



## PART 3 – RESOLUTIONS FOR SYNOD 2023

<b>1</b>	Resolution of Loyalty to the King	<i>Mover: Victor Henrikson</i> <i>Seconder: Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner</i>	
<b>2</b>	Resolution of Greetings to the Anglican Communion	<i>Mover: Rev. Paul Jennings</i> <i>Seconder: Edith Marshall</i>	
<b>3</b>	Resolution that Ecumenical Visitors be Granted Courtesies of the House	<i>Mover: Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner</i> <i>Seconder: Rev. Canon Lisa Vaughn</i>	
<b>4</b>	Resolution to Receive Committee Reports	<i>Mover: Dawn Purcell</i> <i>Seconder: Rev. Dorothy Miller</i>	
<b>5</b>	Resolution to amend Canon 25 (Appointment, Transfer and Resignation of Stipendiary Clergy – Parochial Committee)	<i>Mover: Archdeacon Katherine Bourbonniere</i> <i>Seconder: Archdeacon John Clarke</i>	
<b>6</b>	Resolution to amend Canon 35 (Parochial Government)	<i>Mover: Rev. Dr. Patti Brace</i> <i>Seconder: Archdeacon Katherine Bourbonniere</i>	
<b>7</b>	Resolution to amend Canon 11 (The Diocesan Council)	<i>Mover: Rev Will Ferry</i> <i>Seconder: Dawn Purcell</i>	
<b>8</b>	Resolution to amend Canon 20 (Regions and Regional Deans)	<i>Mover: Rev. Dr. Patti Brace</i> <i>Seconder: Archdeacon Katherine Bourbonniere</i>	
<b>9</b>	Resolution to initiate a working group(s) to re-examine Canons 11, 20, and 35	<i>Mover: Rev. Will Ferrey</i> <i>Seconder: Dawn Purcell</i>	
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**LEGEND - Proposed text to be *added* is underlined Proposed text to be *removed* is ~~stricken~~**



## # 1. Resolution of Loyalty to the King

**Mover: Victor Henrickson**

**Second: Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner**

**Resolved that** this pledge of loyalty begin by acknowledging our presence today in Mi'kmaqia, the ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the treaties of peace and friendship which Mi'kmaq and Maliseet People first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with the surrender of lands and resources but, in fact, recognized the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

As the Synod of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, the oldest Diocese in the Anglican Church of Canada, assembled in Halifax on the 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of May, 2023, we extend to His Majesty, King Charles III, King of Canada and head of the Commonwealth, our warmest expressions of affection, loyalty and devotion. We wish His Majesty God's blessing and pray that God will guide and protect him in all he endeavors. We wish to assure His Majesty of our sincere goodwill and affection and wish him continued good health and every blessing for the future.

**Commentary:**

This resolution pledges loyalty to the King.

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## # 2. Resolution of Greetings to the Anglican Communion

**Mover: Rev. Paul Jennings**

**Second: Edith Marshall**

**Resolved that** Synod send to the Archbishop of Canterbury the following memorial: Greetings in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The Synod of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island meeting in its 151<sup>st</sup> Session affirm our continued love and support to you and the Anglican Communion.

**Commentary:**

This resolution requests that we send to the Archbishop of Canterbury greetings to the Anglican Communion.

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## # 3. Resolution that Ecumenical Visitors be granted courtesies of the House

**Mover: Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner**

**Second: Rev. Canon Lisa Vaughn**

**Resolved that** ecumenical visitors be granted courtesies of the House.

**Commentary:**

This resolution acknowledges ecumenical visitors and grants them courtesies of the House which includes a voice but no vote.

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## # 4. Resolution to Receive Committee Reports

**Mover: Dawn Purcell**

**Second: Rev. Dorothy Miller**

**Resolved that** the Committee Reports published in the Convening Circular be received.

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## #5. Resolution to amend Canon 25

**Mover: Archdeacon Katherine Bourbonniere    Second: Archdeacon John Clarke**

**Resolved that** the following edits be made to Canon 25: Appointment, Transfer and Resignation of Stipendiary Clergy.

a. Canon 25: 3 (5):

3 Resignation

- (1) A rector or priest-in-charge of a parish or parishes may resign from office by notice, in writing, to the Bishop.
- (2) A resignation 'is not effective unless accepted, in writing, by the Bishop.
- (3) A resignation, when accepted by the Bishop, in writing, is irrevocable.
- (4) Unless the Bishop otherwise agrees, no resignation is effective until a date which is at least three months after the date upon which the notice of resignation has been given.
- (5) The Bishop, on receipt and acceptance of a resignation, shall, within fourteen days after the acceptance, so advise the wardens of the parish or parishes of which the person was rector or priest in charge. They shall also notify, in confidence, the Regional Dean and area Archdeacon
- (6) The resignation shall be announced to the parish or parishes at Divine Service on the first Sunday following the date upon which the resignation has been first communicated to the wardens.
- (7) Until the resignation has been announced, it shall be held in confidence by the wardens and the person resigning.

b. Canon 25: 5 (2) (addition)

5. Signing Out Process

- (1) Where a person resigns as the rector or priest-in-charge of a parish, that person shall, before leaving the parish, carry out a signing out process administered, in accordance with guidelines and directives issued by the Bishop from time to time, by the Regional Dean for the region in which the parish is located or a member of the clergy designated by the Bishop.
- (2) For the purpose of this Canon, the signing out process with respect to a parish is a process whereby the person who resigned as the rector or priest-in-charge of the parish completes all duties that remain to be carried out by that person as rector or priest-in-charge of the parish, and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, includes
  - (a) the securing and accounting for all paperwork, files, correspondence and documents under that person's control as rector or priest-in-charge;
  - (b) the completion of all records and reports for which that person is responsible as rector or priest-in-charge including provision of a Parish List;
  - (c) the accounting for all money under that person's control and the closing of all accounts and the transfer of funds to appropriate accounts;
  - (d) the completion of a written record of all scheduled services, including weddings and baptisms;
  - (e) the making of all appropriate pastoral referrals
  - (f) the securing and accounting of all parish electronic media and accounts, parish social media and accounts, all parish passwords, and editorial authority;



c. Canon 25: 6 (addition):

6.1 Authority of Bishop to Appoint Interim Priest

Where the office of rector of a parish is vacant, the Bishop may, upon conferring with the parish authorities, appoint to the parish an interim priest for a period not to exceed twenty-four months to provide a time of adjustment between ministries.

2. Exploration of Financial Health

Where the office of rector of a parish is vacant, the Bishop may, upon conferring with the parish authorities and the Financial Controller, request a review of parish finances. This review is to include (but is not limited to) a coordinated development of a three-year budget, a review of endowments and investments, a review of all Diocesan arrears (including payroll, insurance, and allotment), and a review of any changing demographics (both parish and secular). Once this review is completed to the Bishop's satisfaction, the parish may continue this process with the Appointment of the Parochial Committee, signalling the beginning of the Canon 25 process.

d. Canon 25: 7 (2):

7. Appointment of Parochial Committee

(1) Where the office of rector of a parish is vacant or has become or is about to become vacant for any reason, including resignation, the Bishop shall, in such manner as the Bishop prescribes, give to the wardens of the parish a notice of vacancy which shall be in writing and which shall

(a) advise of the vacancy;

(b) direct the wardens to convene a meeting of the parishioners for the purpose of appointing a Parochial Search Committee, herein referred to as the "Parochial Committee", to advise the Bishop in the selection of a rector for the parish.

(2) ~~The wardens, in consultation with the archdeacon for the archdeaconry in which the parish is located, shall convene a meeting to take place within thirty days after the notice of vacancy is given to them.~~ The wardens, in consultation with the archdeacon for the archdeaconry in which the parish is located, shall convene a meeting to take place within thirty days after the completion of the Exploration of Financial Health (6) or the Bishop's indication that the process may proceed. In the event of a timed interim, this meeting is to be scheduled in consultation with the Bishop not less than 90 days before the anticipated end of the interim.

(3) The provisions of Canon 35 respecting the manner in which a meeting of parishioners is called and the procedure at meetings of parishioners apply to a meeting convened pursuant to this Section, except where otherwise provided by this Canon.

(4) The meeting shall be chaired by the archdeacon for the archdeaconry in which the parish is located or a member of the clergy appointed for that purpose by the Bishop.

(5) Any Postulant, Associate Parish Priest, Deacon, any paid staff person of the parish as well as the member of the clergy who is rector or in charge of the parish at the time of the meeting convened pursuant to this section, shall not attend the meeting and shall not be nominated to the Parochial Committee.

(6) Any priest or deacon holding the Bishop's license who is a member of the parish shall not attend the meeting and shall not be nominated to the Parochial Committee.



- (7) Where a meeting is convened pursuant to this Section the wardens shall read the notice of vacancy to the meeting and the chair of the meeting shall advise the meeting of the procedure provided in this Canon for the appointment of a rector.
- (8) The majority of the parishioners present at the meeting shall elect the Parochial Committee.

**Commentary:**

The Diocese continues to hone the Canon 25 process. Taking into account new trends in ministry since the last edit in 2019 — and taking into account the numerous impacts of Covid 19 on parishes and ministry in general — the above edits address the transfer of information, the timing of the onset of the Canon 25 process (and necessary correspondence). The significant addition to the Canon is the requirement of an Exploration of Financial Health early in the process to aide in establishing the financial resources available for the ministry required.

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**#6. Resolution to amend Canon 35**

**Mover: Rev. Dr. Patti Brace**

**Seconder: Archdeacon Katherine Bourbonniere**

**Resolved that** the following edits be made to Canon 35: Parochial Government.

20. (1) At each annual meeting of a parish the agenda shall include the following items in the following order or such other order as the meeting determines:
- (a) an opening prayer;
  - (b) the election of the chair of the meeting;
  - (c) the election of the secretary of the meeting, if necessary;
  - (d) the reading, correction, if any, and approval of the minutes of the previous annual meeting;
  - (e) any unfinished business from the previous annual meeting;
  - (f) business arising from the minutes;
  - (g) communications; i. a report on the parish's efforts to promote God's mission and to promote outreach in the parish.
  - (h) consideration of a written report by the parish corporation of the parish on all its assets and liabilities including money invested by it or on its behalf since the previous annual meeting, such report to include a schedule describing the investments, including the rate of interest on each investment, if any, and the maturity date of each investment, if any;
  - (i) the presentation of a list of all insurance policies belonging to the parish corporation and the amount of insurance on all buildings owned by the parish corporation;
  - (j) new business;
  - (k) the presentation of financial statements of all receipts and expenditures since the previous annual meeting of the parish, each church and each organization of the parish;
  - (l) the report of the Rector;
  - (m) the report of the wardens;
  - (n) consideration of a written report of each committee of the parish and the reception of reports of parish organizations, regional council and other congregational bodies;
  - (o) consideration of a statement of the estimated income and expenditures for the ensuing year;
  - (p) the election of wardens;



- (q) the election of other members of parish council;
- (r) the election of lay representatives and youth delegates to Synod pursuant to the Constitution of Synod;
- (s) the election of a secretary of the parish, unless a meeting of the members of the parish has authorized the parish council established for the parish to elect or appoint the secretary or the by-laws of the parish provide for the appointment of a secretary other than by election at an annual meeting of the members of the parish;
- (t) the election of a treasurer of the parish, unless a meeting of the parish has authorized the parish council established for the parish to elect or appoint the treasurer or the by-laws of the parish provide for the appointment of a treasurer other than by election at an annual meeting of the members of the parish;
- (v) ~~the election of delegates to Regional Council (all clergy are ex-officio members; at least one synod delegate, between three and six additional members representing men, women and youth);~~ the election of delegates to Regional Council as per Canon 20 Section 2(e) (i)
- (w) the election of a correspondent to the Diocesan Times;
- (x) such other elections or appointments as the meeting determines;
- (y) a closing prayer or the Grace

**Commentary:**

The Diocese continues to monitor reasonable expectations for the make up of Parochial Government. In an effort to make the selection of additional members more reasonable, we propose a cap of three additional members rather than an expectation of three to six members.

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**#7. Resolution to amend Canon 11**

**Mover: Rev. Will Ferrey**

**Seconded: Dawn Purcell**

**Resolved that** the following edits be made to Canon 11: The Diocesan Council.

5 Membership

(1) The following persons shall constitute the membership of the Diocesan Council

- ~~(a) the Bishop of the Diocese, who shall be chair;~~
- ~~(b) any Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan or Assistant Bishop of the Diocese;~~
- ~~(c) the Chancellor of the Diocese;~~
- ~~(d) the Dean of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island;~~
- ~~(e) the Executive Secretary of the Synod;~~

(1) Membership

- (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 of the Diocese;
- (d) The Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese, if any;
- (e) The Dean of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island;
- (f) The Executive Officer, if any;



- (g) The Executive Secretary of Synod;
- (h) The Financial Controller (*Ex Officio*);

- ~~(f)~~ (i) Two Regional Representatives from each Regional Council comprised of one member of the clergy and one lay person, both of whom shall be members of the Synod, with one of its two Regional Representatives to be elected by each of the Regional Councils for two consecutive terms at the session of each such Regional Council immediately prior to a regular meeting of Synod (each an “Electoral Session”), with the intent that only one half of the Regional Representatives on Diocesan Council shall be replaced at any one election; provided however that for transitional purposes:
  - (i) each of the Regional Councils shall elect, at the first session only of such Regional Council to meet after approval by Synod of this amended Clause ~~(f)~~ (i), one Regional Representative to serve for one term only and another Regional Representative to serve for two consecutive terms; and
  - ii) such first session of each Regional Council shall meet to elect such first Regional Representatives not later than three (3) weeks after the meeting of Synod which approves this resolution.
- ~~(g)~~ (i) In the event that a Regional Representative elected by a Regional Council ceases to be member of Synod or that a vacancy in respect of a Regional Representative otherwise occurs, such Regional Representative shall cease to be a member of Diocesan Council and the Regional Council shall elect a replacement Regional Representative to Diocesan Council at the first session of such Regional Council occurring after the Regional Representative ceases to be a member of Synod.
- ~~(h)~~ (k) A maximum of four members appointed by the Bishop, should the Bishop at the Bishop’s discretion decide to make such appointments;
- (i) (l) Two youth delegates to be elected by the youth delegates to Synod from their number to serve on Diocesan Council until the next Diocesan Synod. In the event that a youth member becomes unable to serve, the bishop may appoint another delegate to complete the term.

- (2) (a) Each person who is a candidate for election as a clerical member of the Diocesan Council but who is not elected as a clerical member of the Council is a substitute clerical member of the Council and each person who is a candidate for election as a lay member of the Council but who is not elected as a lay member of the Council is a substitute lay member of the Council;
- (b) Where a vacancy occurs in the clerical membership of the Diocesan Council who are member of the Council for the unexpired portion of the term and where a vacancy occurs in the lay membership of the Council who are elected, the Bishop may designate a substitute lay member to serve as a lay member of the Council for the unexpired portion of the term, and where the person so designated agrees to do so, that person is the clerical member or lay member of the Council, as the case may be, for the unexpired portion of the term and ceases to be a substitute lay member as long as that person is serving for the unexpired portion of the term.





- (3) Subject to subsection (4), a person may be re-elected as a member of Diocesan Council
- (4) No person may be elected pursuant to clause ~~(f)~~(i) or ~~(i)~~(l) of subsection (1) for more than two consecutive terms, the length of each term to extend from an election of such members to the Diocesan Council at an Electoral Session of a Regional Council in the case of an election pursuant to Clause (f) a regular meeting of Synod in the case of an election pursuant to Clause ~~(i)~~(l) until the election of members to the Diocesan Council that is held at the next succeeding Electoral Session of a Regional Council or at the next succeeding regular meeting of Synod, as applicable.

**Commentary:**

Recognizing the value and necessity of senior staff being in attendance and participating actively in the leadership and direction of the Diocese, the above edits are proposed to the membership of Diocesan Council. The Financial Controller, in keeping with the wisdom that finance and the development of legislation remain at arm's length from one another, would attend in a non-voting, *ex officio* role with all other privileges of membership.

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**#8. Resolution to amend Canon 20**

**Mover: Rev. Dr. Patti Brace**

**Second: Archdeacon Katherine Bourbonniere**

**Resolved that** the following edits be made to Canon 20: Regions and Regional Deans.

(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~~ three, 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.

**Commentary:**

In an effort to keep Regional Council membership to a reasonable number and to make the filling of these positions possible in smaller communities, we propose changing the parish maximums from six to three additional members.

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**#9. Resolution to initiate a working group(s) to re-examine Canons 11, 20, and 35.**

**Mover: Rev. Will Ferrey**

**Seconder: Dawn Purcell**

**Resolved that** the Synod of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, recognizing the profound impact of the changing demographics and resources of the last five years, along with the deep influence of Covid 19 over the last three years, initiate a working group to re-examine those Canons outlining membership and personnel (volunteer and stipendiary) required at all levels of parish and regional governance.

A working group consisting of at least one Archdeacon, one Regional Dean, the Bishop, the Executive Director, and five additional members (clergy and lay) from across the Diocese, is to be charged with the following tasks:

- a. To re-examine Canon 11: The Diocesan Council, Canon 20: Regions and Regional Deans, and Canon 35: Parochial Government and any other associated/impacted Canons to review personnel (volunteer and stipendiary) requirements.
- b. To report their initial finding(s) to Diocesan Council on or before the December, 2024 meeting.
- c. To propose canon revisions — in consultation with the Chancellor — to accommodate these findings on or before the December, 2024 meeting in anticipation of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Diocesan Synod.

**Commentary:**

While a few small changes to the pertinent Canons have been proposed, it is recognized that we need an overall re-examination of administrative and governing bodies in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. This re-examination is to take into account the dramatic changes in demographics and resources at all levels of the church and in all areas of ministry. It is increasingly difficult to find adequate numbers of volunteers at all



stations. It is also recognized that the present demands and systems may need revision even as the staffing of various bodies is re-negotiated.

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## #10. Resolution to add a new Canon (Canon 22) for Lay Missioners, under Episcopal License (LMELs)

**Mover:** Gillian Doucet-Campbell

**Seconder:** Leah Marshall

**Resolved that** the following Canon securing the ministry status and obligations of Lay Missioners, under Episcopal license, be added to the Canons of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

1. Lay persons professing a vocation to career ministry, and who upon qualification, licensing and commissioning obtain an employment contract with a parish or an appropriate affiliate to a particular ministry or undertaking of the diocese, shall be recognized as Lay Missioners, under Episcopal license (LMELs). Such ministry may be exercisable within the diocese, in fields including education, social and community work, pastoral care, administration, mission, and liturgy.
2. A person who holds an appropriate post-secondary degree or diploma, or possesses an adequate combination of education and experience for the field in which the vocation is to be exercised, shall be qualified for recognition as an LMEL.
3. A qualified lay worker, having received the approval of the Parochial and/or Search Committee and the Bishop, shall be licensed by the Bishop and commissioned at an appropriate liturgical event. The lay missioner shall take oaths of subscription, and shall express willingness to be accountable in life and ministry to duly constituted diocesan and parish authority.
4. LMELs and the Parochial and/or Search Committee shall enter into an employment contract, which shall conform to the current guidelines for fair employment practices adopted by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada for a halftime or 20+ hours/week position.

### Footnote

- (a) Canons 13, 18, 19, 20 and 22 of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada shall apply, with necessary modifications, to all lay workers recognized, licensed and employed within the diocese.
- (b) The provisions of Canon 30 of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island shall apply, with necessary modifications, to all Lay Missioners, under Episcopal license (LMELs) recognized, licensed and employed under this Canon.

### **Commentary:**

Recognizing that ministry takes many forms and wears many faces, we propose recognizing — canonically and subsequently, liturgically — the role of lay people working as ministry professionals in our parishes and diocese. As outlined in the proposed Canon, LMELs are individuals who can articulate a call to their particular work and hold “an appropriate post-secondary degree or diploma, or possesses an adequate combination of education and experience for the field in which the vocation is to be exercised.” The intention of this Canon is to recognize, license, and hold to account — via Canonical and Episcopal authority — those lay individuals called to



professional, non-ordained ministry in the Diocese. Canonical acknowledgment, in turn, entitles these individuals to the benefits of clergy assigned by Revenue Canada:

“...a regular minister of a religious denomination, who was in **one** of the following:

- in charge of a diocese, parish, or congregation
- ministering to a diocese, parish, or congregation
- engaged exclusively in full-time administrative service by appointment of a religious order or religious denomination”

This Canon is also offered with the recognition that we must be creative in solving some of our pastoral challenges across the Diocese and have already experimented with Lay Pastors and Lay Incumbents. It is imperative, even as we explore alternative ministry solutions, that we manage expectations, remuneration, and discipline in accordance with already-established standards of ordained ministry.

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## **#11. Resolution on amend the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and Canon 11 with regards to Regional Representatives to Diocesan Council**

**Mover: Rev. Paul Jennings**

**Seconder: Archdeacon Tom Henderson**

**Resolved that** the following amendments be made to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, regarding Regional representation on Diocesan Council and Diocesan Synod.

1. In the Constitution of the Synod of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, under Section 3 Membership, this subsection be added: (o) Regional Representatives to Diocesan Council (if not otherwise members of Synod)”
2. In Canon 11 Diocesan Council, under Section 5 Membership, subsection (g) ~~In the event that a Regional Representative elected by a Regional Council ceases to be member of Synod or that a vacancy in respect of a Regional Representative otherwise occurs, such Regional Representative shall cease to be a member of Diocesan Council and the Regional Council shall elect are placement Regional Representative to Diocesan Council at the first session of such Regional Council occurring after the Regional Representative ceases to be a member of Synod~~

Be changed to

(g) If the Regional representative to Diocesan Council is not otherwise a member of Synod, their name shall be certified to the Executive Secretary of Synod as a Regional Delegate to Diocesan Synod for the duration of their term on Diocesan Council.

### **Commentary:**

The purpose of these amendments is to allow Regional Councils to choose the best representation to Diocesan Council, without confining their choice to those previously elected as Parish delegates to Synod. Since Diocesan Council is the executive council of Synod, it is clear that Diocesan Council representatives should be members of Synod; therefore this motion is proposing to grant Diocesan Council representatives membership of Synod as Regional delegates.

Many regions are struggling with the purpose and relevance of Regional Councils, and with low levels of lay participation. One central role of Regional Council is to elect representatives to Diocesan Council, and so ensure



that Council is closely connected with all the regions of the Diocese. If a person is active in Regional Council, and is deemed by Regional Council to be the best person to represent it on Diocesan Council, then Regional Council should be able to send that person without regard as to whether they have been elected by their parish to Synod.

At its heart, this motion aims to rectify a structural inconsistency in our Diocesan Canons and Constitution: that Regional Councils elect Diocesan Council representatives, but only Parishes (with rare exceptions) elect Synod delegates. The motion only addresses lay delegates, as it is likely that active clergy will already be members of Synod, either as Incumbents or as a second clergy representative. (Perhaps this is not true of larger churches like the Cathedral?)

Cost Implications: Regional Councils would be responsible for the costs associated with attending Synod, if their representative is not otherwise a member of Synod. The motion would increase the size of Synod by up to 10 members, although practically many or even most of the Regions will elect representatives who are already members of Synod.

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## #12. Resolution regarding Allotment Payment Change and Canon 16

**Mover: Graham Bell**

**Seconder: Mary Jo Matthews, Parish of Digby**

*Treasurer, Parish of Wilmot - [treasurer@parishofwilmot.ca](mailto:treasurer@parishofwilmot.ca)*

**Resolved that** Canon 16.8 subsection (2) be revised to read:

~~(2) The allotment rate for the next year shall be applied to the Assessable Income of the parish for the previous year. The allotment amount so determined shall be remitted to the Synod in twelve equal monthly payments in the next year.~~

(2) The total allotment for a given year shall be calculated based on the actual assessable income of that year as determined at the time of the submission of the Parochial Return for that year. Any difference between the allotment payments made for the given year and the total allotment owed for that year shall be payable, refundable, or creditable at the time of submission of the Parochial Return for that year. Until the total final allotment for a given year is determined the allotment shall be remitted in twelve monthly payments to the Synod based on the allotment rate applicable from the most recent Parochial Return assessable income determination.

### **Commentary:**

In considering potential solutions to the Allotment Simplification resolution of the 2019 Synod it is apparent the current methodology for allotment determination which has parish revenues for year 0 as submitted on the Parochial Return in year 1 used for determination of the allotment to be collected by the Diocese in year 2 puts many parishes at a disadvantage. This arrangement is adequate for parishes with a consistent year on year increases in net incomes, marginal for parishes with stable net incomes and a failure for parishes with declining net incomes.

Simply put, parishes with declining net incomes will not have the revenues needed to meet allotment payments in year 2 based on their assessable income in year 0. There is an appeal option in Canon 16.8.4 with



further information in Administrative policy 2.2.13 (Compliance). Unfortunately, while the Administrative Compliance policy does acknowledge declining allotment incomes, there is no consideration identified for addressing the probable root issue, actual declining net incomes. Part of this may stem from the Diocese not having a good understanding of parish finances given its past focus on just revenues rather than the complete picture.

A potential solution is for parishes to establish a reserve of the expected allotment payable in year 2 but doing this in a declining net income environment is... difficult!!! It could be done with a one-time gift of 120% of the projected assess-able income for the year (based on the allotment being about 20% of the assess-able income). How many parishes would be so lucky?

A much better solution is for parishes to pay instalments (monthly with the salary remittance?) during the year based on their current actual revenues, expenses and determination of their assess-able income. Much as income tax is collected, the final amount due is determined based on the Parochial Return. A refund or more probably a credit applied in cases of over-payment. This assumes the treasurer has a reasonable grasp on current revenues and expenditures but that should be the norm for council meeting reporting purposes anyway.

There are three components to be considered by the Diocese. The first is the transition process from a year 2 allotment payment to a year 0 allotment payment system. Does the Diocese have the reserves available for a one or more year transition process? The second is the Diocese will need to reassess its Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island Synod 2022 Resolution Allotment Payment Change budgeting process but probably a case of banking allotment instalments for next years budget. The third is advising the parishes before the start of the year what defines assessable income and the rate they are expected to pay for that year.

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### #13 Resolution regarding Parochial Return Format Change

**Mover: Graham Bell**

**Seconder: Mary Jo Matthews, Parish of Digby**

*Treasurer, Parish of Wilmot* [treasurer@parishofwilmot.ca](mailto:treasurer@parishofwilmot.ca)

**Resolved that** the format of the financial information submitted on Parochial Returns be changed to correspond with Revenue Canada's T3010 Schedule 6.

#### **Commentary:**

In considering potential solutions to the Allotment Simplification resolution of the 2019 Synod it seemed apparent that determination of the allotment amounts by the Diocese were compromised by a lack of understanding of the full financial picture of the parishes and churches. Some improvement in collecting a better financial picture has been made for the 2020 and 2021 Parochial Returns but still contains fairly significant grey areas.

All registered charities need to annually submit a T3010 to Revenue Canada to maintain their registered charity status. This includes financial information in Section D or Schedule 6. It is expected few, if any, parishes or churches in the Diocese submitting T3010s qualify for the simpler Section D filing so need to use the more complete Schedule 6.

Given the differences in how the information is requested between the Parochial return and T3010 Schedule 6, treasurers are required to collate their financial information differently for each submission. This may not be a significant issue for treasurers with the appropriate skills and tools but there are probably many for this is not a trivial task. The T3010 Schedule 6 provides a more detailed financial picture than the current Parochial Return



and since it is a non-optional filing requirement, adjusting the Parochial Return to follow the same format will simplify the filing workload.

There are differences in the financial information the Diocese considered relevant for its purposes but these can be accommodated through some modifications to the T3010 Schedule 6 format by adding sub line items on the Parochial Return. Once completed these sub line items would simply roll up to the T3010 Schedule 6 line item. For example: Schedule 6 line item 4500 (Total eligible amount of all gifts for which the charity issued tax receipts) could on the Parochial Return appear as 4500.1 (Tax receipted Envelope offerings), 4500.2 (Tax receipted single gifts), 4500.3 (Tax receipted gifts for others)... 4500.9 (Other tax receipted gifts) depending upon what specific aspects the Diocese is interested in tracking. Complete the Parochial Return financial information and everything is ready to complete the T3010 Schedule 6.

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#### # 14 Resolution to amend the Synod Constitution with regard to meeting Licensed Lay Ministers

**Mover:** Archdeacon Tom Henderson  
Warden, Licensed Lay Ministers Association  
Tom Henderson [t\\_w\\_henderson@hotmail.com](mailto:t_w_henderson@hotmail.com)

**Seconded:** David Harrison  
President, Licensed Lay Ministers Association  
David J. Harrison [djh@djharrison.ca](mailto:djh@djharrison.ca)

**Be it resolved that** Section 3(i) of the Synod Constitution be amended by removing the section with lines running through it and adding the section underlined.

13 (i) ~~The President of the Diocesan Lay Readers Association.~~

The President of the Licensed Lay Ministers Association or, in the event the President is unable to attend, the Vice President of the Licensed Lay Ministers Association.

#### **Commentary:**

According to the By-Laws and Constitution of the Licensed Lay Ministers Association (L.2.d) one of the roles of the Vice President is: "To perform the duties of the President when the President is incapacitated or temporarily unavailable." The President of the Licensed Lay Ministers Association is, by way of the office, a member of synod. Last year, when the President of the Association was unable to attend synod, it came to the Association's attention that the synod constitution didn't allow for the Vice President to substitute. This resolution is intended to bring the Constitution of Synod into accord with the By-Laws and Constitution of the Association. It also updates the Synod Constitution to reflect the 2019 name change of the Licensed Lay Ministers Association from Diocesan Lay Readers.

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#### # 15 Resolution to amend the Synod Constitution with regard to Meetings of Synod and Rules of Order and Debate

**Mover:** James Travers  
Chancellor, Diocese of NS and PEI

**Seconded:** Anthony Chapman

**Be it resolved that** Section 7 of the Constitution of Synod be amended by re-designating the existing Section 7 as sub-section 7(1) and by adding the new-sub-section underlined below as sub-section 7(2).



## Section 7 Meetings

7(1) Synod shall meet not less than once every two years at such time as may be deemed expedient by the Bishop who shall appoint the place of meeting.

7(2) "In the event that meetings of Synod cannot be held in person due to prohibitions imposed by civil authorities based upon public health concerns, the two-year period referred to in sub-section 7(1) may be extended by the Bishop to a time when meetings may be permitted in compliance with public health regulations."

### Commentary

The events of the past three years demonstrate the difficulties posed by strict time requirements in the face of civil law prohibitions which prevent compliance with the time requirements. The proposal is an interim step to provide for postponement of a meeting of Synod in similar circumstances, pending investigation of possible alternatives to in-person meetings of Synod through use of technology which would not have the practical effect of excluding persons from participating in Synod proceedings.

## Section 29 Rules of Order and Debate

**Be it resolved that** Section 29(8) of the Constitution of Synod be amended by removing the words with lines running through them and by adding the words underlined below.

(8) Except with consent of the House, the mover of a report and the mover of a motion may not speak more than ~~ten~~ five minutes and the seconder ~~five~~ three minutes; and each speaker thereafter ~~five~~ three minutes. The mover may speak for ~~five~~ three minutes in closing the debate.

### Commentary

It has been the practice at the past number of Synods to pass a motion at the beginning of each Synod to modify the time limits set forth in subsection 29(8) of the Constitution, in recognition of the fact that 10 minutes and 5 minutes are too long for the efficient administration of Synod business, and points to be made for and against a resolution can be made within the shorter time limits. The purpose of this resolution is to make permanent the shorter time limits, thus eliminating the need for the procedural resolution at each Synod.