

CATHEDRAL VESTRY STATUTE 2015

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A STATUTE TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRIAL OF A NEW GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR THE NELSON CATHEDRAL, KNOWN AS THE CATHEDRAL VESTRY, AND FOR DEFINING ITS MEMBERSHIP, POWERS AND DUTIES AND SUSPENDING THE CURRENT GOVERNANCE PROVISIONS.

BE IT ENACTED by the Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Nelson in Synod assembled and by authority of the same as follows:-

The Short Title of this Act shall be “The Cathedral Act 2015” and shall come into force on 1 January 2016.

PART I - THE VESTRY

1. The Nelson Cathedral [Christ Church Parish, Nelson] shall be governed by a new body known as the Cathedral Vestry (“the Vestry”).

2. Membership of the Vestry

- (1) Membership of the Vestry shall comprise
- The Bishop (ex officio)
 - The Dean
 - The Vicar of Christ Church Parish [if not also the Dean]
 - The Dean's Warden
 - The People's Warden
 - Up to two Clerical Canons appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Dean
 - Up to two Lay Canons appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Dean
 - Five Lay Vestry members elected by the Cathedral congregation at the Parish AGM from those Lay persons contained on the Parish Roll
 - The Lay Synod representatives of Christ Church Parish, providing that where any Lay Synod representative is already a member of the Vestry, a meeting of parishioners may appoint a further member of Vestry from the Cathedral congregation.

- (2) Before entering into office, each Vestry member shall make and subscribe to the Declaration of Acknowledgment of the authority of the General Synod as required by required by Title B Canon XXI. The signed declarations shall at once be forwarded to the Diocesan Manager.
- 2022

- (3) If a vacancy arises on the Vestry through the death, resignation, or removal of an elected member of the Vestry, or for any other reason-
- (a) The position may remain vacant unless it is necessary to fill the office in order to provide a quorum for the Vestry, as required by section 8.
- (b) The position may be filled by appointment made by the Vestry.
- (4) Any Canonical vacancy may be filled by the Bishop in consultation with the Dean.

3. Primary duties of Vestry

- (1) The primary duties of the Vestry are to —
- (a) Promote the worship of Almighty God and to provide all things necessary for the ordering of public worship

- (b) Foster the spiritual growth and wellbeing of the parishioners, to bring before the parishioners the claims on them of the mission of the church in their community and in the world at large and generally to promote the extension of Christ's Kingdom
 - (c) Encourage all members of the parish to grow in the faith and service of Christ by the power of his Spirit, and in particular to see that Christian education is provided for persons of all age groups
 - (d) Promote and encourage the use of the Cathedral for such local, diocesan, ecumenical and missionary functions as may be approved by the Bishop and the Dean (or by the Vicar of the Parish of Christ Church if he/she is not the Dean)
 - (e) Be responsible for the overall good management of the Cathedral/Parish and to administer and undertake the business affairs of the Cathedral/Parish
 - (f) Determine the establishment of any paid position within the parish.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not limit the responsibility of the Vicar, under the authority of the Bishop, for the pastoral care of the parish, for Christian education in the parish, and for the spiritual wellbeing of the parishioners.

4. Further duties in respect of property

Vestry shall have the following further duties:

- (a) Provide and care for the Cathedral buildings (including repair, maintenance and enhancement), the Cathedral furnishings, and the equipment needed for the good working of the parish
- (b) Plan, authorise, and execute all capital works, alterations, and improvements that may be necessary or desirable for the proper functioning of the Cathedral buildings, subject always to the provisions of the Diocesan Properties and Faculties Act 2006:
- (c) Provide a Vicarage in the parish free of charge to the Vicar, and free accommodation to other full-time Assistant Clergy who are paid from parish funds, or, instead of accommodation, to provide an allowance approved by Standing Committee

- (d) Cause to be inspected at least once in each year the Cathedral, the vicarage, and all other buildings and property for which Vestry is responsible and ensure that all necessary repairs and maintenance are carried out.
- (e) The Vestry shall insure the Cathedral in the name of the Trustee for functional replacement value. The Vestry is not required to insure the Cathedral at full replacement.

5. Meetings of Vestry

- (1) Meetings of the Vestry shall be held at least bi-monthly at such time and place as the Vestry may determine.
- (2) A special meeting of Vestry may be called at such time as the Dean or the Churchwardens may determine, or upon a request in writing signed by a majority of Vestry members.
- (3) A special meeting may be called for any purpose by the Bishop.

6. Chairing of Vestry

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Dean shall chair all meetings of Vestry.
- (2) If for any reason the Dean is unable to attend any meeting of Vestry, and while there is no Dean, the Bishop may chair the meetings of Vestry, but if the Bishop does not so choose, the Dean's Warden (in the first instance) or the People's Warden (in the second instance) shall chair the meetings of Vestry.
- (3) The person chairing any meeting of Vestry shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote.

7. Persons with right to attend Vestry meetings

Any person may attend Vestry meetings at the invitation of Vestry and have the right to speak but not to vote.

8. Quorum for Vestry

- (1) No business shall be transacted at a meeting of Vestry unless a quorum is present.

- (2) The Vestry quorum shall be six and shall include the Dean or the Bishop or at least one of the Churchwardens and at least one of the clerical or Lay Canons.
- (3) Vestry may, with the express consent of the Dean and the Churchwardens, delegate to a member of Vestry or a subcommittee of Vestry the power to deal with any particular item of business or to be responsible for any particular aspect of parish life, with power to co-opt additional parishioners or persons who are not members of Vestry; and in such a case the subcommittee may conduct the business committed to it even though the Dean or a Churchwarden is not present or is not a member of the subcommittee.

9. Election of Parochial Nominators

At a meeting held not later than two months after the annual general meeting at which it was elected, Vestry shall elect two persons, who are qualified to be members of Vestry, and two members of the Vestry [total of four] to be the Parochial Nominators for the Cathedral parish.

10. Keeping of minutes

The Vestry shall ensure that full minutes of all its meetings, and of all annual and special general meetings of parishioners, are kept.

11. Collections

The Vestry shall ensure that all collections at services within the parish are fully recorded, safely kept, and promptly banked.

12. Contributions for objects outside parish

- (1) The Vestry may at its discretion pay money from parish funds for religious, charitable, or educational objects outside the parish and authorise collections to be made for any such purposes.
- (2) All special offerings and collections shall be paid to the object specified within two months after their receipt.

13. Vestry bound by acts of predecessors

All contracts and undertakings that have been duly and lawfully entered into by the Vestry, or by the suspended Cathedral Chapter and Vestry existing prior to this Statute, shall (according to their tenor) be binding upon their successors in office from year to year.

14. Control of funds

All funds under the control of the Cathedral Chapter and the Cathedral Vestry as at the commencement of this Statute shall for its duration be under the control of the Vestry for the purposes that the funds are held or received.

PART II: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PROVISIONS**15. Suspension of provisions**

The following statutory provisions shall be suspended with regard to the operation of the Cathedral for the duration of this Statute

- (a) Sections 3,5 and 6 of the Cathedral Act 2002
- (b) Part 111 of the Cathedral Act 2002
- (c) Section 19 of the Parishes Statute 2006
- (d) Part IV of the Parishes Statute 2006

16. Interpretation

- (1) With regard to the operation of the Cathedral, for the duration of this Statute any reference in the Cathedral Act 2002, Appointment and Termination Act 1996 or Parishes Statute 2006 to 'Vestry' shall be read as a reference to 'Vestry' and reference in s21(1)(b) of the Parishes Statute 2006 to 'members of the Vestry' shall be read as 'elected lay Vestry members'.
- (2) Where there appears to be a conflict between this Statute and any other Diocesan Statute this Statute shall prevail.

17. Transitional Provisions

- (1) All current appointments as Canon of the Cathedral Chapter shall lapse on 31 December 2015.

- (2) All current elected vestry members of the Christ Church Nelson Vestry shall cease to hold office on 31 December 2015.
- (3) Prior to 31 December 2015 the Vestry of the Christ Church Parish shall nominate and appoint from their number three of the "elected Vestry persons" to be members of the Vestry to hold office from 1 January 2016 until the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Parish.
- (4) Prior to 31 December 2015 the Bishop in consultation with the Dean may appoint up to two Clerical Canons and two Lay Canons with the said appointees assuming office on 1 January 2016 and holding office for the duration of this Statute.

18. Duration of Act

2020 This Act shall cease to have effect on 31 December 2024.