

## **THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) ABOUT THE NOMINATING SYNOD**

#### **1. What is the Nominating Synod?**

The Nominating Synod is a special synod called for the purpose of selecting Nominees for the Office of Bishop of Springfield.

#### **2. When is the Nominating Synod?**

The Nominating Synod will be held on Saturday, August 7, 2010. On the eve of the Nominating Synod, Friday, August 6, being the Feast of the Transfiguration, the Standing Committee has invited the Diocesan Family to a Day of Prayer for the Nomination Synod and the Nominees.

#### **3. Where will the Nominating Synod be held?**

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield, Illinois. The street address of the Cathedral is 815 South Second Street.

#### **4. Who are entitled to vote at the Nominating and Electing Synods?**

With regards to the Clergy, he or she “shall have been for at least six months immediately preceding the election personally and canonically resident in this Diocese, and during that time entitled to a seat in the Synod” (Article XV. Section 3 - “**Election of a Bishop,**” of the Canons of the Diocese of Springfield). This would include both active and retired clergy.

Lay Delegates must be at least eighteen years of age and communicants in good standing, as defined in the Canons of this Diocese, who have been confirmed by a Bishop of this Church, or who have been received into this Church as having been properly confirmed. Lay Delegates shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of each Parish and Mission” (Article V. Section 3 - “**Members of the Synod**” of the Canons of the Diocese of Springfield).

#### **5. Will Alternate Delegates be allowed to participate in the Nominating Synod?**

Alternate Delegates may attend the Synod and sit in the reserved seating for guests but they will not be allowed on the Floor of the Synod unless a Delegate is unable to represent their particular church. In that case an Alternate Delegate will take the Delegate’s place and become the new Delegate of his or her church. Any changes in Delegate information should be forwarded to the Diocesan Administrator as soon as possible.

#### **6. Who will be allowed on the Floor of the Nominating Synod?**

Clerical and Lay Delegates eligible to vote will be allowed on the Floor of the Synod. There will be other officers of the Diocese like the Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor, Diocesan Administrator, Tellers, who will also be allowed on the Floor of the Synod but will not be entitled to vote.

**7. How is the final list of the Nominees chosen?**

The final list of Nominees will be chosen at the Nominating Synod by the Clerical and Lay Delegates. Each Nominee must receive a simple majority in a single ballot of the House of Clergy (Clerical Delegates) and the House of Laity (Lay Delegates).

**8. Will Nominees be eliminated before the Nominating Synod?**

Nominees will only be eliminated from the Nominating Synod if their background checks reveal any “red flags.”

**9. How many Nominees are they for the Nominating Synod?**

Fourteen (14)

**10. How were the Nominees chosen?**

The criterion for nomination was a bishop or priest in good standing in any province of the Anglican Communion. For a nomination to be valid, each Nominee required one clerical and one lay nominator. Nominators needed the permission of the person they were nominating.

**11. How can we find out about the Nominees?**

The Delegates shall have in their possession a booklet that has information on the Nominees so as to prepare them for the Nominating Synod. The information can also be viewed online on the Diocesan web site.

**12. How many Nominees will be chosen for the final list?**

The Standing Committee unanimously agreed to four (4) persons to be on the final list of Nominees for Bishop of Springfield

**13. What will be the format of the Nominating Synod?**

The format of the Nominating Synod begins with Registration will follow the special Order of Procedure and Rules of Order that have been circulated to the Clerical and Lay Delegates of the Synod.

**14. How is our Election process different from other processes used in the dioceses of the Episcopal Church?**

A substantial majority of the dioceses in the Episcopal Church appoint a Nominating or Episcopal Committee who is responsible for selecting the final list of nominees. This Committee may comprise between twelve to twenty persons.

In our Diocese, we are using a similar process to the one used in 1991 when we elected the Tenth Bishop of Springfield. This procedure gives a larger group of people (130 individuals instead of 15 or 20) who are the Clerical and Lay Delegates of our Synod the responsibility of choosing the final list of nominees as well as being a part of the process. It also allows the opportunity for more openness and a greater cross-section of the Diocese to be represented. It is for these reasons that we chose this particular process.

### **15. What happens after the Nominating Synod?**

The next major event of the Election process will be the visits of the four Nominees (the final list) to the Diocese, commonly called “The Walkabouts.” These will take place from August 31 to September 2, 2010. This will be a time of prayer and discernment for both the people of the Diocese and for the Nominees and their spouses. It is also an opportunity for the people of the Diocese to hear the Nominees respond to questions that may be pertinent to the Diocesan Family. More information concerning the schedule and format of the Walkabouts will be available very shortly. After the Walkabouts the Electing Synod will take place on September 18, 2010 and the Consecration of the next Bishop of Springfield in March next year.