

Bishop Election Committee Responsibilities 2024 Assembly--Rocky Mountain Synod

- The Bishop Election Committee shall be composed of 7 people (including the Chair), both lay persons and rostered leaders appointed by the Rocky Mountain Synod Council. No member of the Committee may be a Minister of Word and Sacrament who is likely to be nominated for bishop.
- The task of the Committee is to assure that a fair and competent election is held for a new Rocky Mountain Synod bishop.
- Prior to the election and during the 2024 Synod Assembly, the Committee will expect, pray for, and advocate for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- The Committee, with conference deans and staff, will be responsible for scheduling and helping to organize conference gatherings in the months prior to the 2024 Synod Assembly. The agenda for these gatherings will be outlined by the Committee, using existing templates from the ELCA and other synods. Discussion questions particular to the Rocky Mountain Synod will also be included.
- The Committee, with synod staff, will also seek the input of rostered leaders at the Synod Theological Conference and in other venues as appropriate.
- The Committee will seek autobiographical information and provide a questionnaire for interested candidates to complete prior to the 2024 Synod Assembly. Templates from the ELCA for these forms may be used, along with questions for candidates that are specific to the Rocky Mountain Synod.
- During the 2024 Assembly, Committee members will be present and available to oversee the election process and assist in tasks required to complete the election.
- The Ecclesiastical Ballot will be used at the Synod Assembly, meaning that the first ballot is the Nominating Ballot. The Committee has the responsibility of developing a process to make sure that those nominated have the opportunity to withdraw their nomination following the first ballot and which nominees would like to continue in the election process. This will include contacting any nominees who are not present. A form for those wishing to withdraw will be provided by the Committee following the announcement of the Ecclesiastical Ballot results.
- The Committee will assure that all candidates who wish to go forward following the second ballot agree to complete a background check and submit their autobiographical forms to be disseminated to the Assembly prior to the third ballot.
- The Committee will assure that all autobiographical information and questionnaires are carefully reviewed and questions regarding content answered before they are distributed to the Synod Assembly. Although speed is always important, fairness requires that the information provided from nominees be comparable and not argumentative and that it be distributed at the same time.
- The Election Committee will outline ground rules, time allowed, and moderate any presentations by candidates to the Synod Assembly. If a Question-and-Answer period with candidates is part of the agenda, the Committee will prepare questions in advance and may solicit questions from the Assembly in advance.