

**CANON 44**  
**AREA COUNCILS**

1. Each Area shall have an Area Council which shall act in an advisory capacity to the Bishop or Area Bishop on matters referred to it for advice by the Bishop, Area Bishop, Synod Council, or Synod. The Area Council shall have a minimum of ten members and meet at least three times a year.
2. An Area Council shall be composed of:
  - (a) the Bishop or Area Bishop;
  - (b) any person appointed to be the Chair of the Area Council;
  - (c) archdeacons serving in the Area; and
  - (d) representatives of the clergy and laity elected in a manner determined by the Area Bishop in consultation with the area Council;

In addition to the above-named members, an Area Council may have representatives of the clergy and laity appointed in a manner determined by the Area Bishop in consultation with the Area Council, some or all of whom shall be subject to the term limitations specified in Section 4.

3. Membership of an Area Council shall be restricted to clergy serving or living in the Area and to lay persons over the age of sixteen years who are members of a Vestry in the Area. Any member of the Area Council appointed or elected to represent the Area Council on the Diocesan Council must be a member of Synod.
4. Elected members of an Area Council shall be limited to a maximum of three successive terms of two years each, following which no such member may be elected for two years. Any person appointed to be the Chair of the Area Council is not subject to this limitation of term. Further, the Bishop or Area Bishop may appoint some persons as members without limitation of the term.
5. The Area Council shall:
  - (a) propose and recommend a budget for its operations to the Synod Council;
  - (b) supervise and authorize the payment of money pursuant to its budget as authorized by Synod and the Synod Council;
  - (c) develop and propose policy recommendations to the Diocesan Council for its consideration;
  - (d) provide opportunities in the Area for lay and clergy training events and other Area gatherings;
  - (e) appoint youth and young adult members to Synod as required by the Constitution; and
  - (f) report on its activities to the Synod Council at least annually.
  - (g) appoint or elect one Area Council member who is a member of Synod as a representative of the Area Council to the Diocesan Council.