

CANON 7

DEANERIES AND DISTRICT DEANS

1. The Bishop may from time to time establish groupings of parishes in the maintenance of the pastoral responsibilities of the Bishop within the Diocese. These shall be known as Deaneries and the Convener or Chair shall be the District Dean.
2. District Deans shall be appointed by the Bishop.

Duties of a District Dean

3. It shall be the duty of a District Dean:
 - (a) To arrange for meetings of the Deanery Chapter, quarterly or oftener, and also the meetings of the Deanery.
 - (b) To visit every parish in the Deanery once a year, and more often if directed by the Bishop or Diocesan Council; to confer with the Clergy, churchwardens and other officers of a parish on any matters of common concern, or particular aspects of the fulfillment of the mission of the Church in their area.
 - (c) To give the Bishop or Archdeacon advice when so requested.
 - (d) To inform the Bishop and Archdeacon, if necessary, of any reports, conduct or proceedings affecting any of the Clergy in the Deanery.
 - (e) To carry out such other duties as the Bishop may from time to time designate.

Deanery Chapters

4. When the Bishop has determined the bounds of the Deanery, the clergy within it holding the licence of the Bishop shall form the Deanery Chapter.
5. The first meeting of any Deanery Chapter shall be called by the District Dean.
6. It shall be the duty of the Chapter:
 - (a) To elect one of their number as secretary, who shall also be secretary of the Deanery meetings and whose duties shall include those usually performed by such official.
 - (b) To make all necessary arrangements for its meetings and for the holding of Deanery meetings from time to time.
 - (c) To consider questions submitted to it by the Bishop, Archdeacon, or Diocesan Council.
 - (d) To consult generally for the spiritual benefit of the Deanery and for the interests of the Church within it.
 - (e) To have all new settlements within its limits visited, and information obtained respecting Church members, and, as far as possible, to provide for the holding of services therein.
 - (f) To consider what might be advantageously brought before a meeting of the Deanery.

Meetings of the Deanery

7. At any meeting of the Deanery the following persons shall be members:

All clergy in the Deanery licensed by the Bishop, churchwardens and lay delegates to Synod of every parish within the Deanery, all lay readers holding the licence of the Bishop and residing or officiating regularly in any parish in the Deanery and, subject to the approval of the Deanery concerned, other lay persons, not exceeding ten in number from any one parish, who may be designated by the rector and Vestry of a parish; and any other clergy or laity especially invited before such meeting by a vote of the Deanery Chapter.

8. Meetings of the Deanery or the Deanery Chapter shall be presided over by the District Dean or in the absence of the District Dean by one of the clergy in the Deanery elected by the meeting.
9. Meetings of the Deanery shall consider any questions submitted to them by the Bishop, Archdeacons, Diocesan Council or Deanery Chapter, or any questions proposed by any of themselves and generally to consult for the spiritual welfare of the district and the interests of the Church.