

Christ Church Bangkok

Election Process Recommendations from the Election Working Group of the PCC

Date: 24 November 2025

Recommended Changes

1. Pre-Election Communication

- **Detailed procedure outline** – publish complete election process 2-3 weeks before AGM
- **Step-by-step transparency** – clearly explain registration, voting, counting, and results announcement procedures
- **Address concerns proactively** – anticipate and explain safeguards in advance communications

2. Enhanced Ballot Secrecy

- **Use unmarked ballots only** – eliminate all identifying numbers or markings on ballot papers
- **Anonymous distribution** – distribute ballots without any voter identification markings
- **Clear plastic ballot box** – replace opaque containers with transparent ballot collection

3. Transparent and Streamlined Vote Counting

- **Public counting location** – count votes in the main meeting room in full view of members (at appropriate distance)
- **Independent observers** – invite volunteers from Electoral Roll members (not PCC/administration) to serve as observers; approve first two volunteers by simple hand vote at the AGM
- **Simplified methodology** – implement systematic counting approach using spreadsheet or tally sheets
- **Time target** – aim for results announcement within 30 minutes of voting closure

4. Results Communication

- **Announce successful candidates only** – maintain current practice of not disclosing vote tallies
- **Retain paper ballots** – store physical ballots securely for 30 days post-election for verification if needed
- **Document procedures** – maintain written record of all election processes followed

5. Candidate access to personal vote totals

- **Private disclosure upon request** – Candidates may request their individual vote count from the Vicar **one week after the AGM** (the following Sunday)
- **Non-public information** – Only the requesting candidate will receive their own total vote count; vote counts for other candidates will not be disclosed nor will they be released publicly
- **Pastoral safeguard** – Delayed timing reduces the emotional pressure on candidates and the election team on the day of the AGM
- **Confidentiality expectation** – Candidates will be advised that comparing vote totals could lead to misunderstandings and that discretion is encouraged
- **Optional implementation** – This measure is offered as an optional enhancement and can be reviewed annually based on congregational feedback and PCC guidance

Implementation and Communication Strategy

Parish Communication

1. **Formal acknowledgment** – PCC acknowledges enhancement opportunities and commits to implementing improvements
2. **Clear action plan** – Publish specific steps being taken with timelines and responsible parties

Documentation and Review

1. **Written procedures** – Document all election processes in detail for future reference
2. **Record keeping** – Maintain comprehensive records of all procedural decisions and implementations
3. **Regular review cycle** – Establish periodic review of electoral procedures every 3-5 years to ensure continued effectiveness

These recommendations preserve constitutional compliance while addressing transparency and efficiency concerns raised by the congregation, with the ultimate goal of strengthening unity and confidence in Christ Church Bangkok's governance processes.