



DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

TO: All Synod Members

FROM: Bishop Jim White

SUBJECT: **ELECTORAL SYNOD**

The announcement by Bishop Kelvin that he intends to resign leads us into the process for calling a new Bishop. The Primate, Archbishop Philip Richardson, has appointed Bishop James (Jim) White as the Commissary for our Electoral Synod. Some of the details you need to know about are listed below. Others will be made known as decisions are made in the coming weeks.

In the process that we are about to embark on, we are first and foremost seeking to discern the will of God, so Diocesan Council is encouraging us all to pray deeply and regularly over the coming weeks. Prayers are being included in the weekly email and we are particularly asked to include the electoral process, Bishop Kelvin and Clemency, the candidates and our eventual new Bishop in our prayers.

Key information:

Electoral Synod dates

Friday 26 May 6.30pm to Sunday 28 May 5pm +.

Synod representatives, both lay and clergy, are requested to set aside these dates and attend the Electoral Synod. A summons to the Electoral Synod is included with this mailing.

Venue

Burns Lodge at Holy Cross Mosgiel – for all parts of the Electoral Synod, including the service on Friday evening. Please indicate your catering and accommodation requirements on the attached form. You will note that soup and buns are available for travelers on Friday night at St Luke's Church, Taieri.

Eligible Members

- The electoral synod consists of those people entitled to clerical votes and to lay votes in a Synod of the Dunedin Diocese.
- Existing Synod representatives remain in office until the ministry unit AGM due in March 2018. In other words, if you are the present Synod representative you will be the Synods person representing your ministry unit at the Electoral Synod in May 2017.
- Participating members must be present for all parts of the Electoral Synod
- No alternates are allowed if members are unable to attend.



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- If you are unable to attend you must send you apology in writing to Bishop Jim, through the Diocesan Registrar, Debbie Flintoff.
- Clergy who hold a Permission to Officiate are not eligible to be members of the Electoral Synod.
- Because the process is confidential, no observers are permitted to attend.
- If you are unsure as to whether you are an Electoral Synod member, please contact Debbie Flintoff at ph: 03 488 0820, email: debbie@calledsouth.org.nz for clarification.

Process

An Arrangements Committee has been appointed by Diocesan Council to oversee the process. Members of the committee are: Bishop Jim White (Commissary), Debbie Flintoff (Diocesan Registrar), Alec Clark (Vicar General), Anne Gover, Rev Joanna Fielding, Mr Fred McElrea. The following has been agreed by the Arrangements Committee in consultation with Diocesan Council:

- The Diocesan Profile will be made available on the diocesan website. To view please go to the Electoral College 2017 page on the Called South website.
- Synod representatives are encouraged to pray, think and talk widely in their parishes /ministry units about the profile, and whose name could be put forward as a candidate.
- Parish members are advised that any comments they wish to make should be made to their synod representatives - clergy and/or lay
- Proposing candidates:
 - i. Proposers and seconders of candidates must be Synod representatives. The proposer may be either lay or clergy. The seconder must be of the alternative house from the proposer.
 - ii. The rules applying to the Electoral Synod allow candidates to be proposed up until, and even during, the Synod and do not impose any particular requirements about the way information about candidates is put forward. However in the interests of enabling the Synod to consider candidates equally, those intending to propose a candidate are strongly encouraged to participate in the 'proposing a candidate' process which will be sent to you all shortly. This process consists of three documents
 - Document A: Proposal of Candidate form (closing date: Monday 17 April)
 - Document B: Candidates CV, Questionnaire and Referee names (closing date: 24 April)
 - Document C Referees Reports (closing date: 5 May)
 - iii. Each of the candidates will have a video interview which will become part of the presentation to the Electoral College.
- There will be no short listing of candidates, everyone proposed will be put before the Electoral Synod.



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- All Candidate CVs & Questionnaires and Referee Reports will be available for viewing in designated places in each archdeaconry, two weeks before the Electoral Synod, for Synod representatives only.
- Note: Our Electoral Synod is only step one in the election process. The Synod's role is to nominate a person who we wish to work among us, but who will also be a Bishop for the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia, not just of the Diocese of Dunedin. Therefore, the church as a whole, votes after our Electoral Synod.
 - i. From our candidates, we choose and put forward one nomination to the Primate.
 - ii. The nomination is referred to all NZ Bishops who may raise objections.
 - iii. If there are no objections, (or the objections are resolved), the nomination is then referred to the members of the General Synod/Te Hinota Whanui, who can vote yes or no.
 - iv. If they vote yes (in both clergy and lay houses) then and only then, do we have a Bishop elect.

This process takes at least 4 weeks after our Electoral Synod and has ended in a “no” vote (and a requirement to start again) in the past. The name of the person finally nominated remains confidential until that name is publicly announced by the Anglican Church at the end of this process, which underlines the confidentiality issue.

Confidentiality

The whole diocese has been invited to give its views at archdeaconry meetings and to participate in discussions with electoral synod members about the vision for the diocese and potential candidates.

After that, the rest of the Electoral Synod process is confidential to Synod members for ever. The name of each of the proposed candidates, any information about them, any discussion at Synod are all confidential; and the name of our nominee to the Primate is confidential (until that name is publicly announced by the Anglican Church).

Our timeframes are short, but not rushed and are perfectly achievable. This is a dynamic time in the life of any diocese and I hope that you will join with me in praying and working towards the possibilities.

If you have any questions about this process, please don't hesitate to contact me through Debbie on (03) 488 0820 or email debbie@calledsouth.org.nz.

Yours in Christ
Bishop Jim White
Commissary