

Background Information on Proposed Canon Changes

1) The Repeal of Canon 1.10 on Regional Councils

This motion will repeal the canon which enacts the regional council structure within our diocesan governance system and outlines its purposes and functions. In doing so, the motion will reflect our current practice and reality as, for a variety of reasons, none of the duly established regions have had a functioning council for some time now.

2) The Amendment of Canon 2.5 Concerning a Solicitor for the Synod

This motion will amend the text of the current canon in order to clarify that the solicitor serves the legal organization that is the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, to clarify the role of the diocesan solicitor, and to reflect the current reality that the Diocese may occasionally need to retain legal counsel with expertise in particular matters. The amendment would also remove the residency restriction, allowing the flexibility to retain a solicitor outside the City of Hamilton, and it would remove the prohibition against serving on the Financial Advisory Committee.

3) The Repeal of Canon 2.8 on Diocesan Loan Funds

This motion will repeal the canon which consolidated a variety of funds into one common fund for the purpose of granting loans to a congregation for the erection, extension or alteration of any buildings belonging to such congregation. These funds have since been depleted and our current practice is to facilitate a loan for congregations, as appropriate, through our diocesan banking institution. Repealing this canon will have no substantive change in our current management practices and will reflect our current reality.

4) The Addition of a New Canon on Diocesan Missions

This new canon seeks to add an additional tool to our governance toolbox by offering encouragement and support for new ministries within our diocese, recognizing that not all missional ventures are best structured as parishes. "A particular geographical area or an area of special mission work or interest" may be duly designated as diocesan mission by the Bishop upon approval by synod council. A licensed missionary would oversee the mission, supported by an advisory board. The Bishop, at any time, may revoke mission status.