



CANON 11: DIOCESAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1 The Diocesan Executive Council

There shall be a strategic executive body of Synod to be known as the Diocesan Executive Council.

2 Powers

The Diocesan Executive Council shall be the representative of Synod, between the sessions of Synod, subject to the authority of the Bishop, and shall

- (a) be the final decision-making body apart from Synod itself; and
- (b) be primarily responsible for determining and interpreting diocesan policy; and
- (c) approve and exercise stewardship over the budget.

3 Role

- (1) The role of Diocesan Executive Council is to formulate and interpret policy which
 - (a) arises out of the forum of Synod;
 - (b) arises from the activities of Diocesan staff and committees; and
 - (c) generates concepts, philosophies, and policies, which will ensure that the church maintains a stance appropriate to its responsibilities with respect to the growth of our society and the needs of both church and society for the future.
- (2) It is also the role of Diocesan Executive Council to advise the Bishop with respect to the welfare of the church.

4 Duties

The Diocesan Executive Council shall be responsible for

- (a) implementing resolutions of Synod and in its discretion referring them to appropriate bodies for implementation;
- (b) reviewing and directing the implementation of decisions of committees where approval of the Council has been sought;
- (c) receiving and reviewing communications from church and community bodies external to the diocese structure as is necessary for the Council to make recommendations;

- (d) managing any conflicts between committees that arise and cannot be resolved by the committees themselves;
- (e) appointing task forces deemed necessary to expedite the work of Council;
- (f) meeting with archdeacons, regional deans, and regional and parish leadership to pray, listen, learn, and identify issues challenging the diocese; and
- (g) the submission of a written report in summary form of all matters and activities to the next regular session of Synod.

5 Membership

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

Voting Members

- (a) The Diocesan Bishop who shall chair, unless the bishop appoints an alternate chair;
- (b) Two regional representatives comprised of one member of the clergy and one lay person, both of whom shall be members of the Synod, elected from the members of Synod during the meeting of Synod, and formally appointed to their position on the Council prior to the end of Synod.

In the event that an elected member is unable to continue with their duties, misses three consecutive Council meetings, or resigns from Council causing a vacancy of regional representative to occur, 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. 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.

- (c) 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.
- (d) The Dean of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island;
- (e) The Chancellor of the Diocese;
- (f) The Executive Secretary of Synod;
- (g) A maximum of four members appointed by the bishop, should the bishop at the bishop's discretion decide to make such appointments;
- (h) if no vocational deacon has been elected as a member of Diocesan Executive Council from a region, at least one of the Bishop's appointments shall be a vocational deacon

Non-Voting, Ex Officio Members

- (i) The Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop, if any;
 - (j) The Financial Controller;
 - (k) The Diocesan Executive Officer;
 - (l) The Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese, if any, unless they are acting in the role as the Chancellor.
- (2) A person may be re-elected as a member of Diocesan Executive Council.

6 Meetings

- (1) The Diocesan Executive Council shall meet regularly, in-person or electronically, for a minimum of four times annually, at such times and places as the Bishop thinks appropriate.
- (2) A quorum of the Diocesan Executive Council shall be a majority of the elected members.
- (3) In the absence of the Bishop, the Chair shall be that person nominated by the bishop of the Diocese and failing such nomination the Chair shall be that person chosen by the other voting members of the Diocesan Executive Council.
- (4) All meetings and debates shall be governed by the Rules of Order and Procedure as defined in the Constitution of the Synod of the Diocese of Nova Scotia.
- (5) All minutes of the Diocesan Executive Council meetings, together with supporting materials (collectively the “Minutes”), shall be circulated electronically by email to members of the Diocesan Executive Council and Chairs of Standing Committees, Archdeacons, Regional Deans, Chairs of Regional Councils and, at the discretion of the Executive Secretary of Synod, to other persons (collectively the “Addressees” and each an “Addressee”); provided however that upon receipt of a written request from an Addressee, the Executive Secretary of Synod shall mail a copy of such Minutes to such Addressee.