



Procedure for the Election of A Synod Bishop – 2008

Imprint for the Future: Called Together in Mission

Approved by the Synod Council of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod
June 30, 2007

At the direction of the vice president of the synod, the Program & Review Committee has met on several occasions to consider the proceedings for the election of a new synod bishop at the 2008 synod assembly. Mindful of the outcomes of the Synod Strategic Structural Review, reported to the synod council in November 2004, the committee sought to incorporate insights from that document into its considerations and report.

The committee drew particularly upon foundational words in the Strategic Review's introduction: *Therefore, rooted in the Gospel of our Lord, the mission of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is to inspire, encourage, and support the church.* Based on this statement, the Review goes on to identify five means by which the mission of the synod can be enhanced. Two of those means are "Inspiring and Encouraging God's People" and "Listening to and Informing God's People." The following process, proposed for the months leading up to the election of a new synod bishop at the 2008 synod assembly, is grounded in these two insights of the Strategic Structural Review.

The process is designed to reach various components of the synod's life, including the synod council, persons active on the mission district level, rostered leaders, congregational leaders, and congregational members in general. By listening to, informing, encouraging, and inspiring God's people in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The process is also designed to provide several means by which to reach these various components over the course of the months leading up to the 2008 synod assembly.

It is the hope of the committee that God's people in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will be given a new opportunity to catch the spirit of broader, shared ministry by their participation in the proposed process. More than an electoral process, *Imprint for the Future: Called Together in Mission* is designed to invigorate the role of the synod in congregational life.

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Election of a Synod Bishop – 2008
Time Line
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

October 2007

Include a regional or churchwide representative in the agenda of the synod council meeting for the purpose of addressing the matter of the election of a new synod bishop

September-November 2007

Fall meetings of the mission districts held to address the matter of the election of a new synod bishop; process explained, discussion about future direction of the synod and gifts needed by the new bishop, potential questions solicited for nominees at the synod assembly, provide congregational materials that can be used in worship services, education classes, and council meetings

April 2008

Days of discernment held at two or three locations on the synod territory for the purpose of bringing together all those interested for discussion and prayer

May 2008

Spring mission district assemblies where information can be shared from previous gatherings and final opportunity for suggested questions for nominees at the assembly

May 29-31, 2008

Synod assembly; questions for the nominees chosen by ELCA representative and representatives from each mission district from among those suggested at earlier gatherings