



## Frequently Asked Questions about Upcoming Major Events in the Bishop Transition

**Part 1: Meet and Greets**

**Part 2: The Electing Convention**

**Part 3: The Ordination and Consecration**

### Meet and Greets

**1. Is registration required for the [Meet and Greets](#)?**

No, registration is not required. Attendance is open to all, not just delegates to the Electing Convention.

**2. Do I need to wear a mask at the Meet and Greets?**

While masks may not be required, they are a matter of personal choice. In her April 1 [statement on COVID](#) protocols, Bishop Goff wrote, “... please remember that clergy in charge of congregations... have authority to make decisions regarding worship and COVID protocols in their specific and local context.” Because the incidence of the virus may vary in each locale, please check back [here](#) or with the host church at the time of the event.

**3. Will Meet and Greets be livestreamed?**

Most of the events will be livestreamed. Up to date information can be found [here](#).

**4. How were the sites for the meet and greet events selected?**

Sites were selected throughout the Diocese to give as many people as possible the opportunity to [meet the nominees](#) in person. Holding these events in different locales also gives the nominees an opportunity to learn more about the diversity of the churches within our diocese. Size of the venue and parking availability were also considered.

**5. Will questions from the audience be allowed?**

You are encouraged to submit questions for the nominees in advance to [bishoptransitionva@gmail.com](mailto:bishoptransitionva@gmail.com). Note: All questions for the nominees must be submitted in advance of the Meet and Greet.

**6. How do I learn about the nominees if I can't attend any of these events?**

Extensive [information about each nominee](#) is available on the diocesan website and most of the Meet and Greet events will be livestreamed.

## Electing Convention

**1. When and where is the Electing Convention?**

The Electing Convention will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria VA 22304.

**2. Why was the Electing Convention moved from St. George's, Fredericksburg?**

The Electing Convention was originally planned to be held at St. George's. However, during the planning process, it was discovered that Mary Washington University is holding a large event this day, which would create traffic and other logistics issues.

**3. Who is permitted to attend the Electing Convention?**

Canonically resident clergy, canonically elected delegates and others specified by the diocesan canons are permitted to attend. No alternates or visitors can be accommodated.

**4. What constitutes a quorum at the Electing Convention?**

Article IV of the diocesan constitution deals with a quorum of the convention: One-third of the members of the Clerical Order and one-half of the members of the Lay Order shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the Convention, but a smaller number may adjourn any such meeting.

The lists of the members of the Clerical Order and the members of the Lay Order are kept by the Secretary. Because the Clerical Order includes retired clergy, the quorum percentage for the Clerical Order is lower than that for the Lay Order. When the Convention opens, the Secretary will report on a quorum for each order. If there is not a quorum present, the Convention cannot proceed.

**5. Will the Electing Convention be livestreamed?**

Yes, it will be livestreamed for anyone to view. Details on where to tune in will be shared closer to the date.

## **6. Who are the nominees?**

Information about the nominees can be found [here](#).

## **7. How many votes does someone need to be elected Bishop?**

The constitution of the Diocese, Article VII states “The vote shall be by ballot and by orders and a concurrent majority of the votes cast by each order shall be necessary to a choice.” The Bishop Elect must receive a majority of votes in both the clergy and lay orders of delegates on the same ballot.

Rule 9A of the proposed Rules of Order for the Special Electing Convention states: At a Convention to elect a bishop, an election shall be declared only when a nominee receives a majority of valid ballots cast in both the clergy and lay orders, but not less than a majority of valid ballots cast in each order, on the same ballot.

The process is that the clergy and lay orders vote separately, but concurrently, through an electronic voting system. Each member of Convention votes for one person on the ballot. Votes are tallied separately for the clerical and lay order. The votes are then reported for each order, and there is a pause before the next ballot. Note that no nominees in a bishop election are dropped from the ballot automatically, but any nominee can ask that his/her name be withdrawn. Balloting then continues until one nominee achieves a majority in both orders on the same ballot.

## **8. How many ballots will there be?**

This cannot be known in advance. The Convention just keeps balloting until there is an election. If no election has been achieved by the end of the day on June 4, the Convention would be recessed and would re-convene at a later date to continue balloting.

# **Ordination and Consecration Service**

## **1. Where will the ordination and consecration occur?**

It will be held at The Saint Paul’s Baptist Church on Saturday, December 3 at 11:00 a.m. The church is located at 4247 Creighton Road, Henrico, VA 23223.

## **2. Why is the ordination and consecration service not being held at Washington National Cathedral?**

Although some previous ordination and consecration services for the Virginia Bishop Diocesan have been held at Washington National Cathedral, it was requested, and the Transition Committee believed, that this service should be held within the Diocese, and the Standing Committee accepted its recommendation.

**3. Why is the ordination and consecration service not being held at an Episcopal Church?**

The Transition Committee believes that more than 1,500 people will wish to attend this service. There is no Episcopal Church within our Diocese that can accommodate a congregation of that size, particularly if there are restrictions about social distancing in place at the time of the service.

**4. Why was The St. Paul's Baptist Church selected as the venue for this service?**

Although the Transition Committee considered other large venues such as convention centers and performing arts centers, ultimately the Committee believed that the service should be held in sacred space. The Saint Paul's Baptist Church not only has a sanctuary large enough to accommodate the expected attendance, it also has space for the ancillary events associated with this service, such as a meeting of the bishops, a clergy vesting room, choir room, sacristy, and a fellowship hall for the reception. There is also ample parking on the site.

**5. Is the selection of The Saint Paul's Baptist Church unusual?**

No, it is not unprecedented. Other dioceses have also ordained and consecrated their bishops in venues other than Episcopal churches.

**6. Who will preside at the Ordination and Consecration Service?**

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop, will be the chief consecrator. Other co-consecrator bishops will be chosen after the Electing Convention. All Bishops in the Episcopal Church will be invited to attend.

**7. Will attendance at the service be open to all?**

At this point the Transition Committee has not determined whether tickets will be required and, if so, how to obtain them. This information should be available around Labor Day. COVID restrictions, if any, will need to be assessed in determining attendance.

**8. Will the event be livestreamed?**

Yes. Details about where to tune in will be provided closer to the date.