

Procedure for Electing Friends to AUSCP Leadership Team

The Friends of the AUSCP, per the bylaws of the Association, are those baptized Catholics who wish to support the mission of the organization. Although not required, donations from Friends to support the mission are appreciated.

Friends are allowed, per the Bylaws, to elect two representatives who will sit on the AUSCP Leadership Team (LT). These representatives are expected to provide a lay perspective on issues before the LT, to offer guidance on AUSCP business and activities from their personal experiences and skill sets, to participate in the various meetings and discussions of the LT, and to serve as a liaison with the entire group of Friends. Although Friends serve on working groups and commissions of the LT, and participate freely in all discussions, they do not have a formal vote on any issue that requires a vote (such as bylaws revision, budget approval, etc.). However, most decisions of the LT are made by consensus. The specific attendance demands of the Friends LT position are these:

- To attend the monthly LT Zoom meetings, unless excused prior to the meeting by the LT Chair. (Note: The LT as a whole has established that its members can miss only two consecutive monthly meetings before it will take steps to replace them.)
- To attend the annual January Leadership Team retreat, in the city designated for that year's Assembly. AUSCP pays the expenses for this trip. As with the monthly meetings, the member cannot skip the meeting without prior permission.
- To attend the annual AUSCP Assembly and assist in preparations for said Assembly. Registration for the Assembly and all hotel and travel must be paid by the Friend; AUSCP does not underwrite this cost, although financial assistance can be requested. As with the monthly meetings, attendance is required, both at the Assembly and at the LT meeting(s) there.

Terms for the LT Representatives

Each Friend representative to the LT can serve a three-year term, as well as a consecutive three-year term, with the terms staggered to overlap each other. Representatives will be elected by the full Friends membership, via email, in January and in June, taking office in the months of February and July after their election. Ideally, each term will overlap another by 12-18 months. If a sitting representative wishes to resign, an election to replace that person will be held immediately, with the newly elected member beginning a three-year term starting at the nearest February 1 or July 1 date. (Note: Currently the two sitting representatives will be assumed to have taken office on Feb. 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025.) A Friend who has completed two consecutive three-year terms is eligible to return for a new set of terms after a year has elapsed from the end of their term. A Friend who has served only one three-year term may stand for re-election at any time.

Qualifications for Friend Representative

To be eligible for election as a Friend representative, the Friend must be a baptized Catholic, in good standing with the association, support the AUSCP mission and goals, and have attended a recent (within two years) AUSCP Assembly.

Election Process

Current Friends Representatives, with the assistance of the AUSCP office, will arrange for a vote by email to elect a new representative.