

An Overview of the Bishop Election Process to Date

The bishop election process is both an election and a call, governed by our synod's constitution and guided by prayerful discernment. In February, all congregations of the synod had an opportunity to submit nominations. Eighteen congregations submitted nominations for bishop of the Eastern North Dakota Synod. Of the eight persons nominated, three agreed to have their names go forward to Conference Assemblies (Rev. Amy Eisenmann, Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth, and Rev. Kristi Weber). Brief biographies of the three nominees were distributed in advance of the Conference Assemblies. At the Conference Assemblies, voting members were able to vote for one of the nominees or write-in a nominee. There were ten persons nominated and five agreed to have their name go forward to the Synod Assembly (Rev. Joel Baranko, Rev. Amy Eisenmann, Rev. Carter Hill, Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth, and Rev. Kristi Weber). These five nominees participated in two open forums, April 23rd (zoom and recorded) and April 30th (in-person). On May 14, Rev. Joel Baranko withdrew from the process. There are currently four nominees for bishop.

Bishop Election Process at Synod Assembly

First Ballot for Bishop

On the first ballot for bishop, the four nominees will be listed, along with a space for a write-in nomination. All those who are nominated will have the opportunity to withdraw their name.

Three-fourths of the valid votes cast are needed for election.

Second Ballot for Bishop

Prior to the second ballot for bishop, nominee biographies will be made available. The second ballot for bishop will include all nominees who did not withdraw their name.

Three-fourths of the valid votes cast are needed for election.

Third Ballot for Bishop

The top seven nominees will be given the opportunity to speak to the assembly for five minutes prior to the third ballot for bishop.

Two-Thirds of the valid votes cast are needed for election.

Fourth Ballot for Bishop

Prior to the fourth ballot, a question and answer session will take place for the top three nominees.

Sixty percent of the valid votes cast are needed for election.

Fifth Ballot for Bishop

The top two nominees will be on the fifth ballot for bishop.

Majority of the valid votes cast are needed for election.