



## **Canon 31**

### **Deanery Councils**

1. There shall be in each Regional Deanery a Deanery Council which shall be composed of the following members from each Parish in the Deanery: all clerics, all Churchwardens, all deputy Churchwardens, all treasurers, all lay representatives to Synod, all substitute lay representatives, and all Youth members.
2. Each Parish may elect or appoint one Youth member to the Deanery Council. Such person shall be a communicant of at least one year's standing and of the full age of 16 years of age at the time of the election or appointment and not more than 23 years of age at the time of the election or appointment and shall be elected or appointed annually by the Vestry of each Parish at a duly held Vestry meeting. Such member shall continue in office until their successor is elected or appointed at the next annual Vestry meeting. In the event of a vacancy during the term, such vacancy may be filled by the Parish Council of the Parish for the balance of the term.
3. Each Deanery Council shall, annually not less than 90 days before Synod convenes, elect at least one and not more than two Youth members to be Youth members of Synod to hold office until the first meeting of the Deanery Council in the next calendar year. Should the Deanery Council fail to elect a Youth member, not fewer than one nor more than two Youth members shall be appointed by the chair and vice-chair of the Deanery Council from amongst the Youth members elected or appointed from Parishes in the Deanery. The expenses of the Youth members shall be borne by their Deanery Council.

### **PURPOSES OF THE DEANERY COUNCIL**

4. The purposes of the Deanery Council shall be as follows:
  - (a) to strengthen the Church community within the Regional Deanery and to assist the Bishop, Diocesan Council and the Synod in their responsibilities;
  - (b) to maintain an effective communication link between Parishes and Synod and between Synod and Parishes;
  - (c) to educate lay representatives, their substitutes and clerics in synodical procedures and responsibilities;
  - (d) to encourage its Parishes to develop and maintain frequent inter-Parish communication and to work as partners-in-mission with the other



Parishes in the Regional Deanery.

### **DUTIES OF THE DEANERY COUNCIL**

5. (a) The Deanery Council shall meet at least three times yearly at which the Regional Dean or the lay co-chairperson shall preside:
  - (i) once as soon as conveniently possible after Parish annual Vestry meetings to elect members as provided in subsection 5(e);
  - (ii) once prior to the annual Synod to discuss matters raised in the Convening Circular; and
  - (iii) once in the autumn to receive, review and make recommendations on the proposed Diocesan Budget.
- (b) The Deanery Council shall welcome new members in the Regional Deanery and gather for the welcoming of a new cleric at the time of their induction.
- (c) The Deanery Council shall place on its agenda matters submitted to it by the Bishop, Diocesan Council or Synod for discussion and recommendations to the Bishop, Diocesan Council or Synod, respectively. It shall be the duty of the Deanery Council through its Regional Dean to ensure that:
  - (i) such recommendations are sent to the Bishop, Diocesan Council or Synod, respectively, within two calendar weeks following the date of the Deanery Council Meeting at which the recommendations were made; and
  - (ii) directions from Synod or Diocesan Council to the Deanery Council are implemented;

Deanery Councils wishing to bring motions to Synod or Diocesan Council should do so through their representatives to those bodies.

- (d) The Deanery Council, through its Regional Dean, shall send an invitation to all Parishes of the Regional Deanery to submit in writing, topics to be placed on the agenda of forthcoming meetings of the Deanery Council for enquiry, discussion and recommendation.
- (e) At the first meeting of the Deanery Council in each year, the Regional Dean presiding, the assembled laity shall elect a lay person as co-chair of the Deanery Council. There may also be elected at the same time a cleric or a lay member who shall act as secretary-treasurer of the Deanery Council. In addition, there shall be elected, by orders, up to three clerics and three lay members, who with the Regional Dean, the lay co-chair and the secretary-



treasurer, shall be the Executive Committee of the Deanery Council.

- (f) The Deanery Council, through its Regional Dean, may arrange for an annual seminar to be held no less than 30 days before Synod convenes for the training of lay representatives, their substitutes, and clerics in synodical procedures.