

CANON 20 - Amended 2015 and 2017

Regions and Regional Deans

1. REGIONS

- (1) The Diocese shall be divided into Regions, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined from time to time by the Diocesan Bishop in consultation with the Diocesan Council.
- (2) The Diocesan Bishop, in consultation with the Diocesan Council and with the Regions and parishes concerned, may transfer any parish from one Region to another, divide or amalgamate existing Regions, or change the boundaries of any Region.

2. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF OFFICE

- (1) The Diocesan Bishop shall appoint a priest, serving in the Region as Regional Dean of the Region and, in doing so, the Bishop shall consult with the appropriate Archdeacon, the clergy of the Region, and the lay representatives to the Regional Council and inform the parish in which the priest who the Bishop intends to appoint performs his or her ministry, of the Bishop's intention to appoint that priest a Regional Dean, in order that the parish may have 14 days in which to amend the Covenant between the said priest and the parish to reflect the additional Diocesan duties of the said priest.
- (2) The appointment is at the pleasure of the Bishop.
- (3) Normally, a Regional Dean serves for a term of five years, renewable once.
- (4) A Regional Dean who resigns or ceases to serve as a priest in the Region ceases to be the Regional Dean.
- (5) Where a Regional Dean is unable to perform the Regional Dean's duties, the Bishop may appoint another priest serving in the Region as Acting Regional Dean.

3. RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN REGIONAL DEAN AND

(A) The Bishop:

- (1) A Regional Dean is responsible to the Diocesan Bishop in the performance of such duties as appertain to the office of Regional Dean or are assigned by the Bishop.
- (2) A Regional Dean shall inform the Bishop, Archdeacon, or other parish clergy, as appropriate, of any areas of concern with their region that they are unable to resolve.
- (3) The Bishop shall assign a partner for each Regional Dean from among their membership.
- (4) Partners shall support one another in the fulfillment of their duties and will be prepared to act as Regional Dean within the partner's parish.

(B) Archdeacon in the Region

(1) The Archdeacon for the area in which the Region is located shall install a Regional Dean at an appropriate time and place and, at that time the Regional Dean shall publicly signify the Regional Dean's willingness to accept and discharge all the responsibilities of the office.

(2) The Regional Dean and the Archdeacon are part of the Regional Ministry Team and shall support one another in their respective ministries.

(C) Clergy in the Region

The Regional Dean shall convene regular meetings of the clericus of the Region, as a means of:

- (a) keeping in touch with and assisting clergy in their ministries,
- (b) developing new programs recognizing different regions have different needs, and different appetites for learning new program,
- (c) discussing matters of importance for the Region; and
- (d) shaping Regional Itineraries.

(D) Parishes in the Region

A Regional Dean shall be available, at the invitation of the Incumbent or Wardens or at the direction of the Bishop, to visit every parish or pastoral unit in the Region and to meet with the Incumbent and Wardens, or in the vacancy of an incumbent the Wardens, and other interested members of the Parish Council and parishioners. The purposes of the meeting may include but are not limited to:

- (a) educating and assisting in ensuring that all financial matters are being maintained and reporting is being properly conducted;
- (b) educating and reviewing how records are being maintained especially during times of transition;
- (c) providing assistance on the proper inspection and maintenance of all properties and buildings according to all Diocesan policies and guidelines;
- (d) helping to educate parishes and churches on the Canons and the Guidelines of the Diocese, recognizing the Archdeacon normally reviews Canon 25 at the time of electing the parochial committee;
- (e) serving as a resource if Council positions cannot be filled.
- (f) ensuring, under the direction of the Diocesan Bishop and with the assistance of the Archdeacon, the continuance of ministry and services during the vacancy of an Incumbent; and
- (g) to maintain a watch over parishes in the Region to ensure they are effectively functioning as members in the Diocesan family of parishes.

(E) Regional Council

The Regional Dean shall convene Regional Council.

(1) Each Region shall have a Regional Council composed of:

- (a) at least one Synod Delegate from each parish,

- (b) additional members elected from each parish to a maximum of six, including members elected pursuant to subsection (a); and
- (c) all the licensed clergy serving in the region.

(2) The Regional Council shall meet for the purposes of but is not limited to:

- (a) providing a forum for parishioners and clergy to discuss matters of importance to the Region, its parishioners and churches;
- (b) assessing matters of diocesan concern, including subjects which will arise at Synod;
- (c) holding a pre Synod meeting so that Synod Delegates may become familiar with the motions and the agenda of Synod;
- (d) organizing regional ministries (such as continuing education, outreach, mission and justice ministry); and
- (e) providing opportunities for worship and fellowship to build up the body of Christ within the wider Church.

(3) The Regional Council shall elect:

- (a) two lay persons from among its members, or one lay member and one member of the clergy, to be co-chairs of the council;
- (b) one lay synod delegate and one ordained synod delegate to represent the region on Diocesan Council; and
- (c) a secretary and treasurer, or secretary/treasurer, as the region determines necessary.

(4) Regional Council elections shall take place at the first meeting of Regional Council following the deadline for the completion of all Parish Annual Meetings as set out in Canon 35, Section 17.1. The co-chairs, secretary and treasurer or secretary/treasurer elected by a Regional Council will serve a one year term commencing at the close of said meeting. If a person holding the position of co-chair, secretary, treasurer or secretary/treasurer is not re-elected to continue on Regional Council following the parish annual meeting, the person shall continue in office until a successor is elected. No person should hold the same position for more than four (4) consecutive terms.

(5) The Regional Dean shall provide support to the leadership team.

(6) In respect to Prince Edward Island the existing “Diocesan Church Society” may substitute for and function as a Regional Council of the Region as it so desires, and would thereby be subject to its own constitution.

(F) Diocesan Structure

- (1) Regional Deans shall meet as a body, chaired by the Bishop or the Bishop’s designate.
- (2) A minimum of two such meetings shall be convened by the chair each year, the major portion of which shall be for training, mutual education and support, coordination of activities, planning, and for sharing leadership skills.
- (3) The Regional Deans may institute studies, make recommendations to the Bishops or Diocesan Committees, or serve as consultants to the Bishops or Diocesan Committees on specific issues.

4. TRAINING

A newly appointed Regional Deans shall agree, as a condition of appointment, to undertake an approved Diocesan training program for Regional Deans within the first year of the Regional Dean's appointment.

GUIDELINES RESPECTING REGIONAL DEANS

General

The Diocesan Bishop is supported by the Episcopal Ministry Team, which includes the Suffragan Bishop, the Diocesan Executive Director, an Administrative Assistant, Archdeacons, Regional Deans and Representative Lay Leaders in each region.

The Episcopal Ministry requires a strategy to administer our financial and personnel resources well. The Ministry of a Regional Dean is to extend the administrative and financial support of the Episcopal office.

Regional Deans are not only accountable to the Bishop that appoints us to the position but also to the people we are asked to be in relationship with and vice versa. So whenever there is a duty listed with another person whose duties are also outlined in the canons and guidelines then a reciprocal responsibility and accountability will be written into that canon or guideline.

This ministry requires the development of relationships in the region and the diocese that are built on mutuality, trust, acceptance, honesty, and love. This is the pastoral component, the foundation required in order to carry out our respective duties.

Every effort is to be made to maintain open and transparent communication in all of these Relationships and by all parties to the necessary relationships to live out one's ministry.

Relationship between Regional Deans and:

A. Bishop:

While every effort is to be made to maintain open and transparent communication in all of our relationships it is also important to recognize the Bishop has appointed Regional Deans to extend the administrative and financial support of the Episcopal Office. The seriousness or complexity of issues being dealt with in a region may suggest the bishop be informed, while other larger issues may suggest the bishop have an opportunity for input to the solution. The Bishop may initiate something to be addressed; or it can be identified internally within the region. Even if the Regional Dean has been able to resolve an issue of concern, it may be appropriate to inform the bishop.

B. Archdeacons:

The complexity of some matters that are being dealt with by the Archdeacon and/or the Regional Dean as part of the Ministry Team may reasonably suggest a team approach for working towards a solution.

Certain Regional Matters:

C. Regional Councils:

Regional Councils are encouraged to meet, at least, four times a year.

Regions may consider:

- (a) regional ministries that may otherwise not happen at a parish level, such as ongoing continued education, outreach or justice ministry;
- (b) regional opportunities for worship and fellowship to build up the body of Christ within the region; and
- (c) electing from among its members:
 - i) two laypersons, or one lay person and one member of the clergy, to be co-chairs;
 - ii) a secretary, treasurer or secretary/treasurer as the region determines necessary; and
 - iii) one lay synod delegate and one ordained synod delegate to be members of Diocesan Council.

D. Diocesan Structure:

Regional Deans are encouraged to serve on at least one Diocesan Committee that is related to the ministry of a Regional Dean.