

**Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the
Presiding Bishop
(1994-1997)**

MEMBERSHIP

<i>Province I</i>	The Rev. Ann S. Coburn Canon Jean Mulligan The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris
<i>Province II</i>	The Very Rev. William H. Petersen Ms. Diane Pollard The Rt. Rev. William G. Burrill
<i>Province III</i>	The Very Rev. Rosemari G. Sullivan Mr. Russell V. Palmore, Jr., <i>Secretary</i> The Rt. Rev. A. Heath Light
<i>Province IV</i>	The Rev. Barnum McCarty Mrs. Scott T. Evans The Rt. Rev. Calvin O. Schofield, <i>Co-Chair</i>
<i>Province V</i>	The Rev. Virginia A. Brown-Nolan Ms. Katherine Tyler Scott, <i>Co-Chair</i> The Rt. Rev. Frank C. Gray
<i>Province VI</i>	The Rev. Carolyn Keil replaced The Ven. Philip C. Allen Ms. Sherry Maule The Rt. Rev. Sanford Z. K. Hampton
<i>Province VII</i>	The Rev. Rayford B. High, Jr. Ms. Cynthia H. Schwab The Rt. Rev. William E. Smalley
<i>Province VIII</i>	The Rev. Caryl A. Marsh Ms. D. Rebecca Snow The Rt. Rev. Robert L. Ladehoff
<i>Province IX</i>	The Rev. Julio E. Murray Ms. Thelma Wilson The Rt. Rev. Leopold Frade
<i>Youth</i>	Ms. Elizabeth Brians Mr. Jorge Meza

The members of the Committee were elected by their respective Provinces at the 71st General Convention of the church held at Indianapolis, Indiana in August of 1994.

SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

During the triennium the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop scheduled seven meetings, the first of which was held before the close of the General Convention.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Six meetings were held prior to publication of this report. The primary agenda for its final meeting (April 1997) is development of the slate of nominees to be presented to the church immediately following.

At its first meeting after the 1994 General Convention, the Committee organized and elected officers - Ms. Katherine Tyler Scott and The Rt. Rev. Calvin O. Schofield, Co-Chairs, and Mr. Russell V. Palmore, Jr., Secretary. It also established "group norms," including the following: confidentiality (to preserve the integrity of the selection process), but no secrets; an environment of trust that permits a focus on confidentiality; worship and daily prayer for the Committee and its work; and agreement on what can be made public.

The Committee reviewed Appendices A and B of the Blue Book of 1985 for Historical Background and a Description of the Office.

The Committee also met with The Most Rev. Edmond L. Browning, who discussed the role of the Presiding Bishop from his perspective and shared from his experiences in the office over nine years. In addition, members of the Committee met with the President of the House of Deputies, Dr. Pamela Chinnis, to obtain the perspective of that office. Later, broad criteria for the office were established by the Committee, prefaced by a portion of Title 1, Canon 2.4(a):

The Presiding Bishop shall be the Chief Pastor and Primate of the Church, and shall: (1) Be charged with responsibility for leadership in initiating and developing the policy and strategy of the Church and, as Chair of the Executive Council of General Convention, with ultimate responsibility for the implementation of such policy and strategy through the conduct of policies and programs authorized by the General Convention or approved by the Executive Council of the General Convention; (2) Speak God's word to the Church and to the world, as the representative of this Church and its episcopate in its corporate capacity.

The criteria included a person:

- whose life is grounded in scripture and prayer and reflects a depth of spirituality, rooted in grace;
- who nurtures the people of God in servant ministry;
- who receives and articulates the ongoing revelation of God from which the vision of the church can be discerned;
- who will be aware of the power of the office of the Presiding Bishop, confident with that power and willing to use it for the greater glory of God through the church and the empowerment of others;
- who is a capable administrator and delegator;
- who will work for unity in the context of the baptismal covenant;
- who will be a disciplined steward of personal life, taking time for self and family;
- who will exercise leadership with authority and compassion, recognizing its substantive and symbolic nature; and
- whose life celebrates the proclamation: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In addition, the Committee agreed that all bishops born after June 30, 1935, and who, by the time of the installation, would have had an episcopate of at least five years, would be eligible for consideration and screening.

The Committee received a total of 29 names in response to an initial mailing of a letter and recommendation form to General Convention deputies, bishops, and other church leaders. Additional names were solicited from throughout the church, resulting in a total of 38 persons recommended. It was determined that 26 persons met the criteria for eligibility established by the Committee.

Based on initial written responses to questions in the areas of personal life, leadership style, and theology, potential nominees to be continued in the selection process were agreed upon. All committee members were assigned to "visitation teams," each of which was comprised of laity, priests, and bishops. Under the direction of an independent consultant, the Committee also engaged in training for the visiting and interviewing process, which was scheduled for January through March of 1997.

In addition to interviews with potential nominees, the teams arranged to meet with a variety of diocesan, ecumenical, and community persons to gather additional information. The Committee also arranged for stringent personal background investigations to be professionally conducted, as well as psychiatric and physical examinations.

The Committee also established a transition team to provide the nominees and their spouses, as well as the retiring Presiding Bishop and his spouse, with as much assistance as possible and to reduce some of the awkward and stressful experiences of past elections.

Adopted for continuing use was a prayer for the work of the Committee: "God of wisdom and truth, your divine Son came among us to serve and to give his life. We pray, so guide our seeking of the next Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church that we will find one who will lead by the example of Jesus. Fill us and our whole church with the Holy Spirit. Open our hearts. Enlighten our minds. Help us to find a servant leader for our church. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen."

The work of the Committee will be completed with the announcement of a slate of nominees to the church on or about April 15, 1997 and the presentation of its final report to a Joint Session of the two Houses of the General Convention on July 20, 1997. A profile of the nominees will be distributed, in printed booklet form, in advance of the General Convention.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 1994-97 TRIENNIUM

	1995	1996	1997
<i>Income</i>	\$41,667	\$52,449	\$41,667
<i>Expenses</i>	\$54,380	\$39,795	*

* 1997 expenses not available at the filing of this report.