

## **Electing a new bishop for Willochra**

Our diocese is searching for a new bishop! We seek to do this prayerfully, diligently and wisely, so that the person elected, is the person God wants for us! So we need to go through a process that is in accordance with our Regulations and their details can be found in the *Synod Green Book* under Regulation Two. What follows, summarises this process.

Firstly, the members of the Bishopric Nominations Committee, elected at the 2009 Diocesan Synod, are: –

### From the Clergy

The Rev'd Trevor Briggs  
The Ven. Brian Jeffries  
The Rev'd David McDougall  
The Ven. Prue O'Donovan  
The Rev'd Wendy Cooper

### From the Laity

Ms. Ruth Robinson  
Mr Michael Ford  
Mr Tim Butler  
Ms Sally Lightburn  
Mr Ian Pole (first Lay Reserve replacing Ms Ruth Buxton who is now ordained)

### **So far ...**

The Nominations Committee met in mid-August to begin the process. Two of their initial tasks were to begin collecting the names of potential candidates and to prepare a profile of this diocese. That has now been completed.

Following this, during September and early October, we held several widely advertised meetings around the diocese, which enabled parishioners to discuss the process and add their contributions concerning the type of bishop we seek. Summaries of the deliberations were then given to the Nominations Committee to further assist them. A summary of those deliberations can be read in the December edition of 'The Willochran', elsewhere on this web site.

The Nominations Committee next task was to look at the larger group of names offered to them and then reduce it to a manageable size on the basis of the kind of bishop we are seeking, together with the needs of our diocese.

Following telephone calls, the Committee sent packages to a number of potential candidates seeking information and referees. As a result, their next task will be to hold interviews, with the hope that they can take place in early February.

Our Synod Regulation requires that the Nominations Committee presents to the Synod no less than three and no more than four names. Prior to the Election Synod they will circulate to the Synod members, information about the proposed three or four candidates.

Our Regulation also requires that I, as Administrator, call Synod within three months of our previous bishop, Garry Weatherill, leaving the diocese. This means I have to do this by January 23rd 2012. It does not mean that Synod has to meet by that date, but that it needs to be called.

I have *tentatively* announced that at this stage, Synod will meet in Port Augusta on Saturday 24th March 2012.

## **Election Synod**

At this Synod there will be not be any Observers present as the matters to be discussed are deemed confidential.

Synod members will receive three and not more than four names from the Nominations Committee.

Synod will then break and the two Houses of Synod (Clergy and Laity) will meet separately. Each House may come up with one extra name if they agree to do so. At a minimum, therefore, we will have three names to consider and at a maximum there could be six candidates.

Synod will then resume and after discussions, a ballot of all names will be held by orders (i.e. the House of Laity and the House of Clergy). Any name that fails to receive one-third of the vote will be removed from the list.

Following this, in a second ballot by orders, Synod members will vote for one person only. Any candidate who receives two-thirds of the votes will become Bishop-elect.

If however, after three subsequent ballots to this second one, no candidate receives the required number of votes, but one candidate has a majority of votes in each house, then Synod could choose to elect this person. But this will require a two-thirds majority in each house via a secret ballot.

If Synod fails to elect someone, then Synod will adjourn and the Nominations Committee will be asked to prepare a new list of potential candidates.

Upon a candidate being elected, the Chair of Synod will report the result to the Metropolitan, that is, the Archbishop of Adelaide. This is in order to obtain the confirmation required by the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

I hope that what I have set out above helps you to better understand the process in which we are engaged. I hope too, that you will continue to pray for us, that we might discern wisely and responsibly in order that the right candidate will emerge and that God's will might be done. Please pray too for members of the Nominations Committee as they go about their tasks.

**Michael Hillier**

Administrator,  
The Diocese of Willochra