



The Very Reverend Tom Malionek, *President*

Sue Ellen Ruetsch, *Chair*

BISHOP SEARCH NEWS

January 19, 2023

On January 13-16, 2023, the Profile & Search Committee (P&S) and the Standing Committee met separately, in person, with our Election Consultant, Deacon Brian Nordwick. We have engaged Deacon Brian to guide us and to help ensure that we elect our next bishop by a process that is clear, informed by faithful prayer and best practices, and in accordance with Diocesan and Episcopal Church Constitutions, Canons, and procedures. Find out more about Deacon Brian [here](#).

These meetings have culminated in an estimated timeline for the process going forward, shown below. **Dates are estimates and subject to change.**

through mid-February, 2023

P&S draws up standard questions for initial Zoom interviews. (P&S has already identified the applicants to interview.)

February 25

P&S reviews interviews and collects follow-up information.

March 11

P&S selects semi-finalists and invites them to a Discernment Retreat. Background investigations, reference checks, and follow-up research on semi-finalists.

Transition Team is formed and begins work.

April 17-20

Discernment retreat:

Finalists are interviewed in depth, in person by P&S and Chancellor.

early May

Final candidates identified and announced.

Special Electing Convention is date set and announced.

Thirty-day window opens for independent nominations.

(nomination forms and instructions will be available in advance)

Nominations may be made only by canonically resident clergy or by duly elected and certified lay deputies. Nominees must furnish the same information, meet the same criteria, and undergo the same review as all other applicants. See the important note on the next page regarding lay deputies to the Special Electing Convention.

June 10

Diocesan business Convention (virtual format)

sometime in June

Election Book with candidates is issued.

Candidates complete physical and psychiatric exams.

Late June - Early July

Opportunities to meet the Candidates.

Mid- to late September

ELECTING CONVENTION

through January, 2024

Consents sought from House of Bishops and other diocesan Standing Committees.

first quarter 2024

Consecration of the Tenth Bishop of Albany (date depends on the Presiding Bishop's calendar)

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR IMPORTANT NOTES

Disciples Making Disciples

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REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY

To protect the integrity of the discernment process, to ensure a fair election, and to safeguard those who do not progress to candidacy, **NO** information, specific or general, can be disclosed at any time about applicants who do not progress to candidacy. Accordingly, no information, even in general or summary form, can be disclosed about the applicant pool. These are standard practices in any bishop election.

Information will be available only about the specific candidates finally nominated for bishop.

General or specific information about the applicant pool — such as the number of applicants processed, their distribution according to demographic data or other particulars, etc. — also remains permanently confidential.

REGARDING LAY DEPUTIES

As always, lay deputies and alternates to the 2023 Diocesan Convention **serve until the next regular diocesan Convention.**

This means that lay deputies and alternates elected this spring will serve **BOTH** at the regular annual diocesan business Convention on June 10, 2023, **AND** at the Special Electing Convention expected to convene later in 2023.

Congregations are reminded to certify elected deputies and alternates to the [Secretary of the Diocese](#).

This is an important and exciting time for our Diocese. The prospect of a new bishop fills us with hope, even as we look with trepidation at the amount of hard and time-consuming work that lies ahead of us.

It is also a time when we will be subject to attack by spiritual forces of evil. As we pray, discuss, ponder, and seek to understand God's will and direction for us, we may be tempted to discouragement. Conversations about vitally important topics inevitably stir deep passions that strain relationships.

Satan, the Father of Lies, comes only to steal, kill, and destroy ([John 10:10](#)). He will leverage habits of suspicion, resentment, anger, and hurt to drive us apart. We cannot count on innate human strength, willpower, or good intentions in times of stress or controversy.

We thus do well to keep vibrant our faith in God's love for us ([1 Peter 5:8](#)), not only for each of us as individuals but for all of us as a diocesan body. The Holy Spirit works lovingly within each of us and in our congregations, weaning us from natural propensities and habits, and drawing us, instead, into deeper love for one another. God is ever at work, steadily (and sometimes dramatically!) healing and equipping us to live in love beyond our natural gifts and strengths, and instead with supernatural gifts and fruits.

Accordingly, the Standing Committee and the Profile and Search Committee urge every single person, every Congregation, every gathering in our diocese to pray the [Prayer During a Time of Transition](#) *daily* as a reminder that God is not finished with us yet; to open ourselves to healing, light, and life; and to inspire us with clarity of vision as we discern the Tenth Bishop of Albany.

[The Very Rev'd Tom Malionek](#)
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