

TASK FORCE STUDYING THE NALC'S PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING A BISHOP:

Recommendations Approved by the Executive Council, January 25, 2017

1. We recommend that candidates for election to the office of Bishop be limited to those identified by the Nominating Committee; *i.e.* that the practice of allowing nominations from the floor of the Convocation be discontinued. This recommendation represents the majority opinion of the task force: four task force members supported the discontinuation of nominations from the floor; two members supported the current procedure which allows floor nominations.
2. We recommend that the deadline for providing information on candidates be changed from 90 days to 60 days prior to a Convocation that will elect a Bishop. We recommend the same change for candidates for Executive Council and Court of Adjudication.
3. We recommend that the phrase "in good standing" be added to the criteria for becoming a candidate for election to the office of Bishop.
4. We recommend that candidates for election to the office of Bishop address the Convocation by spoken word, including giving responses to questions. If there are more than four candidates on the ballot, such speaking should commence after the number of candidates has been reduced to four as provided by Article 8, Section 8.06 of the NALC Constitution.
5. We recommend that a set of instructions be provided by the Bishop and/or the General Secretary to the Nominating Committee and the Elections Committee. In addition to many other important matters, these instructions should include:
 - a. that the Nominating Committee urge pastors to be open to the exhortations of those who approach them as possible candidates for the office of Bishop, prayerfully considering whether God is calling them;
 - b. that the Nominating Committee encourage those pastors who aspire to the office of Bishop to make their aspirations known to their congregations or to the Executive Council;
 - c. that the Nominating Committee encourage NALC congregations, at all worship services during the year prior to the election of a Bishop, to pray that God would make known to us the one He has chosen for this ministry; and encourage the people of the NALC to offer similar prayers in their private devotions as well;
 - d. that the Nominating Committee, before including candidates for the office of Bishop on the ballot, verify that they are ordained ministers of the NALC in good standing;
 - e. that the Elections Committee counsel the Convocation to a spirit of solemnity throughout all elections;
 - f. that the Elections Committee discourage applause or other demonstrations when election results are announced;
 - g. that the Elections Committee urge strict adherence to the Convocation agenda's published times for balloting.
6. We recommend that the Convocation agenda, in years when a Bishop is to be elected, maximize the time devoted to the election process, and therefore reduce the amount of time devoted to other business. We also recommend that Convocations in years when a Bishop is to be elected be a half day longer than in other years.
7. We recommend, when an incumbent Bishop is a candidate for re-election, that the General Secretary preside over the Convocation during the election for Bishop.