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Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop

At every General Convention, a nominating committee for the election of the Presiding Bishop is elected. Most of these committees never meet, as they are elected to serve in the extraordinary event of the Presiding Bishop becoming unable to fulfill his or her term of office.

However, every nine years, concurrent with the last three years of the Presiding Bishop's nine-year term, this committee becomes very active, and undertakes the considerable work needed to present nominations at the following General Convention.

As we are about to enter the final triennium of Bishop Griswold's term of office, the committee we elect this year will be very active. Members will be discreetly interviewing potential nominees, and working together to present a slate of candidates at the next General Convention.

This spring each province was to meet and nominate at least two persons in each order to stand for election for this committee. During the General Convention each province will narrow its slate to two in each order, if necessary. On the sixth day of Convention (Monday August 4th), provinces will caucus to determine their final slate. This will be done by voting in caucus on the nominations made at the spring meetings, together with any nominations that might be made from the floor. Finally, each province will bring to the floor of the House two candidates in each order.

On the seventh day of the Convention (Tues. Aug. 5th), this slate will be presented to the House of Deputies for the election of the committee. The ballot we receive on the floor will be divided by province and by order. For example:

Province I	
Lay order	Jane Smith Don Hays
Clergy Order	Mary Jones Oscar Leet
Province II	
Lay Order	John Rost Susan Miller
Clergy Order	Jim Giles April Rain

Every member of the House will vote for one clergy and one lay candidate in each province. As a result of the balloting each province will be represented by two persons, one in each order. On the same day, the House of Bishops will elect one Bishop from each province. In addition to this, the President of the House will appoint two persons ages 16-21 to be additional members of the committee.

To expedite the process, orientation will occur immediately before the caucuses on Monday and the elections on Tuesday.

The rules governing these elections can be found in Canon I.2.1 of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church.

With thanks to the House of Deputies Orientation Committee: Cynthia Black, Cecily Broderick, Nigel Renton, and Jim Simons, who is also a member of the House President's Council of Advice.