

Diocese of Oregon

Bishop Search at a Glance

- In all, we received fifty-one applications from all across the Episcopal Church, USA, including the west coast, mid-west, and eastern seaboard. Some came also from priests serving in Europe.
 - Our information is that in recent Bishop Searches, fifty-one applications is slightly above average.
- All applications were reviewed by all committee members. They were sent to the committee in two parts.
 - The application and other supporting documentation including any cover letters.
 - The set of answers to the four questions. These went to the committee anonymously, and were evaluated according to criteria established through our diocesan-wide appreciative inquiry process and our diocesan profile.
- The search committee met in May to share responses to all 51 applications and to arrive at a set of eight semi-finalists. Each time a decision was made not to keep an application under consideration as a semi-finalist, the committee prayed for that person or those people by name, thanking God for their applications and praying for them in their personal discernment.
- The search committee equally considered all applications, regardless of current diocesan residency, age, gender, or other factors.
- In accordance with an earlier committee-wide decision about nomenclature, applications that remained in the process after this initial discernment were considered “semi-finalists” (as distinguished from applicants or nominees).
- The traditional search model used in diocesan searches as well as parish searches is for members of the search committee to travel to visit the semi-finalists in their own ministry settings. One disadvantage of these visitations is that the majority of the search committee do not have any meaningful conversation with any one applicant.
- Instead of visitations in the applicants’ ministry setting, the committee asked each semi-finalist to travel to Oregon in June for one of two retreats, during which four semi-finalists interacted with each other and with the full search committee in various contexts, including informal social gatherings, liturgical leadership, meals, and interviews on topics such as administration, spiritual life, pastoral care, and conflict..
- Once the eight semi-finalists were identified, Oxford Document Management Company began background checks. This process generally takes two months to complete.
- Following the retreats, committee members contacted references with general questions as well as questions about particular semi-finalists arising in the retreats. This is scheduled for July.
- The search committee’s task was to offer no more than four names for nomination to the Standing Committee. Each search committee member is confident that any of the final nominees would be an outstanding bishop for the Diocese of Oregon.

- The Standing Committee formally nominated the slate.
- After the slate is announced, additional nominations can be made by petition. Information about the petition process is linked to the web page -- <http://www.diocese-oregon.org/bishopsearch/transitioncommittee.html#procedures>
- The election is to occur during the annual Convention November 19–21. Assuming consents, the Bishop will be consecrated on Saturday, April 10.