Preparation for the Election of the Bishop at the 2016 Synod Assembly

Understanding the Role of our Bishop

The document on the Synod's website describes the many responsibilities of a bishop in three main areas:

- Executive Function
- Pastoral Function
- Visioning Function and Strategic Planning

It also includes the sections of the synod's constitution pertaining to the role of the Bishop.

All voting members to the assembly are encouraged to read this document as they prayerfully consider nominating and voting.

Biographical Information and Disclosure Form completed in Advance of the Assembly

1. Every ordained pastor on the roster of the ELCA is eligible to be elected bishop.
2. Every pastor in the synod is requested to complete two forms form provided by the synod and bring them to the assembly. The two forms are:
   - Biographical Information
   - Disclosure Form for Nominees
3. Both of these forms are distributed via The E-Letter and available on the synod website.
4. Completed forms will be collected at the time of on-site registration on Thursday, June 2.
5. People who intend to nominate someone from outside the synod roster are asked to have that person fill out the two forms in advance; the nominator will bring them to the assembly and submit on nominee's behalf.
6. After the second ballot has been counted Thursday night, the biographical forms of the nominees whose names will appear on the third ballot will be culled from the pile of submissions and photocopied.
7. Copies of these profile forms will be provided to voting members in advance of the conference meetings at the assembly that are held prior to the third ballot.

Conference Caucuses in Advance

1. The conference (or conferences, if grouped with another) caucus in advance to reflect on the qualities needed in a bishop and to determine what question to ask each nominee.

Conference Meetings at the Assembly

1. During Business Session #4 on Friday afternoon, voting members will go to designated areas by conference. (See groupings below.) Voting members will be seated first. Visitors will be admitted to the appropriate session if there's room.
2. The nominees whose names will appear on the third ballot will visit each conference for 15 minutes, with 5 minutes travel time in between.
3. Once there, the nominee may make a one-two minute opening statement, then the

conference/s ask a single question. The conference/s ask the same question of each nominee. The nominee has 7-8 minutes to answer. Any remaining time will be devoted to questions from the floor.

4. Each nominee will be assigned a "guide" as an escort and timekeeper, to ensure that every conference gets a full 15 minutes with the nominee. Conference/s will be asked to decide in advance on a "host" to introduce the nominees and moderate questions. Guides and hosts will receive specific instructions in advance.

CONFERENCE GROUPINGS

1. Washington County & Allegany
2. Frederick
3. Westminster
4. Baltimore City

5. Baltimore North & Baltimore West*
6. Anne Arundel & Baltimore East
7. Delmarva & Harford

*In the event of a tie on the second ballot resulting in eight names on the third ballot, Baltimore North and Baltimore West conferences will split into two groups.