VOTING and PROCEDURES FOR 169th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF IOWA

All voting on Saturday, October 30, 2021 will be done electronically. Paper ballots will not be used. Certified Delegates will receive a link by e-mail and/or text message to cast their vote on their own electronic device. Election voting will use the Hare Transferable Ballot system while voting on motions will be a plurality, and by orders as necessary.

EXPLANATION OF HARE TRANSFERABLE BALLOT

The Hare Transferable Vote System is a means of achieving elections without the necessity for multiple ballots. It achieves an election in two ways:

1. By reducing the percentage of votes required to declare an election and
2. By successive transfers of counted votes in a prescribed manner until an election is achieved.

Step one in the counting process is to count the first choice candidates on all ballots. Any candidate who is first choice for the quota number will be elected.

The quota number is the number of valid votes cast divided by the number of positions to be filled plus one and then adding one to the quotient, disregarding any fractions. Any person receiving the quota number of votes is declared elected.

Example: 250 valid votes and 3 people to be elected. Divide 250 by 4 equaling 62.5, then add one to 62 to equal 63, the quota required for election. In a majority election, it would take 126 votes to elect each person to be elected.

For any unfilled positions, the next step is to take from the bottom of the pile of each elected candidate the excess number of ballots over the quota and to transfer those ballots to the next expressed choice on those ballots.

Each transfer ballot is marked with the count number "(1st, 2nd, etc) count, transfers".

If there are no further choices expressed on the ballot, the ballot becomes nontransferable and is eliminated from further counting.

If positions remain unfilled after the excess transfers, the lowest ranking candidate in number of votes is eliminated and the ballots being counted for that candidate will be transferred to the next expressed choice. This transfer and elimination process is continued until an election is achieved.

When the election is by orders, the same process is followed except the ballots of each order are counted separately, but when the lowest ranking candidate is eliminated that candidate is eliminated from both orders.

The Hare system is not a majority vote system except when there are only 2 candidates for one position. In all other elections, less than a majority of votes is required for an election and the larger the number of positions to be filled the smaller the percentage of votes required to achieve an election.

Since it takes less than a majority to fill multiple positions, it is more likely that a diverse group will be elected to fill these positions.