

CANONS COMMITTEE REPORT TO 101st SYNOD

FOR CONSIDERATION MAY 13, 2023

The Canons Committee is a standing committee of the diocesan council, under Regulation 3.07.a. Its membership consists of the chancellor as chair, the vice chancellor, the registrar, the diocesan finance officer, the diocesan executive officer, and up to five additional members. The committee was chaired by chancellor Robert Gill until December 2022, and by chancellor Isabel Weeks since that time.

The additional members (in addition to the *ex officio* members) since the 100th Synod:

- Rev. Canon Dr. John Steele
- Rev. Canon Dr. Blair Haggart
- Ron Wall (until May 12, 2022)
- Hon. Timothy Ray (appointed May 12, 2022)
- Glenn Tait (appointed November 14, 2022)
- Robert Gill, ODBC, Chancellor Emeritus (appointed February 13, 2023)

The Committee's mandate, acting on the direction of diocesan council, is to formulate language for the Constitution, Canons and Regulations that properly reflects the policies and practices of the diocese.

Recommendations for alterations to the Constitution must be approved by the diocesan council, and then approved by the majority of the members of Synod, voting by order, at two successive regular sessions of Synod, and approved by the bishop (Constitution, Article XVI(a)).

Recommendations for alterations to the Canons must be approved by the diocesan council, and then approved by the majority of the members of Synod, voting by order, at the next regular session of Synod, and approved by the bishop (Constitution, Article XVI(c)).

Recommendations for adoption of or alterations to a Regulation become operative immediately upon approval by the diocesan council but must be ratified by the majority of the members of Synod at the next regular session (Canon 8.c).

Since the 100th Synod, up to the time of writing of this report, the Canons Committee met electronically on:

- November 16, 2021
- May 12, 2022
- November 14, 2022
- February 13, 2023

At its meeting in November 2022, diocesan council directed the canons committee to review the canons, regulations and appendices with a view to proposing amendments that will:

- Better reflect our actual practices;
- Make the canons and regulations internally consistent in wording and numbering;
- Use plain language;
- Reflect the appropriate division among issues that belong in the canons, those that belong in the regulations and those that belong in a policy manual; and
- Be forward looking and allow for future flexibility where flexibility is appropriate.

Since that time, the canons committee has developed the first set of proposed amendments that are intended to accomplish what diocesan council has directed. In the coming months, with the approval of synod, the canons committee intends to continue this work so that it can propose to diocesan council a major re-write of the canons, regulations, and appendices for consideration by Synod 102.

Particulars of the alterations to the Constitution, Canons and Regulations to be considered at the 101st Synod will be presented in detail in the convening circular.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Gill, ODBC, Chancellor Emeritus, (chair 2021 – 2022)
Isabel Weeks, Chancellor (chair 2023)