

Official Notice

An Election for a diocesan bishop for the Diocese of Western Newfoundland will be held on **April 25, 2026**. This article is the official call for nominations. Throughout this document, you will find a brief description of the roles of a Bishop, the canonical requirements and a summary of the process which will unfold over the next three months as the diocese enters into this procedure. It is very important to be aware that our Diocesan constitution directs us to use the Canons of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada with regard to the election of a Bishop.

Canon 11-2 “The Electoral Synod, subject to the Constitutions, Canons and Rules of Order of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada respecting the election of a bishop, shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 3 of Canon 1.”

Accordingly, Canon 3 of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada will be the governing document for the process of this election.

The Roles of a bishop

The Rite of Ordination as a Bishop identifies five areas of responsibility.

- Apostolic Proclamation
- Pastoral Care
- Oversight
- Governance
- Linkage/Representation

The first function of a bishop is to teach, preach and interpret the faith in the parishes and in the wider community. Thus, the bishop must be an effective communicator with a deep faith in Jesus Christ. The bishop must be able to live the faith authentically, appreciating the diversity of traditions within the diocese, within the Canadian Church and among the Anglican Communion.

The bishop is a pastor, caring for the clergy, discerning leadership gifts of others so that the church is built up through a strong sacramental life, through the ministry of the Word, visitation, the empowering of the baptized so that clergy and the parishes they serve function effectively, proclaiming in word and service the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The bishop is an overseer. He or she, in consultation with diocesan leadership, frames the missional strategy for the diocese. The bishop must hold an overview of the needs and opportunities in all of the areas in the diocese while providing the necessary unifying presence and discipline needed to move the diocesan vision forward.

The bishop is called to share with fellow bishops in the governance of the whole church. While elected to be the bishop of our diocese he or she will be elected as a bishop for the whole church and must possess the knowledge or have an openness to develop a breadth of knowledge and a concern for the whole church in its full diversity.

The bishop is a link and a representative. The bishop links parishes to one another and to the diocese. He or she links and represents the diocese to the wider church as well as the diocese to the wider world. The Archbishop of Canterbury remarked that the bishop's role is to interpret the "strangeness of one community to the strangeness of the next community". To do that in a helpful, Spirit focused way is an increasingly important role of the bishop. The bishop becomes the face of the diocese within the diocese, within the wider church and within the secular community.

The office of bishop is not advancement, not promotion but a continuation of baptismal call. It is a call to a vocation of service not pre-eminence. Above all an episcopal election is not a political convention, but a prayerful gathering of the diocesan family to discern whom God has chosen to be the next bishop in the church.

Please pray for those who will test their call to this vocation and for us as a diocesan family, as we affirm that call.

**Based closely on "The roles of a bishop" by Archbishop Colin Johnson, Diocese of Toronto December 11, 2012*

Requirements*

In accordance with Canon three of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, the canonical requirements of a bishop are as follows:

Any Priest or Bishop of The Anglican Church of Canada or of a church in full communion therewith who is at least 30 years of age (Canon 3-2) and no more than 69 years of age (Canon 3-6.2) who is in good standing.

Qualities we also hope for:

- A pastoral heart. Someone who will lead the whole diocese first and foremost as a pastor.
- The willingness and ability to perform all aspects of the roles and responsibilities of a Bishop
- A collaborative leadership style.
- Someone who will work to engage people from the unconditional love at the heart of the Gospel.
- Someone who will promote and foster an atmosphere of welcome and acceptance for all people, especially promoting outreach to people of different ways of living, different languages cultures, and heritages, with specific intent towards the First Nations of our area. And looks to engage the LGBTQ+ community.

Nomination Process

The Search committee is seeking from the members of Synod and the House of Bishops of the Ecclesiastical province of Canada, written proposals of any persons which shall be considered for nomination. (Canon 3-12(1))

12.(1) When a diocesan bishop or a coadjutor bishop is to be elected, or where a suffragan bishop is to be elected pursuant to subsection 9(3), the Search Committee shall prepare for the approval of the Council, a written description of the general qualifications and requirements for the position to be filled and any specific qualities that the Search Committee considers to be

desirable in the person who will fill the position; receive in writing from members of the diocesan synod and from members of the House of Bishops of the Province the names of any persons proposed by them as nominees for election together with information as to the clerical position or office, address and telephone number of each person so proposed and a statement that the person has consented to be proposed; determine which of the persons proposed pursuant to clause (b) in the opinion of the Committee meet the canonical requirements for election, and the qualifications, requirements and qualities determined pursuant to clause (a); inform the proposer of any person proposed whom the Committee does not intend to nominate for election, of that fact; determine the names of other persons who in the opinion of the Committee meet the canonical requirements for election, and the qualifications, requirements and qualities determined pursuant to clause (a); enquire of the persons identified pursuant to clauses (c) and (e) whether they consent to being nominated for election, and obtain from those who do consent written confirmation of such consent; prepare a list, arranged alphabetically by surname, of the persons identified pursuant to clauses (c) and (e) who have consented to being nominated; obtain from proposers, from persons to be nominated, or otherwise the information required for communication to the members of the electoral synod; prepare appropriate information about each person to be nominated for communication to the members of the electoral synod in such a manner that as a minimum there is a brief curriculum vitae for each person to be nominated, the information is communicated in a standard format and reproduced in a uniform quality, and the identity of the person or persons who proposed any person for nomination under this section or under section 15 is not communicated to the members of the electoral synod; and present its report to the electoral synod and nominate the persons listed pursuant to clause (g).

These proposed names shall be received by the secretary of the Search Committee, **Rhonda Green**, (see contact information below) no later than **March 6th, 2026**. The proposals shall include consent from the proposed person, as well as information regarding the clerical position

or office, address and telephone number of each person so proposed. Only proposals from any **2 eligible** members of the synod or house of bishops will be considered.

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After receiving these names, the Search committee will then make sure that all proposed persons meet the canonical requirements. The proposer of any person proposed whom the committee does not intend to nominate for election, shall be informed of that fact. As well, the committee will seek the consent for nomination from those they determine who have met the requirements.

At least two weeks prior to synod, a list will be provided to the members of the electoral synod of the names of nominees, their CV and other material that will be prepared.