected from the Order of Laity. If the region has representation from the Order of Laity, the second representative shall be elected from either the Orders of Laity or Clergy.
9. The chairperson shall declare the business concluded when two delegates and an alternate from that region are selected for the terms needing to be filled, at least one of whom is from the Order of Laity, and will report the results of the election to the Secretary of Synod.
10. The Secretary of Synod shall report to the Synod the names of those who have been nominated for Synod Council by this process, and move the election of the nominees.

October 2015