

# CANON III

## The Primate

### Part I. The Primacy

#### 1. The Primacy

- a) There shall be a Primate who shall be the presiding bishop of The Anglican Church of Canada.
- b) The Primate, upon assuming office, shall be the Senior Metropolitan of The Anglican Church of Canada.
- c) The Primate shall have the title “Archbishop”.

#### 2. Election to the Primacy

The Primate shall be elected in accordance with the procedures established in part II of this Canon.

#### 3. Definition of Senior Metropolitan

As Senior Metropolitan, the Primate:

- i) is *primus inter pares* among the Provincial Metropolitans
- ii) convenes and chairs meetings of the Provincial Metropolitans
- iii) consults with Provincial Metropolitans on matters of leadership and mission.

#### 4. Term of Office

- a) The term of office of the Primate shall commence upon installation to the office.
- b) As soon as practicable following election, but in any case not more than 90 days after the date of election, the Primate shall resign any Episcopal and Metropolitan offices held at the time of election to the Primacy.
- c) The Primate shall hold office until:
  - i) attaining 70 years of age, or
  - ii) the effective date of a resignation accepted pursuant to section 9 b) of this Canon,  
or
  - iii) the adoption of a resolution declaring the Primacy vacant pursuant to section 10 of this Canon.

#### 5. Ministry of the Primate

- a) The Primate shall:
    - i) lead the Anglican Church of Canada in discerning and pursuing the mission of God;
-

- ii) exercise pastoral and spiritual leadership throughout the Anglican Church of Canada and regularly visit every diocese of the Anglican Church of Canada;
  - iii) exercise a pastoral ministry in particular to the members of the Order of Bishops;
  - iv) serve as the President of the General Synod, Chair of the Council of General Synod, Chair of the meetings of the Provincial Metropolitans and meetings of the House of Bishops;
  - v) serve as Chief Executive Officer of the General Synod;
  - vi) be, *ex officio*, a member of all committees, councils, boards and commissions, standing or special, appointed under any provision of the Constitution or any Canon enacted by the General Synod, or under any resolution of the General Synod or of the Council of the General Synod;
  - vii) report to each meeting of the Council of General Synod and to the General Synod;
  - viii) speak and write prophetically to the Anglican Church of Canada, and on behalf of the Anglican Church of Canada to the world, in consultation with the Metropolitans and/or the Bishops, and the General Synod or its Council as appropriate;
  - ix) represent the Anglican Church of Canada internationally and ecumenically;
  - x) have Metropolitan jurisdiction over the Bishop Ordinary, the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, and any other extra-diocesan bishop with a national ministry;
  - xi) always be an invited guest at Sacred Circle, with voice but not vote.
- b) Subject to the provision of financial requirements, the Primate and the four Provincial Metropolitans may concur in the election by the Anglican Military Ordinariate of the Bishop Ordinary who shall have episcopal jurisdiction over the members of the Anglican Military Ordinariate in accordance with any applicable Canon.
  - c) Subject to the provision of financial requirements, the Primate and the four Provincial Metropolitans may concur in the election by the Sacred Circle of the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop who shall have a pastoral episcopal relationship with all Indigenous ministries, in accordance with any applicable Canon.

## 6. Sacramental Ministry of the Primate

The Primate, as Senior Metropolitan, is expected to exercise the apostolic ministry of a bishop throughout the Anglican Church of Canada, primarily by teaching and preaching the Word of God in Scripture, and also by:

- a) subject to the invitation of the diocesan bishop, presiding at the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation and Ordination during pastoral visits across the Anglican Church of Canada,
  - b) having a visible role in the consecration of newly elected bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada,
  - c) acting as chief consecrator of the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop and the Bishop Ordinary, as required,
-

- d) having a visible role in the installation of metropolitans, including, if invited, presiding at their installation, and
- e) presiding at all liturgical events of the General Synod and its Council, and all national church events, though the Primate may delegate this to another.

## **7. The Office of the Primate**

- a) The Primate shall maintain an office at the headquarters of the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada.
- b) The Primate may retain personal assistants after appropriate financial arrangements have been made pursuant to sections 7 c) and 7 d) of this Canon.
- c) The Financial Management Committee shall, in accordance with its budgeting procedures, determine the financial needs of the Primacy, including all salaries, office expenses, living allowances, travel expenses, entertainment allowances and other expenses.
- d) The financial needs of the Primacy shall be met first from the income of any capital fund designated for such purpose and, second, from the proportional gifts made by the dioceses.

## **8. Acting Primate**

During a vacancy in the Primacy or during the incapacity of the Primate, the Provincial Metropolitan senior by election, able and willing to act, shall have authority to perform all the duties of the Primacy and shall be styled “Acting Primate”.

## **9. Resignation from Office**

- a) The Primate may submit notice of intention to resign from the office of Primate to the Provincial Metropolitan senior by election.
- b) The Provincial Metropolitan senior by election shall, after consultation with the other Metropolitans and with the Prolocutor and Deputy Prolocutor of the General Synod, jointly with the Primate determine the date on which the Primate’s resignation should take effect.
- c) The Primate shall then submit to the Provincial Metropolitan senior by election, and the Provincial Metropolitan, senior by election shall accept, a resignation to take effect on the date determined pursuant to section 9 b).
- d) The Provincial Metropolitan senior by election shall report the resignation to the Council of the General Synod and to the Order of Bishops of the General Synod.
- e) The title of the Primate after ceasing to hold office shall continue to be “Archbishop”.

## **10. Incapacity of the Primate**

- a) The incapacity of the Primate to carry out the functions of the Primacy for reason of illness or otherwise shall be established:
    - i) by the deed of the Primate to that effect addressed to the Provincial Metropolitan senior by election, or
-

- ii) by a Certificate of Incapacity addressed to the Provincial Metropolitan senior by election, and signed by four Diocesan Bishops of The Anglican Church of Canada and one of:
      - a) the Provincial Metropolitans
      - b) the Chancellor of the General Synod, or
      - c) the Prolocutor of the General Synod.
  - b) Where the incapacity of the Primate has been established by the deed of the Primate to that effect, the Primate may resume the functions of the Primacy by giving notice of intention to do so to the Acting Primate.
  - c) Where the incapacity of the Primate has been established by a Certificate of Incapacity, the Primate may resume the functions of the Primacy by giving to the Acting Primate notice of intention to do so, and
    - i) a certificate establishing the capacity of the Primate to resume the functions of the Primacy, signed by the persons who signed the Certificate of Incapacity, or their successors in office, or
    - ii) a certified copy of a resolution of the Council of the General Synod, or of the General Synod, directing that the Primate may resume the functions of the Primacy.
  - d) After the incapacity of the Primate to carry out the functions of the Primacy has been established under section 10 a) of this Canon, the Primacy may be declared vacant:
    - i) by special resolution of each of the Council of the General Synod and the Order of Bishops, or
    - ii) by special resolution of the General Synod.
-

## **Part II. Election Procedures**

### **11. Procedural Guidelines**

The Council of the General Synod shall establish procedural guidelines for the conduct of the election of a Primate but this Canon shall have precedence over anything contained in the guidelines as established.

### **12. Eligibility**

All bishops of The Anglican Church of Canada who are members of the Order of Bishops of the General Synod in accordance with the Constitution of the General Synod shall be eligible for election to the Primacy.

### **13. General Synod to Elect**

The Primate shall be nominated and elected by the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada in accordance with this Canon.

### **14. Time of Election**

- a) Where a vacancy in the Primacy occurs less than 12 months before a regular session of the General Synod, the General Synod shall elect a Primate during such regular session at a time fixed by the Acting Primate.
- b) Where a vacancy in the Primacy occurs more than 12 months before a regular session of the General Synod, unless the Council of the General Synod directs otherwise, the General Synod shall elect a Primate at a special session held at a time and place fixed by the Acting Primate in consultation with the Council of the General Synod.

### **15. Meeting of the Order of Bishops**

The Order of Bishops shall meet not earlier than one hundred and twenty days and not later than thirty days before the date fixed for the election of the Primate and shall nominate three or more bishops for the office of Primate.

### **16. Notice to the Orders of Clergy and Laity**

Immediately following the meeting of the Order of Bishops, the General Secretary of the General Synod shall send to all members of the Orders of Clergy and Laity the names of the nominees together with such biographical information about each nominee as is required by the guidelines established under section 11.

### **17. President**

The Prolocutor of the General Synod or, in the absence of the Prolocutor, the Deputy Prolocutor of the General Synod shall preside during the election of the Primate by the General Synod.

### **18. Celebration of Holy Communion**

On the day appointed for the election, the General Synod shall convene for a celebration of Holy Communion.

---

## **19. Report of the Credentials Committee**

Upon conclusion of the celebration of Holy Communion, the Credentials Committee shall report as to the standing of all persons present and as to the presence of a quorum of the General Synod.

## **20. Withdrawal of the Order of Bishops**

A quorum of the General Synod being present, the Order of Bishops shall withdraw and sit apart from the other Orders.

## **21. Voting and Election in the Orders of Clergy and Laity**

- a) When the Order of Bishops has withdrawn, the Orders of Clergy and Laity shall proceed immediately to vote by ballot on the nominations made by the Order of Bishops.
- b) Votes shall be taken by Orders and, subject to sections 22 and 24, shall continue until there is an election.
- c) After the second and each subsequent vote:
  - i) the name of any nominee who has received fewer than 10 per cent of the votes cast in the Order of Clergy and fewer than 10 per cent of the votes cast in the Order of Laity, or
  - ii) if all nominees have received at least 10 per cent of the votes in both Orders, the name of the nominee who received the fewest votes in the aggregate,shall be removed from the ballot before the next vote, until only two nominees remain.
- d) An election occurs when a nominee receives a majority of the votes of:
  - i) the members of the Order of Clergy present, and
  - ii) the members of the Order of Laity present.
- e) Upon an election occurring, the Order of Bishops shall be notified.

## **22. Further Nominations**

- a) Either the Order of Clergy or the Order of Laity may, at any time after the second vote is taken, by resolution request further nominations from the Order of Bishops.
- b) Upon receipt of such a request, the Order of Bishops shall submit one or more additional nominations.

## **23. Resolutions**

- a) Resolutions shall be presented in writing to the President.
- b) No debate shall be permitted on any resolution or ballot.

## **24. Failure of Orders of Clergy and Laity to Elect**

- a) When, after the number of nominees has been reduced to two,
    - i) an election has not occurred after three successive votes, and
    - ii) no request for additional nominations has been made,
-

the Order of Bishops shall be notified that the Orders of Clergy and Laity are unable to elect.

- b) When the Order of Bishops is notified that the Orders of Clergy and Laity are unable to elect, the members of the Order of Bishops shall proceed to vote on the two remaining nominees and an election occurs when one of the nominees receives a majority of the votes of the members of the Order of Bishops present.

## **25. Declaration of Election**

When an election occurs, the Order of Bishops shall return and sit with the Orders of Clergy and Laity and the Prolocutor shall announce the election.