The Election of the Tenth Bishop of Albany

Overview of the Process
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
The Office of Bishop

Whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task.

— I Timothy 3:1
Origin of the Term “Bishop”

ἐπίσκοπος
over-seer
epi-shopos

“Episcopal” = “governed by bishops”
Apostolic Succession

- The Apostles
- Succession \((\text{Matthias succeeds Judas Iscariot, Acts 1:15-28})\)
- Resident overseers (bishops)
- Fidelity to Apostolic witness, teaching, and practice remains the essential criterion of authenticity and unity
- Nearly universal until the Reformation, enduring today
**Overview: Process for the Election of the Tenth Bishop of Albany**

**TERMINOLOGY**

- “Bishop” = anyone recognized as ordained to the Order of Bishops.

- The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church provide for bishops to exercise episcopal ministry in a number of capacities.

- **Bishop Diocesan** *(a/k/a “Diocesan Bishop”)* = Exercise jurisdiction over a diocese

- “Diocese”

source: Constitution of the Episcopal Church, Article II
The Role and Duties of Bishop

- maintain continuity in the present day with the ministry of the Apostles (Apostolic Succession)
- "contend for the faith once and for all handed down to the saints" (Jude v. 3)
- "charged with the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the church. Bishops represent Christ and his church, and they are called to provide Christian vision and leadership for their dioceses."
- chief pastor (shepherd)
- conformity with Apostolic doctrine, discipline, and worship
- serve as the focus for diocesan unity and embody the unity of their diocese with the wider church

source: https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/bishop/
Governing Authorities

The Election of a Diocesan Bishop is governed by:

- Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church 
  set procedural parameters; specify qualifications of candidates
- Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Albany
- Rule 1A for the Election of a Bishop Diocesan, as adopted by the 2005 Diocesan Convention
- New York State Law (Religious Corporations)
Rule 1A - Sequence of Events (10 steps)

1. Call for Election of a Bishop Diocesan
2. Formation of a Profile & Search Committee
3. Production and publication of a Diocesan Profile
4. Recommendation and identification of Qualified Candidates
5. Announcement of Convention
6. Independent Nominations
7. Formation of an Election Procedures Committee
8. Final Report of Profile & Search Committee
9. Introduction of Candidates
10. Election at Convention
1. Call for Election

- Announced by the Ecclesiastical Authority (Standing Committee)

  Scheduling of the announcement must take into consideration canonical and procedural requirements, as well as practical and logistical challenges

  Expected *no later than* Summer 2021

- The announcement triggers and sets timings for subsequent steps
2. Profile & Search Committee

Most Committee members are elected by Deanery Convocations, which must be held within 30 days following the Call for Election.

Deaneries may want to plan their Convocations before the Call for Election is announced, as two weeks’ notice of the Deanery Convocation is required.

Parishes should select and certify representatives to their Deanery Convocation soonest, according to their rules and practices.

Each parish may send as many as two voting representatives to the Deanery Convocation.

Canonically resident clergy serving or residing in the Deanery also vote at Convocation.

Certify deanery members of the Profile & Search Committee to the Standing Committee.
2. Profile & Search Committee (continued)

- Each Deanery Convocation elects **one lay** and **one clerical (deacon or priest)** member of the Profile & Search Committee.

*Profile & Search Committee members serve the Diocese as a whole.*

*They do not represent deaneries or other constituencies on the Committee.*

30 days
2. Profile & Search Committee (continued)

- Ecclesiastical Authority (Standing Committee) elects six At-Large Members (clerical or lay) to the Profile & Search Committee
- The Standing Committee appoints a non-voting Priest Chaplain to the Profile & Search Committee
- Once constituted, the Profile & Search Committee elects a Chairperson from among its members
- The Profile & Search Committee hires a Confidential Secretary

30 days timeline not to scale
### 2. Profile & Search Committee (continued)

**SUMMARY: COMPOSITION OF THE PROFILE & SEARCH COMMITTEE**

- Eight lay members elected by deaneries: 8
- Eight clerical members elected by deaneries: 8
- Six at-large members elected by the Standing Committee: 6
- Non-voting Priest-Chaplain: 1
- Paid Confidential Secretary: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voting:</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-voting:</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30 days timeline not to scale
3. Diocesan Profile

- Diocesan Self-Study
- Profile & Search Committee produces a Diocesan Profile
- Diocesan Profile published and circulated to all clergy and congregations in the Diocese of Albany
- Diocesan Profile circulated throughout the wider church
- Nomination and selection process and criteria announced
- Period for receiving *names in recommendation* begins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>30 days</th>
<th>up to one year</th>
<th>indeterminate</th>
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Timeline not to scale
Overview: Process for the Election of the Tenth Bishop of Albany

4. Qualification of Candidates

- Profile & Search Committee screens all recommendations and determines which meet the criteria for nomination
  background checks, reviews, screenings, references, etc.

- Profile & Search Committee submits conclusions to the Secretary of Convention with its list of proposed nominees for nomination at the Electing Convention

30 days | up to one year | indeterminate

timeline not to scale
Overview: Process for the Election of the Tenth Bishop of Albany

5. Electing Convention Announcement

- Standing Committee sets date of the Electing Convention.  
  Minimum 3 / Maximum 7 months from Profile & Search Committee report

- Secretary of Convention announces the Convention  
  Date, time, place; certification of deputies; other details  
  Report of the Profile & Search Committee included in announcement

- Voting eligibility is the same as at any convention  
  All canonically resident clergy have voice and vote  
  Each congregation may certify and send up to 3 deputies and 3 alternates

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<th>3 to 7 months</th>
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Timeline not to scale
### 6. Independent Nominations

- **30-day window for independent nominations**

Independent nominations are received by the Secretary of Convention.

Nominations must follow specified procedures and have required paperwork.

Profile & Search Committee determines satisfaction of nomination criteria.

Standing Committee may adjust the date of the Electing Convention to accommodate screening of independently nominated candidates.

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<table>
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Timeline not to scale.
7. Election Procedures Committee

- Standing Committee appoints up to six persons to assist the Convention Secretary

- Election Procedures Committee assists the Convention Secretary in drawing up the Convention agenda and election procedures

- The Standing Committee reviews, approves, and may modify the proposed Convention agenda and procedures.
8. Final Report of the Profile & Search Committee

- Convention Secretary sends names to Profile & Search Committee.
- The Profile & Search Committee publishes and distributes, to all members of the Electing Convention, an *Election Book* containing:
  - the Convention agenda
  - a detailed description of the election procedures
  - information on proposed nominees (photos, biographical sketches, etc.)

*This book is issued at least 45 days before the date of Convention.*
9. Introduction of Candidates

- The *Election Procedures Committee* provides one or more opportunities for electors to meet and confer with candidates. e.g., “walkabouts,” “meet-and-greet” events; other forms (remote) are possible

*organization and execution lies with Election Procedures Committee

*This step must conclude no less than seven (7) days before the Convention.*
10. Election at Convention

- All names in the Election Book are formally placed in nomination.
- The floor is open to additional nominations, which must be made in accordance with the Rules of Order adopted by the Convention. Properly executed nomination forms and other documentation required for all other nominees must accompany any such nomination.
- Voting is conducted under Convention Rules. In a vote by Order:
  Each canonically resident priest or deacon casts one vote
  Each congregation’s deputation casts a single, aggregate vote
AFTER THE ELECTION

• The election is certified.

• The Presiding Bishop is notified.

• Before a Bishop-elect can be consecrated, consent must be obtained within 120 days from:
  - a majority of “bishops exercising jurisdiction”
  - a majority of the Standing Committees of the dioceses of the Episcopal Church

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<th>minimum 45 days</th>
<th>Convention</th>
<th>120 days</th>
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timeline not to scale
REVIEW: THREE PATHS TO NOMINATION

1. THROUGH THE PROFILE & SEARCH COMMITTEE (steps 3 and 4)

   - or -

2. INDEPENDENT NOMINATION (step 6)

   - or -

3. FROM THE FLOOR OF CONVENTION (step 10)
## APPROXIMATE TIMELINE SUMMARY

**FROM THE CALL FOR ELECTION (timing depends on canonical and practical factors):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Canonical Maximum</th>
<th>Canonical Minimum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deanery Convocations</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Diocesan self-study and profile</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>9 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipt/screening of recommendations</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electing Convention advance notice</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>7 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time after announcement to election</td>
<td>17 months</td>
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In conclusion

Please pray for the grace of God and the gift of discernment for everyone involved in this process:

- the individuals who will be put forward as candidates
- the various committees that will help prepare for the election
- deputies, alternates, and clergy who will vote
- congregations that will elect deputies
- the Standing Committee and the Secretary of Convention
- the Diocese of Albany, and the whole Church

Information and questions: e-mail SCPresident@albanydiocese.org or call 518-692-3350.
The Election of the Tenth Bishop of Albany

Thank you, and may the Lord bless you.