

## **Report to Synod by a member of the Archbishop's Election Committee**

You can find the Archbishop Election Canon at AEC in the Constitution and Canons. Please note that the work of this committee is strictly confidential, so I will not be taking any questions.

As you know 22 people (11 clergy and 11 Lay, were) elected to the Archbishop Election Committee two years ago of whom I am one.

May I begin by saying that it is my belief that we have an extremely competent group of people on the committee who work extremely well together and who, despite differences are able to come to a common mind. I would also like to say that we are buoyed by the prayers throughout the Diocese and trust that the Holy Spirit is directing our process and decision making.

As Administrator, Bishop Cameron called the Committee on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February this year. On that day we considered the role of the Archbishop and the qualities – characteristics, gifts and abilities that we would look for in an Archbishop. Following the meeting, subcommittees drew up a Role Description and a Diocesan profile. Once these were agreed, they were sent, as per the Canon to all the Provincial Bishops, for them to make recommendations of suitable candidates. We took this a step further and asked for recommendations from anyone in the Diocese.

All recommendations were considered in light of the qualities that we had agreed that we were looking for and on the basis that the person nominated was able to serve the Diocese for at least five years, preferably seven.

Those who were considered to fit the criteria were asked to consider whether they would enter into a process of discernment with us and, if willing, to respond to the Committee in writing.

As a result, we have a number of strong candidates whom we will be meeting to continue the process of discernment.

This is an important task and the committee do not believe that it should be rushed. When we have made a final decision, the canonical fitness of the person elected will have to be confirmed in accordance with the ordinance of the Provincial Synod. The name of the person elected by the Committee together with the certificate of election will be transmitted to the senior Diocesan Bishop of the Province who will communicate the election to the other Diocesan Bishops of the Province. The Diocesan Bishops of the

Province then vote on whether they are satisfied as to the canonical fitness of the person so elected.

Please continue to keep the committee and the candidates in your prayers.

Presented to Synod by The Rev'd Canon Dr Marian Free