

Background Information on Proposed Canon Changes for 2021

1) Amendment to Canon 1.4 – Election of Delegates to General & Provincial Synods

In recent years, nominations from the floor have not been received during the course of synod. With new technology to permit electronic voting in advance of synod, nominations from the floor of synod are even less practical. It is proposed that this section of Canon 1.4 be removed to add greater flexibility in response to the changing needs of the synod and to clarify that any and all regulations related to the election of general and provincial synod delegates are for the approval of synod council, as per section 5(1) of the same canon.

THAT section 5(2) of Canon 1.4, as follows, be deleted:

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall be deemed to prohibit nominations from the floor of the Diocesan Synod, provided that any such nomination is moved and seconded and the nominee assents to being nominated.

2) Amendment to Canon 2.1 (6) – Election of Bishops

On a strict reading of the canon, the following members of Synod are not entitled to vote at an episcopal election: the Bishop and any Suffragan or Coadjutor Bishop, the members of the College of Deacons who are members of Synod by virtue of Canon 1.1(4), and the lay representatives of Synod appointed by the Bishop pursuant to Canon 1.1(11). The proposed revision addresses these irregularities and simplifies the text of the canon. The revision also removes the description of orders for voting purposes since the composition of orders within Synod are easily determined and not otherwise defined for the purpose of non-electoral Synods.

Current Text

Those entitled to vote at the election of the Bishop shall be the priests, deacons and lay workers of the Diocese in active service and holding the Bishop's license; the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Treasurer, Controller, Secretary of Synod, and Lay representatives duly elected as provided in Canon 4.1 as well as the lay representatives duly appointed according to the provisions of subsection 10 of section 1 of Canon 1.1. Retired clergy of the diocese and clergy from other dioceses present in the diocese and holding the Bishop's "permission to officiate" may attend the Electoral Synod but are not permitted to vote.

The holders of the offices of Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Treasurer, Controller, and Secretary of Synod (unless they be a priest or deacon of the diocese in active service and holding the Bishop's license, in which case they shall be a member of the order of clergy for voting purposes) and lay workers of the diocese in active service and holding the Bishop's license pursuant to Canon 3.2 shall be deemed a member of the order of laity for voting purposes.

Proposed Revision

6. (a) Those entitled to vote at the election of a Bishop shall be those members of Synod duly elected or appointed according to the provisions of Canon 1.1.
- (b) Retired clergy and retired licensed lay workers of the diocese, and clergy from other dioceses presently serving in the diocese and holding a Bishop's permission, may attend the Electoral Synod but are not permitted to vote in the episcopal election.

3. Amendment to Canon 4.1 (16) - Vestries and Churchwardens

This revision reflects our current practice with regards to providing insurance coverage for parish ministries and the buildings and property entrusted to their care. It also adds some flexibility with regards to insurance coverage by giving authority to Synod Council to approve functional replacement and/or demolition only coverage in limited circumstances, in order to reflect the changing missional needs of particular communities.

Current Text

16. It shall also be the duty of the Churchwardens of each Parish of the Diocese to insure Parish buildings and all other property of the Parish of every description for at least 90% of the replacement value of such buildings and property, and the Diocesan Treasurer shall report annually to the Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee as to the status of each Parish's insurance.

Proposed Revision

16. It shall also be the duty of the Churchwardens to make financial provision for the costs of insurance coverage, as provided through the diocesan insurance policy and approved by the Synod Council.