Dear members of the Southeastern Iowa Synod,

Please pray for and discuss the election of a bishop which will occur at the 2020 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly on August 7, 2020. Prayer is the foundation of the election process where the Synod Assembly voting members and potential candidates for bishop seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to discern whom God is calling to leadership.

The election process is key to the life of the synod and guided by the synod’s constitution. This election is the process by which we call the synod’s pastor.

A Synod Ministry Profile, an overview of ministry in the Southeastern Iowa Synod, was completed in 2019. This Synod Ministry Profile notes the highlights and challenges of our context in this synod.

I am grateful for all of the prayerful and thoughtful work that has gone into this process by pastors, deacons and volunteers throughout the synod.

If you are a voting member at the 2020 Synod Assembly, I encourage you to carefully review the next pages of this document to familiarize yourself with this call process and your constitutional responsibilities.

In Christ,

Heather Miller
Vice President
FAQ About the Bishop Election Process

What is the process for electing a bishop?
The process for electing a bishop consists of several steps. A Synod Ministry Profile committee was appointed by the Synod Council at the April 2019 meeting. A Bishop Election Committee was appointed August 2019. Much like a call committee in a congregation, these committees will guide the discernment of the synod.

A synod study was conducted by the Synod Ministry Profile Committee. The committee presented the results to the Synod Council at the September 2019 meeting. The results were published on the synod website in September of 2019.

Who elects the bishop?
The bishop will be elected by the voting members at the 2020 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly. Voting members include lay members elected by congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service that are on the roster the Southeastern Iowa Synod, officers of the synod and synod council members.

How is the bishop elected at the Synod Assembly?

What is an Ecclesiastical ballot?
Also known as a nominating ballot, an ecclesiastical ballot is a means by which nominations for the office of bishop are made by casting a vote. On the first ballot, any ordained minister of word and sacrament in good standing of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is eligible to be elected bishop. The nominee is not required to be rostered in the Southeastern Iowa Synod, nor reside within the synod’s geographical boundaries to be a candidate.

After the nominating ballot, the election process shall follow the steps outlined in S9.04.B17. These ballot in the table below are subject to change based on voting results and the number of nominees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ballot</th>
<th>Names Included</th>
<th>Votes Needed to Elect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First, Ecclesiastical (nominating) ballot</td>
<td>Any minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is eligible.</td>
<td>¾ legal votes cast (75%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Ministers of Word and Sacrament nominated on the first ballot who have not withdrawn their names.</td>
<td>¾ legal votes cast (75%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Seven nominees (plusties) who received the greatest number of votes cast on the second ballot.</td>
<td>2/3 legal votes cast (66.7%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Who will conduct the Synod Assembly during the bishop election process?
A representative from the ELCA churchwide organization will conduct all aspects of the bishop election process during the Synod Assembly.

What is the term of office for the bishop?
The term of office is six years.

Is there a job description for the office of bishop?
Chapter eight of the *Southeastern Iowa Synod Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* outlines the responsibilities of the synod bishop. See the responsibilities here

How can individuals and congregations learn more about the bishop election process?
Information will be posted to the synod website, seiasynod.org/bishopelection

Who are the members of the Bishop Election Committee?
Julie Feirer, Chair – St. Paul Lutheran Church, Winterset
Pastor Julie Higgs, Chaplain – Grace Lutheran Church, Adel
Britany Thorpe – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Des Moines
Tyler Baars – Zion Lutheran Church, Muscatine
Pastor Josh Feala – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Knoxville
Holly Knouse – St. Peter & St. Paul Lutheran Church, Monticello
Heather Miller, ex officio – Faith Lutheran Church, Clive

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<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>Three nominees (plus ties) who</td>
<td>60% legal votes cast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>received the greatest number of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>votes cast on the third ballot.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>Two nominees (plus ties) who</td>
<td>Majority of legal votes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>received the greatest number of</td>
<td>cast (50% +1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>votes cast.</td>
<td></td>
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