

S9.04.r.A.18.

PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION PROCESS LEADING TO THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

1. The incumbent bishop shall announce whether he or she will stand for election by the time of the Synod Council meeting in November prior to the Synod Assembly during which a bishop is to be elected.
2. The Lower Susquehanna Synod shall follow the recommended preliminary identification process and the same election process regardless of whether there is an incumbent bishop standing for election.
3. The Synod Council shall call the synod to prayerful deliberation.
4. The Synod Council shall prepare and distribute information about the Lower Susquehanna Synod including the current mission statement, mission documents and any strategic planning adopted by the Synod Council.
5. At a special meeting of each conference held early in the calendar year of the electing assembly, the voting members of the upcoming Synod Assembly shall be asked to consider a set of questions developed by the Synod Council designed to recognize the conference's understanding of this synod's mission, the issues deemed important for this synod, and the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop. The secretary of each conference shall provide a record of this discussion to the synod secretary for use by the Synod Council.
6. At the regular spring conference meeting, the voting members of the upcoming Synod Assembly shall be asked to raise up names of ELCA pastors who the voting members believe possess gifts for the office of bishop. 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.
7. 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 leading to the selection of up to three names of persons that this conference intends to share with the entire synod as persons possessing gifts for the office of bishop.
8. The dean of each conference shall 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 shall facilitate their completion of a biographical information form developed by the Synod Council. The dean shall submit these forms to the synod secretary within ten days of the conference assembly.
9. The synod secretary shall post the names of the individuals selected by the conferences on the synod website 45 days before the Synod Assembly begins.
10. While these individuals are identified as possessing gifts for the office of bishop, the Lower Susquehanna Synod shall continue to use the ecclesiastical ballot, in which any rostered pastor of the ELCA may be placed in nomination on the first ballot at the Synod Assembly. Any person identified as possessing gifts for the office of bishop must still be nominated on the first ballot by a voting member of the assembly.

11. The Synod Assembly shall elect a bishop by the ecclesiastical ballot as set forth in **S9.04** of the synod constitution. The Synod Assembly shall adopt rules of procedure for the election of a bishop based upon this constitutional provision. If there is no election on the first ballot for bishop, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. For an ELCA pastor to be on the slate of nominees for bishop, his or her name must be included in the tally of votes received on the first ballot for bishop.

Adopted by Synod Assembly
June 1, 2018
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Thomas E. McKee
synod secretary