

S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot.

S9.04.01. The procedure to elect a bishop shall be as follows. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the four persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fifth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the fourth ballot, and a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The sixth ballot shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot, and a majority of the legal votes cast shall constitute an election.

S9.04.02 Prior to each Synod Assembly at which an election of a bishop is to be held, the Synod Council shall appoint a task force which shall solicit names of potential nominees for bishop from members and congregations of this synod.

1. Persons whose names are submitted shall be requested to supply biographical information on a form provided by the task force or be allowed to have their names removed from this process.
2. The biographical information forms shall be collated by the task force in random order, duplicated and distributed without comment to the Synod Assembly voting members at least 30 days prior to the meeting of the Assembly at which the election is to take place.
3. The first ballot in the election shall not be limited to the names included in this process. Voting members to the Synod Assembly who intend to vote on the first ballot for a candidate who has not been included in this process may, on the first day of the Assembly, submit to the task force a completed copy of the approved biographical information form for duplication and distribution to the voting members prior to the second ballot.

S9.04.03 Other means of organized advocacy or of circulating information about potential nominees for the office of bishop before or during the Synod Assembly shall not be permitted.