

The Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

(Anglican Church of Southern Africa in Limpopo)

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Special Ad Clerum – re Elective Assembly

Diocesan Vision

To make disciples in vibrant, self-sufficient congregations established and linked to each other by sharing in

- ✦ Resources
- ✦ Ministry & service
- ✦ Outreach & evangelism

To All Clergy

All Churchwardens

All Leaders of Diocesan Organisations

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has come to the attention of the Electoral Advisory Committee, that some parishes have started lobbying and advising their people who to vote for, at the Elective Assembly - even before the names of the candidates have even been announced. Some are of the opinion that they can send their Reps to the Assembly with a mandate of who to vote for.

I have therefore been asked to send out this special Ad Clerum to clarify the process and remind people of a few principles:

1 Electing a new bishop is a prayerful process

- designed to help the Diocese identify who God is calling to be a Bishop of the Church and leader of the Anglican Church in Limpopo.

We must *not* approach this like a political election. Even if someone in a parish has nominated a particular person, and believes that they have very good reason to think the candidate would be the best person for the position, still, clergy and Reps must go to the Assembly with an open mind and in an attitude of prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit's leading. The Reps and clergy in the Assembly will hear presentations concerning all the candidates – good points, bad points etc and there will be opportunity for debate. Our minds may change many times – until the final ballot. The Holy Spirit will convict us of the right person to be a Bishop of the Church and leader of the Anglican Church in Limpopo if we are listening prayerfully.

Diocesan Vision: To make disciples in vibrant, self-sufficient congregations established and linked to each other by sharing in resources; ministry & service; outreach & evangelism.

2 The Nominations closed on 16th May

Once the Electoral Advisory Committee have opened the envelopes and are satisfied that the Candidates all qualify in terms of Canon 4, the chairperson will send the names to the Archbishop.

No member of the Advisory Committee may disclose any names until the Archbishop has given permission to the names to be made public.

Please do not pressure them to give you information.

3 Once the Names of the candidates have been made public

- 1) People may “discuss” and share opinions about the candidates, but this is not a time for “political” campaigning, mud-slinging, character assassination, winners and losers – be careful of social media! It is a time for seeking the Lord’s will and guidance. This will be the difference between a happy, prosperous Spirit-filled Diocese or an unhappy, divided, angry church going forward. We need to strive for unity and acceptance. More prayer!
- 2) The **Elective Assembly** will be constituted and chaired by the Archbishop – starting in the morning of 9th July in Tzaneen. It continues to meet for up to three days until an election has taken place, unless the Assembly votes to delegate the election to the Synod of Bishops.
- 3) In order to be elected a candidate must have **two thirds of the votes** in the houses of laity and clergy.
- 4) Once an election has taken place and been confirmed by the Synod of Bishops, we should **accept the outcome and seek to encourage and work with the Bishop-elect** – especially if it wasn’t the candidate you were hoping for. The new Bishop will be **consecrated** (if not already a Bishop) **and installed** on 26 October.

4 Accommodation and Transport Arrangements

Information was sent out with the previous Ad Clerum. The Assembly starts at 7h30 or 8h00 (to be confirmed nearer the time) on the morning of 9th July. It takes an hour and a half to get there from Polokwane. **Please make your arrangements well in advance and consider whether you should book into your accommodation on the Monday night 8th July.** It is not acceptable (and will show disrespect for the Archbishop and the assembly), if people wander in all through the morning.

Let Us move through the process prayerfully!

Blessings in Christ,



Gail Blunden (Vicar General)