

Archbishop's Election Synod in 2013

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

Introduction

1. The Standing Committee has authorised the booking of the Wesley Centre from Monday 5 August 2013 to Friday 9 August 2013 for a special session of the Synod to elect the next Archbishop.

The Timetable

2. The See of Sydney will become vacant when the present Archbishop retires on 11 July 2013. The election of a new Archbishop takes place at a special session of the Synod (the "Election Synod") convened under the Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982 (the "Ordinance").

3. Under clause 5(2A) of the Ordinance, the Election Synod must be held not less than 3 weeks and not more than 6 weeks after the See becomes vacant. Thus, if the See becomes vacant on 11 July 2013, the Synod must be held during the period 1 August 2013 to 22 August 2013.

4. It is expected that the Standing Committee will resolve at its February 2013 meeting that the vacancy in the See be filled in accordance with the Ordinance (under clause 2(2) of the Ordinance this resolution can be made up to 20 weeks before the See actually becomes vacant). If the Standing Committee so resolves, then the Archbishop must summon the Synod to elect a new Archbishop within 21 days of the resolution being passed. Thus, the summons is likely to be sent to Synod members in late February 2013.

5. By clause 7(2) of the Ordinance, nominations for Archbishop close 42 days before the first day of the Election Synod. Thus, if the first day of the election Synod is 5 August 2013, the closing date for nominations will be 24 June 2013. This means that there will be a period of about 4 months between the sending of the summons and the close of nominations.

6. There are other dates and times in the Ordinance which do not concern Synod members at this stage.

The Procedure

7. Under the Ordinance the procedure for electing the Archbishop is, in general terms, as follows –

Formal Matters	President's address, tabling of documents, election of officers etc. This occurs on Day 1.
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Compilation of Select List	Each nominee is proposed and seconded, after which the Synod considers whether the name of each nominee is to be placed on the Select List. A nominee will be placed on the Select List if a majority of either the lay or the clerical members of the Synod vote in favour of this happening. In 2001, there were 5 nominees and the compilation of the Select List comprising 2 nominees was completed on Day 1.
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Compilation of Final List	Each nominee whose name appears on the Select List is again proposed and seconded, after which the Synod considers whether the name of each nominee on the Select List is to be placed on the Final List. A nominee will be placed on the Final List if a majority of both lay and clerical members of the Synod vote in favour of this happening.
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Additional steps occur if, on the first attempt, there are less than, or more than, 3 names on the Final List.

In 2001, the compilation of the Final List comprising 1 nominee occurred on Day 2.

Final Selection	If there is only 1 nominee on the Final List, the Synod considers a motion that the nominee be invited to be Archbishop.
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If there are 2 or 3 nominees on the Final List each is proposed and seconded. Speeches in respect of each nomination then take place. Under the Ordinance the Synod must then adjourn to the next day. When the Synod resumes, a ballot takes place. If one candidate receives an absolute majority of votes, he is declared to be elected. Otherwise the Synod must adjourn. When the Synod resumes it has several options about how to proceed.

In 2001, because there was only 1 nominee on the Final List, a motion to invite the nominee to be Archbishop was moved on Day 2.

8. Although the last Election Synod in 2001 was concluded on Day 2, the final ballot for the Election Synod in 1993 took place on Day 4.
9. Accordingly the Standing Committee considers that the Wesley Centre should be booked for 5 days for the 2013 Election Synod recognising that we will be liable for the cost of hiring the Centre for 5 days if the session concludes after a fewer number of days.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

ROBERT WICKS
Diocesan Secretary

21 August 2012