

*The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem
The Fifteenth Bishop of the Episcopal
Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem*



المطران حسام الياص نعوم
مرئيس الأساقفة الأنجليكاني في القدس
الأسقف الخامس عشر لمطراينة القدس الأسقفية العربية

14 September, 2023
Holy Cross Day

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

To the People and Clergy of the Diocese of Cyprus & the Gulf: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you know from my previous Pastoral Letter, last Thursday evening the Diocesan Synod met by Zoom in special session for the purpose of voting upon the candidate for bishop nominated by the Vacancy-in-See Committee.

At that meeting, as President Bishop, I asked the Committee to report on its work, to take questions, and to introduce their nominee for bishop to those gathered online. Once we had greeted the nominee, I invited him to offer to the Synod a presentation of his personal and ministerial background, as well as to express preliminary thoughts on his vision for the Diocese. Synod members were then free to ask the nominee questions through the Chair, to which he responded. Many people took this opportunity.

After the nominee departed, the voting procedures were explained to the Synod, including the constitutional requirement that a two-thirds consenting vote must be reached by both the House of Clergy and the House of Laity in order to confirm the nomination. The Houses then voted separately and anonymously. Once the votes were tallied, I announced that the two-thirds threshold had been met in the House of Laity, but had failed to do so by a narrow margin in the House of Clergy.

Before concluding the Synod with a prayer for God's guidance, I read to the Synod the procedures mandated in the Constitution as the next step. These empower me, as President Bishop, to serve as arbitrator in the process, and to submit to a subsequent meeting of the Synod the name of a nominee, whose confirmation would require a simple majority in each House.

Since the close of that meeting, I have been prayerfully reflecting upon this role and trying to discern the Mind of Christ for what would be the best course for the Diocese of Cyprus & the Gulf moving forward. In this, I have consulted with those whom I believe have wisdom and spiritual insight into the present situation.

I ask you to join me in praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as well as for God's grace to unite the Diocese in solidarity around advancing the mission of God's Kingdom in the regions that you serve. In the meantime, I will update you regularly on the process as it unfolds, maintaining my commitment to keeping it transparent throughout. May God bless you all in the days and weeks ahead.

In Christ,

The Most Reverend Dr. Hosam E. Naoum
Primate and President Bishop
The Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East
Acting Bishop, The Diocese of Cyprus & the Gulf

