

Search Committee Functions and Responsibilities

Diocese of Minnesota

Overview:

The Search Committee is responsible for the process of screening and selecting nominees. The subcommittees of the Search Committee and pertinent responsibilities will include the following:

Communication: Communication as appropriate

Survey and Profile: Develop and conduct a survey of the Diocese and create a Diocesan profile.

Education: Design and facilitate an educational program for the Search Committee on the historic and current role of a bishop in the Episcopal Church.

Screening: Develop and implement a method for screening candidates.

Identification of Candidates: Develop process that includes accepting additional nominations.

Visitation: Develop procedures for interviews and visits with candidates and conducts these.

Presentation of Nominees: Develop and implement procedures for nominee presentation visits.

The process:

The nature of the process to be undertaken is captured well by the following:

An Episcopal Election Process is a community exercise in spiritual leadership discernment [which] takes several key issues into consideration:

First, it takes seriously the fact that there is an existing community (warts and all) that is doing the discerning. Therefore the questions 'Who are we?' and 'What is our mission?' are prior to 'Who is our bishop going to be?'....

Second, it is a spiritual process—one grounded in a relationship to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, and accountable to God and to the Christian community—the church in and beyond the electing diocese....

Third, the issue is one of discernment—'acuteness of judgment, insight and understanding' as one dictionary puts it. It is not one of manipulation and coercion no matter how subtle, sincere or well-intended. It is a process that involves listening, speaking, mutual respect, personal and communal thought and prayer.

-The Rt. Rev Harold A. Hopkins, Jr
Leaven

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Transition Committee Functions and Responsibilities

Diocese of Minnesota

Overview:

The Transition Committee is responsible for the election process for the Bishop Diocesan, helping him/her settle in the diocese and then the eventual transition in (of) the episcopate from one bishop to another.

The Transition Committee functions as an executive committee with official oversight and coordination of sub-committees listed below, the budget, interaction and communication with the Standing Committee, Search Committee, Diocesan Council and others, as appropriate. The major areas of responsibilities are:

Communication: Communication as appropriate

Support for Bishop Jelinek and staff: Personal support for the sitting bishop and diocesan staff.

Electing Convention: Guide the development and implementation of the electing convention - including drafting and approving the rules that will apply for the electing convention.

Fulfill Canonical Obligations To National Church Regarding Episcopal Elections

Support for the bishop-elect and family: Contact with bishop-elect immediately upon acceptance. Assistance with finding housing, oversight of calendar/schedule, familiarization with the diocese, and personal support for the bishop-elect's household.

Consecration: Co-ordination of all aspects of the consecration service.

Celebration of Bishop Jelinek's Episcopate: Plan and host Celebration for the Diocese

To be sure, transition is challenging, even in the best of situations. Many people's lives are significantly affected. As a member of the Transition Committee, you will be responsible for making sure all the pieces are in place and nothing is overlooked. Your prayerful attention to detail will be vital to the success of this important process.