

## Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia Bishop Search

### **WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR A NEW BISHOP?**

The requirements for nomination of a bishop are straightforward. Nominees must be thirty years old when nominated and must be an ordained priest when consecrated as a bishop. In Southern Virginia, the Standing Committee has appointed a Nominating Committee charged with selecting a field of three to five candidates. Candidates are subjected to a rigorous vetting, including physical and psychological examinations, in-depth interviews, and background checks. In addition to the nominees selected by the Committee, provision is made for nomination by petition from within the Diocese.

The Nominating Committee in the Diocese of Southern Virginia is well balanced. It has 16 members: 8 laity and 8 clergy, 8 women and 8 men. Care has been taken to ensure ethnic and racial diversity, theological diversity, and diocesan-wide representation.

[www.svabishop.org](http://www.svabishop.org)

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### Bishop Election Timeline

2007

**August 18:** Nomination Committee and New Ministry Committee orientation.

**October 26:** Nominating Committee submits the proposed Diocesan Profile to the Standing Committee for approval.

**November 9:** Nominating Committee meets and directs production of the profile.

**December:** Nominating Committee begins solicitation of nominations.

2008

**January 30:** Nominations for the bishop of Southern Virginia are closed.

**February-June:** Nominating Committee through an iterative process of review selects 3-5 nominees for the bishop of Southern Virginia, all of whom are fully qualified to become our bishop.

**Mid July:** Announcement of the candidates and initiation of the petition process, in which additional nominees from within the Diocese can be named.

**August-September:** Mandated background checks on all nominees.

**September:** Nominees introduced to the Diocese in the traditional “walk-about” process.

**September 27:** Election of new bishop at Powhatan High School.

**October-November:** Gaining consent of the majority of other dioceses for our choice. Mental and physical evaluations of the bishop elect.

**December 1:** Bishop elect on diocesan payroll.

2009

**February 14:** The consecration of our new bishop.

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