

## **Proposed Canon Change: Canon 3.5 – College of Deacons**

*The present canon was enacted in 2003 to provide some organizational structure for the College of Deacons, which includes all those who hold a current Bishop's Permission. The purpose of the amendment is to bring the canon up to date with what has been the practise and that some roles are held at the pleasure of the bishop. A Deputy Director of Deacons and a Chaplain are offices that existed but for some reason were not incorporated in 2003. The Executive Council, as set out in the canon has never had 3 members selected by the Bishop and 3 by Synod Council. The new composition continues to allow for 3 deacons to be members, makes the chaplain a member and provides for a Bishop's designate. The revised canon also removes policy-level content from the canon so that our practices are more adaptable to changing contexts.*

1. There shall be a College of Deacons whose purpose is to provide communal support and encouragement to deacons exercising their ministries throughout the Diocese of Niagara.
2. The diocesan Bishop shall appoint a Director of Deacons and may appoint both a Deputy Director of Deacons and a Chaplain to the College of Deacons. The Director and Deputy Director, if any, shall serve at the Bishop's pleasure and assist the Bishop in the placement and supervision of deacons. The Bishop's Chaplain to the College will function as a pastor to the deacons on behalf of the Bishop.
3. The College of Deacons shall be composed of:
  - (a) all deacons in good standing and holding a Bishop's Permission
  - (b) the Director of Deacons;
  - (c) the Deputy Director of Deacons, if any; and
  - (d) the Bishop's Chaplain to the College of Deacons, if any.
4. There shall be an Executive Council of the College of Deacons whose purpose is to advise and assist the Bishop, Director of Deacons and Deputy Director of Deacons, if any, in seeking and promoting the vitality of diaconal ministries in the Diocese of Niagara.
5. The Executive Council of the College of Deacons shall be composed of:
  - (a) the Director of Deacons, who shall serve as Chair;
  - (b) the Deputy Director of Deacons, if any;
  - (c) three delegates duly elected from the membership of the College of Deacons;
  - (d) the Bishop's Chaplain to the College of Deacons, if any; and
  - (e) the Bishop or his/her designate.

See next page for the current version of Canon 3.5.

### **Canon 3.5 – College of Deacons** *(as it currently stands)*

There shall be a College of Deacons composed of:

All deacons in good standing and holding the Bishop's license, excluding transitional deacons;

A Director of Deacons appointed by the Bishop who shall serve at the Bishop's pleasure and assist the Bishop in the placement and supervision of deacons;

There shall be an Executive Board of the College of Deacons composed of:

- (a) Up to three members appointed by the Bishop for a term of 3 years  
(renewable once) (At least one cleric and at least one lay person)
- (b) Up to three members elected by Synod Council for a term of 3 years  
(renewable once) (At least one cleric and at least one lay person)  
(Initially the appointments/elections shall be for periods of one, two and three years.)
- (c) Up to 3 deacons elected annually by the College of Deacons from among its members

#### **Purpose of the College**

The College of Deacons shall recommend standards and educational opportunities for candidates while supporting and encouraging all Deacons in their ministry. They shall assist the Director in planning an annual retreat/conference and conduct elections for member(s) of Synod. The College shall advise the Bishop on matters she/he may refer to them from time to time.

*(new, 2003)*