

## A. Diocesan Officials

### **Canon A-1: THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP**

#### *Vacancy of the See:*

1. (a) In the event of the resignation, retirement or death of the Bishop, or the vacancy of the See for any other reason, the Secretaries of the Synod shall notify the Metropolitan of the same within one week from the occurrence of this event. The Secretaries shall ask the Metropolitan to convene the Synod for the purpose of an episcopal Synod at a time convenient for the Metropolitan but no later than six months after the date at which the Metropolitan was notified by the Secretaries.

(b) The Executive Committee shall meet within thirty (30) days of the notification of the vacancy of the See being given to the Metropolitan by the Secretaries and this meeting shall be held prior to the convening of the electoral Synod. This meeting of the Executive Committee shall be chaired by the Bishop, if still in office, or by the Dean if the See is vacant. At this meeting the Executive Committee shall decide, upon a formal vote, whether the electoral Synod shall:

(i) elect a diocesan Bishop if the See is vacant; or

(ii) elect a Coadjutor Bishop, if the present diocesan Bishop is still in office. The Coadjutor Bishop will then assume the office of diocesan Bishop on the coming into effect of the resignation or retirement of the present diocesan Bishop.

#### *Electoral Synod:*

2. The Metropolitan, or the Metropolitan's duly appointed representative, shall preside over the electoral synod.

#### *Nominees from Provincial House of Bishops:*

3. The Provincial House of Bishops may nominate up to three candidates in addition to those nominated by members of Synod. There shall be no indication of the origin of these nominations.

#### *Episcopal Election Process Committee:*

4. (a) The Executive Committee shall appoint an Episcopal Election Process Committee.

(b) The Episcopal Election Process Committee shall consist of three members of the clergy and three members of the laity. The chair of the committee shall be chosen by the committee from amongst its members.

(c) The Episcopal Election Process Committee shall formulate the process for the election, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, and shall oversee implementation of the same.

(d) The process shall not prohibit nominations being made from the floor at the time of the opening of the electoral Synod other than that of the clergy who have agreed to serve on the Episcopal Election Process Committee.

(e) Clergy, on agreeing to serve on the Episcopal Election Process Committee, shall not be eligible for nomination as a candidate for election as Bishop. If, however, the Metropolitan or the Metropolitan's duly appointed representative, shall declare the electoral Synod to be dead-locked and shall re-open the floor to nominations in the course of the proceedings of the electoral Synod, members of the Episcopal Election Process Committee shall become eligible for nomination at that time.

*Voting & quorum:*

5. (a) One-half of those from each Order entitled to a seat and vote in the Synod constitute a quorum at the electoral synod.

(b) At the electoral Synod the clergy and the laity shall vote separately by Order using a written ballot.

(c) The name of the candidate with the lowest number of votes in the combined Orders shall be eliminated in each round of voting except when:

(i) there are fewer than four candidates remaining; or

(ii) the candidate with the lowest total number of votes in the combined Orders receives ten or more votes in each house.

(d) Two-thirds of the votes cast in each Order shall determine the result. A valid ballot, under this provision, shall be a ballot on which a qualified voter has voted for one of the candidates eligible for election as Bishop at the time the ballot was cast.

*Declaration of election:*

6. The chair of the electoral Synod shall declare to the electoral Synod the name of the person elected as Bishop, and without delay shall transmit to the Metropolitan a duly attested certificate declaring the result of the election.

*Resignation of present appointments held by the Bishop-elect*

7. Any person elected as Bishop, and holding at the time of such election any appointment in the Church, shall resign such appointment before installation as Bishop.

#### Annex 1: Suggested Process — Episcopal Election

1. The Secretaries of the Synod notify the Metropolitan of the announcement of retirement, resignation, or death of the Bishop, or the vacancy of the See for any other reason, within one week of the occurrence of such event and a date for the election is set by the Metropolitan.

2. The Executive Committee appoints an Episcopal Election Process Committee.

3. The Episcopal Election Process Committee:

(i) prepares a profile of the Diocese within two months of the notification of the Metropolitan, setting out the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the Diocese;

(ii) establishes a draft budget to cover the process, and submits the same to the Executive Committee which shall set the budget;

(iii) circulates the diocesan profile and an invitation to nominate to each member of synod;

(iv) receives nominations from synod members until three weeks before synod;

(v) solicits a consent to stand for nomination and a biography from each nominee;

(vi) circulates a list of nominees and their biographies to the members of synod;

(vii) develops a process for handling nominations from the floor of the electoral Synod and compiling and circulating written biographies of such nominees from the floor;

(viii) develops of a process whereby those nominated in advance may meet with synod members prior to voting.