



## Presbyteral Council Statutes

### A. Preamble

In accordance with the norms of Canons 495 to 502 of the Code of Canon Law, Presbyteral Council is established in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. This Council is a body of priests, representing the Presbyterium, which acts as the senate of the Archbishop.

### B. Name, Purpose, and Objectives

1. This body shall be known as the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.
2. The role of the Council is to assist the Archbishop in the governance of the Archdiocese so that the pastoral welfare of that portion of the people of God committed to him may be most effectively promoted (canon 495§1).
3. It is for the Archbishop to convoke the Presbyteral Council, to preside over its meetings, and to determine the agenda, or to accept proposals from the members (canon 500§1).

The Presbyteral Council enjoys only a consultative vote. The Archbishop is to consult the Council in matters of greater importance, but requires its consent only in the cases expressly defined by law (canon 500§2).

The Presbyteral Council may never act without the Archbishop. The Archbishop alone has authority to promulgate its decisions (canon 500§3).

### C. Composition of the Presbyteral Council

#### *Ex Officio Members*

- a. The Archbishop
- b. The Vicar(s) General
- c. The Chancellor

#### *Elected Members*

Nine priests are to be elected from among the diocesan and religious clergy. The following have both active and passive right of election:

- a. All diocesan priests who are incardinated in the Archdiocese and possess current faculties of the Archdiocese;
- b. Diocesan priests who are not incardinated, as well as priests who are members of a religious institute or a society of apostolic life, who actually live in the Archdiocese and exercise therein some office, by appointment of the Archbishop.



### ***Appointed Members***

It is the right of the Archbishop to freely appoint members to the Presbyteral Council without prejudice to canon 497,°1.

### ***Consultors***

“Some priests are to be freely selected by the diocesan bishop from among the members of the Presbyteral Council to constitute a College of Consultors; their number is to be not less than six nor more than twelve; the College is established for a five year term, and is responsible for the functions determined in the law; when the five year term is over, the College continues to exercise its proper functions until a new College is established.” (canon 502§1) Consultors continue as members of the Presbyteral Council until the end of their term as consultors.

## **D. Elections, Term of Office, Vacancies**

### ***Elections***

- a. The members to be elected will represent the whole presbyterate but will be elected from and by the deanery constituencies:
  - i. Two from each of the following deaneries: Vancouver West, Vancouver East;
  - ii. Fraser Valley West;
  - iii. One from each of the following deaneries: North Shore, New Westminster, Fraser Valley East.
- b. The Elections Committee appointed ad hoc by the Archbishop shall prepare, distribute, and receive ballots for the election so that the elections start on July 15 and are completed by August 31.
- c. First Ballot (Nominations): An alphabetical list of all diocesan and religious priests in each deanery will be mailed to the priests of that particular deanery. Those not eligible for election - ex-officio members and those completing their second consecutive term - shall be bracketed. Priests in Vancouver East, Vancouver West, and Fraser Valley West deaneries nominate two candidates. Priests in North Shore, New Westminster, and Fraser Valley East deaneries nominate one candidate.
- d. Second Ballot: For two-member deaneries, the five candidates receiving the most votes shall be listed in alphabetical order, including those tied for fifth place if necessary, and this list shall be sent to all members of the deanery who will vote for two candidates. For one-member deaneries, three candidates will be listed alphabetically and one voted for.
- e. In case of a tie on the second ballot, the priest who is senior, first by ordination and second by age, will be considered elected.



- f. The Elections Committee shall inform the Archbishop of the results, and he in turn shall notify the newly-elected members and the entire presbyterate. The newly-elected will then assume their position at the first meeting of September.

### ***Term of Office***

- a. The term of office in the Presbyteral Council for elected and appointed members is for two years. The election takes place every two years for nine members.
- b. Each elected member of the Presbyteral Council is eligible for re-election for another two-year term. After a term out of office, a priest becomes eligible once again for election.

### ***Vacancies***

- a. The balloting results will be kept on file and in the event of the incapacity of a member, the priest with the next highest number of votes shall be chosen to complete the unexpired term.
- b. When the See is vacant, the Presbyteral Council ceases and its duties are fulfilled by the College of Consultors until such time as the new Archbishop recognizes the Presbyteral Council anew.

## **E. Officers of the Presbyteral Council and Their Function**

1. The Archbishop is ex officio Chairman of the Presbyteral Council.
2. The Archbishop appoints a Vice-chairman and a Secretary from among the members at the first meeting following elections. These three constitute the Executive Committee.
3. The Chairman shall convene and preside at all meetings. He shall also prepare the agenda for the meeting.
4. The Vice-chairman shall assist the Chairman and preside at a meeting in his absence at his request.
5. The Secretary shall record the proceedings of all meetings. He shall keep the roll of members, file all records and communications and send notices of all regular meetings.

## **F. Meetings**

1. The Presbyteral Council shall meet ordinarily once every month. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman.
2. Due notice and purpose of regular meetings will be given to all members by the Secretary at least one week in advance, after consultation with the Archbishop.
3. A quorum of the Presbyteral Council shall consist of a simple majority of the members.



## G. Amendments

These statutes can be amended only by a two-thirds majority of the members concurring with the Archbishop, thirty days' written notice of motion to amend having been transmitted to all members.

## H. Appendix I: Procedure for Elections,

For use of the Ad Hoc Elections Committee and Secretarial Staff

1. At the September meeting of the Presbyteral Council the Archbishop appoints an ad hoc Elections Committee, consisting of members not eligible for re-election. The nomination balloting is to begin in early August and the entire election is to be completed by August 31.
2. The Chancery secretarial staff prepares an alphabetical list of all priests in each deanery with active and passive right of election (cf. Statutes, Article II, 2). This list has bracketed those not eligible for nomination in the upcoming election: those just completing a second consecutive term (including consultors) and ex-officio members.
3. The First Ballot (Nomination) is prepared for each deanery, consisting of this list, and sent to all members of the deanery, including those not eligible for re-election. The priests in two-member deaneries are asked to nominate two priests. The priests in one-member deaneries are asked to nominate one priest. The priests are given a deadline by which to return the nomination ballot.
4. After the deadline for receiving the nomination ballots, they are forwarded to the Election Committee for counting. An alphabetical list is made of those nominated: five for those in two-member deaneries (including those tied for fifth place) and three for one-member deaneries. This list becomes the basis of the second ballot.
5. The Second Ballot (Election) is prepared for each deanery and sent to all members of the deanery. The names of those nominated are listed in alphabetical order. Deaneries with two members on the Presbyteral Council have five members listed and are asked to choose two. Deaneries with one member have three names listed from which they choose one. Deadline for receiving the ballot is clearly indicated.
6. After the deadline for receiving the election ballots, they are forwarded to the Election Committee for counting. Ties are decided as per Statutes D.1.e.. The names of those elected are forwarded to the Archbishop's Office (Statutes D.1.f.).