



LEO
DEI ET APOSTOLICÆ SEDIS GRATIA
ARCHIEPISCOPUS
S. ANDREÆ ET EDIMBURGENSIS

DECREE

PREAMBLE

Whereas:

- 1) Knowing the provisions of can. 496, we appointed a group of priests to update the statutes for the Council of Priests in this Archdiocese;
- 2) The resultant Statutes were adopted for use *ad experimentum* in 2020;
- 3) Since that time, the Statutes, with some minor amendments, have been used to good effect and;
- 4) The aforementioned Statutes that We wish to adopt are the following:

PREAMBLE

The Council of Priests is rooted in the desire of the Second Vatican Council to emphasize the conciliar norm of the *presbyterium*.

Priests, prudent co-operators with the Episcopal order as well as its aids and instruments, are called to serve the People of God. They constitute one priesthood (*unum presbyterium*) with their bishop, although that priesthood is comprised of different functions. Intent always upon the welfare of God's children, they must strive to lend their effort to the pastoral work of the whole diocese and even of the entire Church (*LG 28*).

It follows that the Council of Priests is the most important forum available to the Archbishop for consultation, in which mutual, open reflection and fraternal dialogue between him and his presbyterate takes place, so that the pastoral welfare of that portion of the People of God entrusted to him may be most effectively promoted (cf *PO 7*).

Title I

NAME

Art. 1 - The name of this body shall be "The Council of Priests of the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh". Hereafter referred to as "the Council".

Title II

PURPOSE

Art. 2 - The purpose of the Council shall be:

1. To provide, under the direction of the Archbishop, a forum for the discussion of all issues of pastoral concern in the Archdiocese;
2. To aid the Archbishop in the governance of the Archdiocese according to the norms of law so that the pastoral welfare of the People of God may be carried forward as effectively as possible;
3. To search for and to propose ways and means for effective pastoral ministry and;
4. To represent the *presbyterium* of the Archdiocese.

Title III

MEMBERSHIP

Art. 3 - Membership of the Council is attained by election, by virtue of office, or by archiepiscopal appointment (cf can.497).

Art. 4 - The Council shall not have less than ten and not more than twelve members:

1. One member shall be elected from each deanery;
2. All vicars general and the chancellor shall be members *ex officio* and;
3. The remainder shall be appointed by the Archbishop.

Art. 5 - §1. The following have the right to both an active and a passive voice in an election to the Council:

1. Incardinated priests of the Archdiocese and;
2. Priests who are not incardinated into the Archdiocese and yet live in the Archdiocese and have been given a stable pastoral appointment by the Archbishop;

§2. The Archbishop may, after hearing the advice of the College of Consultors, extend the same right of election to other priests who have domicile or quasi-domicile in the Archdiocese and;

§3. Disputed cases concerning eligibility to vote and to be elected shall be decided by the College of Consultors.

Art.6 - §1. The term of the elected and appointed members of the Council shall be five years;

§2. A seat is made vacant by resignation (cf. Standing Order, Title III), removal, illness or demise. Such a vacancy shall be filled by a special election in the relevant deanery for the unexpired portion of the term and;

§3. The transfer of an elected member from one deanery to another before his term has expired shall also bring his membership of the Council to an end. It shall trigger a special election in the relevant deanery for the unexpired portion of the term.

Title IV

OFFICERS

Art.7 -The officers of the Council shall be the President, the Chairman and the Secretary.

Art.8 -The President shall be the Archbishop, according to the norms of law (cf. can.500, §1).

Art.9 - §1. The Chairman and the Secretary shall be appointed by the Archbishop;

§2. The Chairman shall chair the meetings of the Council and the Steering Committee that are not chaired by the President and;

§3. In the absence of the Chairman, the President shall appoint another member to chair the meetings.

Title V

MEETINGS

Art.10 - The Archbishop shall convene the Council no less than twice a year and at any other time he deems it necessary or advisable.

Art.11 - A simple majority of the membership shall constitute a *quorum*.

Title VI

COMMITTEES

Art.12 - The Council shall have a Steering Committee, which shall consist of the officers of the Council.

Art.13 - Standing committees shall have their responsibilities approved by the Council. Chairmen of the standing committees shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Council and confirmed by the Council at the first meeting of each calendar year for a term of one year.

Art.14 - *Ad hoc* committees may be set up as required by the Council and shall have their responsibilities specified by the Council. Their chairman shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Council and confirmed by the Council.

Title VII

FINANCES

Art.15 - The operating budget for the Council shall be included in the Archdiocesan budget.

Title VIII

AMENDMENTS

Art.16 - An amendment to these Statutes requires a two-thirds vote of the members of the Council, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting of the Council. Amendments are always subject to the approval of the Archbishop.

Standing Orders of the Council of Priests

Title I

ELECTIONS

Art.1 - Elections to the Council shall take place at a meeting of the clergy in each deanery.

Art.2 - Candidates are to be nominated for election by at least one other priest of the deanery. A priest may either accept or refuse nomination. If only one priest accepts nomination, that priest is considered elected. If two or more priests accept nomination, an election shall be held.

Art.3 - §1 The winner is determined by an absolute majority of ballots cast.
If there is no absolute majority, the ballot is repeated;

§2 If there is still no absolute majority, a simple majority – in a further ballot – shall be considered sufficient for election and;

§3. If there is no simple majority, those candidates with fewest votes are eliminated from the ballot and a final ballot is taken between the candidates who have tied for successful election. If this last ballot also results in a tie, then the senior priest is elected. Seniority shall be determined firstly by ordination date and then by age.

Title II

OFFICERS

Art.4 - The Secretary shall:

1. call the roll at Council meetings;
2. take the official minutes of each Council meeting and send the minutes, subject to approval by the Archbishop, to the *presbyterium*
3. receive proposals respecting matters which are to appear on the agenda;
4. send the agenda of forthcoming meetings to the *presbyterium*;
5. maintain the permanent records of the Council and;
6. maintain an accurate roster of Council constituents and Council members.

Title III

VACANCIES

Art.5 - Resignations are effective if and when accepted by the President of the Council.

Art.6 - Council vacancies shall be filled by election, according to Article 6 of the Statutes of the Council.

Title IV

MEETINGS

Art.7 - Councillors must be actually present to vote.

Art.8 - Votes generally shall be *viva voce*. Any member, however, may ask for and receive a roll call vote on any issue.

Title V

AGENDA

Art.9 - The agenda is prepared by the Steering Committee and is finalized by the President according to the norms of the law (cf can.500, §1).

Art.10 - Prior to meetings of the Council, the agenda, having been approved by the Steering Committee, should be circulated to the *presbyterium*.

ENDS

Accordingly, I, Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh, HEREBY DECREE and DIRECT that,

- 5) With immediate effect, the document entitled, "The Statutes of the Council of Priests of the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh (2020)" as detailed at n.4 of this DECREE are hereby adopted with immediate effect and;
- 6) That this DECREE is to be promulgated immediately on the Archdiocesan website.

Furthermore:

- 7) If anyone considers himself aggrieved by this administrative DECREE, that person is within his rights to seek hierarchical recourse according to the norms of cann. 1734 and 1737 and;
- 8) All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

+ Leo Cushley

✠ Leo Cushley
Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh

[Handwritten Signature]

The Very Reverend S. Deeley VE
Chancellor

Given at Edinburgh on Holy Thursday, 28 March 2024.

