

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

1. Election of the Diocesan Council

At the First Session of each triennial Synod three clerical and six lay members shall be elected by ballot to the Diocesan Council. Council members shall hold office until their successors are appointed except that the office of any member who shall be absent from three consecutive meetings of the Council, without leave of absence, shall be vacated.

2. Composition of the Diocesan Council

The Diocesan Council shall consist of the Bishop, Chancellor, Registrar, Diocesan Treasurer, Dean, Archdeacon(s) and three clerical and six lay members of Synod. The Bishop when present and willing shall preside. The quorum shall be seven, with at least one lay and one clerical member making up that number.

3. Meetings of the Diocesan Council

- (1) The Diocesan Council shall meet in person not less than four times each year. Provided a quorum is physically present, the balance of the members may participate by telephone or other audio or visual means.
- (2) At other times, Diocesan Council, or any Committee of Diocesan Council, may transact business by telephone, e-mail or any other form of electronic communication provided that, in any such case, no Motion may be passed unless 75% of the members of that body have voted in favour of the Motion.

4. Vacancies

- (1) In the event of any vacancy occurring among the elected members of Diocesan Council, the Diocesan Council shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy. Such person shall hold office until the conclusion of the next ordinary session of Synod, when the vacancy shall have been filled by the Synod.
- (2) Provided that the Synod is not in session, the Diocesan Council shall fill such vacancies as may from time to time occur in the various committees appointed by the Synod.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Regulation, where a vacancy occurs in the membership of any of the committees appointed by the Synod then that committee shall have the right to nominate a person or persons for election to the committee concerned.

5. Concerning Church Property

- (a) Insurance: The Diocesan Council shall insure adequately at the cost of the Parish or Ministry District concerned all church property of every description in every Parish and Ministry District within the Diocese. All premiums payable for such insurance shall be paid as determined by Diocesan Council from time to time.
- (b) Where in case of any Church the Vestry or in the case of any Parish the Parish Council desires to sell or make any voluntary disposition or exchange or purchase any land or other property such Vestry or Parish Council (as the case

may be) may pass a resolution to that effect at a properly convened meeting of such Vestry or Parish Council. A copy of such resolution certified correct by the person presiding at such meeting shall be for-warded as soon as convenient to the Diocesan Council which may approve, reject or refer for further consideration any such resolution. When the Diocesan Council shall have approved any such resolution the same shall be dealt with in accordance with the Constitution. In the case of any sale the proceeds thereof shall be applied in accordance with any purpose or purposes set out in the resolution above referred to. In case no such purpose or purposes shall have been so set out the proceeds of such sale shall be applied as the Vestry or Parish Council (as the case may be) shall from time to time direct subject to the approval of the Diocesan Council.

- (c) Letting: No land or buildings shall be let for any terms without the prior approval of the Diocesan Council.

6. Finance Committee

- (1) The Diocesan Council shall appoint a Finance Committee consisting of the Bishop, Registrar and up to four skills based persons who shall hold office subject to the pleasure of the Diocesan Council, one of whom shall be appointed by Diocesan Council as Chair. As far as possible, Diocesan Council will ensure that a majority of members of the Finance Committee hold a Christian belief.
- (2) The Finance Committee shall, through the Registrar, report to each meeting of the Diocesan Council.
- (3) The Finance Committee shall oversee the work carried out by the investment advisors and shall review and recommend to Diocesan Council actions in relation to:
 - (a) the income and expenditure of the Diocese;
 - (b) funds under management; and
 - (c) property of the Synod;to ensure the viability of the Diocese.
- (4) The Chair of the Finance Committee shall report to Diocesan Council at least annually on the performance of the investment advisors.

7. Steering Committee for Synod

- (1) The Diocesan Council shall at its last meeting in each year appoint a Committee to be known as the Steering Committee consisting of the Bishop (who shall be ex-officio Chair), Registrar, one or two clerical and one or two lay members of Synod for the purposes of preparing the business of the ensuing Synod. If the Bishop be not present the Committee shall elect one of its own number to preside.
- (2) The Steering Committee shall
 - (a) determine the order of business prescribed in Regulation One 18(4) and

- (b) examine all notices of motion, notices of question and petitions and may recommend to any person submitting the same the adoption of an alternative form of notice of motion, notice of question or petition and shall arrange all notices of motion, notices of question and petitions so submitted in a suitable order for the notice paper.
- (3) The preparation of the notice paper shall be completed in sufficient time to enable the same to be despatched to members not less than 4 weeks before each Session of Synod.

8. Diocesan Council Report

At each ordinary session of the Synod the Diocesan Council shall present its report for the past year together with the statements of accounts duly audited.

9. Annual Budgets

The Diocesan Council shall present to each session of the Synod an estimate of Synodal expenses and income for the current year and the following year.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

- 10. The Bishop may appoint an Administrator who shall exercise the powers vested in the Bishop in the event of the death, resignation, incapacity or absence of the Bishop from the Diocese. Such appointment shall be under the seal and duly registered in the Diocesan Registry. If no such appointment has been made the Administrator shall be the person defined in Section 26 of the Constitution.

THE VICAR GENERAL

- 11. While the See is filled the Bishop may appoint a Vicar General who shall exercise such powers as the Bishop shall delegate at any or at such specified times as the Bishop shall decide. Such appointment shall be under seal and shall be duly entered in the Diocesan Registry.

ARCHDEACONS

- 12. The Bishop may appoint any deacon, priest or bishop to exercise a role as Archdeacon within the diocese. The role may include sharing episcopate and participating in Mission, Administrative, Disciplinary and Pastoral functions included in a role description determined and amended by the Bishop from time to time.

THE CHANCELLOR

- 13. The Bishop may appoint a Chancellor under the terms of Canon No. 4 of 2001.
 - (a) The Chancellor is the principal confidential adviser to the Bishop in legal and related matters.
 - (b) Subject to the Chancellor's overriding duty to the Bishop, the Chancellor may provide advice to The Synod and other agencies of the Diocese.
 - (c) The Chancellor may preside in the Diocesan Tribunal as Deputy President, if appointed so to do by the Bishop pursuant to section 54(1) of the Constitution

of the Anglican Church of Australia

- (d) The Chancellor has such other powers duties and responsibilities and holds such other positions as may be prescribed by the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia or the Constitution and Regulations of the Diocese.

RURAL DEANS

14. The Bishop may group parishes/ministry districts into Deaneries. The clergy of the Deanery shall elect one of their number to be the Rural Dean for a three year period coincident with that of The Synod.

DIOCESAN TREASURER

15. The Diocesan Treasurer shall be appointed by the Diocesan Council before the first session of each triennial Synod and shall take office at the conclusion of such session. The appointment shall not take effect until the person appointed shall have signed a declaration in the form contained in the third schedule of the Constitution. In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in this office, Diocesan Council shall appoint a Diocesan Treasurer to serve for the remainder of the triennium.

DIOCESAN REGISTRAR

16. The Diocesan Registrar shall be appointed by the Bishop. Such appointment shall not take effect until the person appointed shall have signed a declaration in the form contained in the third schedule of the Constitution and Schedule N to the Regulations. The Registrar shall exercise such authority and execute such functions as the Bishop may assign. The Registrar will be a non-voting member of diocesan bodies to which the Registrar reports or make recommendations.

OTHER OFFICERS

17. The Bishop in consultation with the Diocesan Council may appoint such other officers as the Bishop or Council shall think necessary.