

**CANON 23**

**LAY DELEGATES**

1. Every parish or mission shall elect annually its lay delegates and substitute lay delegates to Synod between the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January and the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February at the annual meeting of parishioners.
2. Only a person who has been baptized with water in the name of The Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit, who is a communicant, who is a recognized attendant at the public worship of the parish or mission, and who is of the full age of 16 years, is eligible to be elected as a delegate or substitute lay delegate to Synod. Churchwardens and members of the vestry are eligible to be elected as Synod delegates or as substitute Synod delegates.
3. Subject to sub-section 4(c) of Canon 22, a person shall not be eligible for election as a lay delegate or substitute lay delegate if that person has been elected a lay delegate for six successive years immediately prior to the election.
4. A person may not vote for, nor be, a lay delegate or substitute lay delegate of more than one parish or mission.
5. The incumbent, or chair, shall furnish the Secretary of Synod with a certificate of election as follows:

Parish or Mission of .....

Number of Recognized Attendants .....

I hereby certify that at a meeting of this parish or mission, held this  
.....day of .....20..., M..... and N..... were duly  
elected as delegates to Synod and M..... and N..... were  
duly elected as substitute delegates to Synod for the current year.

7. (a) Substitute lay delegates shall be elected, and their names and order of election certified to the Secretary of Synod.
  - (b) If a lay delegate dies, resigns, or is unable to attend any session of Synod, or any sitting thereof, a substitute, in order of election, shall be entitled to take the place, at such session or sitting, for the lay delegate who is absent, and during the absence of a lay delegate, the substitute shall have all the rights and privileges of the lay delegate, except as provided in clause (c) hereof.
  - (c) A substitute lay delegate shall not be eligible for election as a member of Council, or of any delegation, board, committee or group where lay membership in Synod is a prerequisite of election, unless the lay delegate for whom the substitute lay delegate is a substitute shall have died or resigned and an appropriate certificate to that effect has been furnished to the Secretary of Synod prior to the opening of the session of Synod at which the election takes place.
8. It shall be the duty of a lay delegate:
    - (a) To read the convening circular of Synod and to be familiar with the business to be

transacted by Synod.

- (b) To attend Synod and, as provided in Canon 7, meetings of the deanery.
- (c) To serve on any boards, committees or other bodies to which the lay delegate may be elected or accept appointment.
- (d) To represent Synod in the parish and to explain diocesan plans, programs, and budgets to the vestry
- (e) As soon after a session of Synod as may be convenient, to give an account to the parish or mission of such matters, plans, programs, and resolutions discussed at or adopted by Synod as may be of interest to or require the support of the parish or mission.
- (f) To be an active member of the Vestry.
- (g) To form, with the church wardens, a committee to confer with the Bishop whenever a vacancy occurs in the incumbency of the parish or mission.