

COVER SHEET FOR THE SYNOD MOTIONS REGARDING THE CANONS

The intent of these canon and regulation amendments is to better reflect the current life of the diocese, and to provide greater flexibility in the future as our common experience on the Islands and Inlets shifts and grows.

In order to better reflect the current way in which the diocese is administering itself, Motion 1, 2, 3 and 5 are designed to amend the canons and regulations by removing the references to regional deans and assigning to the regional archdeacons the responsibilities previously handled by the regional deans.

In addition to removing the regional deans, Motion 3

- a. moves the regional conferences, regional executive committees and clericus meetings from canon 3 to regulations under that canon. This allows greater flexibility in the future as regulations may be altered by diocesan council and do not need to go to synod to be implemented;
- b. gives the regional archdeacon the responsibility to call regional conferences at their discretion; and
- c. moves the process for arranging financing of regional ministries to policy rather than enshrining this process in the canons or regulations.

Motion 4 simply harmonizes with the provisions in the constitution the process for appointing diocesan executive officers and diocesan finance officers.

Motion 6 removes the requirement that the diocesan treasurer hold a current professional accounting designation. This will allow the diocese to appoint a treasurer who may have retired and who has not continued their professional designation. It also allows the diocese to appoint a treasurer who has a substantial financial background but who is not an accountant.

The finance officer holds a current accounting designation and the audit each year is performed by outside accountants. The treasurer is not required to review the entries in the general ledger in the way an accountant will do. What is needed in a treasurer is that he or she have a broad view of the diocese finances and policies.

Motion 7 is intended to clarify that the registrar need not be a lawyer, and that the registrar be an ex-officio member of diocesan council, with voice but no vote.

Motion 8 removes Appendix H from the canons and moves to policy the schedule of remuneration for clergy.

Motion 9 is self-explanatory. The need for this motion is clear from a reading of the canons and regulations. There are many instances in the canons and regulations where various terms are used for the same thing, where the wording is unclear, and perhaps more importantly, where the canons do not reflect the reality of life in these islands and inlets. In addition, as the diocese moves forward, there is a need for the diocese to be more nimble than the canons as presently constituted will allow.

As the work contemplated by this motion is undertaken, there will arise policy issues. These will be presented to diocesan council for direction.

Motion 10 is the first step in amending the Constitution in order to remove the requirement that there be regional deans by laying before this synod the amendment to the definition section that refers to the regional dean, so that, if approved it may be brought back to the next regular synod for ratification.