

How a Bishop is Elected

2017

Before the first ballot, pastors and all voting members prepare for electing a bishop through prayer, discernment, and conversation.

1 First Ballot

The first ballot is a **nominating ballot**. Voting members may nominate any ordained minister of the ELCA. One candidate requires 75% of the nominations to be elected.

Before the second ballot, nominees may withdraw their names. This is the ONLY time names may be withdrawn.

2 Second Ballot

The second ballot contains all remaining names. Results of this ballot will **narrow the nominees to seven**, unless one achieves 75% of the votes.

Before the third ballot, remaining nominees will submit biographical information, along with written answers to 3 questions, which will be made available to all voting members.

3 Third Ballot

The third ballot includes the top seven nominees from the second ballot, along with any ties. Results of this ballot will **narrow the nominees to five**, unless one nominee receives two-thirds of the votes.

Before the fourth ballot, the 5 nominees will have an opportunity to address the assembly for five minutes each.

4 Fourth Ballot

The fourth ballot **narrows the nominees to three** unless one nominee receives two-thirds of the votes.

Before the fifth ballot, the 3 nominees will respond to pre-submitted questions in three Town Hall meeting groups

5 Fifth Ballot

The required margin for election on the 5th ballot is 60% of the votes.

6 Sixth Ballot

The required margin for election on the 6th ballot is a simple majority.

A bishop is elected!

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