

## **PROCEDURES**

### **FOR THE ELECTION OF THE IX BISHOP OF MINNESOTA**

**Proposed by the Standing Committee, amended and adopted by the  
151st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Minnesota.**

**October 25, 2008**

1. At the 152nd Annual Convention there shall be an election of the IX Diocesan Bishop of Minnesota. The search, nomination and election process for the Bishop of Minnesota shall proceed under the canons of the Episcopal Church and of this Diocese, in accordance with the procedures set forth herein, the Special Rules of Order for the Election of the Bishop and the Standing Rules of Order of Convention.

2. For the purposes of the election, the Standing Committee has appointed a Search Committee to serve as the Nominating Committee specified by Article 7-B-23-a of *The Constitution and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota* (the "Constitution"). Before the Convention, pursuant to these procedures, there shall be selected "Search Committee Nominees," chosen by the Search Committee and nominations from the floor ("Floor Nominees") made in accordance with these Procedures.

#### **Selection of the Candidates**

3. The Search Committee shall determine its nominees by approximately July of 2009; but the identity of such nominees shall remain confidential pending the results of background investigations. Promptly following the completion of background investigations, the Search Committee shall publicly disclose the identity of its nominees. Such public disclosure is expected to occur in late July or early August, 2009, and shall be posted on the website for the Diocese of Minnesota and may be announced in a mailing or e-mail distribution to the Diocese.

4. The intention to make an additional nomination from the floor in accordance with 7-B-23-a and 7-B-23-b of the Diocesan Constitution must be made during the period of two weeks following the announcement of the Search Committee Nominees. The two-week period

shall begin to run upon the posting of the announcement on the Diocesan website. A nomination from the floor shall be considered made upon receipt by the President of the Standing Committee of the completed floor nomination form which is appended hereto plus all other application materials (as described on the Diocesan website). Such completed form shall contain all the information called for therein, including all necessary signatures and endorsements. The required application materials for all Floor Nominees will be discussed on the Diocesan website. All floor nominations shall be addressed to The President of the Standing Committee, Attn: Mary Franson, Episcopal Homes, 490 Lynnhurst Avenue, St Paul, MN 55104. The nomination form shall include a certification that the person nominated has been duly ordered Deacon and Priest in this Church (with the dates thereof and the Bishop or Bishops presiding therein), and shall state that the person nominated has consented to have his or her name placed in nomination, is willing to submit to the requirements of the process, and expects in good faith to serve if elected. Floor nominations must be submitted in hard copy format; no e-mail submissions will be accepted.

The Applications for nominations from the floor shall contain, at a minimum:

- (a) Endorsement signatures by at least 24 persons who are Lay Delegates or Clergy Delegates from congregations in the Diocese of Minnesota. At least eight (8) of the endorsements must come from Clergy Delegates, who are canonically resident in the Diocese of Minnesota;
- (b) The signatories to the petition shall represent at least three (3) different congregations in at least four (4) different regions in the Diocese of Minnesota. At least two (2) endorsements must come from Clergy Delegates in each of the four regions;
- (c) The nomination must be addressed to the President of the Standing Committee and received (not postmarked) Attn: Mary Franson, Episcopal Homes, 490 Lynnhurst Avenue, St Paul, MN 55104.
- (d) The nomination must be received at the Episcopal Homes no earlier than the day after the announcement of Search Committee Nominees and no later than 5:00 PM CST, on a date two weeks from the day of announcement of the Search Committee Nominees;

- (e) The nomination must be submitted using the form prescribed by the Standing Committee;
- (f) The nominee must be eligible for election as Bishop according to the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church;
- (g) The nomination must be accompanied by a signed statement by the nominee that she or he is eligible and is willing to be nominated and agrees to the other conditions of the Nomination form.
- (h) Floor Nominees shall submit to the Standing Committee the same written materials required by the Search Committee of its nominees. If written materials were previously submitted to the Search Committee by the nominee, the original materials will be used. Otherwise, the written materials must be received no later than the end of the two week deadline specified above. Floor Nominees may not revise materials previously submitted to the Search Committee.
- (i) Floor Nominees shall be subject to the same background checks as nominees of the Search Committee. The Standing Committee will request a background check (through Oxford Documents) for all Floor Nominees. The Floor Nominees will pay for the cost of the background check. (Web site for Oxford Document Management Company is [www.oxforddoc.com](http://www.oxforddoc.com), 1-800-801-9114, and e-mail address [info@oxforddoc.com](mailto:info@oxforddoc.com)).
- (j) Written materials presented to delegates attending the Walkabouts and to delegates to the Electing Convention, other than ballots, shall clearly distinguish between nominees of the Search Committee and Floor Nominees.
- (k) The Standing Committee shall certify a nominee by petition only if the preceding requirements are met.

5. With respect to each Floor Nominee the Standing Committee shall conduct an appropriate background investigation, consistent with the requirements of the national canons. The floor nomination form shall include the consent of the nominee that any information resulting from the background investigation may be disclosed to the Convention, so long as there was a prior disclosure of such information to the nominee before Convention. The results of the

background investigation shall be provided to the President of the Standing Committee who, in consultation with the Chancellor of the Diocese, and the Bishop if necessary, shall evaluate such results and determine appropriate steps, if any, in response to such results.

6. Search Committee Nominees and Floor Nominees shall be invited to appear at “Walkabouts” in the Diocese of Minnesota prior to Convention at such times and places as the Search Committee shall arrange, so that as many Members of Convention as possible have an opportunity to meet such candidates.

### **Campaigning**

7. All pre-election activities and all activities on the day of election should be aimed at prayerful discernment and seeking the presence of the Holy Spirit. Those who are considering active advocacy for a particular nominee, and nominees who considering activities other than participating in the Walkabouts or activities sponsored by the Diocese of Minnesota, should consider honestly and prayerfully whether their actions are consistent with spiritual discernment. The Walkabouts are the appropriate times for nominees and electors to meet each other. Members of the diocese, both laity and clergy, are specifically discouraged from inviting nominees to meet-and-greet parties, receptions or other events. Nominees are specifically discouraged from attending or visiting the Diocese to meet with individuals or groups, other than for the Walkabouts.

**At the Convention** (subject to Convention Special Rules of Order, except for canonical requirements)

8. The election process at Annual Convention shall be presided over by the President of the Standing Committee, acting as President *pro tem* of the Convention. Except for Search Committee Nominees and nominees from the floor made in accordance to Sections 4 and 5 of these procedures, there shall be no further nominees for Bishop and no further nominations from the floor of Convention.

9. At the Convention, those entitled to vote with respect to the election of the Bishop shall be those entitled to vote on all other matters coming before Convention, except that no Clergy Member of Convention may vote with respect to the election of the Bishop unless he or

she is canonically resident in this Diocese, is entitled during that time to a seat in Convention under Diocese of Minnesota Canon 204 and meets the requirements of Article 7-B-8-b of the Constitution. No lay or alternate delegate shall be permitted to vote unless duly elected by a congregation, its Vestry or Bishop's Committee, to a three year in accordance with the schedule established in the 1997 Canons, Section 2.01 of Canon II during a period commencing not more than three years prior to Convention and ending ninety days before Convention, and whose election has been duly certified in writing in accordance with Canon 207.3 by the Priest-in-Charge of the delegate's congregation, or Warden or Secretary of the congregation in absence of the Priest-in-Charge. If a congregation holds its annual meeting within ninety days prior to Convention, it will be too late for delegates elected at that annual meeting to take seats at the Convention without the consent of a majority of Convention, both orders voting together (Canon 207. 1 (a)).

10. Voting members only will be allowed in the Convention Hall during the election of the Bishop unless satisfactory provision is created for a designated section of seating for guests and credentialed members of the press. The doors shall be locked and, except for emergencies, there shall be no ingress or egress during the balloting.

11. Written materials submitted by each person nominated to Convention shall be provided to all members of Convention, and no nominating speeches shall be permitted at Convention.

12. Prior to the commencement of Convention, the Transition Committee shall insure that each nominee has been assigned a Member of Convention or another individual to serve as the authorized representative of each nominee (whether a Search Committee Nominee or a Floor Nominee). The Transition Committee shall inform the President of Convention of the representative for each nominee and shall inform the President promptly of any change in representatives. The representative shall have full authority to withdraw the name of his/her assigned nominee from further consideration of the Convention at any time, upon receipt of directions from his/her nominee.

13. In each ballot, the Clergy and Lay Delegates shall vote separately by Orders. If, for any ballot, two-thirds of all the Clergy Delegates entitled to vote are present and two-thirds of

all the Lay Delegates entitled to vote are present, then a concurrent majority in each Order shall determine a choice. If two-thirds of the Clergy Delegates entitled to vote and two-thirds of all Lay Delegates entitled to vote are not present, then two-thirds of the votes of each Order shall be necessary to determine a choice.

14. There shall be successive ballots until the Bishop is elected. The time permitted between ballots, as well as the nature of activity between ballots, shall be determined by the Secretary of the Convention. If an election has not been achieved by the seventh ballot, the Secretary of Convention shall offer a vote for an order of recess of the Convention, with an order to re-convene a time and place certain to resume balloting. The Secretary of Convention may also offer a vote for an order of such a recess at an earlier point in the balloting in his/her discretion.

15. A candidate (whether a Search Committee Nominee or a Floor Nominee) may withdraw his/her name from consideration at any time during the Convention by means of oral communication with his/her representative to Convention, or by telephone or fax. Any oral or telephonic withdrawal shall be also be delivered by the nominee to the President *pro tem* of Convention. If the President *pro tem* of Convention is satisfied as to the legitimacy of the withdrawal, the President *pro tem* may post-pone or dispense with the requirement of a withdrawal letter.

16. Immediately following the election, the President *pro tem* of the Convention shall arrange to have the signatures of a constitutional majority of the Convention affixed to the testimonial required by EC Canon III.11.4(a), attesting to the due and lawful election of the IX Bishop of Minnesota. [EC Canon III.11.4]

17. It is the express intent of this Convention that any election of a nominee to be the IX Bishop of Minnesota is made in reliance upon full, truthful and complete disclosures by that nominee to the Search Committee and the Convention. If, after such election but prior to consecration, the Convention concludes that the Bishop-elect has failed in any material way to provide full, truthful and complete disclosures, or if the Convention concludes that the Bishop-elect has omitted to disclose any material facts, then the Convention, acting pursuant to a notice of special convention called for such purpose, may take action to rescind such election.

## **After the Convention**

18. Promptly following the Convention, the Standing Committee shall examine to its satisfaction the following documents with respect to the Bishop-elect:

- a. Evidence that the Bishop-elect was, prior to election, duly ordered Deacon and Priest at this Church and confirmation he/she is at least 30 years of age;
- b. Evidence that he or she has accepted the election to be IX Bishop of Minnesota; and
- c. Certificates (using forms and procedures devised by the Presiding Bishop and the Church Pension Fund) from a licensed medical doctor and a licensed psychiatrist, both having been appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority with the approval of the Presiding Bishop, attesting that such persons have thoroughly examined the Bishop-elect as to his or her medical, psychological and psychiatric condition and have discovered no reason why the Bishop-elect would not be fit to undertake the work for which he or she has been chosen.

[EC Canon III.11.4(b)]

19. Promptly following the Convention, the Standing Committee shall send to the Presiding Bishop and to the Standing Committees of all other Dioceses a certificate by the Secretary of Convention attesting to the election of the Bishop-elect, together with its statement that (a) evidence of the Bishop-elect's having been duly ordered Deacon and Priest has been received, (b) satisfactory certificates as to the Bishop-elect's medical, psychological and psychiatric health have been received, and (c) a testimonial in canonical form has been duly signed by a constitutional majority of the Convention, and requesting the consent of the majority of such Standing Committees to the ordination of the Bishop-elect. Such consents, when received by the Standing Committee, shall be forwarded to the Presiding Bishop, who (upon receipt of the requisite number of consents of Standing Committees and Bishops) shall arrange for the ordination and consecration of such person as the IX Bishop of Minnesota.

[EC Con. II.2; EC Canon III.11.4]