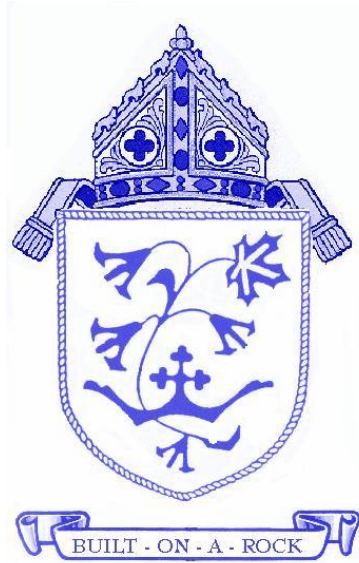


Archdiocese of Kingston



CHAPTER 5

COUNCIL OF PRIESTS

Chapter 5 COUNCIL OF PRIESTS

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STATUTES

Name

The name of this organization shall be *The Council of Priests of the Archdiocese of Kingston*, herein referred to as "the Council".

Responsibility to the Archbishop

The Archbishop of Kingston convenes the Council and presides over it either personally or through his delegate. He determines the matters to be discussed in the Council or accepts items for discussion as proposed by the members (c. 500, §1).

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Council of Priests shall be:

1. to represent the priests of the Archdiocese, the presbyterium, and to be, as it were, the Archbishop's senate (c. 495,§1);
2. to assist the Archbishop in the governance of the Archdiocese, in accordance with the law, so that the pastoral welfare of that portion of the people of God entrusted to the Archbishop may be most effectively promoted (c. 495,§1);
3. to discuss those matters which the Archbishop determines to be discussed or which he accepts from the members (c. 500,§1);
4. to provide a consultative vote concerning more serious matters about which the Archbishop is to consult the Council (c. 500,§2);
5. to give or withhold consent in those cases expressly defined in the law where the Archbishop requires it from the Council (c. 500,§2);
6. to act only with the Archbishop, leaving publication of matters discussed to his discretion (c. 500,§3);
7. to select a group of parish priests from those proposed by the Archbishop from which he must choose two for the necessary consultations concerning the canonical procedures for removal or transfer of parish priests (c.1742,§1; 1745,§2; 1750);
8. to promote continued spiritual growth and education among the priests of the Archdiocese;
9. to promote understanding of the priestly vocation among the people of God and to encourage those who have that vocation to respond to it with a generous heart;
10. to collaborate with other diocesan organizations in the coordination and provision of pastoral care throughout the Archdiocese (CCCB Decree No. 26).

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MEMBERSHIP

1. The Council shall consist of:
 - a. ex-officio members:
 - the Vicar General, Episcopal Vicars, and Judicial Vicar
 - Vicars Forane (Deans) from the four deaneries
 - b. Four (4) elected members: One (1) priest from each of the four (4) deaneries
 - c. others appointed by the Archbishop.
2. The term of office for ex-officio members shall coincide with the term of the office which gave them membership in the Council ex-officio.
3. The term of office for any elected member shall be two years. An elected member who has served two consecutive terms is ineligible for re-election for two years. The terms shall be such that half the elected positions shall be open for election each year.
4. The term of office for appointed members shall be at the Archbishop's discretion.
5. It is to be kept in mind that about half of the Council is to be freely elected (c. 497,§1,3).

Eligibility of Members

1. Those eligible to elect or hold office in the Council are the following:
 - a. diocesan priests who are incardinated in the Archdiocese and who enjoy the faculties of the Archdiocese;
 - b. other priests, diocesan and religious, who are living in the Archdiocese and who enjoy the faculties of the Archdiocese;
 - c. other priests, diocesan and religious, who are living in the Archdiocese and who enjoy faculties of another ecclesiastical authority, and who exercise some function or office within the territory of the Archdiocese under an ecclesiastical authority other than the Archbishop.
2. All of the above shall be considered to be the priests of the Archdiocese.
3. Elections shall take place in each of the four deaneries during a deanery meeting to be held prior to the Fall meeting of the Council, at which time one member of the Council shall be elected from among the priests resident in that deanery.

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4. The Vicar Forane will preside over the election of the new member of the Council. In the event of his absence, the senior priest from that deanery, by virtue of ordination, who is not retiring from office, shall convene and preside at the meeting and the election.
5. Each priest shall vote by secret ballot for one nominee who is eligible for office and who has declared his willingness to stand for election.
6. The nominee with the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie, the nominees with the highest number of votes shall have their names submitted to a vote. Should a tie result from this second ballot, the final decision shall be made by lot.
7. An elected member of the Council who is transferred into another deanery shall complete his term of office, and a replacement will be elected.
8. Vacancies due to resignation, death, or disability of elected members of the Council shall be filled by election at the next meeting of the deanery, and the elected priest(s) will complete the remainder of the term of the position(s) vacated. The priest(s) thus elected shall be eligible for election for two additional terms.

Officers

1. The officers of the Council shall consist of chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary, who are elected by the Council from its members at the Fall meeting.
2. The term of office of all officers of the Council shall be one year.
3. The Archbishop convenes and presides over all meetings, special and regular, and determines the matters to be discussed. He may also accept other items proposed by the members of the Council. As directed by the Archbishop, the Chairman presides over meetings.
4. The Archbishop determines the time and place of meetings. He may, however, delegate this function to the chairman, who shall exercise it in consultation with at least two members of the Council.
5. The vice-chairman shall assist the chairman in the discharge of his duties where required, and may be delegated to officiate in the chairman's absence. In the event of long or permanent incapacity of the chairman, the vice-chairman shall succeed him for the remainder of his term.

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6. The secretary shall record the proceedings of all meetings as the Archbishop instructs and shall submit them to the Archbishop for approval. At the request of the Archbishop, he shall notify the Council members and all priests of the Archdiocese of all meetings of the Council. At the direction of the Archbishop, he shall make a report of all pertinent information to all priests of the Archdiocese as soon as conveniently possible following each meeting, and shall file all records, reports, and communications.

Meetings

1. There shall be a minimum of four regular meetings of the Council each year, unless the Archbishop determines otherwise.
2. There shall be an annual meeting of all priests of the Archdiocese at which the major events of the Archdiocese and, according to the discretion of the Archbishop, those matters discussed by the Council, will be reported.
3. Special meetings of the Council may be called as deemed necessary.
4. In addition to regular meetings of the Council, telephone consultation of the Council may be employed in cases of urgency.
5. The quorum of the Council shall consist of a simple majority of members.
6. When the See is vacant, the Council lapses, and its functions are fulfilled by the College of Consultors (c. 501,§2).

Committees

1. The Council may establish standing or special committees which it may deem necessary or useful to accomplish its work, with the approval of the Archbishop.
2. When a committee is established, a chairman shall be appointed from the Council. The chairman shall appoint at least two additional members, who are to be approved by the Council but need not be members of the Council.
3. The quorum of any committee shall be two members.
4. The meeting of any committee may be held at any time and place on the call of the chairman. If the chairman is not present at the meeting, the remaining members shall elect a temporary chairman.

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Amendments

With the approval of the Archbishop, this constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the Council, plus at least a simple majority of the priests of the Archdiocese.