

September 2024

RE: Frequently Asked Questions ~ Diocesan Elections 2024

Dear Friends,

This letter is sent out to clarify some of the issues surrounding upcoming elections at our Diocesan Synod to be held in October 2024.

What is the role of the Nominating Committee?

The committee calls for and accepts the nominations from Diocesan bodies (committees; boards; deaneries) and from synod delegates to serve on the various committees and boards of the diocese and as lay and clerical delegates to Provincial and General Synods. The deadline for nominations is on or before October 21, 2024 at 5 p.m. The committee reviews them and submits to Synod names for election, and distributes the ballots during Synod.

What elections need to be held at this Synod?

Elections will be held for the members of the Diocesan Executive Council (D.E.C.), Board of Triers (clergy only), lay and clerical delegates to Provincial Synod and General Synod, and Secretary of Synod (end of mandate).

When are the elections held?

Elections will be held on the second day of Synod between the hours of twelve thirty and two p.m. for the delegates to Provincial Synod and for the clerics forming the Board of Triers.

Other elections will take place after the Nominating Committee reports to Synod, during the business sessions of Synod. They are scheduled during Synod in consultation with the Agenda Committee.

What are the responsibilities of each position/committee/board?

The responsibilities for most are outlined in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese sections copied below. The most important responsibility is to attend all meetings and participate in the work of the committee!

The DEC usually meets at least twice a year, usually once in-person in Quebec City. Other meetings are held on-line.

The DEC shall be responsible for:

- A. Transacting the business of Synod between sessions.
- B. Calculating the fair share that each parish shall contribute to Synod Funds. This contribution shall be payable to the Synod of the Diocese in monthly installments or as agreed between each parish and the Treasurer of Synod.
- C. Planning for the business of Synod, and preparing the agenda for the Sessions of Synod.
- D. Forming a Nominations Committee for Synod.
- E. Defining terms of reference for DEC subcommittees.

- F. Determining the conditions and terms of appointment and remuneration, if need be, of the Officers and Staff of Synod, and nominating suitable persons to fill these positions.
- G. Receiving and acting on reports and recommendations from the Subcommittees and the programme committee.
- H. Advising the Bishop on any matter referred to it.
- I. Report on its actions to the subsequent Synod.
- J. Undertaking any specific tasks assigned to it by Synod. Before the Synod is prorogued members of the newly elected DEC shall meet to plan for the period of its mandate.
- K. Making recommendations to the bishop regarding the appointment of clerics.
- L. Making recommendations to the bishop regarding the appointment of the editor of the Diocesan Gazette.
- M. The creation if needed, of a sub-committee to receive application and distribute funds for missions in areas where there is no Deanery.

Board of Triers: Act as jury in case of a trial (see Canon 12). This has only happened once in the 150 years that such Courts have existed in our diocese.

Provincial Synod: meets online (usually) once a year. It is comprised of membership (lay/clerical) of the dioceses of Montreal, Quebec, Fredericton (New Brunswick), Nova Scotia & PEI, Western NF (including Labrador), Central NF, and Eastern NF and Labrador).

General Synod: It will be held on June 23-29, 2025 in London, ON. It will include a Primatial election.

What is the deadline for nominations?

They must arrive in the hands of the Secretary of Synod on or before October 21, 2024 at 5 p.m. Nominations at Synod are accepted if the committee is unable to present the necessary slate for election.

How many people are to be elected to fill each position?

DEC: two representatives from each of the five Deaneries, but no more than one third of the total DEC elected may be clerics. Representatives must be members of Synod to be elected. Note: the canon also allows for the election of a maximum of two substitute member for each deanery who attends a meeting if one of the other two cannot.

Board of Triers: Five licensed clerics of at least two year’s standing in this Diocese. All clerics who meet the requirements are automatically on the ballot for the Board of Triers.

Provincial Synod: two clerical, two lay delegates and one youth delegate who all must be members of Synod. The bishop also attends. Either Synod elects or the Bishop may appoint a youth delegate from our diocese. The youth must be between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five.

General Synod: 2 lay delegates, 2 clerical delegates, + alternates. The bishop also attends as well as a youth delegate

Secretary of Synod: Must be a member of diocesan Synod.

How do I get nominated?

There are three ways:

1. Any member of a diocesan board or committee or any lay delegate to Synod can nominate someone by submitting the name on the form to the Secretary of Synod or to Church House prior to the deadline.
2. Rural Deans on behalf of their Deanery can also make nominations.
3. You may also self-nominate.

Unless there is a need to open nominations at Synod due to a vacancy there are no extensions to the deadline (on or before October 21, 2024 at 5 p.m.). The nomination form can be downloaded from the diocesan web site and is emailed to Synod delegates. For some deaneries nominations to DEC are normally done through their respective Deanery Councils but that does not preclude other nominations. All clerics who meet the requirements are automatically on the ballot for the Board of Triers.

I do not know who to contact for more information regarding elections.

Contact the Secretary of Synod (see contact information below).

What happens if I'm nominated but either I am not a member of Synod or I cannot attend Synod?

You do not need to be a member of Synod nor present at Synod if you are standing for election to the Board of Triers. You must be a member of Synod and present at Synod to stand for election to the DEC, Secretary of Synod, and as a delegate to Provincial and/or General Synods.

Who can vote at Synod?

Members of Synod will vote at Synod. One becomes a member of Synod when one takes his/her respective seat at Synod. Invited guests, retired clergy and observers do not vote.

Who pays for my expenses as a committee member or delegate?

The diocesan budget pays the travel, meals and accommodation expenses for those serving on the boards, committees or as a delegate elected by synod to Provincial Synod.

When will the first meetings be held?

- DEC is scheduled to meet for a short meeting at Synod
- The Board of Triers meets only if needed - this has only happened once since 1859.
- Provincial Synod should usually meet via conference call/virtually

Should you have any further need for clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

See you at Synod!

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