

THE BISHOP-IN-COUNCIL STATUTE 1986-2018

Be it enacted by the Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Bunbury in Synod assembled:

1. The Bunbury Bishop-in-Council Statute 1911-1984 is hereby repealed and the following substituted in lieu thereof.

2. **Function**

The Council shall act as a Council of Advice to the Bishop in regard to all questions affecting the welfare of the church.

3. **Membership**

The Council shall consist of:

- (a) The Bishop
- (b) The Administrator (ex-officio)
The Archdeacons (ex-officio)
The Priest-in charge-of the Cathedral church (ex-officio)
The Trustees (ex-officio)
- (c) Two lay members of the Diocese appointed by the Bishop for the period of a Triennial Synod.
- (d) Three clerical and three lay members elected at the first general session of each Triennial Synod.

4. **Tenure of Office**

- (a) The elected members and those appointed by the Bishop shall continue and remain in office, except as hereinafter provided, until their successors are appointed.
- (b) Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.
- (c) Any appointed or elected member of the Council may by writing under their hand resign from the Council, and upon acceptance by the Bishop, the office of such member shall become vacant.
- (d) Any appointed or elected member of the Council who shall be absent without leave of the Council for three consecutive meetings shall cease to be a member and their office shall become vacant.
- (e) When an appointed or elected member dies or becomes incapacitated, a vacancy occurs.
- (f) The Bishop may, on the advice of the Council, remove any member from the Council.

5. **Casual Vacancies**

- (a) The Bishop shall fill casual vacancies of either of the appointed members.
- (b) The Bishop shall give notice to all members of the Council of the vacancy, however caused, of an elected member. They shall elect a member of Synod to fill the vacancy, provided that the above proportion of clerical and lay members shall be preserved. The Council may at its discretion defer the election for decision at the next

general session of Synod.

- (c) Members appointed or elected to fill casual vacancies shall serve until the next Synodical elections.

6. **Meetings**

- (a) The Council shall meet not less than four times a year and at the Bishop's discretion.
- (b) The Bishop shall be Chairman of the Council, but if for any reason the Bishop shall be unable to be present, the Bishop shall, by writing under the Bishop's hand, appoint another person to preside.
- (c) If the Bishop, shall dissent from any resolution passed by a majority of the Council, action shall be delayed until the resolution has been reconsidered and reaffirmed by an absolute majority of the whole Council as its next meeting. If the Bishop continues to dissent the matter shall be brought to the next general session of Synod.
- (d) No member of the Council shall vote on any question in which the member or the member's ecclesiastical district has a peculiar interest.
- (e) The minutes of all Council meetings may be scrutinised by any member of Synod who requests, through the Bishop, to do so.

7. **Quorum**

Seven members shall form a quorum, of whom at least two shall be clerical members and two shall be lay members.

8. **Duties and Powers**

It shall be the responsibility of the Council:

- (a) To act as the Standing Committee of Synod within the framework of the Constitution of the church and the Statutes of the Diocese.
- (b) To consider all matters pertaining to the temporal affairs of the church; these shall be taken to include:
 - (i) All financial arrangements for encouraging and extending the work of God within the Diocese.
 - (ii) All other matters relating to Clergy emoluments, finances and property within the Diocese which are not by statute the specified concern of the Diocesan Trustees.
- (c) To consider and when appropriate, respond to matters within its jurisdiction addressed to the Council by resolution of the parish council signed by the priest of the District and the Secretary of the Vestry.
- (d) To prepare budget estimates each year and to determine the Parish Assessments.
- (e) To fill vacancies as Synod shall from time to time determine.
- (f) To publish a Year Book or Directory.
- (g) To arrange and prepare the business for each session of Synod.

9. **Committees**

The Council may set up Committees as it shall see fit.

10. **Minute Book**

The Diocesan Secretary shall be responsible for the Minutes of all meetings of the Council.

11. **Accounts and Reports**

The Bishop shall ensure that the following documents are laid before each session of Synod:

- (a) An annual audited statement of all Diocesan monies.
- (b) A Budget for the current year.
- (c) A Report of the proceedings of the Council.