



Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
St. Maurice and St. Verena
Coptic Orthodox Church

A Ministry of Love, Integration, and Outreach

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Church Board Election

What is the church board and what are its responsibilities?

The church board governs administrative matters of the church while spiritual/pastoral matters are handled by the clergy. Board activity includes fiscal oversight, governance (regulatory requirements, bylaws, etc.), building matters, and operationalizing the church vision and mission. Discussions held during board meetings are confidential.

What is the time commitment to serve on the church board?

The church board has regular monthly meetings as well as occasional meetings that could be held on short notice for more urgent discussions. Board meetings are held in the church board room or by video conference. Certain roles require more time commitment such as the Treasurer (5-8 hours/month) and the Secretary (4-5 hours/month). It is a 4-year term.

How many board members will be elected?

The SMSV church board will consist of 11 board members. These will include the officers of the board, which are the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. As per the Coptic Orthodox Church by-laws, 30% of the board can be appointed by H.H. Pope Tawadros II.

The board will also have a youth representative, which must be a servant for a youth ministry.

When is voting day for the church board?

Church board voting will take place after liturgy on **Sunday, March 5, 2023** in the presence of HG Bishop Archilids.

Who can be nominated to serve on the church board?

There is a list of criteria for nominees set by the SMSV Nominations Committee ([Appendix A](#)) guided by the Coptic Orthodox Church by-laws.

How do I nominate someone to serve on the church board?

First, please review the criteria for nominees to ensure that the person meets all the criteria. Secondly, you should speak with the nominee to get their consent to be nominated for the church board. After those steps are complete, the nominee must follow the steps below.

What do I need to do to submit my nomination for the board elections?

Download from the SMSV website (<https://smsv.ca/elections>) and complete the following 4 forms:

1. **Board Member Nomination Endorsement Form.** Obtain 7 nominators that are supportive of your nomination.
2. **Father of Confession Endorsement Form.**
3. **Vision Statement** (2 questions to answer).
4. **Consent to Publish Information Form.**

Please include a **bio** and a **picture of yourself**. All completed documents and your picture should be sent to Boardelections@smsv.ca by **Sunday, February 12, 2023**.

All information, documents, and picture should be sent in one email to the above address.

Can I nominate myself?

Yes. The nomination needs supported by 7 members of the congregation.

What happens after nominations are submitted?

- The Board Nominations Committee will review all the applications.
- The names, bios and pictures of nominees that meet the criteria will be posted on the SMSV website.
- The congregation will have 2 weeks to voice any concerns with the listed nominees. These concerns are to be directed to one of the church fathers (Fr. Pishoy or Fr. Thomas). More information will be provided on the website with the list of nominees.

If I have other specific questions related to the election process, how can I ask them?

You may submit your questions directly to the Nominations Committee at Boardelections@smsv.ca. Your questions will remain confidential.

Can I vote if I will be away on voting day?

Yes, you will be able to vote through your SMSV account.

When will the results be announced?

The results will be announced after His Holiness Pope Tawadros II approves the elected slate.

APPENDIX A

Criteria for Board Nominees

- Should be members of the church for a minimum of 3 years; can self-nominate
- Supported by 7 church members.
- Has received the confession father's endorsement for the nomination.
- Is not currently employed by the church.
- Is not a first degree relative¹ of the church priests.
- Is not a first degree relative or spouse of a serving board member. Any exceptions must have the Bishop Archilids' permission.
- Must be between 22 and 65 years of age. However, the Bishop can accept an individual over 65.

Personal Qualities of Board Nominees

- A faithful and active member of the Coptic Orthodox Church.
- Known for his/her calm and discerning personality and works well in groups.
- Loved and respected by members of the congregation.
- Will contribute positively to the ongoing vision and mission of the church.
- Respectful of the diversity within the congregation.
- Willing to serve the church community.
- Willing to dedicate the time to serve on the board.
- Has the ability to communicate effectively.
- Has demonstrated leadership skills.
- Works collaboratively with others.

¹ First degree relative is defined as a person's parent (father or mother), full sibling (brother or sister) or child.