

Background Information on Proposed Canon Changes

1) The Addition of a New Canon the Cathedral of the Diocese of Niagara

This new canon arises from a recommendation contained in a report prepared by Archbishop Colin Johnson to regularize the *de facto* situation which currently exists with respect to the administration of Cathedral Place by defining the special nature of the cathedral congregation's status and ministry context. The canon seeks to uphold and protect the rights, responsibilities, and duties assigned to a duly established parish by Canon 4.1 while providing flexibility for the relationship between the cathedral congregation and diocese to evolve as necessary. The canon also enshrines the basic tenets of the Cathedral Place Property Management Committee.

2) The Amendment of Canon 1.9 (9) - Synod Council

This amendment would grant the Bishop the authority to call a meeting of synod council, in extraordinary circumstances, sooner than the usual 14-day notice period, enhancing the nimbleness of our governance structures to respond in a timely manner. The amendment also includes a bit of housekeeping by adding the words "or by such means" recognizing that electronic meetings may well become a regular part of our governance.

For ease of reference, the changes are highlighted in red:

The Synod Council shall meet at least six (6) times between each annual session of the Diocesan Synod on such dates and at such places **or by such means** as the bishop shall determine, provided fourteen (14) days notice of any meeting being given. The Secretary of Synod may, upon the written requisition of at least ten (10) members of the Synod Council call a meeting of Synod Council, provided fourteen (14) days notice of any meeting being given. **In extraordinary circumstances, the Bishop may call a meeting of Synod Council sooner than the aforementioned fourteen (14) day notice period.**

3) The Amendment of Canon 4.1 – Vestries and Churchwardens

This amendment adds a clause to the canon which creates the jurisdiction for the Bishop and synod council to enact regulations related to the conduct of vestry meetings for situations which are not currently contemplated by the existing canons, such as virtual vestry meetings.