

# Alaska Synod of the ELCA - Bishop Election Process

## Checklist for Nominees

Congratulations on being nominated for ELCA Alaska Synod Bishop! The Bishop Election Committee looks forward to working with you as the Assembly elects a new bishop for the Alaska Synod. In order to qualify as a Candidate in the Bishop Election, you must pass a background check. Please submit the authorization form the Synod requires for that work (as listed below). We would like to help the voting members of the Assembly become familiar with all Nominees, and so would like to share information about you. In order to allow that, you will need to submit the Biographical form (also listed below). We ask that you submit these forms by **8:00pm Friday, April 26th**.

1. Download and fill-out the [Bishop Election Background Check Authorization Form](#) (found on the synod website: <https://www.elcaalaska.net>) and be sure to note if you'd like a personal copy of the results mailed to you. Then, email the completed form to Bishop Shelley Wickstrom of the Alaska Synod, as soon as possible, at: [aksynodbishop@gmail.com](mailto:aksynodbishop@gmail.com) Finally, mail the original copy to Bishop Wickstrom at the synod office: 1847 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite #2, Anchorage, AK 99517

2) Download, fill-out, and submit the [Disclosure Form](#) (found on the synod website) via email to Bishop Wickstrom at: [aksynodbishop@gmail.com](mailto:aksynodbishop@gmail.com)

3) Download, fill-out and submit the [Biographical Information Form](#) (found on the synod website) by email, to the Alaska Bishop Election Committee at: [alaskavisionelca@gmail.com](mailto:alaskavisionelca@gmail.com) Information provided in the Biographical form will be shared with the Synod Assembly on the Synod Website throughout the election process, and will be removed after Assembly.

4) Prepare to address the assembly. Before any Ballot on which you appear, there are opportunities for you to address the Assembly:

- Before the 2nd Ballot (Saturday, April 27th at 9:00am, ADT), each Nominee will be given 3 minutes to introduce themselves. If you are off-site, you will be given a Zoom link so that you may do so. Suggested topics: 1) Name and currently serving where? 2) What are your strengths in ministry? What do you enjoy the most? 3) When have you felt or known that God was working in your life and ministry?)
- Prior to the 3rd Ballot (Saturday, April 27th, 1:15pm ADT), the 7 Candidates on the Ballot will each be given 5 minutes to speak about what you think is key to equipping and supporting resilient and creative lay and ordained leaders. Please note that for this and subsequent ballots, you will be sequestered (in a physical or a Zoom waiting room) so the Assembly may hear your original thoughts, not have debate between Candidates, and not to give an unfair advantage.
- Prior to the 4th and 5th Ballots, there will be 5 minutes for each Candidate on the Ballot to respond to questions about the Synod's Guiding Principles.

Some resources on the synod website (<https://www.elcaalaska.net>) which may be helpful:

- The Alaska Synod Constitution includes: Office of Bishop Description (S8.10-S8.15) and Ecclesiastical Ballot Process for the Bishop Election (S9.04)
- The Synod Guiding Principles (<https://www.elcaalaska.net/Mission.html>) - discerned throughout 2023 from feedback provided by more than 70% of the synod's congregations.

Please share your contact information and any questions you have about the bishop election process with the Bishop Election Committee at: [alaskavisionelca@gmail.com](mailto:alaskavisionelca@gmail.com)