

# CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

These are extracts from *The Constitution* of the Diocese of Toronto which pertain to the election of a Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop. A copy of the complete Constitution and Canons for the Diocese of Toronto can be found on our website at [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca).

## SECTION 10 – ELECTION OF A BISHOP

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### (1) NOMINATIONS

- (a) A Nominations Committee, consisting of three Clerical and three Lay Members of Synod, shall be appointed by the Chancellor.
- (b) One written nomination for the office of Bishop may be made by any member of Synod, who may submit the same to the Nominations Committee at least 21 days before the date of Synod. Any individual receiving 10 or more nominations will be placed on the ballot.
- (c) All nominations shall be circulated to all members of Synod at least fourteen days before the date of the said Synod, together with biographical material on each nominee, including age, academic background, date of ordination, all ecclesiastical appointments, and other relevant qualifications and experience.
- (d) Further nominations may be made to the Nominations Committee at any time until an election is completed. Any individual receiving 10 or more nominations will be placed on the ballot. Biographical material will be furnished at the discretion of the committee where possible.

### (2) ELECTION

A Bishop shall be elected from those nominated, by voting by orders by ballot in the following manner:

- (a) A majority of the total votes validly cast in each Order shall determine the choice, provided at least one-half of the Clergy and at least one-half of the Lay Members of Synod, entitled to vote are present and vote.
- (b) If fewer than one-half of the Clergy or fewer than one-half of the Lay Members of the Synod entitled to vote are present and vote, a Cleric must secure two-thirds of the votes validly cast of each such group that is deficient, in order to be elected.
- (c) If, after twelve successive ballots have been had at any one election, and no cleric has been elected as provided in subsection (a) and (b) herein, a further ballot shall be taken and the percentage of the Clergy voting thereat for each Cleric shall be added to the percentage of the Lay Members voting thereat for the same Cleric, and the Cleric who obtains the highest total of percentages shall be declared elected.

## SECTION 11 – COADJUTOR OR SUFFRAGAN BISHOP

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- (1) Whenever the Bishop of the Diocese, shall, in writing, signify to the Diocesan Council of the synod that the Bishop is desirous of having the assistance of a Coadjutor Bishop, the Diocesan Council shall give notice of such request at the next Session of the Synod. If the Synod concurs in the Bishop's request, the election of such Coadjutor Bishop shall be proceeded with at such time and place as shall be determined by the Bishop after consultation with the Diocesan Council.



- (2) Whenever the Bishop of the Diocese, shall, in writing, signify to the Diocesan Council of the Synod that the Bishop is desirous of having the assistance of a suffragan Bishop or Bishops, the Diocesan Council shall consider the request and, if approved, the election shall be proceeded with at such time and place as shall be determined by the Bishop after consultation with the Diocesan Council.
  - (3) An election of a Coadjutor and/or Suffragan Bishop or Bishops shall be conducted in the same manner as in the case of election of a Bishop of the Diocese.
  - (4) A Coadjutor Bishop shall without further election become and be the Bishop of the Diocese whenever any vacancy occurs in the See.
  - (5) A Suffragan Bishop, on a vacancy occurring in the See shall not become Bishop of the Diocese unless thereto duly elected.
  - (6) When a Coadjutor Bishop or a Suffragan Bishop is elected and consecrated, such Bishop shall exercise all powers, privileges and authority in subordination to the Bishop of the Diocese.
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