

# Discerned Attributes of the Eleventh Bishop of Nelson

The Diocese of Nelson has a strong evangelical (biblically orthodox) tradition, built on the foundation established by its second Bishop. The Diocese wishes to continue that tradition. The current (tenth) Bishop of Nelson has now announced his retirement and Standing Committee has established a process of consultation to discern the attributes sought in the next Bishop.

The Diocese prayerfully seeks the person with a clear call by God on their life to this Office. Meetings have been held across the diocese and a summary of comments resulting from these meetings were forwarded to the Electoral College Arrangements Committee by the convenors of the consultation meetings. Some individual submissions were also received.

The Arrangements Committee met on 31 October to analyse these comments and submissions. The list of attributes that follows summarises those identified through this consultation process.

## ***Personal Attributes***

- Has sound Christian character (honesty, humility, servant heart, wisdom, integrity)  
1 Tim 3:1-11, Titus 1: 5-9 and a life evidencing the fruit of the Holy Spirit
- Is a good communicator/handles media well
- Has strong interpersonal skills, including good listening skills
- Has courage of their convictions
- Is open to new ideas
- Is able to handle criticism and conflict
- Is culturally aware and engaged
- Has an affinity with the richness of Anglicanism

## ***Spiritual Attributes***

- Is a Christ centred Godly person with deep personal faith
- Prioritises and maintains personal spiritual disciplines
- Is sensitive to the leading of, filled with, and reliant on, the Holy Spirit
- Radiates a love for God and for people
- Is theologically orthodox, grounded in the Word of God

- Has a heart for mission and discipleship
- Is one who teaches and preaches competently and vibrantly from God's Word

## ***Leadership Attributes***

- Has proven leadership skills
- Has the ability to inspire, articulate and implement vision
- Is a strategic thinker
- Is a strong team leader and developer
- Is skilled in mentoring and discipleship
- Is willing and able to delegate
- Ensures pastoral support for other leaders
- Ensures appropriate accountability

## ***Other Attributes***

- Desires to work ecumenically with other Christian denominations
- Strongly supports the ongoing work of Bishopdale Theological College
- Is passionate about local church ministry
- Embraces and upholds the Diocesan statement on Marriage and Sexuality
- Is able to engage with the community
- If married, has a supportive spouse

**Discernment Meeting - 7.00pm - 9.00pm this Thursday 8 November at Hills Community Church, Mapua to discern names of possible candidates. Everyone is invited to these meetings – they are not restricted to just Electoral College members.**

# Process for prayer discernment meetings to raise names of possible candidates

The Electoral Committee met on 31 October 2018 and agreed the following guidelines for the prayer discernment meetings.

- Welcome and outline of the structure of the evening, including distribution of material.
- Open meeting with prayer, a few selected scripture readings, silence and petition (a brief liturgy) and then open prayer.
- Refer to list of attributes to use as a guideline for any possible candidates. Allow ten minutes for questions of clarification.

*Note:* This is not a group brainstorming session on names or the attributes, but a prayerful discernment of possible names that fit the discerned attributes. It is expected that people will come to the meeting already having given this matter prayerful consideration.

- A further time of prayer (silence and public petition).
- Invite people to suggest names. These names are recorded along with some comments on each person by the person suggesting the name (Maximum of 5 minutes per candidate). No discussion/debate on names at this point.
- We then move into another time of prayerful reflection of names against the list of desired attributes. People who have suggested names may, after this time of reflection, then choose to withdraw their suggested name and other names may be promoted for prayerful consideration. Again, those suggesting names are invited to speak in support of the name.
- Nomination forms will be available at the meeting for people to take away with them as needed. This will allow the form to be given to possible candidates prior to 30 November, to allow them to think about their name going forward and to start collecting the necessary information about referees etc.
- All names arising from the meetings should be forwarded to Annie Fraser, the Electoral College Secretary, as soon as possible after conclusion of the discernment meeting and by no later than 5pm, 30 November 2018. This will enable the Secretary to double check that all candidates, including those whose names have arisen outside the discernment meeting process, have the relevant nomination form in as timely a manner as possible.
- The names of those supporting each candidate are requested (along with their email addresses and phone numbers) so the candidate can be notified who supports their nomination.

## **Note that following the discernment meetings the Electoral College Secretary will:**

1. Confirm that the person is prepared to be a candidate and is obtaining names of a proposer and seconder and names of six referees (by 4 December 2018).
2. Obtain a CV and answers to specific questions by (14 December 2018).
3. Obtain responses to a referee questionnaire by (14 December 2018).

All materials will be collated and forwarded to the Electoral College members by end January 2019.