

**CANON 25**  
**DIOCESAN MISSIONS**

**1. Designation**

Where following:

- (a) a request by a Parish or area of work or interest, either in the form of a resolution or request in writing from the organization involved, or
- (b) a recommendation by a Bishop's Commission, or
- (c) a situation determined by the Synod Council to require it,

it appears that a geographical area or area of special mission work or interest should be designated as a Diocesan Mission, the Synod Council in consultation with the Bishop may so designate. Any mission so designated shall be a mission pursuant to Section 2 of the Constitution.

**2. Board of Management**

Any mission or work so designated shall be managed by a Board of Management which shall assume the rights and responsibilities normally assumed by churchwardens and advisory boards of parishes.

**3. Changing Designation**

The designation of a Diocesan Mission may be changed or revoked at any time by the Synod Council with the consent of the Bishop.

**4. Composition of Board**

The composition of the Board of Management which shall normally consist of the Incumbent together with a maximum of 8 (eight) clergy or laity, either elected by the congregation of the Mission, or partly elected and partly appointed, shall be determined by the Synod Council.

**5. Churchwardens**

If the Synod Council deems it necessary or desirable to have Churchwardens, the Board of Management shall appoint 2 (two) of its members to be Churchwardens who shall function under the direction of the Board of Management and shall be deemed to be properly appointed under Canon 15.

**6. Conflict with Other Canons**

In any conflict between this and any other Canon, the provisions of this Canon shall apply.

**7. Deemed Parish**

A congregation attached or forming part of a Diocesan Mission, at the discretion of the Synod Council, be deemed to be a Parish pursuant to the terms of Canon 4, in which case such congregation shall also be deemed to be a Parish pursuant to the Constitution and entitled to elect lay members of Synod pursuant to the terms of the Constitution.

**8. York Rectory**

The Incumbent of a Diocesan Mission who is functioning within the area covered by The York Rectory Commission shall be deemed to be an Incumbent of a church and entitled to a share in the surplus income distributed.

**9. Alternative to Disestablishment**

Where a Parish might otherwise be disestablished, the Synod Council and the Bishop may, as an alternative to disestablishment, designate the Parish as a Diocesan Mission under the control of a Board of Management.

**10. Continuance of Parish Structure**

Where it is necessary or desirable and with the consent of the vestry of the Parish involved, a Parish may be designated as a Diocesan Mission, in which case the Parish structure shall continue, but the management functions of the Churchwardens and Advisory Board shall be assumed by a Board of Management, which in this case shall have half of its members elected by the vestry of the Parish and one-half appointed by the Synod Council with the chairman appointed by the Bishop.

**11. Report to Synod Council**

In any case, a Board of Management shall report annually to the Synod Council and shall report more frequently if so requested by the Synod Council.

**12. Supervision**

Any Diocesan Mission shall be under the supervision of the Bishop and Synod Council.

**13. Staff**

All staff of a Diocesan Mission shall be deemed to be Diocesan staff, unless otherwise directed by the Synod Council and the Bishop.

**14. Review**

All designations of Diocesan Missions will be reviewed at least every three years by the Synod Council.

**15. Further Duties of Board**

The Board of Management shall also perform those functions of a Diocesan administrator of Parishes as set out in Canon 24, Section 2, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 14.