

Northwest Washington Synod Bishop Call Process Timetable 2024-2025

- September 21:** Synod Council meets, approves Task Force members, timetable and process for 2025 Synod Bishop election.
- November 14:** Task Force sends out initial communication regarding the 2025 Synod bishop call process to rostered leaders, congregations, and ELCA Secretary. Planning begins for online (Zoom) forums, survey, and presentations/Q&A at the assembly.
- December 14:** Follow-up communication to rostered leaders, congregations, and others that the nomination period for Bishop begins on January 15, 2025. Nomination form available online and upon written request. Biography and authorization for background check forms prepared.
- January 15, 2025:** Nomination period begins. Processes in place to (1) acknowledge receipt of nominations, (2) send out biography form and authorization for background check, (3) form for withdrawal, (4) process withdrawals, and (5) manage a running list of nominations.
- January 16:** Communication to rostered leaders, congregations, and others that nomination period for Bishop has begun. Draft prayer for discernment and guidance distributed. (Periodic reminders follow in Synod e-newsletter.)
- January 17:** Reminder of the deadline for nominations and availability of documents on the website or by written request; Standing Rules regarding bishop election drafted.
- February 1:** Reminder of deadline for nominations and availability of documents on the website or by written request. Describe next steps.
- February 16:** Deadline for nominations. Ensure all nominations are acknowledged and nominee response form provided to all nominees.
- February 28:** Deadline for withdrawal and submission of biographical and other information. Background checks initiated on nominees. Online (Zoom) forums scheduled and planning undertaken.
- March 16:** Names of nominees distributed along with biographical and other information. Liaise with churchwide representative regarding election process.
- April 16:** Pre-Assembly materials distributed to voting members; congregations and voting members invited into month of discernment and prayer.
- Late April/
early May:** Pre-Assembly Zoom forums held. Communication to voting members regarding the election process at the Assembly.
- May 16-17:** Synod Assembly: Bishop election process chaired by churchwide representative. Written ballots. The tentative plan is for presentations before the second ballot (7 nominees) and Q&A before the third ballot (3 nominees).