



**Diocese of the Central States (DCS)
Nomination & Election Process**
For Bishop Coadjutor



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The DCS process proposed for nominating candidates and electing a Bishop Coadjutor from those candidates is presented herein in outline form. The Canonical authority governing the process lies in the Constitution and Canons of both the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) and the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC). The applicable ACNA Canons (Title III, Canon 8, Sections 1-4) are less detailed than the applicable REC Canons (Canon 11, Sections 1-4). ACNA III.8.4.2 requires election conformance with Diocesan Canons, consistent with ACNA Canons. Therefore, this process is largely dictated by appropriate REC Canons, and is consistent with applicable ACNA Canons. In addition, the Guide to Election and Consecration of a Bishop, created from the process of the ACNA Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh (ADP), has been consulted and used as a skeletal tool for this process, amended where appropriate to unique aspects of DCS/REC needs.

I. Pre Announcement Steps

- A. DCS Bishop Ordinary contacts the Advisor to Archbishop for Elections for initial conversation (Done).
- B. Prepare and submit Sustainability Request (Done).
- C. DCS Bishop Ordinary meets in confidence with Standing Committee to provide overview of process and understanding of need (Done).

II. Call for an Episcopal Election (DCS Synod 10/19/2023)

- A. Call for Election issued by DCS Bishop Ordinary:
 1. Projected retirement date announced (REC Canon 11.1.(b)).
 2. Call for Election of a Bishop Coadjutor announced.
 3. Membership of Search Committee (per REC Canon 11.1.(c)) to be announced in November, 2023:
 - a. 2 Presbyters who are elected members of the DCS Standing Committee
 - b. 2 Lay elected members of the DCS Standing Committee
 - c. 2 Presbyters at large
 - d. 2 Lay at large
 4. Process and proposed schedule announced.
- B. Search Committee Pre-Commissioning Activities (Nov-Dec 2023)
 1. Draft DCS profile prepared.

2. Draft Position Description prepared, to include:
 - a. Canonical qualifications
 - b. Duties in transition period
 - c. Eventual duties as Ordinary
 - d. Education and experience requirements
 - e. Other requirements/information formulated by search committee.
3. Draft candidate questionnaires and forms prepared.

III. Commissioning and Action by the Search Committee (01/01/2024 - 03/31/2024)

- A. DCS Bishop Ordinary issues official commissioning of Search Committee.
- B. Diocesan Profile, Position Description, FAQ's, etc. published on DCS website.
- C. Search for Nominees:
 1. Search Committee receives any nominees from the DCS Bishop Ordinary via the DCS Standing Committee (REC Canon 11.1.(f).(1)).
 2. Search Committee receives any nominees from majority vote of the DCS Standing Committee (REC Canon 11.1.(f).(2)).
 3. Nominations open to Presbyters and Delegates of the Synod subject to the procedures set forth in the attached Appendix.
 4. The Search Committee shall also diligently seek other potential candidates whom it believes may possess the spiritual gifts, sound learning, and call to episcopal ministry required of a Bishop in the Church of God (REC Canon 11.1.(f).(3)).
 5. Search Committee promulgates election materials and nominating procedures to other REC Dioceses.
 6. Search Committee may directly approach selected qualified Presbyters to discuss potential candidacy.
- D. Communications:
 1. The Search Committee works under the authority of the Standing Committee (REC Canon 11.1.(c)).
 2. The Search Committee will keep the Standing Committee informed of its work via the members who are also members of the Standing Committee. (REC Canon 11.1.(d)).
 3. The Chair of the Search Committee shall also keep the Presiding Bishop and the Bishop Ordinary apprised of its ongoing work (REC Canon 11.1.(d)).
- E. Vetting of Nominees
 1. All nominees will be asked for a curriculum vitae (CV), and personal and professional references.
 2. The Committee will contact references and will conduct interviews of candidates using Zoom technology.
 3. A majority vote of the Search Committee is required for designation as a nominee.
 4. Background investigations will be commissioned by the Standing Committee for nominees submitted.

IV. Report of the Search Committee

- A. Within 90 days of commissioning (by 03/31/2024) the Search Committee will submit its report to the Standing Committee, the Bishop Ordinary, and the Presiding Bishop

(REC Canon 11.1.(e)).

B. The report will include:

1. A list of at least 3 to 4 and no more than 5 proposed nominees, if that number of candidates is available and survives vetting. In any case, at least two candidates must be submitted.
2. A summary of the vetting procedures (interviews, reference checks, Q&A sessions, etc.)
3. The names of any candidates nominated not selected for inclusion by the Search Committee, and the rationale for non-inclusion.

Appendix

Bishop Coadjutor Nominations by Synod Members January - February, 2024

Background:

The REC Canons provide for nominations from the Bishop Ordinary via the Standing Committee and from the Standing Committee by majority vote. However, the Canons are largely silent on how nominations for a Bishop may be submitted from members of the Synod. This gives the Diocese considerable leeway in promulgating its own processes for Synod nominations, provided the canons are not violated by those processes. The process for submitting nominations for DCS Bishop Coadjutor by Synod membership is promulgated herein.

The DCS Standing Committee (SC) has appointed a Search Committee per REC Canon 11.1.(c). Nominations are to be made to the Search Committee, and the Search Committee is to present a recommended slate to the Election Synod. The Search Committee role will include vetting of nominees by ascertaining fitness, ability, and willingness to serve. The Search Committee will present a slate of candidates to the Standing Committee, the DCS Bishop Ordinary, and the Presiding Bishop (REC Canon 11.1.(e)) no later than March 31, 2024. The ideal slate, per Canon 11.1.(e), would consist of at least 3 to 4, but no more than 5 nominees. If a slate of that size proves unachievable, a minimum of 2 nominees must be submitted.

Nominations will be received by the Search Committee, addressed to the Chairman, during the period of 1 January 2024 to 29 February 2024. No nominations will be received after the end of February 2024, allowing the Search Committee time for vetting and report preparation during the month of March 2024.

I. Synod Nomination Process

A. Who may nominate. Nomination of a candidate for Bishop Coadjutor may be initiated by either a Presbyter or elected Lay Delegate member of the Synod. Deacons, having no vote in the Synod, may not initiate or endorse a nomination.

B. How nominations are to be made. Nominations are to be made to the Search Committee, addressed to the Chairman of the Search Committee, who will be responsible for forwarding all nominations and supporting documentation to all members of the Search Committee. No candidate may be placed in nomination without the following endorsements:

1. Presbyters. Any Presbyter placing a name in nomination must obtain the written endorsement of at least two other Presbyters agreeing to and endorsing the nomination. Nominating and endorsing Presbyters may not be of the same parish and may not endorse multiple nominations.

2. Lay Delegates. Any Lay Delegate of the Synod, duly elected by their representative parish, may place a name in nomination, provided that such Lay Delegate obtain the written endorsement of one additional Lay Delegate and two Presbyters agreeing to and endorsing the nomination. Nominating and endorsing Lay Delegates and Presbyters may not be of the same parish and may not endorse multiple nominations. Lay Delegates for each church or mission shall be the same as recognized at the DCS Synod of October 19, 2023, unless the parish shall have elected another.

C. Who may be nominated. Candidates nominated for Bishop Coadjutor must be Bishops or Presbyters active and in good standing in the REC Diocese in which they serve. Active status means, for the purposes of these procedures, that the Bishop or Presbyter is Rector or has served as a Rector in an REC Diocese. Retired Bishops and Presbyters and those not actively serving in an REC parish may not be nominated.

D. Nominating period. The nominating period for the Bishop Coadjutor election will be from 1 January 2024 through 29 February 2024.

II. Nominations from the Election Synod Floor. There will be no call for nominations from the floor at an Election Synod, since any candidates so nominated would not have been through the vetting process of the Search Committee and presented as part of the slate prior to the Election Synod. The forgoing nomination process provides ample time for nominations by Synod members, thus eliminating any need for floor nominations and making for a more orderly and well-prepared Election Synod.