

Frequently Asked Questions about the Episcopal Election Process

Please review the voting procedures found in the ADCA of the SEJ, beginning on page 58.

1. Why have all of the elders names from the delegations been given numbers?

To speed up the balloting process, electronic devices are being used. Elders who are General Conference or Jurisdictional Conference delegates or reserves from all of the Southeastern Jurisdiction's Annual Conferences, who are eligible to be elected, have been given numbers so that it will reduce the instances of write-in ballots. Write-in ballots take longer to count and will slow the process down.

2. Can I vote for someone who is not on the list?

Yes, all ordained elders are eligible to be elected as a bishop as long as they are not 68 years old or older prior to July 1, 2016, or have not entered the retired relationship. An episcopal candidate must have 4 years of eligibility to serve as a bishop before they reach the mandatory retirement age of 72.

3. Will I be allowed to write in a name if someone I want to vote for isn't on the list?

Yes, if you want to write in a name, you will be given a paper ballot by your delegation page and you will indicate all of your votes on that ballot.

4. Can I vote for an eligible clergy member from another jurisdiction?

Yes, you will need to request a paper ballot and follow the write-in ballot instructions.

5. What if I make a mistake when typing the number of the candidate?

Your last choice before the ballot is closed will be recorded. So, if you make a mistake, re-type the desired number and press "send."

6. Will I vote for all 5 candidates at the same time or one at a time?

Each candidate will be given a 3-digit number. When directed, you will enter the 3-digit number of your first choice and hit "send." You will be prompted when to enter your next selection. There will be a 30-second voting interval for each selection. This 30-second voting interval may be shortened as we gain more experience with the system.

7. Can I vote for the same person 5 times (or however many we are voting for at the time)?

No, the numbers you enter for each round of balloting must be for different people. If you repeat any numbers, you will cause your entire ballot to be invalid.

8. Do I have to vote for 5 people (or however many we are voting for at the time)?

Yes, voting for too many or too few will cause your ballot to be invalid.

9. What else will cause my ballot to be invalid?

If you vote for someone that has already been elected as a bishop, your ballot will be invalid.

10. What if my device isn't working?

You should raise your hand and your delegation page will bring you a paper ballot. You will give your voting device to the page. You will complete your entire ballot on paper for that round only, indicating your electronic voting device number on the paper. Your page will obtain a new voting device for you to use on the following ballot.