

Diocese of Ontario

THE PARISH & CONGREGATIONAL COUNCILS
(See Canon C3)

Composition and Authority

At each annual Vestry Meeting there will be an election of members to serve on the Parish or Congregational Council. The Council consists of:

- (1) The Incumbent and assistant clergy if any,
- (2) The Churchwardens,
- (3) The Lay Representatives to Synod,
- (4) The Secretary-Treasurer,
- (5) A number of elected members not to exceed double the sum of the ex-officio members in (1), (2), (3) and (4).

Any Vestry may elect these members for terms of one, two and three years so that in each year thereafter only one-third of the number shall retire.

No person holding office in any organization in the parish is for that reason a member of the council. That person must be nominated and elected by the Vestry at its annual meeting if s/he is to serve on the Council.

At least one Churchwarden and one third of the membership must be present for a Parish Council meeting to have quorum.

Purpose

Canonically, the Parish Council is an advisory group to give assistance to the Churchwardens in the discharge of their duties. The members may have specific duties delegated to them, e.g. the concern and care of property, the financial problems of the parish, and matters referred by the Vestry.

In addition to its canonical and temporal obligations, the Parish Council has certain spiritual duties and responsibilities, in particular if the congregation is to make progress toward achieving its mission objectives as described in Section 4.1 of the Handbook. Accordingly, the Parish Council may also perform the following functions:

- Help discern the vision toward which God is drawing that particular community;
- Articulate and communicates the vision;
- Hold the community accountable for its realization of that vision;
- Keep the mission of the Church and that of the individual congregation clearly before the parish community.