

11 June, 2020

Dear Fellow Anglicans of the Islands and Inlets,

I am writing further to my letter to you of March 30, 2020.

Since that time, we have all been made aware of the reality that for reasons of public health, gatherings in person of more than 50 are unlikely to be permitted in British Columbia for a considerable time into the foreseeable future. For that reason, Diocesan Council returned to consideration of the prospect of an episcopal election during its meeting held electronically on Thursday, May 28.

Council resolved to proceed with an election, despite the challenges presented by the need to convene in a virtual format. The date of Saturday, September 26 was identified. The Metropolitan was then asked, and has since agreed, to direct that an electoral synod be held on that date.

Work is ongoing by diocesan staff and by the Constitution and Canons Committee to develop the technical resources and legal protocols required for an electronic meeting.

My letter to you of January 21 outlined most of the procedural aspects of the election, including a description of those eligible to vote, and a proposed timeline. For ease of reference, I repeat a summary of those provisions as a schedule to this letter, with updates to reflect the current state of affairs. The new timeline, now confirmed by the Metropolitan, is as follows:

June 25	Adoption by Diocesan Council of regulations governing the convening of a meeting of Synod by electronic means.
July 28	Electoral synod summoned.
August 17	Nominations due.
August 20	Diocesan Council sits as nominating committee.
Sept 16	<u>Last date</u> for nominations list to be distributed to members of Synod (will be made available earlier if possible).
September 26	Electoral synod, to be held electronically, time TBA.
Date and time TBA	<i>Deo volente</i> , the installation and consecration of the 14th Bishop of British Columbia, Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria.

Let us continue to pray together for Dean Ansley, the diocesan staff and clergy, and each other as we go forward with this important step in the life of our diocese.

Yours in Christ,

Robert Gill, Chancellor

Schedule to Letter of June 11: Provisions Regarding an Episcopal Election

I am writing to explain the process that will be followed as we pursue transition to new episcopal governance¹.

The decision whether to hold an election for a successor to Bishop Logan has now been made by Archbishop Melissa Skelton².

Diocesan Council has appointed a team to prepare an updated diocesan profile. Upon Council's approval of this document, it will be distributed together with a formal summons to the members of Synod to an episcopal election, to be held within 45 to 60 days³.

In response to the summons, nominations may be submitted in writing, signed by any one member of Synod, and accompanied by the signed consent of the nominee. Nominations are due within twenty days of the issuance of the summons⁴; the due date will be August 17. The nominations will be received in confidence by the executive, clerical and lay secretaries⁵.

To be eligible for nomination, a candidate must⁶:

- Be of the full age of 30, and under the mandatory retirement age of 70.
- Be a Priest in Holy Orders of the Anglican Church of Canada or of some church in full communion with it.
- Not be "deficient in learning, training or experience".
- Not have secured office by improper means.
- Not have been guilty of "any crime or immorality".
- Not have taught or held within the past five years anything contrary to the doctrine or discipline of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Members of Synod, competent to sign a nomination (and to vote at the electoral synod)⁷, are:

- The clergy of the diocese, who are licensed to a definite sphere of work within or without the Diocese, and are not members of another Anglican Diocese.
- Retired clergy who are serving as interim priest-in-charge.
- Clergy who have retired from active work in the Diocese within the six months preceding the electoral synod.

¹ This letter summarizes for convenience the provisions of the diocesan constitution, canons and regulations, available online at <https://www.bc.anglican.ca/resources/canons-and-regulations> . In the event of any discrepancy between what is written here and the provisions of the constitution, canons and regulations, the latter shall govern.

² Canon 1.2.b, c

³ Canon 1.2.c

⁴ Canon 1.2.e

⁵ The position of lay secretary is vacant. If not filled by that time, the executive and clerical secretaries will receive the nominations.

⁶ Canon 4(b) of the Canons of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon, available online at <https://www.provbcyanglican.ca/constitution-and-canons>

⁷ Constitution, Article III

- Ministers of other denominations who are licensed by the bishop for special work in ministering to congregations, provided that denomination is in full communion with the Anglican Church of Canada.
- The chancellor, the vice-chancellor, the registrar, the lay secretary and the treasurer.
- The diocesan president of Anglican Church Women.
- The lay delegates elected by parishes or congregations.
- The youth lay delegates elected by the regions.

The secretaries will submit the nominations of qualified candidates to Diocesan Council, which will sit as a nominating committee⁸. The committee will determine the candidates to be placed on the first ballot at the electoral synod. The list of candidates, with background supporting information, will be made available to members of Synod at least ten days prior to the electoral synod.

The electoral synod will be presided over by the Archbishop or her designate. The chair shall not have a vote⁹.

At the time of the synod, members may add names to the first ballot, with the consent of the nominee. Names may only be added to subsequent ballots with the consent of a majority of both orders (clergy and lay)¹⁰.

The quorum for the electoral synod is two-thirds of each order. There is no provision for proxy voting. The orders shall vote separately, and to be elected a candidate must receive a majority (50% plus one) of the votes cast by each order¹¹. Balloting may continue until such a majority is achieved.

After any ballot a candidate may choose to withdraw¹². If there has been no election after the third ballot, the number of candidates shall be reduced to five (if in fact five candidates or more remain). On each succeeding ballot the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be removed from eligibility until only two names remain¹³.

⁸ Canon 1.2.f

⁹ Canon 1.2.h

¹⁰ Canon 1.2.l

¹¹ Canon 1.2.m

¹² Canon 1.2.n

¹³ Canon 1.2.o. Provisions are in place to permit the presiding officer to adjourn the election in the event a successful candidate is not elected from the two remaining.