

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution L-1 to the 69th Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton

Constitution Section 2 – Synod Membership

It will be moved and seconded:

THAT section C2 of the Constitution be amended by adding the following after clause (s):

(t) up to one Member, either Clergy or Lay, from each full communion partner church of the Anglican Church of Canada, appointed by the Bishop with the agreement of the partner church's appropriate ecclesiastical judicatory.

Background

At the national level, relations of “full communion” currently exist between the Anglican Church of Canada and three other North American churches whose jurisdictions overlap with ours: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in North America. The Anglican Communion as a whole joins in full communion with the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, which also has a ministry presence in the Edmonton area. In addition to creating the possibility of sharing in significant ways in common mission and ministry as partner churches, the agreements which establish these relationships speak encouragingly of welcoming participation in the consultation and decision-making bodies of one another's churches as another means of giving expression to the high degree of unity that we enjoy in full communion. As we anticipate growing together even more deeply with these sibling churches in the coming years, this proposed change to the Constitution on Synod Membership enables the Bishop of Edmonton to give greater visible expression to our communion relations by providing a means of appointing representatives from our full communion partner churches to be members of our Diocesan Synod with both voice and vote.

Resolution L-2 to the 69th Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton
Canon 13 and Constitution Section 2 – Recognized Ministries

It will be moved and seconded:

THAT the following be added after Canon 12:

Canon 13

RECOGNIZED MINISTRIES

13.1 A Recognized Ministry is an organized unit of Gospel-based community:

- (a) which exists for the purposes of praying, learning, witnessing, and serving in forms which are consistent with section C1A of the Constitution;
- (b) whose membership is comprised of individuals who share particular common ministry interests, initiatives, and commitments;
- (c) that desires to be in recognized partnership with and accountability to the Diocese of Edmonton; and
- (d) is not established or incorporated as a Parish of the Diocese and therefore is not subject to the Canons pertaining to parishes unless otherwise specified in this Canon or elsewhere.

13.2 (1) Upon a request from a prospective Recognized Ministry and upon the approval of Executive Council, the Bishop may establish a Recognized Ministry by issuing a written Deed of Recognition.

(2) the Deed of Recognition may include provisions concerning the following:

- (a) the purpose and scope of the Recognized Ministry;
- (b) the means by which the Recognized Ministry will be funded and supported;
- (c) the leadership team of the Recognized Ministry;
- (d) the nature of the accountability and reporting requirements of the Recognized Ministry to the Diocese; and
- (e) any other matter concerning the Recognized Ministry's purpose, scope and operations.

13.3 Any clergy or lay minister serving a leadership role in a Recognized Ministry shall be subject to the same relevant diocesan policies as other clergy and ministers of the Diocese.

13.4 Recognized Ministries shall not be subject to diocesan apportionment but a Recognized Ministry may choose to contribute financially to the Diocese.

13.5 (1) The Bishop, with the approval of Executive Council, may disestablish a Recognized Ministry at any time, as well as determine the appropriate means of that disestablishment.

(2) A Recognized Ministry may seek disestablishment at any time by making a written request to do so to the Bishop and Executive Council.

AND THAT section C2 of the Constitution be amended by adding the following after clause (t):

(u) up to two Members, either Clergy or Lay, from each Recognized Ministry.

Background

In recent years the Diocese has increasingly entered into ministry arrangements that do not fit the definition of a parish. They may be partnerships with other denominations or organizations, congregations without a full parish structure, or groups united by factors other than geography. The proposed Canon 13 provides for recognition of such units and makes them accountable to the Diocese. The proposed amendment to the Constitution gives Recognized Ministries representation in Synod.

Resolution L-3 to the 69th Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton

Constitution Section 104.1 – Advisory Committees

It will be moved and seconded:

THAT the following is added after section C 104 of the Constitution:

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

104.1 (1) “Advisory Committee” means a committee established under this section.

(2) From time to time the Bishop may establish committees to advise the Bishop of matters of concern to and the work of the Diocese.

(3) The terms of reference for the Advisory Committees established under subsection (1), including membership, shall be approved by Executive Council.

(4) The Bishop may disestablish an Advisory Committee with the concurrence of Executive Council.

(5) Advisory committees shall report directly to the Bishop.

(6) The proceedings of an advisory committee may be kept confidential depending upon the nature of the matters considered by the advisory committee.

(7) Advisory committees may establish their own procedural rules consistent with the Constitution and the Canons including quorum which shall not be less than 50 per cent of the membership of the advisory committee.

Background

For many years there have been committees established to advise the Bishop that are not referred to in the Canons or accountable to Executive Council. Two of these are the Diocesan Advisory Response Team and the Examining Chaplains. They generally deal with matters that are sensitive and confidential and over which the Bishop has final authority. While there are valid reasons for not making these advisory committees subject to the same rules as Standing Committees, there is a concern that their existence should be formalized and procedures set down for their establishment and disestablishment.

Resolution L-4 to the 69th Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton

Canon 5 – Disestablishment of Parishes

It will be moved and seconded:

THAT Canon 5.15 is repealed and the following substituted:

5.15 (1) Upon disestablishment, all real and personal property held by the parish disestablished shall vest in the Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton.

(2) Upon liquidation of the property under subsection (1), Executive Council shall designate a portion to be designated to the Diocesan Development Fund but a minimum of 10 per cent of the value of the property liquidated must be designated to the Diocesan Sacred Lodge Fund or successor Funds established by Executive Council for the purposes of reconciliation **with Indigenous Peoples**.

Background

The Diocese of Edmonton continues on a journey towards justice and right relationship with the Indigenous Peoples of this land. Resolution R-1 of the 68th Synod charged the Executive Council with developing policies and procedures to ensure that material benefits that result from the lands and infrastructure which our churches occupy are more equitably shared with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit partners in accordance with the spirit and intent of the treaties. This was to include a means of ensuring that a minimum of 10% of all future sales of diocesan properties, assets, and lands are designated to fund local Indigenous-led community projects and healing initiatives. This proposed change to Canon 5 on the Disestablishment of Parishes enshrines our practice of that commitment in a tangible way in accordance with the principles and procedures approved by the Executive Council in 2024 through its *Spirit of Pakitinâsowin* document.

Resolution L-5 to the 69th Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

It will be moved and seconded:

THAT section C60 of the Constitution be amended by striking out “and signed”;

THAT section C67 of the Constitution be amended by striking out “the said positions and define or vary the terms of appointment” and substituting “those positions”;

THAT section C71(a) of the Constitution be amended by striking out “which shall, as far as possible, conform to a system of staggered lapsing of terms of office”;

THAT section C89 of the Constitution be amended by striking out “There shall be” and substituting “There may be” and by striking out “which shall be called” and substituting “called”;

THAT section C120 of the Constitution be amended by striking out “chartered accountant” and substituting “chartered professional accountant” and by striking out “chartered accountants” and by substituting “chartered professional accountants”.

Background

These amendments are required to remove obsolete language and impracticable provisions. The Stewardship Committee (s. C89) does not currently exist but there may be a desire to revive it in the future.

Resolution L-6 to the 69th Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE CANONS

It will be moved and seconded:

THAT Canon 1 is amended by renumbering the following:

- (a) Canon 1.8 to Canon 1.13;
- (b) Canon 1.9 to 1.15;
- (c) Canon 1.10 to Canon 1.9;
- (d) Canon 1.11 To Canon 1.10;
- (e) Canon 1.12 to Canon 1.11;
- (f) Canon 1.13 to Canon 1.16;
- (g) Canon 1.14 to Canon 1.8; and
- (h) Canon 1.15 to Canon 1.14

And by adding the following after Canon 1.11:

1.12 Recognized Ministry: A Recognized Ministry established under Canon 13;

THAT Canons 4.5 to 4.7 and the heading” Lay Administrants” be repealed;

THAT Canon 5.68 be amended in clause (f) by adding “or Deacons” after “Honorary Clergy”;

THAT Canon 12.6 be amended by striking out “by a barrister duly admitted to practice in the Court of Queen’s Bench in Alberta” and substituting “a lawyer entitled to practice under the Legal Profession Act”;

THAT Canons 5.23 and 5.25 be amended by striking out “the termination of the appointment of the Incumbent” and substituting “the appointment of a new Incumbent”;

THAT Canon 4.22 be amended by adding “the Incumbent and Vestry of the Parish of which the nominee is a member, and” after “the proposed licensee by”;

THAT Canon 4.26 be amended by adding “or a qualified lay person” after “a member of the Clergy”;

THAT the heading following section 5.115 be struck out and the following substituted, “Donations”;

THAT Canon 5.116 be repealed and the following substituted:

5.116 The Corporation will ensure that every parishioner who has pledged a donation and every other parishioner who so requests, is provided with a giving number and access to a method of making donations including envelopes if specifically requested.

Background

- The definitions in Canon 1 are not currently in any logical order.
- The Canons on Lay Administrants are now spent since a licence is no longer required for a lay person to assist in the administration of Holy Communion.
- The Canon on Parish Vestries does not currently make it clear that Deacons may be members of Vestry.
- The terminology regarding the qualifications of lawyers has changed.
- It is proposed that appointments of assistant and honorary clergy end when a new Incumbent starts, rather than when the old Incumbent leaves, in order to provide continuity in staffing and give the assistant adequate notice of termination.
- The Warden of Lay Evangelists has requested that the Canon be amended to give the parish input into licensing, in addition to the Warden, and to permit the Warden to be a lay person.
- Many regular donors no longer use offering envelopes, so the requirement that parishes issue them is obsolete, but it is still important that parishes facilitate the making of donations and track the monies received.