

Motions: Proposed Revisions to Constitutions, Canons and Regulations

Motion #1

Moved by Diocesan Council:

That Synod 2024 approve the motion that was approved by Synod 2023 and laid over to this Synod that Article I be amended by deleting in its entirety the definition of “Regional Dean”.

Motion #2

Moved by Diocesan Council:

That Synod 2024 approve the amendment of the Constitution by:

A. Repealing in its entirety Article I thereof, and enacting in its place the following:

ARTICLE I - DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

A. This constitution and the canons of the Synod and all regulations made thereunder shall be interpreted in their plain and literal sense provided that words of an ecclesiastical meaning and words of a financial meaning shall be construed in their specific context as shall other words having technical meaning.

B. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing in this constitution, in the canons and in all regulations made thereunder the following definitions shall apply unless the context otherwise requires:

“Act of Synod” is a direction given by the Synod to one or more of its officers or other persons or body to perform some special act(s). It remains in force until it has been complied with or until the next session of Synod.

“Assisted parish” is a parish which, after completion of a full parish review, is found to be unable to finance its own operations and pay its assessment.

“Administrator” is the person appointed or elected as provided in the canon in the vacancy of the See or the incapacity of the bishop.

“Bishop” is the bishop of the Diocese of British Columbia, or any bishop coadjutor, bishop suffragan, bishop assistant, administrator or commissary acting for the time being in the bishop’s place and stead upon the bishop’s authority or the authority of the metropolitan.

“Bishop assistant” is a bishop appointed by the diocesan.

“Bishop coadjutor” is a duly elected and employed bishop with right of succession.

“Bishop suffragan” is a duly elected and employed bishop who may have territorial jurisdiction as ordered by the bishop of the Diocese.

“Canon” is an enactment of the Synod declared so to be upon its adoption.

“Church” is the Anglican Church of Canada.

“Clergy/cleric” unless otherwise qualified is every person in holy orders from the Anglican Church of Canada and the ELCiC and those churches in full communion with the Anglican Church of Canada, whose name is on the clerical register of the Diocese of British Columbia.

“Commissary” is a cleric of the Diocese of not less than ten years’ standing appointed under the hand and seal of the bishop, for such duties as the bishop may define.

“Communicant” is any parishioner who has communicated, where having an opportunity of so doing, at least three times in the preceding year.

“Congregation” is the ecclesiastical division recognized by the bishop.

“Dean” is appointed by the bishop, and is, after the Bishop, the senior cleric of the Diocese, regardless of years of service.

“Delegate”

a.

- i. the clergy under provision of Article III (B)
- ii. a lay representative under the provision of Article V
- iii. a youth lay delegate under the provisions of Article III (G).

b. is a clerical or lay representative to the General and/or Provincial Synod duly elected by Diocesan Synod.

“Diocesan” is the bishop of the Diocese.

“Diocese” is the Diocese of British Columbia, unless otherwise qualified.

“Elector” is a parishioner not less than 16 years of age.

“Incumbent” is the cleric who has the cure of souls in a parish and who is licensed and appointed by the bishop to perform ecclesiastical duties therein.

“Memorials in churches” include metal, stone or wooden plaques, ornaments, fixtures, articles of furniture, furnishings, lights, windows, or anything of a like description.

“Motion” is a form of words by which it is sought to elicit an expression of opinion, regarding some proposal contained therein.

“Parish” is an organized congregation or group of congregations within the Diocese of British Columbia.

“Parishioner” is any baptized person who shall have been in regular attendance at a parish church of the Diocese for a period of not less than three months.

“Petition” is a written or printed request addressed to a person or body of persons for the redress of some wrong or for the granting of some favour.

“Rector” is the incumbent of a self-supporting parish.

“Region” is a group of parishes within the Diocese linked together for the purposes of administration and mutual assistance save where the context directs otherwise as in the case of Christ Church Cathedral.

“Regional conference” is a meeting of appointed and elected clerical and lay members of a region.

“Regulation” is an instruction or order specifying the manner in which certain duties of officers and members of the Synod shall be performed, and in which the powers, authorities and duties specified in certain articles of the constitution and canons of the Synod may be carried out.

“Seniority” - after the Dean, seniority of clerics shall be determined by number of continuous years of service in the Diocese.

“Session” is the regular and/or special meeting of the Synod, and covers the period from opening to final adjournment.

“Synod” is the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia.

“Vestry” is an annual or special meeting of parishioners duly convened and constituted for the transaction of business in accordance with the canons on that behalf.

B. Amending Article II by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“The Diocesan Synod may deliberate on all matters affecting the interests of the church in the Diocese; but, except as delegated by General Synod, shall have no competence to

(a) change doctrine or worship as set forth in the official formularies of the Anglican Church of Canada, or

(b) decide other matters assigned to the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada or the Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon.”

C. Amending Article III by deleting “(e) President of Anglican Church Women”, and re-lettering subsequent subparagraph (f) as (e) and subparagraph (g) as (f).

D. Amending Article III B by deleting the last sentence thereof.

E. Amending Articles V, IX and XI by replacing the terms “he/she” and “his/her” with “they” and “them”, respectively, and in Article V changing the verb “thinks” to think” and in Article XI changing the verb “desires” to desire”, to parallel tense with the noun.

F. Amending Articles X, XIV and XV by deleting the word “council” wherever it occurs and replacing it with “diocesan council”.

And that these amendments to the Constitution, if approved at Synod 2024, be laid over to the next Synod for consideration.

Motion #3:

Moved by Diocesan Council:

That effective on January 1, 2025 the canons and regulations in force at the start of this Synod 2024 be repealed and in their place, the following canons and regulations be enacted:

*(see the document linked in the convening circular:
“Revised Canons and Regulations for Adoption”)*