

13 April 2017

A message from the Bishopric Electoral Board

All,

I am writing to inform you that on Monday 10 April the Bishopric Electoral Board (“the Board”) had its first meeting in accordance with the *Bishopric Act 2013*. The requirement for this meeting was triggered when Bishop Andrew formally tendered his resignation on the 3rd April, to take effect on Thursday, 30 November 2017.

At that meeting, I was elected to Chair the Board.

The Electoral Board consists of the following members who are the current standing members of the committee elected at Synod in 2014.

Position	Apointee
Clerical	Dale Barclay
Clerical	Heather Blackman
Clerical	Greg Harris
Clerical	Michael Hopkins
Clerical	Ian Howarth
Clerical	Simon Robinson
Lay	Derek Shepherd
Lay	Julia Nutting
Lay	Jenny Rainsford
Lay	Jenny Dawson
Lay	Ian Dallas
Lay	David Bruce

The activities of the Electoral Board are guided by the Bishopric Election Act. The Act helpfully sets out a number of steps which we must follow, which includes;

- The appointment of a Consultant to assist us in our process, but not in our decision-making.
- Holding at least one open meeting of parishioners in order for us to explain our procedures and invite nominations.
- Developing a short list of no more than 6 candidates for consideration.
- The requirement for us to make a decision within 12 months, prior to “failure to elect” procedures being instigated.

We are planning to meet twice in the next 4 weeks in order to determine our next steps. As you can imagine, we have much to organise.

The Board is committed to running a transparent process and keeping members of the Diocese informed of our processes. We are therefore happy for these updates to be widely shared. We will determine further methods of communication at our subsequent meetings and advise you accordingly.

We will be seeking broad input into the qualities required in the new Bishop, so please expect more direct involvement in this process in the coming months, as arrangements are made.

As Bishop Andrew has stated, the last 15 years as Bishop of Bendigo has been a remarkable experience. We agree!

We will be developing and distributing a prayer for use within our Diocese to pray for and guide the selection process to ensure equal success with our next Bishop.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself on 0408 384 805, or any members of the Board, if you wish to discuss any thoughts you may have, or to ask any questions. I ask for your patience however in the first month, as the Board come together and plan our next steps.

Regards

Jenny Dawson

Chair, Bishopric Electoral Board