

CANON 1.9

Synod Council

1. There shall be a Synod Council of the Diocese of Niagara consisting of the following members:
 - (a) The Diocesan Bishop who shall chair, unless the Bishop appoints an alternate chair;
 - (b) The Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop, if any;
 - (c) The Chancellor;
 - (d) The Vice-Chancellor, if any;
 - (e) The Dean;
 - (f) The Treasurer;
 - (g) The Executive Officer, if any;
 - (h) The Secretary of Synod;
 - (i) Any person holding a director-level position with the Synod office;
 - (j) Any regional archdeacon duly licensed;
 - (k) One lay representative from each of the regions elected for a two-year term in such manner as determined by the Synod Council;
 - (l) One representative, either clergy or lay, from each of the regions elected for a two-year term in such manner as determined by the Synod Council;
 - (m) One representative elected by each of the Diocesan Vision groups as defined by Synod Council, at its first meeting following the conclusion of the Diocesan Synod, for a one-year term;
 - (n) One representative elected by the Financial Advisory Committee, for a one-year term, at its first meeting following the conclusion of the Diocesan Synod, provided that the Financial Advisory Committee may elect an alternate representative who may attend, and vote at, meetings of the Synod Council should the Committee's elected representative be compelled to be absent; and
 - (o) Four individuals appointed by the Diocesan Bishop annually, at least two of whom are members of Synod.

(amended, 2025)
2. An alternate representative, clergy or lay, may be elected from each of the regions who shall serve as a member of the Synod Council in the event of an elected member's inability to attend a meeting of the Council. If an elected member resigns, such alternate representative shall serve out the balance of the member's term. Alternate members shall have full voting privileges when attending on behalf of an elected member or serving out the balance of a term.

(amended, 2022)
3. (a) There shall be standing committees of the Synod Council, as follows:
 - i. The Coordinating Team of Synod Council, consisting of the Secretary of Synod, and at least three members to be elected annually by the Synod Council. The Coordinating Team shall meet between sessions of the Synod Council at the call of the Secretary of Synod, who shall chair the meetings.

- ii. The Financial Advisory Committee, consisting of the Treasurer and at least six members to be elected by the Synod Council for a two-year term, renewable twice.
 - iii. The Investment Advisory Committee, consisting of the Treasurer and at least six members to be elected by the Synod Council for a two-year term, renewable twice.
 - iv. The Audit Committee, consisting of the Treasurer, and at least six members, to be elected by the Synod Council for a two-year term, renewable twice.
 - v. The Human Resources for Ministry Committee, consisting of the Bishop or Bishop's designate, and at least four members elected by the Synod Council for a two-year term, renewable twice.
- (b) Other standing committees may be mandated by Synod Council, as necessary.
 - (c) The terms of reference for each standing committee will be defined in a mandate letter approved by the Synod Council.
 - (d) Unless otherwise specified, the chair of each standing committee shall be appointed by the Bishop.
 - (e) Members of the committees shall normally be members of a parish vestry within Niagara.
 - (f) The Bishop and Executive Officer shall be ex officio members of all standing committees. *(amended, 2022)*
4. The Synod Council shall, between sessions of the Diocesan Synod, exercise generally the executive powers of the Diocesan Synod conferred by An Act to Incorporate the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, 1876, and amendments thereto, except those of a legislative character.
 5. The Synod Council shall submit to each Annual Session of the Diocesan Synod a report of its proceedings since the last Annual Session of the Diocesan Synod.
 6. The Synod Council may delegate to the Financial Advisory Committee the right to appoint a financial institution in Canada as the custodian of the funds of the Synod and all securities, except mortgages, upon such terms as may be agreed upon by such financial institution and the Financial Advisory Committee, provided that the accounts of the Synod shall be kept in the name of the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara.
 7. The Synod Council shall, at its first meeting following the conclusion of the Diocesan Synod, appoint signing officers for the Diocese, such signing officers to include the Bishop of the Diocese, the Executive Officer, the Secretary of Synod, the Treasurer, and any other individuals as shall be designated at that time by the Synod Council, provided that two signatures shall be affixed to all cheques and bills of exchange, one of which must be that of the Treasurer, the Executive Officer, or one other person appointed by Synod Council, and provided further that such signing officers as appointed pursuant to this section shall be authorized, in the name of the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, to
 - (a) draw, accept, sign, approve, and make all or any bills of exchange, promissory notes, electronic or wire transfers, cheques and orders for the payment of money;
 - (b) pay and receive all moneys and to give acquittance for the same;

- (c) assign and transfer to the financial institution acting as custodian all or any stocks, mutual funds, bonds and other securities and from time to time to borrow money from such financial institution either by overdrawing the account or otherwise; and
- (d) generally for and on behalf of the said Synod to transact with the said bank any business.

(amended, 2022)

8. The Synod Council through the Financial Advisory Committee, shall be responsible for the management of all the funds held by or under control of the Synod, and all lands vested in the Synod, and shall take charge of and administer such funds and the proceeds arising from the sales of all such lands in accordance with the trusts upon which they are held, and the provisions of any Canons or By-Laws which the Synod may lawfully enact; and shall invest and take up and re- invest in such securities as are authorized under the Insurance Companies Act, all monies coming into their hands for investment or re-investment, and shall keep or cause to be kept separate and distinct accounts of each and every trust, showing the capital of same. The income received and accruing from the several investments so made of the whole of the said general trust fund shall be divided amongst the several trusts as foresaid pro rata in the proportion borne by each separate trust fund to the general trust fund, after deducting from such receipts, not more than 10% thereof for the expenses of management, investment and administration.
9. The Synod Council shall meet at least six (6) times between each annual session of the Diocesan Synod on such dates and at such places or by such means as the bishop shall determine, provided fourteen (14) days notice of any meeting being given. The Secretary of Synod may, upon the written requisition of at least ten (10) members of the Synod Council call a meeting of Synod Council, provided fourteen (14) days notice of any meeting being given. In extraordinary circumstances, the Bishop may call a meeting of Synod Council sooner than the aforementioned fourteen (14) day notice period.
10. A quorum for each meeting of Synod Council exists if and only if there is:
 - (a) a majority of the members present; and
 - (b) fifty percent of those of those members elected pursuant to subparagraphs k and l of Section 1 of this Canon.

(amended, 2020)

(replaced, 2014)