

## **FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions** *about the Next Bishop Discernment Process*

**What is the Discernment Process's Timeline?** This timeline is a general outline of the most important dates: May, 2020 – Intercessory Prayer and Discernment Begins  
June 15, 2020 – Nominations opened July 20, 2020 – Nominations Closed August – October - Nominees are contacted and background checks and documentation is completed. November 13-14, 2020 – Special Synod to discern the next bishop January, 2021 - College of Bishops approves bishop-elect February 13, 2021 - Consecration new ADGL bishop, God-willing. Please check the diocesan website for latest updates and posting of details concerning the “Discernment Process Timeline.”

**When will the next bishop be selected?** Clergy and lay delegates from every congregation and fellowship in the diocese will gather to prayerfully discern and then cast ballots to choose the next bishop. This Special Synod is scheduled to meet at Heartland Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana on November 13-14, 2020.

**When will the next bishop be consecrated/installed?** We expect that the next bishop will be consecrated and installed on Saturday February 13, 2021.

**What will happen in between?** Since we are without a diocesan bishop, the Standing Committee has been managing the day to day operations of the diocese and will be overseeing this transition period.

**Who and what is the Standing Committee?** The Standing Committee is comprised of three lay and three clergy leaders elected from among all the members of our diocese at our annual gathering or Synod. They act as a council of advice to the diocesan bishop and hold ecclesial authority when there is no bishop. This means the Standing Committee becomes the governing authority for the diocese when there is no bishop and oversees the process of transition from one bishop to the next.

**What is the Ministry of Bishops?** Bishops are consecrated for the whole Church and are successors of the Apostles through the grace of the Holy Spirit. They are chief missionaries and chief pastors, guardians and teachers of doctrine, and administrators of godly discipline and governance (from ACNA Provincial Canons, Title III, Canon 8, Section 2).

**What are the qualifications to serve as a bishop?** The New Testament speaks about qualifications for leadership in the church: [1 Timothy 3:1-13](#) ; [Titus 1:5-9](#) ; [1 Peter 5:1-4](#) .

Everyone should read these! The Provincial Canons of the Anglican Church in North America outline further criteria in Title III, Canon 8, found on the ACNA website. <http://www.anglican church.net/index.php/main/Governance/> Other specific qualifications will be found in the Diocesan and Candidate Profiles which will be posted on the ADGL website: [adgl.us/new-bishop-search](http://adgl.us/new-bishop-search)

**Can anyone make a nomination? How can I suggest a name?** Yes, anyone who is a member of a church or mission of the Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes can suggest a name . Before suggesting a name, please contact the person to see if they are willing to be considered a nominee. They should read the Candidate Profile and the Archbishop's Customary to see if they are eligible. If they agree, anyone may then submit that person's name to be nominated through the diocesan website. For those unable to submit names electronically, a paper form will be available to download from the ADGL website: [adgl.us/new-bishop-search](http://adgl.us/new-bishop-search) . The deadline for nominations will be July 20, 2020. Specific details will be forthcoming.

**What happens then?** Those names submitted will then be put on a list and reviewed by the Search Committee for canonical regularity and eligibility. Those deemed eligible will then be contacted to ascertain if they are willing to have their names considered as nominees. Those who agree will make up the roster of our formal nominees who will then undergo extensive background checks and other tests and reviews to document that they are fit for the office of bishop. Therefore, a suggestion does not necessarily mean that the name will end up as a nominee or a candidate.

**How will we find out about the nominees?** The Search Committee will contact the nominees to complete questionnaires, submit resumes, and perform background checks. The ACNA has instituted new requirements for candidates that must also be fulfilled. When all those materials are in place, the final slate of candidates and their autobiographical data will be released to the voting clergy and delegates shortly before the Special Synod. The reasoning for this relatively short review period is both practical (due to a tight administrative schedule) and purposeful: we wish to promote prayerful review of materials, not canvassing or political maneuvering.

**What will happen at the Special Synod in November?** Please note an important change from what we experienced at our last episcopal election in 2015 when the lay and clergy delegates cast ballots for three names, which were then forwarded to the College of Bishops for selection. This time, the ACNA Canons have changed and the Province is requesting we send them only **one** name of the bishop-elect, whom they will then either approve or disapprove. So that is what we will do: delegates will cast ballots

and once a candidate achieves a majority of votes in both lay and clergy orders, he will be the bishop-elect.

**Who will actually cast ballots?** Clergy and all lay delegates elected to represent their parish at the regular Diocesan Synod will be casting ballots on November 13-14, 2020. Updates for those clergy eligible to vote but not able to attend Synod will be posted on the diocesan website when they become available.

**What about non-parochial and retired clergy?** Non-parochial and retired clergy in good standing as determined by the bishop's office are entitled to vote and encouraged to be a part of the search process, suggesting names of those they view as qualified.

**How will we get updates?** Check the diocesan website regularly. Updates will be sent to clergy and delegates by email. Resources for clergy, delegates, and parishes will be updated as the process unfolds.

**Who are the members of the Search Committee?** Rev. Dr. Leslie Fairfield, Mr. Tom Fields, Dr. Justus Ghormley, Mr. William Henry Lawrence, Rev. Andrea Marks, Dr. I. Richmond Nettey, Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rankin. Ex officio advisor: The Right Rev. Bill Murdoch.

**How can I contact or get feedback to the Standing Committee?** Please call or send an email. We welcome your communications. Specific questions can be submitted to the Search Committee Chair, Rev. Canon Dr. Kathleen Rankin: [krankin@adgl.us](mailto:krankin@adgl.us) 234.466.0426 Ex: #2.