



Presbyteral Council Statutes

A. Preamble

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

B. Name, Purpose and Objective

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 (c. 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 (c. 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 (c. 500 §2).

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

C. Composition of the Presbyteral Council

1. *Ex Officio Members*

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

2. *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;
- c. Priests who are appointed by the Archbishop as Deans are also eligible for election as members of the Presbyteral Council.



3. Appointed Members

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

4. 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” (c. 502 §1). Consultors continue as members of the Presbyteral Council until the end of their term as consultors.

D. Elections, Terms of Office, Vacancies

1. 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, Fraser Valley West;
 - ii. 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 election starts after July 15 and is 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 *asterisked. 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; 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.



- g. An elected member retains the right to decline nomination.

2. Terms 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 one other two-year term. After a term out of office, a priest becomes eligible once again for election.

3. 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. If a priest elected from one deanery is transferred during his term to another deanery, the priest with the next highest number of votes shall complete the unexpired term.
- c. 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 constitutes the Presbyteral Council anew.

E. Officers of the Presbyteral Council and Their Function

1. The Archbishop is *ex officio* Chair of the Presbyteral Council.
2. The Archbishop appoints a Vice-chair and a Secretary from among the members at the first meeting following elections. These three constitute the Executive Committee.
3. The Chair shall convene and preside at all meetings. He shall also prepare the agenda for the meeting.
4. The Vice-chair shall assist the Chair 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. He may delegate the recording to a trusted lay person.

F. Meetings

1. The Presbyteral Council shall meet ordinarily once every month. Special meetings may be called by the Chair.
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.

**Approved: The Conversion of St. Paul
25 January 2019**

† **J. Michael Miller, CSB**
Archbishop of Vancouver

**The following policy is hereby SUPERSEDED:
*Parish Finance Council Guidelines, issued on January 13, 2011***



Appendix I: Procedure for Elections,

For use of the *ad hoc* Elections Committee and Secretarial Staff

1. At the June meeting of the Presbyteral Council the Archbishop appoints an *ad hoc* Elections Committee, consisting of three members not eligible for re-election. The nomination balloting is to begin after July 15 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 (see above: C.2). This list has *asterisked 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 priests are asked to choose two. Deaneries with one member have three names listed from which the priests choose one. The 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 D.1.e above. The election results are forwarded to the Archbishop's Office (see above, D.1.f).
7. A priest assigned to study will vote in the deanery in which he last served. Ballots will be sent by email.
8. Priests who are on leave or sabbatical will be noted on the ballot. They are not eligible for election.
9. Members are elected by a simple majority (50+1). There will be no second ballot.