

**MOTIONS to PROVINCIAL SYNOD**  
**May 14-15, 2024**

**Motions Received**

Motion 2024-01

**Amendment to the Constitution – Repealing “Audit” Requirement**

*Moved (David Bell/Dion Lewis) that s. 5 of the Constitution be amended as follows:*

5(18) The Treasurer shall:

- receive and disburse all monies of the Synod, under the authority of the Synod or Provincial Council;
- perform such other duties as may be prescribed by Canon or resolution of the Synod; and
- present to each meeting of the Synod an **informally reviewed**~~audited~~ financial statement.

5(19) The signing officers of the Synod are any two of the Treasurer, the Metropolitan and the Prolocutor.

~~5(20) Auditors shall be appointed at each triennial session of the Synod.~~

*Context: Ever since the Provincial Synod decided to hold its sessions (and those of the Provincial Council) virtually, its financial assessments to dioceses, its budget, and correspondingly its financial transactions have reduced greatly. Now, the Synod receives only about 10 income lines per year (diocesan assessments and interest credits) and its Treasurer writes only about 10 cheques. This canonical amendment is brought forward in order to allow Synod members to consider whether an operation of this reduced scale still requires an “audit”.*

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Motion 2024-02

## **Amendment to Canon Three -- Election, Appointment, Consecration and Resignation of Bishops**

*Moved (David Bell/Dion Lewis) that Canon Three be amended as follows:*

6.(1) Subject to any applicable secular law, a bishop ceases to hold office when he or she attains the age of 70 years.

(2) A bishop may resign before attaining the age of 70 years by submitting a resignation to the Metropolitan and the House of Bishops.

**(2.1) Where a diocesan bishop has submitted a resignation that would, on taking effect, result in a vacancy in the episcopal see, the bishop may, with the permission of the Synod executive council, notify the Metropolitan and the House of Bishops that the resignation is withdrawn.**

(3) A bishop who is the Metropolitan may resign before attaining the age of 70 years by submitting a resignation to the diocesan bishop in the province senior by consecration and the House of Bishops.

*Context: The concern reflected in this proposed canonical amendment comes from the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In that diocese the incumbent bishop submitted his resignation under subsection (2) (above) and an electoral synod was scheduled accordingly. Then came the Covid crisis, which precluded holding the planned electoral synod. There being no procedure whereby the incumbent bishop could withdraw his resignation, the diocese fell vacant when his resignation took effect. This had two consequences: (1) the diocese became and remained vacant for a considerable time, until a novel form of electoral synod finally took place, and (2) the priest finally elected bishop had no period of overlap with her predecessor.*

*The motion proposed for the Provincial Synod would create a route whereby a diocesan bishop who had announced his/her resignation could, under certain circumstances, withdraw that resignation. The circumstances are (1) that the resignation, if it took effect, would leave the see vacant (that is, no coadjutor bishop was in place), (2) the withdrawal of resignation had the permission of the Diocesan Council, and (3) the Metropolitan and provincial bishops were notified of the withdrawal. (The required level of Council approval – whether simple majority or super majority – would be up to the Diocese.)*

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Motion 2024-03

**Defining Executive Committee**

*Moved (David Bell/Dion Lewis):*

1. That there be an Executive Committee of the Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada;
2. That members of the Executive Committee be the Metropolitan (or senior diocesan bishop by consecration), Prolocutor, Deputy Prolocutor, clerical and lay Secretaries, Treasurer and Chancellor (or Vice-Chancellor); and
3. That, subject to the direction of the Provincial Synod or the Provincial Council, the responsibility of the Executive Committee be to carry out or co-ordinate the day-to-day administrative, financial and legal work or concerns of the Ecclesiastical Province between meetings of the Synod and the Council, including preparation for those meetings and implementation of their directives.

*Context: The Executive committee (as defined in s. 2 of the above motion) meets between meetings of the Synod and the Council, six-eight times a year. The work it does is useful and practically necessary. The motion's significance is in acknowledging this role explicitly, via s. 3.*

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Motion 2024-04

**Appointing Triers for the Provincial Court of Appeal**

*Moved (David Bell/Dion Lewis):*

That the following clergy and laity be appointed to the pool of triers for the Provincial Court of Appeal:

from the Diocese of Quebec

The Rev Adèle Finlayson, The Ven Dr Edward Simonton  
Dr Sean Otto, Canon Stephen Kohner

from the Diocese of Fredericton

The Ven Perry Cooper, The Rev Christopher Tapera  
Deidre Wade KC, Dr Kelly VanBuskirk KC

from the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

The Ven Charlene Taylor, The Rev Eli Evans  
Angela Morgan, Bruce Tilley

from the Diocese of Central Newfoundland

The Rev John Sparkes, The Rev Jeff Blackwood  
Hedley Johnson, Daphne Bonnell

from the Diocese of Montreal

The Ven Sophie Rolland, The Rev Jean-Fils Chery  
Jessica Stilwell, Penelope Rankin

from the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

The Ven John Clarke, The Rev Ann Turner  
Anthony Chapman, Edith Marshall

from the Diocese of Western Newfoundland

The Ven Charlene Laing, The Rev Mickton Phiri  
Jim Bennett. Katie Watton

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Motion 2024-05 [names to be added]

### **Appointing Members of the Provincial Council**

*Moved (David Bell/Dion Lewis):*

That the following clerical and lay members of the Provincial Synod be appointed to the Provincial Council:

from the Diocese of Quebec, the Rev

from the Diocese of Fredericton, the Rev

from the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, the Rev

from the Diocese of Western Newfoundland, the Rev

from the Diocese of Montreal, ...

from the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, ....

From the Diocese of Central Newfoundland, ...

*[Note: the two **Youth members** of the Provincial Council are elected by Youth members of the Provincial Synod, not by the Synod itself]*

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Motion 2024-06

**Adopting a Basis of Assessment**

*Moved (Robert Taylor/Dion Lewis):*

That the basis of Diocesan Assessment for the triennium 2025-2027 be as follows:

<b>DIOCESE</b>	<b>2016 Assessable Income</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Nova Scotia & PEI	\$2,200,829	30.1
Fredericton	\$1,358,913	18.6
Quebec	\$ 315,613	4.3
Montreal	\$1,238,659	16.9
E. Newfoundland & Labrador	\$1,204,340	16.5
Central Newfoundland	\$ 489,980	6.7
Western Newfoundland	\$ 509,105	7.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$7,317,439</b>	<b>100.1</b>

*Context: Even though the proposed Budget motion (Motion 2024-07) contemplates that the Provincial Synod would give the Dioceses an assessment "holiday" for the triennium 2025-2027, the Synod must still approve a **basis** for assessment. This is in case some great expense should arise during the triennium, to meet which the Provincial Council would call on the Dioceses for special payments. For further context, see the Basis of Assessment memorandum circulated separately.*

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Motion 2024-07

## Adopting a Provincial Budget

*Moved (Robert Taylor/Dion Lewis):*

That the Provincial budget for the triennium 2025-2027 be as follows:

	<b>Approved 2022-2024</b>	<b>Draft 2025</b>	<b>Draft 2026</b>	<b>Draft 2027</b>	<b>Draft Total</b>
<b>INCOME</b>					
Assessments	27765	0	0	0	0
Investments	4500	2000	2000	2000	6000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>32265</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>6000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Meetings of Synod (2027), Provincial Council (2026) and Executive are assumed to be virtual.					
ACPO	15000	5000	5000	5000	15000
Conference Services	690	250	250	250	750
Office Supplies	450	100	100	100	300
Computer Software	1800	300	300	300	900
Bank Charges	150	100	100	100	300
Professional Services	5175	200	200	200	600
Insurance	6000	2600	2700	2800	8100
Contingency / Other	3000	1000	1000	1000	3000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>32265</b>	<b>9550</b>	<b>9650</b>	<b>9750</b>	<b>28950</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-7550</b>	<b>-7650</b>	<b>-7750</b>	<b>-22950</b>

*Context: This Budget proposal assumes:*

(1) that during the next triennium (2025-2027), annual Assessments to the seven Dioceses will be **nil**, with Provincial expenses being met from interest income and from the accumulated financial reserve;

(2) that the Synod will agree to repeal the canonical requirement for a relatively costly "audit" (Motion 2024-01), so that the expense line for Professional Services will be reduced greatly;

(3) that this proposed 2025-2027 budget does not affect the already-approved assessment for 2024, for which Dioceses will be invoiced shortly.

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Motion 2024-08

**Approving Financial Position Statements**

*Moved (Robert Taylor/Dion Lewis):*

That the Financial Position statements for 2022 and 2023 be approved.

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