

Canon H-6: Establishment and Dissolution of Congregations and Parishes

Definitions:

Bishop: The Bishop of Algoma

Congregation: As defined in the Constitution, a congregation is a group of persons who gather regularly for worship and who hold an Annual Vestry meeting in accordance with Canon J-1. Any amendment changing this or other definitions in the Constitution will also change the definition in this Canon in conformity with it.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee of the Diocese as established by the Constitution of the Synod.

Ministry Costs: Ministry costs include the full payment of the costs of operating any buildings associated with the congregation or parish, stipend, apportionment, and debt including building loans.

Parish: As defined in the Constitution, a parish is a congregation or group of congregations served by an Incumbent. A parish includes an assisted parish and a self-supporting parish unless otherwise stated.

1. Where it appears to the Bishop that it would be in the best interest of the Diocese to establish a new congregation, the Bishop may bring before the Executive Committee a Resolution to establish this new congregation. After consideration the Executive Committee may enact this Resolution and establish this new congregation.
2. As has been the custom of the Diocese since the formation of the Synod, the Bishop may establish a congregation or congregations as a parish, after consultation with the Executive Committee, and appoint an Incumbent to the parish in conformity with the applicable Canon on appointments.
3. As has been the custom of the Diocese since the formation of the Synod, the Bishop may divide a parish into two or more new parishes, consolidate two or more parishes into a single new parish, transfer a congregation between parishes, or transfer one or more congregations from a dissolved parish to another parish or parishes, after consultation with the Executive Committee, and appoint such new Incumbent or Incumbents as the Bishop finds appropriate in conformity with the applicable Canon on appointments.
4. The Executive Committee may, with the concurrence of the Bishop, enact a Resolution dissolving a congregation or parish. The Executive Committee may enact such a Resolution of Dissolution only after:

- a. Considering the advice of the affected congregation or parish through consultation and as expressed by Resolution enacted by its Vestry where such a Vestry is still functioning; and
- b. Considering the advice of the Deanery Officials and the Archdeacon of the affected Deanery; and
- c. After the Executive Committee is satisfied that such a dissolution is in the best interest of the diocese as a whole because:
 - i. Such a dissolution will strengthen the mission and ministry of the Diocese in the affected area;
 - ii. Or, where the cause is the congregation's or parish's inability to financially support its ministry costs, after taking into consideration any financial assistance to the congregation or parish which the Executive Committee deems appropriate, that reasonable measures have been taken to give the congregation or parish the opportunity to make its ministry financially sustainable, and that the congregation or parish has not been able to do this.