

Resolved, that in keeping with Canon III.11.1(a) of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, Canon 29 of the Canons of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Florida (the “Canons of the Diocese of Florida”), and Article VII of the Articles of Reincorporation of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Florida, Inc., the Convention adopts the following Special Rules for the Election of the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese:

1. **Location, Time, and Business of the Bishop Election.** The Election of the Ninth Bishop of Florida will take place as scheduled on the agenda of the annual Convention of the Diocese of Florida which will convene at Camp Weed and the Cervený Conference Center, Live Oak, Florida, on September 11, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Participation by Communication Means.** In keeping with Section 2 (e) of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida, delegates eligible to vote at the Bishop Election may participate in and vote at such convention through the use of any means of communication (including telephonic or electronic means then generally recognized, such as Zoom or Teams) by which all delegates participating may simultaneously hear each other during any such meeting. A delegate participating in any such meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person.
3. **Lay Delegates eligible to vote at the Bishop Election.** Lay delegates eligible to vote at the Bishop Election and their alternates will be those duly elected according to the Canons of the Diocese of Florida and the bylaws of the electing congregations.

Any congregation electing new delegates or alternates after the last Annual Convention prior to the Bishop Election must report to the diocese the names of their new delegates and alternates (along with the names of any continuing delegates and alternates) as required by diocesan annual reporting requirements. Up to the calling to order of the Convention at which the Bishop Election will occur, clerics in charge of congregations may replace any absent delegate with a duly elected alternate by submitting the change via email or hand delivery to the Secretary of the Convention. If there is no cleric in charge of a congregation, a warden, secretary, or clerk of the congregation may petition the Ecclesiastical Authority, up to the calling to order of the Convention at which the Bishop Election will occur, to replace any absent delegate with a duly elected alternate by submitting the petition via email to the Secretary of the Convention. The Committee on Credentials must certify the replacement before any alternate is registered, seated, and eligible to vote as a delegate.

4. **Clergy eligible to vote at the Bishop Election.** In keeping with Canon 1 Section 3(a) of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Florida, the following clergy shall have seat, voice and vote at the Bishop Election:

(1) All Clergy in good standing having cure in the Diocese as defined in Canon 1, Section 4 of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida.

In keeping with Canon 1 Section 5 of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida, the Diocese shall maintain lists of clergy who are canonically resident and clergy who have cure and shall publish such lists at least thirty (30) days prior to the Bishop Election; and

(2) Clergy in good standing and canonically resident in the Diocese who would not otherwise qualify as clergy delegates under subsection (a)(1) above because they do not have cure in the Diocese may register as clergy delegates with the diocesan office at least 60 days in advance of the Bishop Election.

(3) No later than 45 days prior to Diocesan Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall provide notice directly to any canonically resident clergy without cure who have registered but whose registration will not be accepted and shall publish a notice to the Diocese of the same; any such notice shall be accompanied by the justification for such determination. Such determination shall be final and unappealable upon the publication of a notice by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

5. **Quorum.** In keeping with Article VII, Section 4 of the Articles of Reincorporation, a quorum for the Bishop Election to elect a bishop shall be one half of the Clergy entitled to vote, and one half of all lay delegates entitled to be members of Diocesan Convention. The Committee on Credentials will certify the presence of a quorum at the opening of the Bishop Election.

6. **Search and Nominations.** A Bishop Search Committee shall be appointed and charged by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee shall solicit nominations for the Search Committee from the members of the diocese.

Nominations for election as Bishop Diocesan will be made by the Bishop Search Committee, which will nominate the candidates identified by the search process and approved by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee will nominate any candidates identified by the petition process who are qualified under the standards established by the Bishop Search Committee and approved by the Standing Committee. Nominations will then be closed. Nominations from the floor will not be in order.

7. **Ballot Preparation.** In keeping with Article VII, Section 4 of the Articles of Reincorporation, the election shall be made by secret ballot. The Standing Committee will prepare the ballot, combining nominees submitted by the Diocese's Search Committee and nominees by petition presented together as the slate of nominees as of the date of the election. The order of names on the ballot will be randomized without distinguishing between Search Committee nominees and petition nominees.
8. **Election Requirements.** Each vote will be taken by orders, clergy and lay, and in keeping with Article VII, Section 4 of the Articles of Reincorporation, the election will require a concurrent majority of those present and voting in each order. The Committee on Credentials will report the number of members present in each order before the first ballot.
9. **Voting Process.** The election of the bishop will be conducted by electronic ballot and will conform to the Canons of the Diocese of Florida. The Secretary of the Convention will prepare paper ballots as a backup in the event the electronic ballot system fails at any time during the Convention. At the conclusion of each vote, if there is no election, the Convention will receive new ballots and vote again until the Convention elects or adjourns under these rules.
10. **Procedure for Certification of Votes.** The Standing Committee will establish procedures for certifying the outcome of each vote and will supervise the counting and certification as necessary. The President of the Standing Committee will report the certified results of each vote to the Secretary of the Convention.
11. **Nominee Withdrawal.** Except as provided in these rules, all nominees will remain on the ballot for each vote. A nominee may withdraw at any time. A withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the President of the Standing Committee, either in person or by email. Once a nominee has withdrawn, that name may not be reentered on the ballot.
12. **Extension of the Bishop Election.** If the Diocesan Convention does not elect a Bishop Diocesan by the end of the day on Friday, September 11, 2026, the Convention will recess until the following day, on which the Bishop Election will continue.
13. **Failure to Elect.** If the Bishop Election does not elect a Bishop Diocesan by the end of day on September 12, 2026, and unless the Convention, by a two-thirds vote, sets another date and time to continue the election, the Convention will adjourn *sine die*, and there will be no election.

14. **Signing the Attestation of a Due and Lawful Election.** Immediately following the final ballot, and provided that a Bishop is elected, while the Bishop Election remains in session, the President of the Convention will arrange to cause the execution of a testimonial in the required form by a constitutional majority of the Convention attesting to the due and lawful election of the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Florida.

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