

Virginia Synod 2023 Bishop Election Q&A Guidance



Prior to the fourth ballot for bishop, the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to participate in a question-and-answer period. The period shall be moderated by the person designated to preside at the election. The questions shall be asked in rotating order of the nominees, starting with the candidate who received the most votes on the previous ballot, and the same questions will be asked to each nominee. Each nominee shall have a maximum of 120 seconds to respond to each question. A timekeeper shall indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allotted time and when the allotted time has ended. The questions and sequence of the questions to be asked shall be determined by the Bishop Election Committee. The time for the question-and-answer period shall be a maximum of 60 minutes.

Pastors who are open to leaving their name on the ballot if it appears on the first/nominating ballot are encouraged to begin preparing their answers for the Q&A period ahead of the start of Synod Assembly. Four or so of the following questions will be asked during the Q&A period. An additional question, to be determined by the VA Synod Youth Assembly, will be asked; no candidate will know the content of this question ahead of time.

1. The ELCA is engaged in an intentional effort to “activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.” How would you promote this effort on the synodical level?
2. As Bishop, how would you foster connections between rostered ministers, congregations, and groups across this synod that is geographically large and diverse?
3. Why would anyone choose to be Lutheran in 2023?
4. As Bishop, how would you offer guidance and encouragement to congregational leaders in times of conflict and uncertainty?
5. What is your philosophy of self-care?
6. How do you balance being welcoming to people of all mindsets/political positions and holding safe space for our siblings who have been historically marginalized by society and the church?
7. How is Jesus still important today?