

**EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA
SPECIAL CONVENTION FOR THE ELECTION OF THE BISHOP COADJUTOR
SNELL/McCARTY YOUTH PAVILION, CAMP WEED
November 19, 2022**

SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER

I. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Holy Scriptures – As an indication of the humble dependence upon the Word and Spirit of God, and following the example of primitive Councils and the tradition of this Diocese, a copy of the Holy Scriptures shall always be reverently placed in view at the meeting of this Special Convention. This rule is to be carried into effect under the supervision of the Bishop and the Secretary of this Special Convention. This Special Convention shall be opened with prayer and prayer shall precede each ballot.

II. COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

The President having taken the Chair of Convention, the Chair of Credentials shall present a report certifying a quorum is present for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor and shall determine and report that a quorum is present before each ballot.

- A. **Quorum** – A quorum is required for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor and shall be defined as two-thirds of all clergy entitled to vote and two-thirds of all lay delegates entitled to be voting members of the Diocesan Convention. (Articles of Reincorporation, Article VII, Section 4)

III. DELEGATE COMPOSITION

Composition and eligibility of delegates having seat, voice and vote in the Special Convention shall be defined in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Florida, Canon 1, Section 3.

- A. **Clergy eligibility** – All canonically resident clergy of the Diocese of Florida in good standing who are duly registered for the Special Convention shall have seat, voice and are eligible to vote in the Special Convention. [Canons of the Diocese of Florida, Canon 1.3.a]
- B. **Lay eligibility** – Congregational lay delegates selected by member parishes to serve at the 180th Diocesan Convention (2023) shall have seat, voice and are eligible to vote in the Special Convention. [Canons of the Diocese of Florida, Canon 1.3.b, Canon 2.4 and Canon 2.5]

IV. ON THE CONVENTION FLOOR

- A. Only registered delegates to the Special Convention may be present on the Special Convention floor during the business of Special Convention. Those individuals responsible for a specific task, pre-appointed by the Bishop and/or Standing Committee, may also be present on the floor and will be identified by their name badges and a description of their respective duty. All Delegates will be identified by their name badges, which should be always easily visible. Guests will not be allowed on the floor of Convention, except by prior permission of the Standing Committee.
- B. No election materials other than the official brochure are permitted on the Special Convention Floor; this includes, but is not limited to, any materials or decorations encouraging the election of a specific candidate.
- C. Mobile Phones should either be in the “Off” position or in the “Airplane Mode” position while any official Convention business is being conducted.

V. AGENDA

The Agenda for the Special Convention shall be presented to Convention by the President of the Standing Committee and adopted by a simple majority vote of the delegates present.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. The Bishop will call the Special Convention to order, and, per National Canon III.11.9.2, shall read to the Convention the Bishop’s written consent to the election, stating the duties to be assigned to the Bishop Coadjutor when ordained.
- B. The Credentials Chair will state whether a quorum is present.
- C. The Special Rules for the Special Convention will be motioned for approval.
- D. Once the Special Rules of Order for the Special Convention have been approved and adopted by simple majority, the slate of Nominees will be presented to the Special Convention by the President of the Standing Committee.
 - 1. The Diocesan Articles of Reincorporation call for the election to be held by orders “after nominations have been made in open Convention.” Therefore, the Chancellor will allow for nominations from the floor.
 - 2. After presenting the slate of candidates, the President of the Standing Committee will call for nominations from the floor.
 - 3. Any presbyter who wishes to accept a nomination from the floor must be determined by the Chancellor, Secretary of Convention, and Chair of Credentials to be qualified and in good standing; additionally, he/she must disclose privately to the Chancellor if there has been a history of substance abuse, and, if so, provide assurance that there have been at least 10 years of continuous sobriety; and must be willing if elected

submit to a background check, a full physical, and a psychological or psychiatric exam administered by a qualified Psychologist or Psychiatrist to determine fitness for the office of Bishop Coadjutor.

- E. Prior to each ballot, the Chair of Credentials will inform the Special Convention that a quorum is present and the balloting will commence.
- F. If an election has not been achieved by 6:00 P.M., the President shall determine, by 2/3 vote of the Special Convention, whether to continue the vote, reconvene the Special Convention at a date and time to be determined, or to cancel the election and begin the nomination process again.

VII. **OTHER BUSINESS**

According to Diocesan Canon 1, Section 2 (b), “no other business [besides the stated reason for meeting in Special Convention, in this case, for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor] shall be considered except upon a three-fourths vote of the members in attendance at such meeting.”

VIII. **BALLOTING**

- A. Balloting for the election of the Bishop Coadjutor will be conducted by orders, and by pen and paper on secret paper ballots.
- B. Ballots will list the candidates in alphabetical order by surname. Any nominees from the floor will be written in by each delegate.
- C. Each delegate will be issued a name badge. Clergy delegates will be issued one color name badge and lay delegates will be issued another color name badge to facilitate the issuance of ballots to the delegates. Ballots issued to delegates will not be replaced if lost.
- D. Upon the completion of each ballot, the Secretary of the Special Convention will advise each candidate of the results of the ballot.
- E. Withdrawal of Nomination. After each ballot, a candidate may choose to withdraw his/her name from consideration. No candidate's name shall be removed from the election process except as provided herein.
- F. Any candidate choosing to remove his/her name for consideration must submit to the President of the Standing Committee, in writing or electronically, his/her election to remove their name from the election process.
- G. Results of each ballot will be announced to the delegates by the President of the Special Convention. If any candidate has chosen to withdraw his/her name from consideration, the President of the Special Convention shall so advise the delegates and that candidate's name shall be removed from the balloting process.
- H. When an election is achieved, the Bishop will inform the Bishop Coadjutor-Elect, will receive his/her acceptance, and will announce his/her acceptance to the Special Convention.
- I. Before leaving the Youth Pavilion, voting delegates must sign the canonical testimonial regarding the election of the Bishop-Coadjutor.

IX. ELECTION

Election of the Bishop Coadjutor will occur when a concurrent majority vote for a single candidate occurs on both lay and clergy orders on the same ballot. The President of the Standing Committee will inform the Bishop of the election and the Bishop will inform the Special Convention that a Bishop Coadjutor has been elected, subject to the acceptance of the candidate.

X. APPLICATION OF SPECIAL RULES

- A. These Special Rules of Order shall govern and apply to the Special Electing Convention (Special Convention) for the Election of the Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Florida, November 19, 2022. Where these Special Rules of Order are silent as to a particular procedure, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern.
- B. These Special Rules of Order shall govern and be applicable throughout the Special Convention, unless an amendment is submitted by a Special Convention delegate and approved by two-thirds of the present voting delegates in both the clergy and lay orders concurrently.
- C. Should any unforeseen circumstances arise that need special attention, the Standing Committee and Bishop will have the authority to address the issues.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Chancellor shall adjourn the Special Convention.