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## **INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE ELECTION OF THE RULING BISHOP**

**Approved by the Lesser Synod of Bishops, March 10, 1972**

**Revised by the Lesser Synod of Bishops, April 21, 1972**

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- I. The Diocesan Assembly shall begin with a Divine Liturgy and a special service of Invocation to the Holy Spirit.
- II. Immediately after the Divine Liturgy, the Assembly shall meet in plenary session and elect its officers as prescribed in Article 7 of the Statutes. The Assembly shall then elect Tellers entrusted to count the votes.
- III. The Committee on Credentials, approved in advance by the Diocesan Council, shall then report the exact number of voting delegates.
- IV. The Chairman shall call on the Nominating Committee to present the names of the candidates. Names may be added from the floor, but there shall be no speeches in support or criticism of any candidates. If any nominee is non-eligible in virtue of the Holy Canons or the Statutes, the Locum tenens shall announce it and his ruling shall be duly recorded in the minutes.
- V. Once the nominations are closed, the list of names of candidates shall be placed before the Assembly.
- VI. The ballot shall be a secret one and certified bulletins shall be distributed to all voting delegates.
- VII. On the first ballot one name shall be written. The ballots containing more than one name or names other than officially listed candidates shall be declared void.
- VIII. The results of the ballot, with figures, shall be announced by the Locum tenens.
- IX. If at the first ballot a candidate receives 2/3 of the accredited votes, he shall be declared by the Locum tenens as the elected nominee to the See and his name shall be submitted to the Synod of Bishops for approval and canonical election.
- X. If no candidate receives 2/3 of the accredited votes, a second ballot shall take place and two names shall be written on each ballot. The ballots with fewer or more than two names, or names other than those of officially listed candidates, shall be declared void.
- XI. The Locum tenens shall then announce the results. The names of the two candidates with the largest pluralities shall be submitted to the Synod for canonical election.

- XII. However, if no candidate receives more than 40% of the accredited votes, the Locum tenens shall declare the ballot as non-conclusive and the Assembly as having failed to nominate a candidate for the office of Ruling Bishop (Article 6, 10B). In this case, the Assembly may, by duly accepted motion, request the Synod of Bishops to transfer one of the Ruling Bishops to the See. The Synod of Bishops, however, may refuse to transfer a Bishop, in which case it will direct the Diocesan Assembly to reconvene for the purpose of electing a candidate. If the Diocesan Assembly again fails in its task, it may waive its right of election and request the Holy Synod to appoint its own candidate.
- XIII. The nominating committee may also, at the beginning of the Assembly, announce its failure to nominate a candidate and move that the Assembly waive its right to elect the Bishop. In this case, the procedure described in the preceding paragraph is set in motion.
- XIV. Since the Assembly only nominates a candidate and the latter is to be approved by the Holy Synod, the elected candidate shall not be declared Bishop-elect. The Locum tenens and the Diocesan Council shall inform the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America and request him to convoke the Synod for the canonical election and approval of the nominee. If the nominee is not approved by the Holy Synod, the Synod shall direct the Diocesan Assembly to reconvene and elect another candidate.
- XV. Until the Consecration and Installation of the new Bishop, the Locum tenens shall remain in office.
- XVI. The date and place of the Consecration and Installation shall be announced to all parishes so that the entire Body of the Faithful may take part in this event.
- XVII. The assembly shall adjourn with a Thanksgiving Service.