# **CANON XX**

# The Supreme Court of Appeal

#### 1. Court of Appeal

There shall be a final Court of Appeal for The Anglican Church of Canada, hereinafter referred to as "the Supreme Court", which shall be called The Supreme Court of Appeal for The Anglican Church of Canada.

#### 2. Jurisdiction

- a) Subject to the limitations hereinafter prescribed, the Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any appeal:
  - i) from the judgment or decision of the bishop of any diocese or the judgment or decision of any diocesan court, or
  - ii) from the judgment or decision of the court of any ecclesiastical province.
- b) An appeal can be taken to the Supreme Court only:
  - i) when the decision appealed from relates to doctrine or worship, or
  - ii) where a bishop has been tried, or
  - iii) when the validity or interpretation of any provision of the Declaration of Principles or the Constitution or any Canon of the General Synod or the Constitution or any Canon of a provincial synod or of a diocesan synod is in question.
- c) Except on an appeal where a bishop has been tried, an appeal shall be taken to the Supreme Court only with leave obtained in accordance with the rules of the Supreme Court.
- d) The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction upon a case being stated by, or at the request of:
  - i) the General Synod, or
  - ii) any provincial or diocesan synod, or
  - iii) the House of Bishops of The Anglican Church of Canada, or
  - iv) the House of Bishops of any ecclesiastical province, or
  - v) a court of any ecclesiastical province or diocese,

to determine the validity or interpretation of any provision of the Declaration of Principles or the Constitution or any Canon of the General Synod or the Constitution or any Canon of a provincial synod or of a diocesan synod.

- e) There shall be no appeal to the Supreme Court on questions of fact, except on an appeal from a decision given on the trial of a bishop.
- f) No appeal shall be permitted for error or defect in form in any proceedings or judgment.

#### 3. The Court

- a) The Supreme Court shall be composed of nine members.
- b) On an appeal or a case stated from the trial of a bishop, five members shall be bishops holding episcopal office in The Anglican Church of Canada, two shall be members of the clergy of The Anglican Church of Canada and two shall be members of the laity of The Anglican Church of Canada.
- c) On an appeal or a case stated from the trial of a priest or deacon, two members shall be bishops holding episcopal office as aforesaid, five shall be members of the clergy as aforesaid, and two shall be members of the laity as aforesaid.
- d) On an appeal or a case stated from the trial of a lay person, two members shall be bishops holding episcopal office as aforesaid, two shall be members of the clergy as aforesaid, and five shall be members of the laity as aforesaid.
- e) In any other proceeding, three members shall be bishops holding episcopal office as aforesaid, three shall be members of the clergy as aforesaid, and three shall be members of the laity as aforesaid.
- f) No person who is or has been involved, or has an interest in, the case, as a party or witness shall be a member of the court.
- g) The Primate and the provincial metropolitans, or such of them as are not or have not been involved, or do not have an interest in the case, shall appoint in writing, the members of the court.
- h) The Primate and metropolitans making the appointments may appoint themselves as members of the court.
- i) If any of the court dies, or declines to act or become incapable of doing so, or develops an interest in the case, or changes Order due to ordination or relinquishment or abandonment of ordained ministry, or if a bishop ceases to hold episcopal office as aforesaid, before the hearing is commenced, the vacancy shall be filled in the same way. If the vacancy occurs after the hearing has commenced the remaining members of the court may continue the hearing and give judgment or in their discretion direct that a new court be appointed and the hearing recommenced.
- j) The Primate, if a member of the court, and otherwise the metropolitan senior by election, or, if no metropolitan is a member of the court the bishop senior by consecration, shall be the president of the court.

#### 4. Assessors

- a) The Supreme Court shall be advised by at least four assessors chosen for each proceeding as below provided.
  - i) One assessor shall be the Chancellor of the General Synod, unless he or she is or has been involved in the case, and if so involved, the Vice Chancellor of the General Synod, if one is in office.

- ii) In a proceeding involving a question of doctrine, at least two assessors shall be theologians who are members of The Anglican Church of Canada appointed in the same manner as members of the court.
- iii) The other assessors shall be provincial or diocesan chancellors, or persons learned in Canon Law, appointed in the same manner as members of the court.
- b) No assessor shall be chosen who has been involved in the case.
- c) If an assessor dies, or declines to act or becomes incapable of doing so, or becomes involved in the case, or is unable to attend a sitting of the court, a substitute similarly qualified shall be appointed to act at the sitting or during the remainder of the proceedings as may be required.

#### 5. Appellant

Any party to a cause or matter which is appealable to the Supreme Court may appeal.

#### 6. Notice of Appeal

Written notice of appeal from any judgment or decision proposed to be appealed from must be given by the appellant within sixty days from the time of pronouncing such judgment or decision. Such notice shall be given to such persons and in such manner as shall be prescribed by the rules of the Supreme Court.

#### 7. Sittings

The Supreme Court may sit in any diocese at such time and place as the president of the court may order and direct.

#### 8. Rules

- a) The Supreme Court, or the Council of the General Synod, when no members of the Supreme Court have been appointed, or, having been appointed are functus officio, may make rules or orders with respect to the appointment and duties of the officers of the Court, including the procedure for the hearing of interlocutory matters and applications for leave to appeal, and all other matters necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Canon.
- b) The time for taking any proceedings under the provisions of this Canon or the Rules of Procedure may be extended in such manner as the rules may provide.

#### 9. Frivolous or Vexatious Appeals

The Supreme Court may on summary application dismiss any appeal that is frivolous or vexatious or otherwise an obvious abuse of the process of the court.

#### 10. Judgment

a) Before delivering judgment on a question of doctrine, the Supreme Court shall refer the question to the members of the Order of Bishops and ask for the individual written opinion of each such bishop on the question and shall consider the opinions of the bishops who reply to the request within two months after the making of the reference in reaching its decision.

- b) Every appeal shall be heard and disposed of by the Supreme Court within two years from the time the judgment or decision appealed from was pronounced.
- The judgment of the Supreme Court shall be final and conclusive in any proceeding in c) respect of all matters in question in the proceeding.

[NOTE: The reference above to subsection 3 b) i) to iv) of the Declaration of Principles was to that document as it read prior to its amendment by General Synod 2013. Given the 2013 amendment, the reference should now be to subsection 8 b) i) to iv) of the Constitution.]

# **APPENDIX A**

# Rules of the Supreme Court of Appeal for The Anglican Church of Canada<sup>1</sup>

#### Part I – General

#### 1. Application of Rules

These rules shall be applied in the simplest manner possible consistent with the rules of natural justice.

### 2. Matters not provided for

Where a matter is not provided for in these rules or in Canon XX, procedure shall be determined in accordance with the principles of natural justice and by analogy to the provisions of these rules, Canon XX and the rules of practice of the superior courts of the province or territory where the matter arose.

#### 3. Role of the Court

The Court shall function as an adjudicative body and not as an investigative body.

#### 4. Seal of the Court

The seal of the Court shall bear the device of the seal of the General Synod.

### 5. Appointment of Court and Assessors

- (1) The Primate and Provincial Metropolitans shall, in accordance with section 3 of Canon XX, appoint the members of the Court within 60 days after
  - (a) a notice of appeal, stated case or request is sent to them; or
  - (b) appointment of members of the Court is required by subsection 33(4).
- (2) The Primate and Provincial Metropolitans shall, in accordance with section 4 of Canon XX, appoint the assessors at least 30 days before the hearing of an appeal or a stated case or request, or the trial of a complaint.

#### 6. Oaths

(1) The members and officers of the Court, and the assessors, shall take and sign the oath set out in Schedule 1 before they perform their duties.

(2) The Primate shall administer the oath to the Registrar who shall administer the oath to the members of the Court, the other officers and the assessors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As adopted by the Council of General Synod on June 25, 2017.

- (3) Subject to subsection (4), every person giving evidence before the Court shall first take the oath set out in Schedule 2.
- (4) A witness who objects to taking an oath may make an affirmation as set out in Schedule 3.

#### **Officers of the Court**

#### 7. Registrar

- (1) The Primate shall appoint a Registrar and may appoint one or more Deputy Registrars who shall hold office during the Primate's pleasure.
- (2) The Registrar and every Deputy Registrar shall be a member of the bar of a province or territory of Canada of at least ten years' standing and a communicant of The Anglican Church of Canada.
- (3) The Registrar shall
  - (a) have custody of the seal of the Court;
  - (b) attend all sittings of the Court;
  - (c) keep a record of the proceedings of the Court;
  - (d) hear and decide
    - (i) all applications for extension of the time for the giving of a Notice of Appeal,
    - (ii) all applications for leave to intervene, and
    - (iii) all other interlocutory motions and applications for direction;
  - (e) issue all decrees, orders, citations and other formal documents under the seal of the Court; and
  - (f) perform such other duties as the Primate or the President of the Court may direct.

### 8. Deputy Registrar

A Deputy Registrar shall perform such duties as

- (a) the Primate or the President of the Court directs; and
- (b) the Registrar delegates to the Deputy Registrar.

#### 9. Chancellor of General Synod

- (1) The Chancellor of General Synod is an officer of the Court by virtue of his office.
- (2) The Chancellor of General Synod shall
  - (a) advise the Court, the Procedural Panel or the Registrar and Deputy Registrar when requested; and

(b) attend meetings of the Court as directed by the President of the Court.

#### 10. Warden

- (1) The President of the Court shall appoint one or more Wardens to act during a session of the Court.
- (2) A Warden shall
  - (a) act as an attendant for the members of the Court;
  - (b) maintain order while the Court is in session; and
  - (c) perform such other duties as the President of the Court directs.

### 11. Inaugural meeting of the Court

- (1) The President shall convene an inaugural meeting of the members of the Court as soon as practicable after their appointments.
- (2) The Registrar shall, and the Chancellor and assessors may, attend the inaugural meeting of the Court.
- (3) At the inaugural meeting of members of the Court
  - (a) the oaths of office shall be administered;
  - (b) the President shall designate three members to be a Procedural Panel;
  - (c) the Court shall determine whether the issue before it raises a question of doctrine;
  - (d) the Court shall direct to whom and in what manner notice of the hearing of a stated case or request shall be given; and
  - (e) the Court shall consider what changes in these rules, if any, and what directions may be appropriate to facilitate the pending hearing.

#### 12. Procedural Panel

- (1) The Procedural Panel shall
  - (a) hear and determine appeals from the Registrar on all interlocutory matters other than an application for an extension of time for the giving of Notice of Appeal;
  - (b) recommend to the Court directions to be issued with respect to the pending hearing or amendments to be made to the rules; and
  - (c) hear and determine applications for leave to appeal where the Court directs that that question be determined before the hearing.
- (2) The Procedural Panel may

- (a) deal with matters before it in person or by means of a telephonic, electronic or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other;
- (b) receive evidence by statutory declaration, or orally; and
- (c) receive submissions in writing, or orally.
- (3) The Procedural Panel shall
  - (a) consider any appeal from the Registrar as a motion de novo, and
  - (b) give reasons for its disposition of any such appeal.

#### 13. Interlocutory Proceedings

- (1) The parties shall refer all preliminary issues and interlocutory matters to the Registrar for determination.
- (2) The Registrar may dispose of such preliminary issues and matters, other than applications for an extension of the time for the giving of a Notice of Appeal, summarily and without giving reasons.
- (3) Upon receiving the decision of the Registrar, other than a decision refusing to extend the time for the giving of a Notice of Appeal, a party may appeal that decision to the Procedural Panel by serving the Registrar and the other parties with a Notice of Appeal.

#### 14. Title of Proceedings

All proceedings in the Court shall be entitled "In the Supreme Court of Appeal for the Anglican Church of Canada".

#### 15. Submissions

The Court may, in any case, require parties to file written submissions before the hearing and shall direct when and in what number of copies submissions must be filed with the Registrar and when and to whom copies must be provided.

#### 16. Amendments

- (1) The registrar may allow an amendment to any document before the hearing.
- (2) The Court may allow an amendment to any document at the hearing.
- (3) All amendments necessary to secure the just determination of the matters in dispute shall be granted.
- (4) Amendments may be granted on such terms as are just.

#### 17. Procedure at Hearing

- (1) No one shall appear as counsel who is not a member of the bar of a province or territory of Canada.
- (2) When the Court is in session

- (a) members of the clergy who are members of the Court or assessors shall wear cassocks;
- (b) members of the bar who are members or officers of the Court or assessors shall wear barristers attire; and
- (c) counsel appearing shall wear barristers attire.
- (3) The Court may adjourn a hearing from time to time and, subject to section 27, from place to place.
- (4) Subject to subsections (5) and (6) and section 35 all hearings shall be open to the public.
- (5) Interlocutory hearings and appeals therefrom need not be open to the public.
- (6) The Court may exclude the public from a hearing where the possibility of serious harm or injustice to any person justifies a departure from the general principle that hearings should be open to the public.
- (7) No person shall take photographs or make visual or audio recordings of court proceedings without the Court's permission.
- (8) Subject to any order of the Court, after a hearing has commenced members of the public shall have access to all pleadings and documents filed with the Court and may obtain copies of the same upon paying a reasonable fee.

#### 18. Deliberations

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) all deliberations by the Court other than the determination of procedural matters
  - (a) shall be conducted in private; and
  - (b) are subject to perpetual confidentiality.
- (2) The Court may invite any or all of the Registrar, the Chancellor and the assessors to be present during its deliberations.

#### 19. Decisions

- (1) A majority of the members of the Court may decide any matter before the Court but members of the Court in the minority may give their reasons for dissenting.
- (2) The Court may pronounce its decision in open court or file a written decision with the Registrar.
- (3) The Registrar shall provide copies of the Court's decision to
  - (a) the parties or their counsel;
  - (b) the bishop or court appealed from;
  - (c) where the issues involved a question of doctrine or worship, to the other bishops listed in subsection 8(b) of the Constitution of the General Synod; and

(d) such other persons as the Court or the President of the Court directs.

#### 20. Costs

- (1) All parties to a proceeding before the Court shall execute an undertaking respecting costs in the form of Schedule 4.
- (2) A party who neglects or refuses to execute an undertaking respecting costs shall not be heard by the Court.
- (3) The President of the Court or any respondent may require an appellant or body stating a case or making a request to show cause before the Registrar why that appellant or body should not be required to pay into Court an amount of money or make other provision to secure payment of part or all of the anticipated expenses of the appeal or stated case or request including the expense of copying the record, and the travelling and accommodation expenses of the members of the Court, the Registrar, the assessors and counsel.
- (4) If an appellant or body fails to show cause the Registrar may order the party or body to deposit with the Registrar security in an amount and form, and within a time, fixed by the Registrar.
- (5) When an order for security for costs remains unsatisfied at the expiration of 30 days after the a copy of the order is mailed to the appellant or body against whom it is made, any party may apply to the Registrar for an order dismissing the appeal or striking out the stated case or request.
- (6) When an order is made dismissing an appeal for failure to comply with an order for security for costs, the President of the Court may make an order confirming the decision or judgment appealed from and the sentence, if any, imposed.
- (7) All monies or securities for money deposited with the Registrar shall be paid to the Treasurer of the General Synod and deposited in a special account, and out of those monies or securities for money, the Treasurer of the General Synod shall pay all expenses and disbursements necessary and incidental to the appeal, stated case or request and, subject to subsection (8), at the conclusion of the appeal, stated case or request shall pay any balance remaining after such payment to the party who paid the money or securities into Court.
- (8) The costs and fees of counsel shall be in the discretion of the Court, and if awarded shall be taxed by the Registrar in accordance with the tariff or scale of costs in force in the superior courts of the province or territory in which the matter arose, and if payable by the appellant shall be paid out of the monies or securities paid into Court after any payment of expenses and disbursements made pursuant to subsection (7).

# II. Appeals, Stated Cases and Requests for a Determination

21. This Part applies to proceedings over which the Court is given jurisdiction by section 2 of Canon XX.

### 22. Initiation of an Appeal

- (1) An appeal shall be commenced by Notice of Appeal (Schedule 5).
- (2) Except in the case of an appeal from a judgment or decision of the court of an ecclesiastical

province where a bishop has been tried, the Notice of Appeal shall contain an application for leave to appeal.

- (3) A party who proposes to appeal to the Supreme Court of Appeal shall, within the time prescribed by section 6 of Canon XX or by an order of the Registrar extending that time, serve a copy of the Notice of Appeal on each other party to the appeal by personal service or by sending a copy by prepaid registered mail addressed to the party at the party's last known postal address.
- (4) An application for an extension of time for the giving of a Notice of Appeal may be made during or after the time prescribed by section 6 of Canon XX.
- (5) The appellant shall, forthwith after serving a Notice of Appeal, file the Notice of Appeal with the Registrar together with a statutory declaration proving service in accordance with subsection (3).
- (6) Upon receiving a Notice of Appeal the Registrar shall
  - (a) forward copies thereof to the Primate and the Provincial Metropolitans, and
  - (b) forward a copy thereof to the Registrar of the Court appealed from with a request that the Registrar certify and forward to the Registrar of the Supreme Court within 30 days a full and correct transcript in duplicate of the record, proceedings, pleadings, evidence, decision and sentence, if any.

#### 23. Stay of Proceedings

Where an appeal is from a conviction or sentence, no proceedings to enforce the sentence shall be taken without leave of the Supreme Court of Appeal and no such leave shall be granted until after 60 days have elapsed from the date the Notice of Appeal is filed with the Registrar.

#### 24. Leave to Appeal

Where leave to appeal is required the Court may direct that the guestion of leave be determined

- (a) by the Procedural Panel before the hearing of the appeal; or
- (b) at the hearing of appeal.

#### 25. Initiation of a Stated Case or Request

- (1) A Synod, House of Bishops, Provincial Court or Diocesan Court that wishes to state a case or request the Supreme Court of Appeal to make a determination as provided for in section 2 of Canon XX shall file with the Registrar a case or request in writing concisely stating in consecutive numbered paragraphs:
  - (a) the provision, the validity or interpretation of which is required to be determined, and
  - (b) the facts and documents necessary to enable the Court to determine the issue.
- (2) Upon receipt of a case or request the Registrar shall forthwith forward copies thereof to the Primate and the Provincial Metropolitans.

(3) The Court may require a Synod, House of Bishops or Court that submits a case or request to state additional facts or to provide any information the Court requires for clarification of the issue to be determined.

#### 26. Record for Hearing

- (1) Subject to any directions given by the President of the Court, the Registrar shall prepare copies of the notice and record on appeal or of the stated case or request for the members of the Court, the assessors and each party before the Court.
- (2) The President of the Court may dispense with the copying of the record on an appeal or any part thereof.

#### 27. Time and Place of Hearing

An appeal or stated case or request shall be heard in the Ecclesiastical Province in which the matter arose.

#### 28. Procedure at Hearing

- (1) At the hearing of an appeal or a stated case or request the Court shall receive the submissions of the parties or their counsel in writing or orally.
- (2) The Court may receive evidence as to matters which have occurred after the date of the decision appealed from and, where special circumstances exist, upon any other question of fact.
- (3) New evidence may be submitted to the Court by statutory declaration, if uncontentious, or orally.

#### 29. Interventions

- (1) Where a person who is not a party to a proceeding claims
  - (a) a legitimate interest in the subject matter of the proceeding;
  - (b) that he or she may be adversely affected by a judgment in the proceeding; or
  - (c) to be able to make a worthwhile contribution to the argument of the question before the Court;
    - that person may be granted leave to intervene in the proceedings.
- (2) No one who is not a communicant of The Anglican Church of Canada shall be granted leave to intervene.
- (3) An application for leave to intervene shall be made to the Registrar.
- (4) An application for leave to intervene shall
  - identify the person interested in the proceeding and describe the person's interest in the proceeding including any prejudice he or she would suffer if leave to intervene is denied;

- (b) state the position the person intends to take with respect to the questions on which they propose to intervene; and
- (c) set out the submissions to be advanced by the person, their relevance to the proceeding and the reasons for believing the submissions will be useful to the Court and different from those of the other parties.
- (5) The Court may invite any person to intervene as a friend of the Court for the purpose of assisting the Court by way of written or oral argument without being a party to the proceeding.

# **III. Disciplinary Proceedings**

#### 30. Definitions

In this Part

"complainant" means a person who files a complaint pursuant to subsection 32(1);

"respondent" means a person who is alleged to have committed an ecclesiastical offense.

#### 31. Application of Part

This Part applies to disciplinary proceedings against a respondent over whom the Court is given ecclesiastical jurisdiction by section 6 of Canon XVIII.

#### 32. Initiation of a Proceeding

- (1) Any person may file with the Registrar a complaint in writing (Schedule 6) alleging that a person named in section 6 of Canon XVIII has committed an ecclesiastical offense defined in section 7 of Canon XVIII.
- (2) The complainant shall file with the complaint a statutory declaration giving particulars of the alleged offense.
- (3) The Registrar shall promptly forward copies of the complaint and statutory declaration to the respondent and to the Primate and the Provincial Metropolitans.
- (4) If the Primate is the respondent the duties of the Primate under this Canon shall be performed by the Provincial Metropolitan senior by election able and willing to act.

#### 33. Panel of Inquiry

- (1) Upon receiving a complaint, if the respondent does not waive the appointment of a Panel of Inquiry, the Primate and the Metropolitans shall appoint three persons to be a Panel of Inquiry.
- (2) The Panel of Inquiry shall investigate the complaint and
  - (a) determine whether the complaint is trivial, vexatious or made in bad faith,
  - (b) determine whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant a trial of the complaint,
  - (c) report its findings to the Primate and the Metropolitans, and

- (d) send a copy of its report to the complainant and to the respondent.
- (3) If the Panel of Inquiry determines that the complaint is trivial, vexatious or made in bad faith or that there is insufficient evidence to warrant a trial of the complaint, the complaint shall be deemed to be dismissed.
- (4) If the respondent waives the appointment of a Panel of Inquiry, or if the Panel of Inquiry determines that the complaint is not trivial, vexatious or made in bad faith and that there is sufficient evidence to warrant a trial of the complaint, the Primate and the Metropolitans shall appoint the members of the Court and assessors pursuant to section 5 of these Rules.
- (5) No one who has been a member of the Panel of Inquiry may be a member or officer of the Court or an assessor.

#### 34. Time and Place of Trial

The president of the Court shall fix the time and place of a trial.

#### 35. Conduct of Trial

- (1) The trial of a complaint shall be conducted according to the principles of natural justice set out in section 14 of Canon XVIII.
- (2) A trial shall be in private, except that the Court may, if it is satisfied that it is in the interest of justice or if the respondent so requests, direct that the trial shall be in public in which case the Court may, at any time, exclude such persons as it determines.

### Oath of Office

Date	Signature	

# Schedule 2

# Oath of Witness

I swear that the evidence I shall give to the Court touching the matters in question shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So help me God.

# Schedule 3

# **Affirmation of Witness**

I solemnly affirm that the evidence I shall give to the Court touching the matters in question shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

# In the Supreme Court of Appeal for The Anglican Church of Canada

Between		
	(name)	
		Appellant or Complainan
and		
	(name)	
		Responden
	or	
In the Matter of a Case Stated by or a R	Request of (name of boo	ly stating the case or making the request)
Unde	rtaking Respecting	g Costs
I, , hereby u	ndertake with The Supre	eme Court of Appeal of The Anglican Church
of Canada and with all other parties to th		
Date		
Witness	_	Signature

# In the Supreme Court of Appeal for The Anglican Church of Canada

Between	
(nan	ne)
	Appellant,
and .	
(nan	
	Respondent
Notice of	Appeal
(Name of appellant) appeals and applies for leave to ap Church of Canada from the judgment or decision of (name	
The appellant asks that the judgment or order be set follows (set out briefly the relief sought).	aside (or varied) and that a judgment be granted as
The grounds of appeal are (set out grounds in separate i	numbered paragraphs).
The appellant relies on the jurisdiction conferred on the	Supreme Court for the Anglican Church of Canada by
(specify Canon XVIII or XX) of the General Synod.	
Date	Signature of Appellant
The appellant's name, address, telephone number and	email address are:
To the Respondent	

# In the Supreme Court of Appeal for The Anglican Church of Canada

Between	
	(name)
	Complainar
and	
anu	(name)
	Responde
	Responde
	Complaint
	name and office of respondent) did on (date) at (place) commit and note defined in Canon XVIII) as is more particularly described in the omplaint.
 Date	Signature of Complainant
The complainant's name, address, telep	phone number and email address are:
To the Registrar of the Supreme Court	