



## **Critical Information Lower Susquehanna Synod ELCA Election of the Bishop 2019**

Reference: Synod Constitution: <https://www.lss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018-CONSTITUTION.pdf>

Bylaw S9.04.r.A.18. PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION PROCESS LEADING TO THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

### **November 17, 2018**

Synod Council votes to call our synod to prayerful deliberation, reviews Bishop Profile, Synod Profile and questions for conference discussion.

### **December 2018**

Congregations strongly encouraged to determine their voting members for 2019 Synod Assembly. (Note: Congregations will not need to notify our synod office of the names of their voting members until assembly registration in March. If voting members for 2019 have not been identified, voting members from 2018 may attend conference meetings)

Documents for review will be available in synod communications

Synod Snapshot

(Bishop Profile)

Conference Assembly Questions for Reflection

### **January 2019**

Conferences meet with all rostered ministers and voting members from each congregation

Devotional materials provided by a Synod Council Task Force

Review the Mission Snapshot and A Bishop's Gifts for God's Mission

Discuss the Conference Questions

Conference Secretary provides written report of the discussion to our synod secretary for use by our Synod Council

### **February 16, 2019**

Synod Council reviews all documents in light of all information received from Conference secretaries' reports. Revises Mission Snapshot and A Bishop's Gifts for God's Mission as needed. Revised documents released for synod use.

### **March 2018**

Spring Conference Assemblies of all rostered ministers and congregation voting members. All voting members have the opportunity to raise up names of ELCA pastors who the voting members believe possess the gifts necessary for the office of bishop.

*(Continued on next page)*

Each voting member raising up names of such pastors should receive the permission of those pastors to raise their names and shall be prepared to share with the other voting members why he or she is raising such names. The names of pastors on the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be raised up, even if those pastors are not members of that conference or this synod. Each ELCA pastor is encouraged to give permission to have his or her name raised up as part of this synod's discernment process. After all voting members have had opportunity to raise up names of persons possessing gifts for the office of bishop, the voting members will engage in a process designated by the dean(s) leading to the selection of up to three names of persons that the conference intends to share with the entire synod as persons possessing gifts for the office of bishop.

Regular spring conference assembly activity, including vote for Dean, and consideration of resolutions or Memorials, as well as receiving information related to assembly will also be part of the meeting.

Following the conference assembly, the dean will contact the individuals selected by the conference to secure their permission to include their names as persons possessing gifts for the office of bishop. If these persons are willing to be so identified, the dean will facilitate their completion of a biographical information form (which will be available on the synod website). The dean shall submit these forms to the synod secretary within ten days of the conference assembly.

Pastors are encouraged to consider call to the office of bishop. Related Discernment Information will be posted on our synod's website.

#### **April 22, 2019**

Biographical Information forms posted on Synod's website from those identified (as possessing gifts for the office of bishop) who agreed to provide the form. Note: Information forms posted are of individuals identified as possessing gifts. Our synod does not identify nominees in advance. *No one is a nominee until they are nominated in the first ballot.*

#### **June 6, 2019**

Synod Assembly begins with worship. In addition to adopting the agenda for the assembly and the Rules of Procedure, the assembly will adopt the Rules of Procedure for the Election of the Bishop. The first ballot for bishop will part of the evening session on 6/6/19 and will be an **ecclesiastical ballot**. *There are no nominees in advance.* It is important to note that if a voting member desires that someone identified in the preliminary process be nominated for the office of bishop, that name must be written down by someone on the first ballot. Otherwise, that person cannot be elected as bishop.

The election of the bishop proceeds according to the constitution of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and following the Rules of Procedure adopted by the assembly.