

Note of Clarification from Diocesan Council

Diocesan Council recently met and reviewed the report of the Search Committee.

The Diocesan Council wants to assure members of Synod that the current Electoral Synod under the existing Canon 1 has been organized, and the slate of nominees has been submitted, meeting the requirements laid out in Canon 1 and Safe Church Policy requirements.

Both the Diocesan Canons and Provincial Canons have been followed, maintaining the integrity of the electoral process based on the process that we have in place.

The Metropolitan, Synod administration, the Provincial Chancellor, the Diocesan Chancellor and Council have been following the process and continue to ensure that the Electoral Synod follows the requirements set out by our Diocesan Synod and the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada. We have made Canon 1 available for members of Synod's reference.

The role of the Search Committee is not to endorse any candidates, but rather to confirm that they have been vetted and that the candidates meet all requirements, which the Search Committee has done.

We wish to thank the Search Committee for its commitment, diligence, and hard work. They have put every effort into seeing that they have fulfilled their mandate. They have had to be the ears and interpreters of this diocese, to be able to put forward a collective understanding of what we are looking for and requiring of a new bishop.

This is the first time that the diocese has used Canon 1 since its revision following the last episcopal election. Diocesan Council intends to review the electoral process immediately following the election to better understand how the process under the revisions of Canon 1 was exercised, the challenges the Search Committee faced, identify gaps in both process and policy, areas of concern, what needs the Search committee encountered, and make the necessary changes.

Through their report, the Search Committee has already indicated key areas that will be prioritized. Diocesan Council appreciates this response from Search Committee members, and so will be inviting members to meet to discuss future improvements to the process as well as the Canon. As the world thrives on division and keeping people apart, it is imperative to keep communication open, and we can be an example of how to work through difficulties.

As 1 Corinthians 12: 24-28 says:

“God has put the body together so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

This is meant to be an exciting time. A time to learn and explore. This is also a time to share –share our expectations and concerns but more importantly, share our hopes and dreams for this new chapter. The Diocesan Council encourages the members of Synod to continue to pray and to support one another as you make a decision and discern the call of the Spirit.