

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Consolidates 1) the Solemn Declaration, 2) Basis of Constitution, and 3) Fundamental Principles previously adopted by the synod in 1893 and constitutes the foundation of the synod structure (1934).

1. Solemn Declaration

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

We, the Bishops, together with the Delegates from the Clergy and Laity of the Church of England in the Dominion of Canada, now assembled in the first General Synod, hereby make the following Solemn Declaration:

We declare this Church to be, and desire that it shall continue, in full communion with the Church of England throughout the world, as an integral portion of the one Body of Christ composed of Churches which, united under the One Divine Head and in the fellowship of the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, hold the one Faith revealed in Holy Writ, and defined in the Creeds as maintained by the undivided primitive Church in the undisputed Ecumenical Councils; receive the same Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as containing all things necessary to salvation; teach the same Word of God; partake of the same Divinely ordained Sacraments, through the ministry of the same Apostolic Orders, and worship one God and Father through the same Lord Jesus Christ by the same Holy and Divine Spirit Who is given to them that believe to guide them into all truth.

And we are determined by the help of God to hold and maintain the Doctrine, Sacraments and Discipline of Christ as the Lord hath commanded in His Holy Word, and as the Church of England hath received and set forth the same in "The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, according to the Use of the Church of England; together with the Psalter or Psalms of David pointed as they are to be sung or said in churches; and the Form and Manner of Making, Ordaining, and Consecrating of Bishops, Priests and Deacons"; and in the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion; and to transmit the same unimpaired to our posterity.

2. The General Synod

The General Synod shall consist of the bishops of The Anglican Church of Canada and of members chosen from the clergy and the laity.

3. Membership

- a) The General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada shall be organized in three Orders: the Order of Bishops, the Order of Clergy and the Order of Laity.
 - b) Members of the Orders of Clergy and Laity shall be members of the diocesan synod, or eligible to be members of the diocesan synod, of the diocese they represent.
 - c) The number of clergy and lay members elected by each diocese shall be determined relative to the population of the diocese.
 - d) Each diocese shall elect the same number of lay members as clergy members.
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- e) Each diocese shall be entitled to elect or appoint one youth representative, either clergy or lay, in addition to the clergy and lay members it is entitled to elect.
- f) Other non-diocesan or quasi-diocesan jurisdictions in the Church may also be entitled to representation as specified in the Constitution.
- g) The Constitution may provide for *ex officio* members of the General Synod.

4. Sessions

The three Orders shall sit and vote together, except where specifically provided for in the Constitution, Canons or Rules of Order.

5. Voting by Dioceses

The Rules of Order shall make provision for a vote by dioceses where demanded.

6. Jurisdiction of the General Synod

Subject to the provisions of section 7 the General Synod shall have authority and jurisdiction in all matters affecting in any way the general interest and well-being of the whole Church and in particular:

- a) the constitution and organization of the General Synod including the regulation of the time and place of its meeting, the order and conduct of its proceedings, and the appointment, functions and duties of its officers, committees, councils, boards, commissions and divisions, for the proper conduct of its affairs;
 - b) the national character, constitution, integrity and autonomy of The Anglican Church of Canada;
 - c) the relations of the Church to other religious bodies in Canada and elsewhere;
 - d) the relations of the Church to other Churches of the Anglican Communion;
 - e) with the consent of the ecclesiastical provincial synod or synods concerned, the creation and constitution of new provinces within Canada;
 - f) the election, retirement and resignation of the Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada;
 - g) structural uniformity in relation to the episcopal prerogative of licensing clergy;
 - h) the constitution and powers of a Supreme Court of Appeal, with original and appellate jurisdiction, including procedure therein and the enforcement of its decrees and judgments;
 - i) the definition of the doctrines of the Church in harmony with the Solemn Declaration adopted by this synod;
 - j) the revision, adaptation and publication of a Book of Common Prayer and a Hymnal for the Church;
 - k) all divisions employed in the carrying on of the work of the Church;
 - l) the basic standards of theological education, and the qualifications and training of candidates for the ministry of the Church;
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- m) the establishment, operation and maintenance of a general pension fund;
- n) the administration of a group insurance plan for the benefit of the clergy and lay employees of the Church;
- o) the regulation of the inter-diocesan transfer of clergy;
- p) the relinquishment or abandonment of the ministry of the Church;
- q) the administration of all funds and trusts established in respect of the Church;
- r) the appointment, election, confirmation, consecration and resignation of a National Indigenous Anglican Bishop;
- s) the appointment, election, confirmation, consecration and resignation of a Bishop Ordinary having jurisdiction over the chaplains of The Anglican Church of Canada on duty with the Canadian Armed Forces.

7. Fundamental Principles

- a) The organization and constitution of a General Synod for the Church does not involve any change in the existing system of ecclesiastical provincial synods.
 - b) Provincial synods shall have authority and jurisdiction in all matters affecting the general interests and well-being of the Church within their respective jurisdictions in the following matters:
 - i) subject to the provisions of any Canon enacted by the General Synod for the erection of any provincial synod, the constitution and organization of the provincial synod, including the regulation of the time and place of its meeting, the order and conduct of its proceedings, and the appointment, functions and duties of its officers, executive boards and committees for the proper conduct of its affairs;
 - ii) with the consent of the General Synod, and of any diocese affected, the adjustment of the boundaries of the province, and the creation, division and rearrangement of provinces;
 - iii) with the consent of the General Synod and the dioceses affected, the division of the provinces into dioceses, the establishment of missionary dioceses within the province, the division of existing dioceses and the adjustment or rearrangement of diocesan boundaries;
 - iv) the confirmation of the election, consecration, and resignation of bishops within the province;
 - v) the election of a metropolitan bishop and the definition of metropolitan duties, powers and authority;
 - vi) the constitution of a Provincial Court of Appeal, with original and appellate jurisdiction, including procedure therein and enforcement of its decrees and judgments;
 - vii) the regulation of the ministrations of the clergy and others within the province, including the oaths and subscriptions of clergy within the province;
 - viii) the authorization of special forms of prayers, services, and ceremonies for use within the province, for which no provisions have been made under
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- the authority of the General Synod or of the House of Bishops of The Anglican Church of Canada;
- ix) the relations of the Church to the civil authorities and to public education within the province;
- x) the administration of any fund or trust established in respect of the synod;
- xi) the formation and constitution of provincial branches of organizations and societies established by the General Synod for the promotion of the work of the synod, and
- xii) the consideration, promotion and advancement of any object or matter for the general advantage of the Church in Canada or in a province, referred to the synod of a province by the General Synod.

8. Ecclesiastical Offenses and Disciplinary Proceedings

- a) The General Synod shall have authority and jurisdiction with regard to:
 - i) the definition of ecclesiastical offenses;
 - ii) the penalties for ecclesiastical offenses;
 - iii) principles and general procedures to be observed in disciplinary proceedings in The Anglican Church of Canada;
 - iv) rights of appeal in disciplinary proceedings, and
 - v) the procedures to be followed in the Supreme Court of Appeal for The Anglican Church of Canada in disciplinary proceedings in respect of which it has jurisdiction.
- b) Each provincial synod shall have authority and jurisdiction with regard to the procedures to be followed by the provincial court of appeal for the province in disciplinary proceedings in respect of which it has jurisdiction.
- c) Each diocesan synod shall have authority and jurisdiction with regard to the procedures to be followed by the diocesan court in disciplinary proceedings in respect of which it has jurisdiction.

9. Saving Provisions

- a) Nothing contained in sections 6, 7 and 8 shall limit or affect the powers, jurisdiction and authority inherent in the office of bishop, or exercised collectively by the bishops of the Church sitting as the House of Bishops of any province or of The Anglican Church of Canada.
- b) Except in so far as the provisions of sections 6, 7 and 8 are the same in effect as the legislation now in force, those sections shall not come into force in such ecclesiastical province until approved by the provincial synod thereof.
- c) The words “ecclesiastical province” shall mean any group of dioceses under the jurisdiction of a provincial synod.

10. Union with Other Churches

Union of The Anglican Church of Canada with one or more other Churches may be effected in accordance with procedures set out in the Constitution.

11. Amendments

a) *Declaration of Principles*

- i) The Solemn Declaration of the Declaration of Principles, while continuing to be part of the Declaration of Principles, belongs in a particular historic context and therefore cannot be altered or amended.
- ii) A change in the Declaration of Principles (except for section 1) can be considered when a majority of each Order is present at a session of the General Synod. To take effect it shall require a two-thirds majority in each Order voting at two successive sessions of the General Synod, the change proposed having been referred for consideration to all diocesan and provincial synods following the first approval by the General Synod.
- iii) No change in sections 6, 7 and 8 of the Declaration of Principles can be effected without the consent of all provincial synods, except that if a vote on the proposed amendment has not taken place in any provincial synod prior to the next regular session of the General Synod, such provincial synod shall be deemed to have approved the amendment.
- iv) Any proposed amendment to the Declaration of Principles which has been defeated by a vote of the General Synod, or of a provincial synod with respect to sections 6, 7 and 8, may be introduced again at any subsequent session of the General Synod.

b) *Constitution*

The Constitution of the General Synod may be amended by a two-thirds majority of each Order voting at a session of the General Synod, except that any section of the Constitution which has its origin in the Declaration of Principles must be consistent with the Principle concerned.

c) *Canons*

- i) All Canons dealing with doctrine, worship, or discipline, and all alterations to such Canons, shall require to be passed by a two-thirds majority in each Order voting at two successive sessions of the General Synod, the Canons and alterations proposed having been referred for consideration to diocesan and provincial synods, following the first approval of the General Synod.
- ii) All other Canons may be approved or amended by a two-thirds majority of each Order voting separately.

d) *Rules of Order and Procedure*

The Rules of Order and Procedure may be amended at any regular session of the General Synod by a two-thirds majority of the members voting in the normal manner.

e) *Amendments on Second Reading at Synod*

- i) Where a proposed change to the Declaration of Principles (other than to sections 6, 7 or 8 thereof) or to a Canon dealing with doctrine, worship, or discipline has been:
 - a) passed at one session of the General Synod,
 - b) referred for consideration to all diocesan and provincial synods, and
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c) brought before a second session of the General Synod for consideration,
it shall be in order for the General Synod to adopt any amendment to the proposed change which would have been in order when the proposed change was considered at the first session of the General Synod and the proposed change shall take effect if passed by the required majority at the second session with or without such amendment.

ii) Where a proposed change to sections 6, 7 or 8 of the Declaration of Principles has been:

- a) passed by the required majority at one session of the General Synod,
- b) referred for the consideration of all diocesan synods,
- c) referred for consent to all provincial synods, and
- d) brought before a second session of the General Synod for consideration,

it shall be in order for the General Synod to adopt any amendment which does not alter the proposed change in any substantive way but which merely improves the clarity or form of the proposed change and the proposed change shall take effect if passed by the required majority at the second session with or without such amendment.

f) The Handbook Committee may make such corrections and alterations to the Declaration of Principles, Constitution, Canons, and Rules of Order and Procedure as it considers necessary, provided that such corrections and changes relate only to matters of form and not to matters of substance and provided that any such correction or alteration shall be reported to the next following meeting of General Synod and may be set aside by a majority of those members present and voting.¹

¹ See Appendix K.
