



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD

Bishop's Council & Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod

Function and Constitution

Bishop's Council Functions

The Bishop's Council and Standing Committee is a statutory committee of the Diocesan Synod, established under Church Representation Rule 34 (1) (k), which discharges some of the advisory and consultative functions of the Synod (Section 4 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969). Its functions in relation to the Diocesan Synod are as set out in Diocesan Synod's Standing Order 75 (reproduced below):

Functions:

1. to plan the business of the synod, to prepare the agenda for its sessions and to circulate to members information about matters for discussion;
2. to initiate proposals for action by the synod and to advise it on matters of policy which are placed before it;
3. to advise the president on any matters which he may refer to the committee;
4. subject to the directions of the synod to transact the business of the synod when it is not in session;
5. to appoint members of committees or nominate members for election to committees, subject to the directions of the synod;
6. to carry out such other functions as the synod may designate to it.

Financial Aspects:

1. The Members of Bishops Council shall act as directors (for the purposes of company law) and trustees (for the purposes of charity law) of the Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance
2. When meeting as the Directors, the meeting shall be chaired by the Chair or vice Chair of the DBF
3. Such meetings shall be known as meetings of The Board of Directors
4. The Meeting of the Directors will
 - a) Determine strategy and policy in relation to:
 - i. Clergy Stipends (in line with Synodical Ministry deployment policy)
 - ii. Revenue Budgets
 - iii. Capital Budgets
 - iv. Investments
 - v. The Parish Share system
 - vi. Risk Management
 - b) Monitor the implementation of policy
 - c) Approve draft budget submissions for approval by the Board of Finance and Diocesan Synod
 - d) Receive and approve the annual Consolidated Financial Statements
 - e) Agree financial sub-structures
 - f) Consider any business referred by the DBF, Synod, Bishop's Council or the Finance sub structures
5. Each meeting will receive a report from the Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee

Bishop's Council Constitution

1) Criteria used in shaping the constitution

- There should be broad parity between lay and ordained members of the Council.
- Around two thirds subject to periodic election or synodical appointment and one third holding ex-officio membership
- Members should have the skills necessary to discharge the responsibilities of the Council
- The Council should be no larger than is necessary for the appropriate level of representation and effective operation
- There should be opportunities to refresh the membership (with appropriate learning and development opportunities)
- The Council membership should as far as possible reflect the diversity of the diocese
- There should be clarity in the expectations and responsibilities of people putting themselves forward for Bishop's Council
- The Bishop's Council should be coterminous with DBF trustee function

2) Composition

In view of the size of the Ex-officio cohort, a membership of 25 represents the best size to serve the above criteria.

- a) 8 ecclesiastical office holders (3 Bishops, 4 Archdeacons, Dean)
- b) 1 Elected chair of House of Clergy
- c) 4 Elected clergy (1 per archdeaconry)
- d) 1 Elected chair of House of Laity
- e) 1 Elected chair of DBF
- f) 4 Elected lay people (at least one from each archdeaconry)
- g) 6 people (preferably lay) appointed by synod to strengthen diversity, increase financial acumen and bolster underrepresented skills.

The 8 elected (by Archdeaconry) and 6 synodically appointed posts are subject to a three term limit with the proviso that, in the case of insufficient nominations for election, remaining vacancies would no longer be subject to the limit.

Bishop's Council and Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod

Chairman: The Bishop

Ex-Officio: The Bishop of Bolton
The Bishop of Middleton
The Archdeacon of Bolton
The Archdeacon of Manchester
The Archdeacon of Rochdale
The Archdeacon of Salford
The Dean of Manchester
Chairman of the Board of Finance
Chairman of the House of Clergy
Chairman of the House of Laity

Elected by the Diocesan Synod *(1 clergy and 1 laity from each Archdeaconry)*

Bolton Archdeaconry

1 clergy vacancy
1 lay vacancy

Manchester Archdeaconry

1 clergy vacancy
1 lay vacancy

Rochdale Archdeaconry

1 clergy vacancy
1 lay vacancy

Salford Archdeaconry

1 clergy vacancy
1 lay vacancy

Synodical Appointments

6 x vacancies