

**CANON 2**  
**The Diocesan Council of the Synod**

**1. Purpose**

The Diocesan Council of the Synod shall exercise generally the executive powers of the Synod between sessions of the same except those of a legislative character.

**2. Members**

The membership of the Council shall consist of:

- (a) the Bishop, the Coadjutor Bishop and the Suffragan Bishops.
- (b) the Chancellor, or in the absence of the Chancellor, a Vice Chancellor
- (c) the Registrar
- (d) the Dean of Toronto
- (e) the President of the Diocesan Anglican Church Women.
- (f) the Honorary Clerical Secretary of Synod and the Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod.
- (g) one (1) clerical and two lay members from each Area, elected by the members of that Area, at or prior to the date of the meeting of the Synod.
- (h) up to fifteen (15) members of the Synod appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Area Bishops.
- (i) one (1) member from each Area Council.

The elected members shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting of Synod until the conclusion of the next Regular Session of Synod.

The appointed members shall retain their office until such time as the Bishop's appointments have been made.

In the event of the resignation or death of an elected member, the Bishop shall appoint a replacement to complete the term of office.

Any member of the Diocesan Council declared to be mentally incapable to manage their property or personal care by an Ontario Superior Court shall be deemed to have resigned.

**3. Meetings**

- (a) The Bishop shall be Chairperson of the Diocesan Council. If the Bishop be absent and has not named a Deputy Chairperson, the Diocesan Council shall elect one.
- (b) A quorum shall be eleven (11) members of the Diocesan Council.
- (c) At least six (6) regular meetings shall be held in a year.
- (d) A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chairperson.
- (e) A special meeting may, at the discretion of the Chairperson, be held using teleconference or videoconference facilities in place of a face-to-face meeting.
- (f) Where the Chairperson decides that it is in the best interests of the Diocese for a decision to be made by the Diocesan Council between meetings by use of polling, the Chairperson shall instruct the Secretary of Synod to carry out a poll of the Diocesan Council members according to the following requirements:
  - i) The Secretary of Synod shall attempt to reach all members using all reasonable means available.
  - ii) At least a quorum of members must vote.
  - iii) The decision shall be structured so as to require an answer of "yes" or "no".
  - iv) All members shall be given exactly the same information and be required to respond to exactly the same question.

- v) Responses to any questions answered as part of the polling process are to be shared with all members polled and no vote is considered final unless all members voting have been given the same information and been informed of all responses to questions.
  - vi) The poll shall be recorded by the Secretary of Synod and the record of the poll received at the next regular meeting of the Diocesan Council.
- (g) The following shall be present at meetings: the Diocesan Executive Assistant; the Chief Administrative Officer & Secretary of Synod; the Treasurer & Director of Finance; the senior staff person of: Communications, Congregational Development, Human Resources, Stewardship Development, and Social Justice and Advocacy. Where any Canon specifically refers to a person by title, and the function of that person changes, the Diocesan Council may, by resolution, substitute the person who has assumed the function of the person named in the Canon.

**4. Duties and Responsibilities**

The Council shall:

- (a) Exercise the powers conferred on the Synod by the Act of the Legislature of Ontario except with respect to property administered by the Investment Committee under Canon 39.
- (b) Appoint the Agenda Committee and Nominations Committee as required by The Constitution.
- (c) Consider and deal with the matters referred to it by Synod.
- (d) Receive reports and recommendations on policy, program and finance from the various boards and committees and decide on appropriate action.
- (e) Authorize the payment of money under the control of Synod.
- (f) Make necessary arrangements for the sessions of Synod; prepare in due form such matters as the Bishop or any member of Synod may desire to bring before Synod; prepare nominations for all elections to be held by ballot in accordance with s. 21 of The Constitution.
- (g) Receive notices of motion, memorials, or other matters to be considered by the Synod, and shall have the same printed in the Convening Circular in full, or in part, as it may deem expedient. No notice of motion or other matter to be considered by the Synod shall be printed in the Convening Circular until it has been considered by the Diocesan Council.

5. Where it appears to the Diocesan Council to be in the best interests of the Diocese that any Canon should be suspended in any particular case, the Diocesan Council may by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present suspend any Canon or provision thereof in a particular case until the next Regular Session of Synod. Where any Canonical provision has been suspended under this section, full reasons for the suspension shall be attached to the minutes and a full explanation shall be given at the next Regular Session of Synod.