



Election of a New Bishop for the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

FAQs

1. When will a new bishop be elected?

Our new bishop will be chosen at a special synod (known as the Electoral Synod) on February 28, 2026. The date was chosen in consultation with Archbishop Anne Germond, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, who will also chair the Synod. It will take place at Christ Church Cathedral.

2. 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 our diocese and of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. These tell us that to be eligible, a candidate must:

- be at least 30 years old;
- have served as a priest for at least seven years;
- be of sound doctrine and exemplary character; and
- be a cleric in good standing in the Anglican Communion.

3. How many candidates can express interest and be part of the episcopal election?

There is no fixed limit to the number of candidates who may be nominated in an episcopal election. Any eligible priest—as defined by the Canons and Bylaws—may be nominated through the diocesan process. However, they cannot nominate themselves.

4. Does someone have to be a priest in this diocese to be a candidate?

No. A candidate does not have to be currently serving in the Diocese of Ottawa. Any eligible cleric from within the Anglican Communion can be nominated.

5. How are candidates nominated?

Candidates are nominated through the use of official nomination forms. These nomination forms will be made available on the diocesan website at a later date.

To be valid, nomination forms require at least five clergy endorsements and five lay endorsements. Those endorsing a nominee must be a voting member of the Electoral Synod (see Q.7 below), and can only endorse one nominee. Nominees must provide written consent along with the nomination form, indicating that they will permit their names to be considered for election. Nominees will also be asked to fill out portions of the form, including relevant professional, personal, and biographical information about themselves. The purpose of these details is to aid us in our discernment. The forms are then returned to the Synod Secretaries to be distributed throughout the diocese.

Nominations may be submitted on or before the First Nomination Deadline, which is January 24, 2026. In accordance with the Canons and Bylaws, nominations will continue to be accepted after this date, up until the Electoral Synod is called to order. However, persons nominated after the First Nomination Deadline will not be eligible to participate in the public meetings described below.

6. How can we learn more about the nominees?

The electoral process outlined by the Canons and Bylaws provides for several opportunities to learn about the nominees. First, nominees whose forms have been submitted by January 24, 2026 (the First Nomination Deadline) will be asked to respond in writing to a set of formal questions. These will be crafted in accordance with the guidelines set by the Bylaws, and with input from the parishes and ministries of our diocese. These questions are intended to permit the nominees to express their thoughts on a variety of topics relevant to the office of bishop, including pastoral, liturgical, sacramental, social, and operational matters. They will also allow nominees to comment on the talents and gifts they believe they will bring to the leadership of our church.

Secondly, these nominees will be invited to take part in a series of public meetings. These four meetings will take place throughout our diocese, to provide everyone an opportunity to meet them in person. Each meeting will be held in a consistent format, and will be moderated by a person endorsed by Diocesan Council for the task. Each nominee will be invited to introduce themselves and address the meeting. The moderator will also invite nominees to respond to questions, including questions suggested by audience members. These meetings will take place during the month of February, 2026. Dates and locations will be announced at a future date.



7. Who is entitled to vote in the election of the new bishop?

All lay members of the 145th Annual Synod (to be held in October 2025) are eligible to vote in the Electoral Synod, as are all active clergy in our diocese.

Under our Canons, only 10% of clergy who are retired as of August 1, 2025, will be eligible to vote in the Electoral Synod. In early Fall, the Secretaries of Synod will initiate a process for selecting retired clergy for these purposes.

Voting is conducted by orders. In other words, the votes of clergy and laity are counted separately. To be elected, a nominee must receive a majority of votes both among the clergy and among the laity. If a round of balloting does not achieve this, more rounds of balloting follow until a nominee has achieved a majority in both houses.

Again, only persons entitled to vote in the Electoral Synod are entitled to nominate candidates for the office of Bishop.

8. What if I have more questions?

The Secretaries of Synod have a central role in administering the election process, and are the primary point of contact on questions of procedure. Please direct questions to them using the contact information below. They will be able to answer your questions, or direct you to someone who can.

Office of the Synod Secretaries

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