

# The Petition Process for The Election of the XI Bishop of Newark

## **Resolution Setting Forth the Petition Process for the Election of the Eleventh Bishop Diocesan**

*The following Resolution is based upon and modified from similar resolutions adopted in the Diocese of Easton and the Diocese of West North Carolina.*

RESOLVED, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Newark hereby establishes and adopts the following Petition Process for the election of the XI Bishop Diocesan in this Diocese:

### **PURPOSE OF THE PETITION PROCESS**

*“Speak, lord, for your servant is listening.” 1 Samuel 3:10.*

The Canons of the Episcopal Church provide for an election process in which laity and clergy join with the Holy Spirit to raise up new episcopal leadership. No one person or group knows whom God will use, the people consenting, to lead this Diocese. Rather, the invitation to leadership is a process of discerning a call.

The principal method for calling candidates for election in this Diocese is the discernment work carried out by the Search/Nominating Committee. This Committee, comprised of a diverse and robust group of lay persons and clergy, has been appointed to carry out the important task of forming a slate of three to five candidates for election to serve as Bishop Diocesan.

The Petition Process, by contrast, is intended to address the narrow circumstance when a person called to candidacy has not been vetted in the Search/Nominating Committee process or was not identified by the Search/Nominating Committee as one of the final candidates. There could be several reasons why a candidate did not become a discerned or final candidate but, instead, has a call through the Petition Process. We trust, though, that the Search/Nominating Committee process will be the primary process through which most of the candidates participating in the election will be brought forward and ultimately selected as finalists.

The Petition Process essentially is a structured opportunity for candidates to be “nominated from the floor,” providing enough time to have each nominee go through personal background checks as required by the diocese and Episcopal Church. The various requirements of this search do not allow for the former practice of nomination from the floor during the actual electing convention to be permitted.

## **WHO CAN BE NOMINATED BY THE PETITION PROCESS?**

All Bishops and Priests in good standing within the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America (The Episcopal Church), can be nominated by this Petition Process.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR PETITION PROCESS CANDIDATES**

The Standing Committee has developed the forms and established the requirements for the Petition Process in this Diocese. A copy of the Petition application and Consent form is attached as Appendix A.

The slate of candidates identified by the Search/Nominating Committee for the position of Bishop of the Diocese will be announced by the Standing Committee on the Diocesan website no sooner than March 5, 2018. The Petition Period will commence on Monday, March 5, 2018 and remain open for ten (10) days, closing at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Thursday, March 15, 2018. Petitions must be supported by sixteen (16) nominators: eight (8) clergy canonically resident in the Diocese of Newark (no more than four (4) of whom may be retired clergy) and eight (8) lay communicants in good standing in the Diocese of Newark for a total of sixteen (16) required signatures. Nominators must represent at least four (4) different congregations (parishes or active missions) situated in at least three (3) different districts within the Diocese. No nominee or nominator may be a member of the Standing Committee, the Search/Nominating Committee, or the Transition Committee.

In order for a Petition candidate to be accepted by the Standing Committee, the candidate must submit the same information required of candidates discerned through the nominating process and consent to nomination in writing. These materials will be used to supplement background checks and to develop published information for candidates on the ballot. The following must be submitted electronically at the time the Petition is submitted:

- Completed Petition Nomination Form (available online beginning March 5)
- Completed Consent to Nomination Form (will be sent electronically to each nominee)
- A cover letter outlining why you believe yourself to be called through the Petition Process into discernment (max 250 words)
- A completed copy of the Application Form (including responses to the essay questions)
- A current resume or CV
- Three (3) letters of recommendation (minimum of 1 from clergy and 1 from a lay member)
- An updated OTM profile
- A current photograph
- Autobiographical statement (max. 500 words)

The foregoing forms and requirements must be received electronically at [petitions@dioceseofnewark.org](mailto:petitions@dioceseofnewark.org) no later than 5 PM Thursday, March 15, 2018. If any of these documents are received after 5:00 p.m. EDT on Thursday, March 15, 2018, the nomination will be void and rejected by the Standing Committee.

## **Expectations of Petition Candidate**

Persons nominated by Petition must successfully complete the same background check required of Search/Nominating Committee candidates. The names of persons nominated by Petition will remain confidential until the individual's candidacy is approved by the Standing Committee. At that time, Petition candidates will be asked to respond to three additional questions that will be published along with similar responses from the candidates raised up by the Search/Nominating Committee. Petition candidates will be introduced to the diocese in the same way as the other candidates, using the Diocesan website. All candidates will participate in the pre-election processes, including the "walkabouts" arranged by the Transition Committee.

## **Where can the Petition Application be located?**

The Application Form described in this resolution may be found on the Petition section of the Bishop Search Page of the Diocese of Newark beginning March 5, 2018..

## **Adopted by the Standing Committee as amended on February 12, 2018.**

The Rev. Mary E. Davis  
Mr. John Garde, Esq.  
The Rev. Joseph A. Harmon  
Ms. Patrice Henderson  
Ms. Naomi Horsky  
The Rev. Deacon Christine McCloud  
The Rev. John Mennell  
Ms. Wendy Drake-Schneider

## **Background**

The Diocese of Newark is conducting a discernment process to elect a new Bishop Diocesan. The Episcopal transition process occurs under the supervision and jurisdiction of the Standing Committee of the Diocese. A Search/Nominating Committee and a Transition Committee have been established by the Standing Committee to which specific responsibilities associated with the nomination/search process and the election/transition process, respectively, have been delegated.

Among other responsibilities, the Standing Committee of the Diocese is responsible for one important aspect of the election of the new Bishop Diocesan—the "Petition Process"—for which the Standing Committee retains exclusive jurisdiction.

By this resolution, the Standing Committee hereby establishes the procedures by which nominations may be submitted by means of the Petition Process in the Diocese of Newark.

## **A SUMMARY OF THE PETITION PROCESS**

The Petition Process opens Monday, March 5, 2018 (Search/Nominating candidates announced March 5, 2018) and will close at 5 PM (EDT) March 15, 2018.

All nominations must be made online through the Diocesan website. Individuals nominated by petition must satisfy the following requirements:

Must be nominated by 8 active and canonically resident clergy in good standing in the Diocese of Newark, no more than four of whom may be retired or non-parochial clergy;

Must be nominated by 8 lay communicants in good standing in congregations within the Diocese of Newark;

These 16 nominators must represent at least 4 different congregations situated in at least 3 different Districts within the Diocese of Newark.

Must undergo background check;

Persons nominated by Petition must submit the following application materials:

- Completed Petition Nomination Form
- Completed Consent to Nomination Form
- a cover letter outlining why you believe yourself to be called through the Petition Process into discernment (max 250 words)
- a completed copy of the Application Form (including responses to the essay questions)
- a current resume or CV
- 3 letters of recommendation (minimum of 1 from clergy and 1 from a lay member)
- an updated OTM profile
- A current photograph that may be submitted for publication
- Autobiographical statement (max. 500 words)

## **Summary of Steps in the Petition Process**

1. An individual desiring to submit a nomination by Petition completes and electronically submits the Petition Nomination Form no later than 5 PM Thursday, March 15, 2018. The Petition Nomination Form will be available on the Bishop Search section of the Diocesan website beginning March 5, 2018.
2. Upon receipt of the Nomination Form, the Standing Committee will request verification from each nominator that he/she supports the nomination.
3. Nominees must complete and electronically send the following documents no later than 5 PM on Thursday, March 15, 2018:
  - a. Cover Letter
  - b. Completed Petition Application, including responses to essay questions
  - c. Current resume or CV
  - d. 3 letters of recommendation (minimum of 1 from clergy and 1 from a lay member)
  - e. Current updated OTM profile
  - f. A current photograph
  - g. Autobiographical statement (max. 500 words)

The Standing committee will announce the names of nominees approved as candidates upon the successful completion of all Petition nominee background checks.