

## RESOLUTIONS

MOVED: Constitutions and Canons Committee  
*(No Secunder required for motions moved by committees)*

THAT:

- (a) Canon 2 (Vacancy Of The Office Of Bishop) be repealed and replaced with Canon 2 (Election of the Diocesan Bishop) as set out in Schedule A this resolution.
- (b) Canon 3 (Coadjutor Or Suffragan Bishop) be repealed and replaced with Canon 3 (Coadjutor, Suffragan or Assistant Bishop) as set out in Schedule B to this resolution.
- (c) Paragraph 51 of Article 5 (Diocesan Council) of the Constitution be amended to add any Coadjutor or Suffragan to the list of voting members of Diocesan Council by adding the following clauses between clause (a) and clause (b):
  - (a.1) the Coadjutor Bishop;
  - (a.2) the Suffragan Bishop;

**Canon 2 – Election of the Diocesan Bishop**

*Division 1 -- The Episcopal Election Committee*

201. The Office of Diocesan Bishop shall be declared vacant:
- (a) upon the death or permanent incapacity of the Diocesan Bishop while in office;
  - (b) upon the removal of the Diocesan Bishop as the consequence of ecclesiastical discipline; or
  - (c) upon the actual date of the retirement or resignation of the Diocesan Bishop.
202. The Diocesan Bishop shall give the Metropolitan and the Diocesan Council at least ninety days notice of their intent to retire or to resign the Office of Diocesan Bishop.
203. Upon the announcement of the intent of the Diocesan Bishop to resign or retire, or the death, permanent incapacity or removal of the Diocesan Bishop, the Diocesan Council shall, within thirty days, appoint an Episcopal Election Committee ('the Committee') using the following criteria:
- (a) The Committee shall consist of eleven members:
    - (i) A Chair, either lay or ordained, chosen by the Diocesan Council;
    - (ii) Five clergy, drawn from the canonically resident bishops, priests and deacons of the Diocese and
    - (iii) Five lay members who are qualified to be members of their Parish Vestry pursuant to Canon 14 or Canon 15 and have been so for at least two years.
  - (b) The membership of the Committee shall reflect the diversity of the Diocese with particular attention to:
    - (i) gender identity,
    - (ii) age,
    - (iii) ethnic and cultural identity, and
    - (iv) theological perspectives.
  - (c) The members of the Committee shall be drawn from all the regional archdeaconries of the Diocese.
  - (d) The Committee shall be responsible for establishing an electoral process that is

- (i) transparent,
  - (ii) fair,
  - (iii) accountable,
  - (iv) committed to discernment and
  - (v) guided by a pastoral concern for the nominees.
- (f) The Committee shall determine how electronic and social technology is to be used in the electoral process.
204. The Committee shall carry out those duties set out in paragraphs 234, 236, 237, 244, 252, 253 and 254.
205. Diocesan Council shall provide the Committee with the requisite financial and personnel resources to complete its responsibilities pursuant to this Canon and any relevant Regulations.

*Division 2 -- The Administrator*

221. Upon the vacancy in the Office of the Diocesan Bishop and there being no Coadjutor Bishop, the Administrator of the Diocese shall be
- (a) the Suffragan Bishop or, in the absence of or inability to act on the part of the Suffragan Bishop,
  - (b) the Dean of the Diocese or, in the absence of or inability to act on the part of the Dean,
  - (c) the most senior Archdeacon who is able and willing to act as Administrator.
222. The seniority of the Archdeacon shall be determined by the date of appointment as an Archdeacon to the office of Archdeacon. If they have equal seniority in this respect, then seniority between them shall be decided by which of them has been licensed as an ordained person in the Diocese for the longest length of time.
223. The Administrator shall have the rights and responsibilities of a Diocesan Bishop as these are set out in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. The Administrator may not confirm or ordain any person unless the Administrator is in episcopal orders.
224. Diocesan Council shall provide the Administrator with the requisite financial and personnel resources to complete their responsibilities pursuant to this Canon and any relevant Regulations.

*Division 3 — Nomination of Candidates*

231. The election of a Diocesan Bishop shall be made at an Electoral Synod called pursuant to the provisions of this Canon, the Rules of Order of the Diocese and any relevant Regulations.
232. Diocesan Council, within thirty days of the death in office, permanent incapacity or removal from office of the Diocesan Bishop or upon receiving notice of the intention of the Diocesan Bishop to resign or retire, shall obtain permission from the Metropolitan pursuant to the Provincial Canons to summon an Electoral Synod for the election of a Bishop. Upon receipt of the Metropolitan's permission an Electoral Synod shall be convened by the Metropolitan on a date approved by Diocesan Council no less than three months and no more than six months from the effective date of the vacancy in the Office of Diocesan Bishop.
233. The Metropolitan shall chair the Electoral Synod unless the Metropolitan shall be unable or unwilling to act or is a candidate for election as Diocesan Bishop, in which case, the next senior Bishop in the Province who is able and willing to act and who is not a candidate for election as Diocesan Bishop shall chair the Electoral Synod. The Chair of the Electoral Synod shall not be entitled to a vote.
234. The Episcopal Election Committee shall:
- (a) receive the nominations of persons eligible for the office of Diocesan Bishop;
  - (b) oversee the process of vetting the qualifications of those persons nominated for the Office of Diocesan Bishop;
  - (c) plan and execute a fair and transparent process by means of which qualified nominees are presented to the members of the Electoral Synod for their review; and
  - (d) ensure that all necessary information regarding the nominees is available to the members of the Electoral Synod no less than fourteen days before the date of said Synod.
235. No person shall be nominated for the Office of Diocesan Bishop unless that person qualifies for such position according to the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Constitution and Canons of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon. These qualifications are as follows:
- (a) The nominee must be at least thirty years of age.
  - (b) The nominee's learning, training or experience shall meet the needs of ministry as a bishop.
  - (c) The nominee has neither directly or indirectly secured or attempted to secure the Office of Diocesan Bishop by any improper means.
  - (d) The nominee is not guilty of any crime or immorality.

- (e) The nominee does not hold or taught nor has held or taught within five years previously anything contrary to the doctrine or discipline of the Anglican Church of Canada.
  - (f) The nominee must be a priest or bishop in holy orders of the Anglican Church of Canada or of some church in full communion with the Anglican Church of Canada.
  - (g) If the nominee is a priest or bishop of a church in full communion with the Anglican Church of Canada, they must fulfill the requirements of Canon IV of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.
236. All nominees shall be required to undergo a process to confirm their qualifications for the Office of Diocesan Bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada which will include a criminal records check with vulnerable sector from the jurisdictions set forth in any relevant Regulations.
237. Each nominee must be nominated by at least six members of Synod, at least three of whom shall be ordained members and at least three of whom shall be lay members. The names of the nominators shall be made public and no nominator may nominate more than one candidate. The Nominee must give their consent to their nomination to the Chair of the Episcopal Election Committee.

*Division 4 -- The Electoral Synod*

241. At least thirty days prior to the Electoral Synod Diocesan Council shall appoint a Returning Officer and a Deputy Returning Officer to oversee the balloting process at the Electoral Synod. The Returning Officer shall have the power to appoint such assistants as the Returning Officer shall deem appropriate. The Deputy Returning Officer shall undertake such duties as are assigned by the Returning Officer and shall act as the acting Returning Officer in the absence of the Returning Officer.
242. On the day and at the place appointed, after the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Chair shall proceed to organize the meeting in accordance with the Rules of Order of the Synod.
243. The Members of the Electoral Synod are set forth in Article 2 and the quorum for an Electoral Synod is set forth in Article 3 of the Constitution of the Diocese.
244. Following the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Episcopal Election Committee shall formally table the names of the nominees for the Office of Diocesan Bishop. After the nominations, the members of the Electoral Synod present and voting shall vote in their respective orders until a person is elected Diocesan Bishop or ten ballots have been conducted. All voting shall be by secret ballot and conducted as follows:
- (a) On the conclusion of each balloting the Chair shall declare the voting on that balloting closed.

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- (b) The ballots shall be counted and a written report from the Returning Officer shall be given to the to the Chair, indicating,
    - (i) the number of ballots not included in the results of the voting and the reasons why these ballots are not included;
    - (ii) the number of votes of each order required for an election;
    - (iii) the results, by order, of the voting.
  - (c) Upon receipt of the report of the Returning Officer, the Chair shall announce:
    - (i) the number of ballots cast in each order,
    - (ii) the number of ballots not included in the results of the voting and the reasons why these ballots are not included in the count,
    - (iii) the number of votes in each order required for an election,
    - (iv) the number of votes cast in each order for each candidate,
    - (v) whether or not there has been an election.
  - (d) If the balloting does not result in an election, balloting shall continue pursuant to subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) above with the exception that the names of the following candidates shall be removed from the list of candidates for election:
    - (i) any candidate who has received no votes in either or both Orders,
    - (ii) any candidate who has (or, in the case of a tie, the candidates who have) received the lowest number of lay and clerical votes in aggregate, unless the number of votes received, although the lowest of all candidates, is at least one-fifth of the votes in either order, and
    - (iii) any candidate who has given or caused to be given signed written notice to the Chair stating that the candidate wishes to withdraw from the election.
  - (e) If no candidate is elected after ten ballots, the Chair shall determine the will of the Electoral Synod as to whether the Electoral Synod shall recess for a specific period of time, adjourn indefinitely or continue balloting.
245. No person shall be held to be duly elected Diocesan Bishop unless that person shall have first obtained the majority of the votes of the members of both orders present and voting on the same ballot.

*Division 5 -- Reconvening an Electoral Synod*

251. This Division 5 applies only if an Electoral Synod has been adjourned under subparagraph 244(e).
252. The Diocesan Council shall determine the date and location of the reconvened Electoral Synod in consultation with the Metropolitan. Notice shall be sent to the members of the Electoral Synod at least fourteen days before the reconvening of the Electoral Synod as well as any requisite information regarding any newly-nominated candidates.
253. Following the adjournment new nominations may be made whose candidacy will be reviewed according to the requirements of this Canon above and any relevant Regulations. Any new nominations must be submitted within sixty days of the adjournment of the Electoral Synod.
254. No person who either withdrew or whose name was removed from the ballot pursuant to paragraph 244(d) during the previous Electoral Synod may be re-nominated.
255. When the Electoral Synod reconvenes, the Electoral Election Committee shall table
- (a) the names of those candidates who were validly nominated previously who did not withdraw their names in the previous election and who have consented to their names being re-submitted to the Electoral Synod, and
  - (b) the names of any candidates nominated pursuant to paragraph 253 above.
256. Balloting shall resume as pursuant to paragraphs 243, 244 and 245 above. If no candidate is elected after ten ballots, the Chair shall determine the will of the Electoral Synod as to whether the Electoral Synod shall be adjourned or whether further balloting shall take place, and:
- (a) If the Electoral Synod chooses to adjourn, it shall reconvene pursuant to paragraphs 243, 244 and 245 above; or
  - (b) If the Electoral Synod chooses to continue balloting, balloting shall continue until there are two nominees remaining, then:
    - (i) Prior to any ballot on which there remains only two nominees, the Chair may prescribe that, if an election does not occur after a specified number of ballots, the Electoral Synod shall be adjourned for not less than seven days nor more than thirty days;
    - (ii) When the Electoral Synod reconvenes, balloting will continue until one of the two nominees is elected or the Electoral Synod chooses to adjourn indefinitely; and
    - (iii) If the Electoral Synod chooses to adjourn indefinitely, it shall reconvene pursuant to paragraphs 243, 244, 245 and 252 above.

*Division 6 - Confirmation of Election*

261. No person shall be consecrated and/or installed as Diocesan Bishop until their election is confirmed by a majority of the House of Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon in accordance with the Canons of the Ecclesiastical Province.
262. Prior to their consecration and/or installation, the Diocesan Bishop-elect shall:
- (a) promise obedience to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and
  - (b) agree to fulfill the shared commitments and obligations of the clergy of the Diocese as these are expressed in the Regulations and Policies of the Diocese.
263. The Consecration of the Diocesan Bishop-elect is within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan in consultation with the Diocesan Council.
264. The Installation of the Diocesan Bishop-elect is within the jurisdiction of the Administrator of the Diocese in consultation with the Diocesan Council.

*Division 7 -- Regulations, Electoral Synod Rules of Order and Diocesan Profile*

271. Diocesan Council may:
- (a) make Regulations consistent with this Canon and matters related to the nominating and election of a Diocesan Bishop and
  - (b) make Rules of Order for the Electoral Synod consistent with this Canon and any relevant Regulations.
272. Diocesan Council shall maintain a Diocesan Profile that shall be reviewed annually and, if necessary, revised.

*Division 8 -- Mandatory Review of the Electoral Process*

281. Within thirty days of its first regular meeting following the consecration and/or installation of the Diocesan Bishop, Diocesan Council shall establish an Electoral Process Review Task Force.
282. The Task Force shall review the electoral process just completed and shall report back to Diocesan Council with any recommendations regarding the electoral process which may include revisions to the Canon and to any relevant Regulations.
283. The Task Force shall complete its report within twelve months of its appointment.



**Canon 3 — Coadjutor, Suffragan or Assistant Bishop**

*Division 1 -- Election of a Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop*

301. When the Diocesan Bishop has given notice of their intent to resign or retire as Bishop within the following twelve months, the Bishop or the Synod, by three-fourths vote, may request the election of Coadjutor Bishop. The election of a Coadjutor Bishop shall take place on a date and at a place fixed by the Diocesan Bishop after consultation with the Diocesan Council.
302. When the Diocesan Bishop believes that the mission and ministry of the Diocese requires additional episcopal leadership, the Diocesan Bishop or the Synod by three-fourths vote, may request the election of a Suffragan Bishop. The election of a Suffragan Bishop shall take place on a date and at a place fixed by the Diocesan Bishop after consultation with the Diocesan Council.
303. The nomination election, consecration and installation of a Coadjutor Bishop shall take place pursuant to Canon 2 and any relevant Regulations with the exception that the Diocesan Bishop, if present, shall preside over the Electoral Synod.
304. The nomination, election, consecration and installation of a Suffragan Bishop shall take place pursuant to the provisions of Canon 2 and any relevant Regulations with the exception that
- (a) the nominees for the Office of Suffragan Bishop shall be submitted to and approved by the Diocesan Bishop, and
  - (b) the Diocesan Bishop, if present, shall preside over the Electoral Synod.

*Division 2 -- Duties and Privileges of a Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop*

321. The Coadjutor and/or Suffragan Bishop shall perform such Diocesan duties and exercise such Episcopal authority in the Diocese as assigned by the Diocesan Bishop.
322. The Coadjutor and/or Suffragan Bishop shall have a seat in the Synod and the same right of voting therein as any other voting licensed Clergy registered for a Synod.
- (a) In the absence of the Diocesan Bishop, the Coadjutor Bishop shall preside.
  - (b) In the absence or unwillingness of the Coadjutor Bishop to preside, then the Suffragan Bishop shall preside.
  - (c) In the absence or unwillingness of the Suffragan Bishop to preside, then the Administrator or Commissary of the Diocese shall preside.
323. The Coadjutor and/or Suffragan Bishop shall be a member of the Diocesan Council.

324. The Coadjutor Bishop shall become the Diocesan Bishop without any further election when any vacancy occurs in the See.

325. The Coadjutor Bishop has seniority over any Suffragan Bishop.

*Division 3 -- Assistant Bishop*

331. When the Diocesan Bishop believes that the mission and ministry of the Diocese requires additional episcopal leadership, the Diocesan Bishop, in consultation with Diocesan Council, may appoint an Assistant Bishop.

332. No person shall be appointed as Assistant Bishop who is not in episcopal orders and does not fulfill the qualifications for the Office of Bishop as stated in paragraphs 235 and 236 of Canon 2.

333. Prior to their appointment, an Assistant Bishop shall:

- (a) promise obedience to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and
- (b) agree to fulfill the shared commitments and obligations of the clergy of the Diocese as these are expressed in the Regulations and Policies of the Diocese.

334. The Assistant Bishop shall perform such Diocesan duties and exercise such Episcopal authority in the Diocese as assigned by the Diocesan Bishop.

335. The Assistant Bishop shall have a seat in the Synod and the same right of voting therein as any other voting licensed Clergy registered for a Synod.

336. The Assistant Bishop shall not be a member of the Diocesan Council.

337. The Coadjutor and Suffragan Bishops have seniority over any Assistant Bishop.