



**PRAYERS FOR THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP  
IN THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD  
AT THE PUBLIC LITURGIES OF HOLY EUCHARIST  
AND MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER**

As the Diocese of Springfield embarks on the process of discerning God's will for the election of our next Bishop, it is certainly "meet and right" that we should immerse this process in prayer.

The following information offers suggestions as to how the congregations of our Diocese might do so in our liturgies of public worship. Two collects from the Book of Common Prayer are offered as possibilities for Morning and Evening Prayer. Then these two Collects are adapted for use at the Holy Eucharist, Rite I, in the Prayer for the whole state of Christ's Church; and then for each of the six forms of the Prayers of the People found in the Holy Eucharist, Rite II. These prayers and forms have been approved and authorized by our Bishop.

You will notice that these prayers focus on "those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese" — referring to those who will actually vote; and on the Standing Committee and the Election Committee — the two main bodies who will guide and facilitate the process. Whereas our ultimate concern is for the whole Diocese, we've chosen these two foci because of their direct part in and impact on the process.

Certainly no congregation or person is limited to these prayers. We have produced these prayers to: (1) stress the importance of beginning to pray for the election process immediately in our public worship, (2) illustrate what shape this praying might possibly take, and (3) encourage a corporate diocesan spirit as we pray.

In Morning and Evening Prayer, to be used where the rubric appears, "*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow*":

***For the Election of a Bishop***  
(BCP page 818, #13)

ALMIGHTY GOD, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

***For the Standing Committee and Election Committee***

(adapted from BCP page 818, #12)

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLIVING GOD, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in the Standing Committee and the Election Committee for the choosing of a Bishop for this Diocese. Teach them in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide them to perceive what is right, and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

1. In Holy Eucharist, Rite 1, adapted for use as petitions in the Prayer for the whole state of Christ's Church, inserted after the second Petition (BCP page 329):

***So guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.***

***Be present with those who take counsel in the Standing Committee and the Election Committee for the choosing of a Bishop for this Diocese. Teach them in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide them to perceive what is right, and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it.***

2. In Holy Eucharist, Rite 2, adapted for use according to each of the six forms of the Prayers of the People:

- FORM I (after the Petition, "For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people..."):

***For those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese, let us pray to the Lord.***

***For the work of the Standing Committee and the Election Committee, let us pray to the Lord.***

- FORM II (after first Petition):

***I ask your prayers for those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese; and for the work of the Standing Committee and the Election Committee.  
Pray for the Diocese.***

- FORM III (after the Petition, "We pray for all bishops..."):

***So guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese;  
That we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.***

***Be present with the Standing Committee and the Election Committee;  
That they may seek first your honor and glory.***

- FORM IV (after first Petition):

***So guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.***

*(Silence)*

***Lord, in your mercy***

*Hear our prayer.*

***Be present with those who take counsel in the Standing Committee and the Election Committee for the choosing of a Bishop for this Diocese, that they may in all things seek first your honor and glory.***

*(Silence)*

***Lord, in your mercy***

*Hear our prayer.*

- FORM V (after second Petition, “For our Presiding Bishop...”):

***For those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, we pray to you, O Lord.***

***For those who take counsel in the Standing Committee and the Election Committee, that they may in all things seek first your honor and glory, we pray to you, O Lord.***

- FORM VI (after sixth Petition, “For our Presiding Bishop...”):

***For the election of a Bishop in the Diocese of Springfield;***

***For those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese; and for the work of the Standing Committee and the Election Committee.***