

Background Document: Proposed Amendments to Canon 1.1 – Composition of Synod

The proposed amendments to Canon 1.1 does some housekeeping work to align the canon with our current practices. Using the words “transitional” or “vocational” with respect to Deacons often diminishes the office they serve. Deacons who are discerning a call towards the priesthood will normally hold a Bishop’s Licence, whereas all others will be granted a Bishop’s Permission. There is no expectation that the diocesan Controller position will be needed again, having been vacant since 2010. Moreover, Regional Councils do not function in much of the diocese and so eliminating the expectation that lay representatives at Synod should also be expected to be members of Regional Councils is not keeping with our reality.

However, the primary, substantive purpose of this amendment is to grant the Director of Deacons and Deputy Director of Deacons, if any, membership in the Diocesan Synod, ensuring that two people extensively familiar with the ministry of all deacons holding a Bishop’s Permission will be present and able to participate directly and fully in this part of the church’s governance. Their presence and participation, added to that of the three deacons holding a Bishop’s Permission who have been elected from the College of Deacons, strengthens the witness to and engagement of the church’s servant ministries in the world and gives a stronger voice to the needs of the world in the councils of the church.

1. The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara shall consist of:
 - (1) The Bishop of the Diocese, who shall be the head of Synod;
 - (2) Any Suffragan or Coadjutor Bishop thereof;
 - (3) The Priests, Deacons and Lay Workers thereof, duly licensed;
 - (4) The Director of Deacons, the Deputy Director of Deacons (if any), and up to three deacons (who have been granted a Bishop’s Permission) elected annually by the College of Deacons from among its members, *(amended 2015)*
 - (5) The Chancellor;
 - (6) The Vice-Chancellor, if any;
 - (7) The Treasurer;
 - (8) The Secretary of Synod;
(amended, 1991)
 - (9) The Lay Representatives duly elected in accordance with Canon 4.1(17);
 - (10) Anyone not otherwise designated above who is a member of the Synod Council;
(new, 2001)
 - (11) Not more than 10 Lay Representatives who shall be appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese in each year in consultation with the Synod Council, such Lay Representative serving for a one-year term.
2. Lay Workers who are members of Synod shall be considered members of the Order of Laity for purposes of voting.
3. Clergy who receive a pension from the Anglican Church of Canada and who are currently in good standing with the Bishop of Niagara shall be entitled to a seat on the floor of the Synod, and shall have a right to take part in discussion, but shall not be entitled to vote.

See next page for the current version of Canon 1.1

CANON 1.1

Composition of Synod

1. The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara shall consist of:
 - (1) The Bishop of the Diocese, who shall be the head of Synod;
 - (2) Any Suffragan or Coadjutor Bishop thereof;
 - (3) The Priests, Transitional Deacons and Lay Workers thereof, duly licensed;
(amended, 2003)
 - (4) Up to three deacons elected annually by the College of Deacons from among its members;
(new, 2003)
 - (5) The Chancellor;
 - (6) The Vice-Chancellor;
 - (7) The Treasurer;
 - (8) The Controllor;
 - (9) The Secretary of Synod;
(amended, 1991)
 - (10) The Lay Representatives duly elected in accordance with Canon 4.1(17);
 - (11) Anyone not otherwise designated above who is a member of the Synod Council;
(new, 2001)
 - (12) Not more than 10 Lay Representatives who shall be appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese in each year in consultation with the Synod Council, such Lay Representative serving for a one-year term.
2. Lay Workers who are members of Synod shall be considered members of the Order of Laity for purposes of voting.
3. All Lay Representatives appointed pursuant to Paragraph (10) of Section 1 of this Canon shall be members of the Regional Council to which the Parish which he or she is a member or the Vestry thereof is affiliated.
4. Superannuated clergy shall be entitled to a seat on the floor of the Synod, and shall have a right to take part in discussion, but shall not be entitled to vote.
(amended, 1992)