

CANON 2

The Synod Council of the Synod

1. **Purpose**

Synod 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:

Category	Sub-Category of Member	Member of Synod	Sub totals	Totals
Office Holders	Bishop of Toronto	Yes	1	6-8
	Suffragan Bishops	Yes	2-4	
	Chancellor (or in their absence, a Vice Chancellor)	Yes	1	
	Honorary Clerical Secretary of Synod	Yes	1	
	Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod	Yes	1	
Bishop's Appointments	3 Committee Chairs (clergy or laity) from Finance, Property, and Human Resources	Yes	3	8
	Up to 5 Appointees (clergy or laity)	Yes	5	
Elected	5 Lay Members of Synod elected at Synod	Yes	5	10
	5 Clerical Members of Synod elected at Synod	Yes	5	
Non-Voting	Executive Director	Yes		1
Total Membership of Synod Council			25-27	
(including 1 non-voting)				

- 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 Synod 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 Synod Council. If the Bishop be absent and has not named a Deputy Chairperson, the Synod Council shall elect one.
- (b) A quorum shall be ten (10) members of the Synod Council.
- (c) At least four (4) regular meetings shall be held in a year.
- (d) Meetings may, at the discretion of the Chairperson, be held using teleconference, videoconference or in-person, or a combination thereof.
- (e) A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chairperson.
- (f) Where the Chairperson decides that it is in the best interests of the Diocese for a decision to be made by the Synod Council between meetings by use of polling, the Chairperson shall instruct the Secretary of Synod to carry out a poll of the Synod 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 in the form of a motion so as to require an answer of "for" or "against".
- 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 Page 7 at the next regular meeting of the Synod Council.

(g) The following may be present at meetings: the Diocesan Executive Assistant; the Secretary of Synod; the Treasurer & Director of Finance; the Vice Chancellors and any other staff member of the Diocese or consultants to the Diocese invited by the Executive Director or the Chairperson. Where any Canon specifically refers to a person by title, and the function of that person changes, the Synod 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 any 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 Nominating Committee as required by The Constitution.
- (c) Consider and deal with the matters referred to it by Synod.
- (d) Establish subcommittees pursuant to "Terms of Reference", including the 5 standing committees of Synod Council: Audit, Finance, Property, Human Resources, and Risk and Governance, and working groups on an ad hoc basis to assist the Synod Council in carrying out its duties and responsibilities.
- (e) Receive reports and recommendations on policy, program and finance from the various boards and committees, including without limitation, the 5 standing committees of Synod Council: Audit, Finance, Property, Human Resources, and Risk and Governance, and decide on appropriate action.
- (f) Obtain or request the Secretary of Synod to obtain on its behalf, such information and specialized advice as the Synod Council determines necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities.
- (g) Authorize the payment of money under the control of Synod.
- (h) 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.
- (i) Receive notices of motion, memorials, or other matters to be considered by the Synod, and 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 Synod Council.

5. Suspension of Canons

Where it appears to the Synod Council to be in the best interests of the Diocese that any Canon should be suspended in any particular case, the Synod 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.