



2018 BISHOP ELECTION

SOUTH-CENTRAL SYNOD OF WISCONSIN

Rules & Procedures for Bishop Election

Approved by Synod Council on March 17, 2018.

The election of our next bishop will take place at the 2018 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, held at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells from May 5-6, 2018.

The election will follow an ecclesiastical ballot process, following the procedure outlined in S9.04.01 in the *Constitution of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and will be presided over by the ELCA representative designated to the 2018 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. *This was approved by the Synod Council on October 28, 2017.*

BALLOTING RULES

The first ballot will be a nominating ballot. Those persons nominated for bishop who wish to remain in the election process following this ballot shall complete the necessary forms before the established deadline. These can be completed electronically or in-person. If a nominee is not present at the Assembly and cannot be contacted, their name will move forward onto the second ballot. Note that those identified during the pre-identification process* are not considered a nominee. A person who participated in the pre-identification process still needs to be nominated on the first ballot at synod assembly to move forward.

Persons nominated on the first ballot who wish to withdraw from the election process must indicate their desire to withdraw (in writing – either via email or via a form available at the assembly) to the Bishop Election Task Force no later than the established deadline. **Withdrawals from the pre-assembly identification process are not considered valid.**

The first ballot for Bishop *shall* be a paper ballot. The second, third, fourth, and fifth ballots may be cast by the assembly using electronic voting. All nominees from the first ballot, who do not withdraw, will be listed on the second ballot.

Ballot	Names Included	Votes Needed to Elect
First Ballot <i>If there is not an election, this ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot.</i>	All eligible ministers of Word & Sacrament of the ELCA in good standing.	3/4 of votes cast
Second Ballot	All Eligible Nominees	3/4 of votes cast
Third Ballot	Seven Persons (plus ties)	2/3 of votes cast
Fourth Ballot	Three Persons (plus ties)	60% of votes cast
Fifth (Final) Ballot	Two Persons (plus ties)	Majority of votes cast

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Biographical information on the seven nominees (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, submitted on the Biographical Information Form, shall be distributed to voting members prior to the casting of the third ballot for bishop. Pre-identified persons who have been nominated will be asked to review the form submitted during the pre-identification process and must submit again to go forward.

SPEECHES BY NOMINEES

Prior to the third ballot for bishop, the seven nominees (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot will be invited to address the Assembly, with each speech limited to five (5) minutes. If any nominee is not present at the Assembly, the individual may address the Assembly telephonically or via video conference.

Following the results of the second ballot, nominees will be informed of an open-ended prompt, pre-determined by the Bishop Election Task Force, which should guide the themes and message of their speeches.

The speaker will be notified when 30 seconds remain of the allocated time and when the allocated time has elapsed the microphone will be turned off. The sequence of the speeches shall be determined by lot.

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

Prior to the fourth ballot for bishop, the three nominees (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to participate in a question-and-answer session.

The session shall be moderated by the Bishop Election Task Force. The questions shall be asked of each nominee in an order to be determined by lot. The same questions will be asked to each nominee. Each nominee shall have a maximum of two (2) minutes to respond to each question. The speaker will be notified when 30 seconds remain of the allocated time and when the allocated time has elapsed the microphone will be turned off. The sequence of the questions to be asked shall be determined by the vice-president of the synod and the Bishop Election Task Force. If any nominee is not present at the Assembly, the individual may participate in this portion of the Assembly telephonically or via video conference.

Voting members of the assembly will have an opportunity to submit questions for the question and answer session. The questions asked will be determined by the Bishop Election Task Force.

*** PRE-IDENTIFICATION PROCESS**

The Pre-Identification Process is described in the document "Process for Nominating and Electing a Bishop 2018" that was distributed in December of 2017 by the Bishop Election Task Force. It is also available on the 2018 Bishop Election Website: www.scswbishopselection.org.