

**DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA**

**Special Council for Election of Eleventh Bishop  
of the Diocese of Southern Virginia  
Saturday, September 21, 2019**

**Dinwiddie High School  
Dinwiddie, Virginia**

**Rules of Order for Election of Bishop**

**I. GENERAL PROVISION**

- A. These Special Rules of Order for the Election of the Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, adopted pursuant to the Rules of Order of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, shall apply during Special Council in which the assembly is taking up the election of the Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Except as these Special Rules provide otherwise, the Rules of Order of Council shall continue in full force and effect.
- B. These Special Rules shall be effective when adopted by a two-thirds vote of Special Council. Once adopted, they may not thereafter be suspended or amended except upon motion duly made and seconded, and approved by two-thirds of Special Council.
- C. Immediately following the election, while Council remains in session, the President of Council shall arrange to have the Bishop-Elect informed of the election and shall receive that person's acceptance, which shall then be communicated to the Council.
- D. Immediately following the election, a constitutional majority of the Council shall affix their signatures to the testimonial required by Canon III.11.3 of The Episcopal Church, attesting to the due and lawful election of the Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.
- E. A press release announcing the results of the election will be made by the Diocesan Communications Officer. While members of the Council are not prohibited from talking with the press, it is requested that comments be held until notification of an official press release has been confirmed by announcement to members of Council.

**II. VOTING PROCEDURES**

- A. General
  - 1. The vote shall be by ballot and by Orders, a concurrent majority of the Orders being necessary for election, provided that two-thirds of all the Clergy entitled to vote and Lay Delegates from two-thirds of all the

Parishes and Organized Missions entitled to representation be present; otherwise, two-thirds of the votes of each Order as determined by Article V of the Constitution of the Diocese shall be necessary for election. [Constitution of the Diocese of Southern Virginia (“Constitution”), Art. VII, §2].

2. There shall be no write-in votes; any ballot with a write-in will be included in the total of ballots cast, but the vote for the person written in will be invalid.
3. There shall be no nominations from the floor.
4. Only Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese of Southern Virginia as determined pursuant to Article IV, §2, of the Constitution of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, and Lay delegates as determined pursuant to Article IV, §3, of the Constitution of the Diocese of Southern Virginia shall be seated on the floor of Council and shall have the right to vote in the election.
5. Representatives from each Christian body with which The Episcopal Church has official dialogue, as determined by the Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia and based on the work of the Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America shall be seated on the floor of Council and have the right to vote in the election. Each representative is to be appointed by, and his or her status as lay or clergy determined by, the appropriate judicatory leader or body.
6. The ballot shall list all candidates for the office of Bishop in alphabetical order. If an electronic voting procedure is used, the vendor’s instructions for electronic voting shall be provided to the Special Council as an early order of business. Those instructions shall be consistent with the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia and these Rules of Order.
7. After each ballot, the voting results will be announced by stating or posting the name of each candidate and the number of votes received in each order by that candidate. The candidates will also be informed of the voting results, either in person or through a designated representative.
8. A candidate may remove his or her name from the ballot at any time during the voting by advising the Secretary in writing, either personally or through a designated representative.
9. An individual withdrawing a candidate’s nomination shall not make any statement to endorse another candidate.
10. Voting shall continue until an election occurs or the President requests response from the Special Council to the question: “Shall the Special Council continue to ballot?” If the question is answered in the affirmative

by a majority of the delegates present and entitled to vote, the Special Council shall act accordingly and continue the election process. If the question is answered in the negative by a majority of delegates present and entitled to vote, the election process shall end, and the Special Council shall then consider what further course of action it wishes to follow.

B. Clerical Order – Eligibility to Vote

1. The Clerical order shall consist of the Bishops and all other Clergy not under ecclesiastical censure who are canonically resident in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. [Constitution, Art. IV, para. 1, 2, 4]. The official list of the Clergy of the Diocese with the names of those entitled to vote in the Council designated thereon shall be laid before the Council on the first day of the meeting and the roll of the Clerical Delegates entitled to vote shall be determined from it. [Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia (“Southern Virginia Canon”) I, §1].
2. The right of any member of the Clergy to membership in the Council shall, if challenged, be determined by the Council, according to the Constitution and Canons. [Southern Virginia Canon I, §2].

C. Lay Order – Eligibility to Vote

1. The Lay order shall be determined in accordance with Article IV, para. 3, 4 of the Constitution of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. The Secretary of the Diocese shall prepare a list of the Lay Delegates and Alternates certified to the Secretary as duly elected with their respective Churches. The President of the Council shall appoint a Committee on Credentials, to be composed of Clergy and Lay Delegates, to which shall be referred the credentials of all Lay Delegates. [Southern Virginia Canon II, §3].
2. Alternates shall not be seated on the floor of the Council nor shall they have the right to vote. The process for a duly certified Alternate to replace a Delegate shall require that both return to Registration to have their credentials exchanged.
3. Should the right of any Lay Delegate or Alternate to membership in Council be challenged, the matter shall be referred to the Committee on Credentials. [Southern Virginia Canon II, §3].