

CANON 11 DIOCESAN COUNCIL

1 The Diocesan Council

There shall be an executive body of Synod to be known as the Diocesan Council.

2 Powers

The Diocesan Council shall be the representative of Synod between the sessions of Synod subject to the authority of the Bishop, and shall

- (a) be the final decision-making body apart from Synod itself; and
- (b) be primarily responsible for determining and interpreting diocesan policy; and
- (c) approve and exercise stewardship over the budget.

3 Role

(1) The role of Diocesan Council is to formulate and interpret policy which

(a) arises out of the forum of Synod;

(b) arises from the activities of committees; and

(c) by generating concepts, philosophies and policies, will ensure that the church maintains a stance appropriate to its responsibilities with respect to the growth of our society and the needs of both church and society for the future.

(2) It is also the role of Diocesan Council to advise the Bishop with respect to the welfare of the church.

4 Duties

The Diocesan Council shall be responsible for

(a) implementing resolutions of Synod and in its discretion referring them to appropriate bodies for implementation;

(b) reviewing and directing the implementation of decisions of committees where approval of the council has been sought;

(c) receiving and reviewing communications from church and community bodies external to the diocese structure as is necessary for the Council to make recommendations;

(d) managing any conflicts between committees that arise and cannot be resolved by the committees themselves;

(e) appointing task forces deemed necessary to expedite the work of Council;

(f) the submission of a written report in summary form of all matters and activities to the next regular session of Synod.

5 Membership

- (1) The following persons shall constitute the membership of the Diocesan Council
 - (a) The Diocesan Bishop who shall chair, unless the Bishop appoints an alternate chair;
 - (b) The Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop, if any; (Non-voting)
 - (c) The Chancellor of the Diocese;
 - (d) The Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese, if any;
 - (e) The Dean of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island;
 - (f) The Executive Officer, if any; (Non-voting)
 - (g) The Executive Secretary of Synod;
 - (h) The Financial Controller; (Non-voting)
 - (i) Two Regional Representatives from each Regional Council comprised of one member of the clergy and one lay person, both of whom shall be members of the Synod, with one of its two Regional Representatives to be elected by each of the Regional Councils for two consecutive terms at the session of each such Regional Council immediately prior to a regular meeting of Synod (each an "Electoral Session"), with the intent that only one half of the Regional Representatives on Diocesan Council shall be replaced at any one election;

[provided however that for transitional purposes:
 - (i) each of the Regional Councils shall elect, at the first session only of such Regional Council to meet after approval by Synod of this amended clause (i), one Regional Representative to serve for one term only and another Regional Representative to serve for two consecutive terms; and
 - (ii) such first session of each Regional Council shall meet to elect such first Regional Representatives not later than three (3) weeks after the meeting of Synod which approves this resolution.]
 - (j) In the event that a Regional Representative elected by a Regional Council ceases to be member of Synod or that a vacancy in respect of a Regional Representative otherwise occurs, such Regional Representative shall cease to be a member of Diocesan Council and the Regional Council shall elect a replacement Regional Representative to Diocesan Council at the first session of such Regional Council occurring after the Regional Representative ceases to be a member of Synod. If the Regional representative to Diocesan Council is not otherwise a member of Synod, their name shall be certified to the Executive Secretary of Synod as a Regional Delegate to Diocesan Synod for the duration of their term on Diocesan Council.
 - (k) A maximum of four members appointed by the Bishop, should the Bishop at the Bishop's discretion decide to make such appointments;
 - (l) Two youth delegates to be elected by the youth delegates to Synod from their number to serve on Diocesan Council until the next Diocesan Synod. In the event that a youth member becomes unable to serve, the bishop may appoint another delegate to complete the term.
- (2)
 - (a) Each person who is a candidate for election as a clerical member of the Diocesan Council but who is not elected as a clerical member of the Council is a substitute clerical member of the Council and each person who is a candidate for election as a lay member of the Council but who is not elected as a lay member of the Council is a substitute lay member of the Council;
 - (b) Where a vacancy occurs in the clerical membership of the Diocesan Council who are member of the Council for the unexpired portion of the term and where a vacancy occurs in the lay membership of the Council who are elected, the Bishop may designate a substitute lay member to serve as a lay member of the Council for the unexpired portion of the term, and where the person so designated agrees to do so, that person is the clerical member or lay member of the Council, as the case may be, for the unexpired portion of the term and ceases to be a substitute lay member as long as that person is serving for the unexpired portion of the term.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), a person may be re-elected as a member of Diocesan Council

(4) No person may be elected pursuant to clauses (i) or (l) of subsection (1) for more than two consecutive terms, the length of each term to extend from an election of such members to the Diocesan Council at an Electoral Session of a Regional Council in the case of an election pursuant to Clause (i), or a regular meeting of Synod in the case of an election pursuant to Clause (l), until the election of members to the Diocesan Council that is held at the next succeeding Electoral Session of a Regional Council or at the next succeeding regular meeting of Synod, as applicable.

6 Meetings

(1) The Diocesan Council shall meet regularly for a minimum of four times annually, at such times and places as the Bishop thinks appropriate.

(2) A quorum of the Diocesan Council shall be a majority of the members.

(3) In the absence of the Bishop, the Chair shall be that person nominated by the Bishop of the Diocese, and failing such nomination the Chair shall be that person chosen by the other members of the Diocesan Council.

(4) All meetings and debates shall be governed by the Rules of Order and Procedure as defined in the Constitution of the Synod of the Diocese of Nova Scotia.

(5) All minutes of the Council meetings together with supporting materials (collectively the "Minutes") shall be circulated electronically by email to members of the Council and Chairs of Standing Committees, Regional Deans, Chairs of Regional Council and, at the discretion of the Executive Secretary, to other persons (collectively the "Addressees" and each an "Addressee"); provided however that upon receipt of a written request from an Addressee, the Executive Secretary shall mail a copy of such Minutes to such Addressee.