



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

Election Process in the Diocese of Northern Michigan

The Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of the The Episcopal Church make few references regarding the process of an election of a Bishop in this Church. Article II, section 1. of the Constitution says that a bishop Diocesan “shall be chosen agreeably to rules prescribed by the Convention of that Diocese..” Section 2 of the same Article says that “no one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop until the attainment of thirty years of age...”

Title III Canon 11 Section 1 (a) says that “a process of election in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Convention of the Diocese and pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of this Church...” shall be followed.

In October of 2007 the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan approved a process of discernment to precede an election, and in October of 2008 the Diocesan Convention approved, with 2 dissenting votes, the Discernment Team’s recommendation to bring a single name forward for election. This election is scheduled for February 21, 2009.

The Constitution and Canons of this Church make it clear that Episcopal Elections are primarily held within the procedures adopted by the Diocese. The General Church offers models for Episcopal Elections through the Office of Pastoral Development, yet it is up to each Diocese to develop the process. There are regional differences that have been long standing in this Church per the model that is presented, and now have theological and polity differences in the growing number of “total ministry” dioceses of this Church.

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