

January 28, 2024

Dear Clergy and Wardens,

At the Diocesan Synod held in November 2015, a significant change was made in the way Synod delegates are elected. This document outlines the manner in which voting will take place across the diocese for LAY DELEGATES. A diocesan Synod is scheduled for October 31-Nov. 3, 2024. The DEC has approved this voting process at its meeting of November 24-25, 2023.

It is imperative that those people who attend the annual vestry meeting do so in person and sign in by using the standardized form to be supplied to each parish. **This will be the only way in which we will be able to send out ballots.** On the form, each person will need to clearly indicate his or her name, signature, e-mail address (for those who choose to vote by e-mail) or the complete mailing address (for those who choose to vote by a mail-in ballot).

Furthermore, completed 2023 annual reports to Synod Office must be transmitted on or by April 15<sup>th</sup>. This way, we are able to prepare the ballots and the voting process in such a manner that will help us determine the delegates in a timely manner.

The process of election is as follows:

- i. Election of lay delegates to Synod will be by blind electronic ballot and/or mail-in ballot, based on the request of the voter. Voting will begin on April 29, 2024 and end on May 13, 2024.
- ii. Any person who attended and signed the register and declaration at the last annual parish vestry meeting held in 2024 but before April 15, 2024 has the right to vote for their deanery delegates – both regular and youth.
- iii. The vestry clerk will send to Synod Office a photocopy of the annual vestry meeting attendance register and the name and email of each person. If they don't have email the full postal address of those who signed and wish to exercise their right to vote for delegates to diocesan synod. You must have been physically present at the annual vestry meeting in order to receive a ballot.
- iv. The nominees placed on the deanery ballots, regular and youth, will be those proposed by parish vestries at their annual meeting and submitted to the Secretary of Synod. You need not be present at the annual vestry meeting to be a nominee but you must be a member of that parish. Nominees will need to supply a maximum 50-word text on why they are standing for election as delegate to Synod.
- v. The two persons with the most votes in each deanery will be the delegates from that deanery. The youth with the most votes will be the youth delegate from that deanery. **However, only one lay delegate from each parish may be elected** (does not pertain to youth delegate) unless there is not sufficient representation by the deanery at Synod.
- vi. If there should be a tie vote (other than for the two lay members who receive the most votes or if there is a tie for the second delegate) a runoff vote will be conducted

among those nominees who tied to decide a final ranking unless the assigning of additional delegates to the deanery based on average attendance makes this unnecessary.

vii. The Secretary of Synod will use the results of the voting in descending order in each deanery to name those who will fill the remaining lay delegate positions from that deanery if there are any.

viii. The Secretary of Synod will use the voting results in descending order to name alternates for a deanery should that be needed.

ix. Should a deanery not elect a youth delegate then the seat normally assigned to that deanery will be added to the pool of lay delegates to be divided among the deaneries as per Canon 5 article 9.

x. Synod office will provide to the members of the Diocesan Executive Council the average attendance for each deanery based on the reports filed with the synod office by the deadline set out in the canons. **Those numbers will be the ones used to assign the deanery any additional seats as set out in the Canon.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further clarification. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Canon Stephen Kohner  
Secretary of Synod  
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418-295-3431

## **SAMPLE RESULTS OF A BALLOT**

Deanery of St. Swizzle

Name	Parish	Votes	# delegate
Fisher, Joan	Cathedral	24	Delegate 1
Batter, Evelyn	Cathedral	22	Alternate to Joan Fisher, delegate 1
Mango, Ron	St. Harwich	20	Delegate 2
Weber, Pierrette	St. Warwich	16	Delegate 3*
Chianne, Suzanne	St. Alban	13	Delegate 4*
Smith, Randy	St. Warwitch	10	Alternate to Pierrette Weber, delegate 3.
Olsen, Erica	St. Kitt	9	Alternate delegate
Côté, Philip	St. Gervais	7	Alternate delegate

\* Due to deanery statistics, this deanery is entitled to two additional lay delegates.