

## Diocese of Ontario

**APPOINTMENT AND ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF CHURCHWARDEN  
(Canon C1, Part 2)**

Each congregation is to have two churchwardens. One of these is usually appointed by the Incumbent of the parish and the other is usually elected by the people attending the Vestry meeting. Both churchwardens may be appointed by the Incumbent or elected by the Vestry in the circumstances mentioned in Part 2 of Canon C1. Canonically, qualifications for the office of churchwarden require that the person “habitually” attend public worship (a member therefore of the Vestry of the congregation) in the congregation for which he or she might become churchwarden. He or she must be at least 21 years of age.

**Appointed Warden/Elected Warden**

While the Churchwardens come to office in two different ways they are equal in status and function and they occupy jointly an office which must not be exercised by one alone unless he or she is prepared to assume personally the consequences of such single action. The commonly used terms “people’s warden” and “rector’s warden” are not mentioned in the canons. Ultimately, what wardens do is defined both by the traditions and particular needs of the congregation as well as the individual’s particular talents.

**Deputy Wardens/Junior Wardens**

In some cases, congregations elect deputy or assistant Churchwardens to provide assistance and for continuity in the office. However, there is no automatic right to move from a deputy or assistant to churchwarden.