



Election of Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada and Election of a New Bishop for the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

FAQs

1. Was Bishop Shane elected the new Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada?

Yes. Bishop Shane was elected Primate at the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada on Thursday, June 26, 2025. Bishop Shane was installed as Primate at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario, on Sunday, June 29, 2025, and now has the title "Archbishop".

2. Bishop Shane was not one of the four candidates for Primate. How did he end up being elected?

While the House of Bishops initially nominated a slate of four candidates, the House of Bishops can - if asked to by either the Order of Clergy or the Order of Laity -- nominate new candidates during the electoral process for Primate. This is allowed under General Synod Canon III, which governs the election of the Primate. Bishop Shane was added to the nominees in this way and subsequently received the required number of votes from both the Orders of Clergy and Laity.

3. Is Archbishop Shane still the Bishop of Ottawa?

Yes. Archbishop Shane will remain Bishop of Ottawa until sometime in September 2025.

4. Can a Primate also hold the office of diocesan bishop?

Yes. Under the *Canons of the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada*, a new Primate may remain in their previous office of diocesan bishop for a period of 90 days after installation. This means that Archbishop Shane will remain Bishop of Ottawa until he chooses to resign that office sometime before Thursday, September 25, 2025.

5. What happens when Archbishop Shane resigns as Bishop of Ottawa?

Archbishop Shane's resignation as Bishop of Ottawa will create a vacancy in the See. As a result, an Administrator will be appointed by the Diocesan Council under Canon 2.17 of the *Canons of the Diocese of Ottawa* to exercise the responsibilities of the Bishop until a new Bishop is elected.



6. Will there be an acting or interim diocesan bishop until a permanent bishop is in place?

No. An Administrator appointed by the Diocesan Council will exercise the responsibilities of the office of Bishop between the date of Archbishop Shane's resignation and the election of a new Bishop. The Administrator—often (but not necessarily) a retired bishop or suffragan—exercises episcopal oversight temporarily, ensuring sacramental and pastoral continuity until a new diocesan bishop is elected and consecrated.

7. When will the Administrator be appointed?

Diocesan Council will likely appoint an Administrator some time before the date of Archbishop Shane's resignation as Bishop of Ottawa.

8. When will a new Bishop be elected?

The new Bishop will be elected at an Electoral Synod presided over by Archbishop Anne Germond, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. She will likely announce the date of the Electoral Synod sometime this summer. The electoral process takes several months, meaning that the Electoral Synod will likely take place in early 2026.

9. Who is eligible to be a candidate in the episcopal election?

The rules governing the election of a new Bishop are set out in the *Canons and Bylaws of the Dioceses of Ottawa*, which can be found on the [diocesan website](#). Once the Electoral Synod has been scheduled, the Secretaries of Synod will distribute further information regarding requirements and procedures relating to the Electoral Synod.

10. Could the Electoral Synod take place during this year's Annual Diocesan Synod?

No - as there is insufficient time to follow and implement the canonical procedures as it pertains to an episcopal election.



11. Will the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa continue to operate as usual during the time of transition?

Yes, the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa will continue to operate as usual throughout the transition period leading up to the election of a new bishop. Ascension House remains operational, with staff working over the summer and available through the usual channels. As in previous years, appropriate measures are taken to ensure continuity of service during summer vacations and staff absences.

While Archbishop Shane will continue in office as Bishop of Ottawa throughout the summer, he will be on vacation during the month of August 2025. During that time, Archdeacon Linda Hill will be exercising the Bishop's responsibilities as the Episcopal Commissary.

12. What happens to current and existing episcopal panels and appointments? Do they immediately cease to exist?

Not necessarily. Committees, panels, and episcopal appointments—such as liturgical commissions, vocations panels, and pastoral appointments—typically remain in place. Many can continue under the authority of the Administrator until a new bishop reviews and reaffirms them.

13. Who will preside over the Annual Synod and will there be a Charge to the Synod in October 2025?

The Administrator will preside over the Annual Synod of the Diocese, which will take place from Thursday, October 23 to Saturday, October 25, 2025, as scheduled.

There will not be a traditional Charge to the Synod—which is typically a pastoral and visionary address delivered by the diocesan bishop—since the new bishop will not be in place by October 2025. Alternatively, the Administrator may offer a reflection, homily, or thematic address appropriate to the occasion and season of transition. In essence, while Synod will proceed as planned, its tone and leadership will reflect this interregnum period in the Diocese.