



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING the BISHOP COADJUTOR ELECTION

1. How is a bishop elected in the Anglican Church in North America?

Before a bishop can be elected, the ACNA College of Bishops must approve an election process, ensuring that the diocese in question is viable. This was done for DCH in March of 2020.

A bishop is elected by either a regular Synod or a special Synod of a diocese. A diocese then must submit any names to the College of Bishops for approval. The diocese may send up to three names to the College of Bishops from which they may select.

2. When will the next bishop be elected?

We intend to hold a Special Electoral Synod in late Spring 2021 (online). Clergy and Lay delegates will prayerfully discern and then cast ballots to choose the Bishop Coadjutor.

3. How does a Bishop Coadjutor differ from the Bishop Ordinary?

A Bishop Coadjutor is elected to serve coterminous with the Bishop Ordinary (Bishop Breedlove) until the latter's retirement, at which time the Coadjutor will assume the duties of the Bishop Ordinary.

4. When will the next bishop be consecrated/installed?

We expect that the next bishop will be consecrated and installed in the Fall of 2021, at our Convocation & Synod gathering.

5. Who and what is the Diocesan Council?

The Diocesan Council is an elected diocesan body comprised of 6 lay and 3 clergy leaders from across the diocese's geographical regions, along with the diocesan bishop. The Council serves two particular functions: (1) to act as a council of advice to the diocesan bishop; and (2) to hold episcopal authority when there is no bishop. In the latter capacity, it oversees the process of transition from one bishop to the next.

6. Who and what is the Nominations Committee?

The Nominations Committee is a canonically elected diocesan body tasked with the development and oversight of nominations and elections for bishops in DCH. Per Canon I.5.3.4 of our diocesan canons, the Diocesan Council voted to assume the role of the Nominations Committee for this election of a Bishop Coadjutor.

7. What is the Ministry of Bishops?

By the tradition of Christ’s One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, Bishops are consecrated for the whole Church and are successors of the Apostles through the grace of the Holy Spirit given to them. They are chief missionaries and chief pastors, guardians and teachers of doctrine, and administrators of godly discipline and governance (from ACNA Provincial Canons, Title III, Canon 8, Section 2).

8. What are the qualifications for nominees?

The New Testament speaks about qualifications for leadership in the church: 1 Timothy 3:1–13; Titus 1:5–9; 1 Peter 5:1–4. The Provincial Canons (Anglican Church in North America) outline further criteria in Title III, Canon 8. [See this document](#) on the ACNA website. A diocesan Bishop Profile will also be posted on the DCH website.

9. What is the expected timeline for the election process?

Beginning in May	Diocesan Profile and Nomination preparations begin
August 21, 2020	Nominations opened
September 30, 2020	Nominations closed
October-November 2020	Nominees contacted and screening and interviews begin
Mid-December 2020	ACNA College of Bishops notified of finalists
Late December 2020	Announcement of finalists to the diocese
Late Spring 2021	Special Diocesan Synod (online) to elect Bishop Coadjutor
June 2021	College of Bishops approves Bishop-elect
November 2021	Consecration of Bishop Coadjutor of DCH

10. Can anyone suggest a name for a nominee? How can I suggest a name?

In accordance with Canon I.5.3.2 of our diocesan Canons, anyone may submit a nomination to the Committee on Nominations for Bishop. All nominations require that the vestry of the nominee certify that the nominee meets the requirements for Bishop as described in the Canons of the Diocese of Christ our Hope (see [DCH Canon I.4.2](#)).

Those submitting a nomination must first read and understand the DCH Profile and Bishop Profile, as well as the DCH Position Papers & Practices and the Archbishop’s Customary for Diocesan Elections of Bishops. Nominees must also read and understand these same materials before accepting a nomination.

To submit a nomination, please complete the form for [Bishop Coadjutor Nominations](#). The deadline to submit nominations is September 30, 2020.

11. Can someone outside DCH be considered as a candidate for Bishop Coadjutor of DCH?

Yes, but that candidate must be certified by the vestry of a congregation or mission within the ACNA as described in question 10, above.

12. How will we find out about the Nominees?

The Nominating Committee will contact the nominees to complete various questionnaires, produce resumes, and conduct interviews. In addition, the Committee will perform a thorough background check and screening process, as instituted by the ACNA College of Bishops. Once the interviews and screening process are complete, the Nominating Committee will submit a list of no more than 3 finalists (per our Canons) to the College of Bishops for their approval. Upon receipt of the approval of the College of Bishops, the list of finalists will be published to the diocese. When the above steps are completed, biographical information and opportunities to get to know each candidate will be made available to the diocese before the Special Synod.

13. What will happen at the Special Synod in Late Spring 2021?

At the Special Synod the lay and clergy delegates will vote on the list of finalists. The vote shall be by ballot and by orders (lay and clergy). A majority of the votes cast by each order on the same ballot shall be necessary for election of any individual to the office of Bishop Coadjutor. The Secretary of the Diocese shall immediately forward the name of the Presbyter so elected to the College of Bishops of the Province for its review and approval as provided in Title III, Canon 8, Section 4 of the Provincial Canons. In the event that the elected Bishop Coadjutor is not received by the College of Bishops, the Bishop or the Diocesan Council shall promptly determine the advisability of calling another meeting of the Synod for the purpose of electing a different person for the position of Bishop Coadjutor. (Canon I.4.3.2 of the DCH Canons)

14. Who will actually cast ballots?

Clergy and lay delegates to the regular Diocesan Synod in November, 2020 will be those casting ballots at the Special Synod.

15. What about non-parochial and retired clergy?

Non-parochial and retired clergy are entitled and encouraged to vote, as long as they are in good standing as determined by the Bishop's office.

16. How will we get updates?

Check the diocesan website regularly. Updates may also be sent to clergy and delegates by email as the process unfolds.

17. Whom do I contact if I have other questions?

For any other questions, please contact Rev. Canon Ben Bowman (bbowman@adhope.org).