

DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE

MINISTRY COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONS ORDINANCE 2014

It is intended to put in place arrangements to promote and sustain evangelism and mission, education and discipleship and parish and ministry development.

The Synod of the Diocese of Armidale ORDAINS AND RULES as follows:

1. The *Commissions Ordinance 1998* is hereby repealed, but such repeal shall not affect the past operation thereof, nor anything done or commenced, nor any right, privilege, obligations acquired, accrued, or incurred thereafter, nor shall it revive any Ordinance heretofore repealed.

The Ministry Council

2. There shall be a Ministry Council to guide and to coordinate the work of the Commission for Evangelism and Mission (CEM), the Commission for Education and Discipleship (CED) and the Parish and Ministry Development Commission (PAMDC).
3. The Ministry Council shall comprise:
 - a. the Bishop or his nominee; and
 - b. the Chairperson of each Commission appointed by the Bishop from those nominated by the Synod and whose appointment has been ratified by Diocesan Council.
4. The Bishop or his nominee shall chair the Ministry Council and a Secretary to the Council shall be appointed from its members.
5. The non-episcopal members of the Ministry Council shall hold office until the first meeting of the Diocesan Council following the First Session of each Synod of the Diocese unless the Ministry Council declares a member's position vacant for reason that:
 - a. the member has tendered their resignation in writing; or
 - b. the member has been absent from three consecutive meetings of the Ministry Council without leave.
6. A replacement for any vacancy on the Ministry Council shall be appointed by the Bishop and ratified by Diocesan Council. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold office until the first meeting of the Diocesan Council following the First Session of each Synod.
7. The Ministry Council shall meet at least three times in each financial year and the travel costs incurred by members of the Ministry Council in fulfilling their responsibilities can be reimbursed out of funds provided for this purpose in the Diocesan budget each year.
8. The Ministry Council, on behalf of the Commissions, shall report annually to the Synod of the Diocese and from time to time to the Diocesan Council as may be requested by that body.

Ministry Council Chairpersons

9. The responsibilities and duties of a Commission Chairperson shall be, in concert with the Bishop or his nominee, to:
 - a. assist, on behalf of the Synod and Diocesan Council, those involved in ministries across the Diocese to operate in ways which are consistent with the mission and vision of the Diocese that is agreed from time to time;
 - b. encourage, facilitate and co-ordinate the work of the three Commissions;
 - c. act as a conduit between the three Commissions and, where appropriate, other Diocesan agencies;
 - d. consider the resource requirements of each of the Commissions;
 - e. report on the work of their Commission through the Ministry Council to Synod and, when requested, to Diocesan Council, or in situations where they consider it desirable to draw matters to the attention of Diocesan Council; and
 - f. undertake such other tasks as the Synod or Diocesan Council may delegate to them.

The Commissions

10. Apart from the Chairperson whose appointment by the Bishop has been ratified by Diocesan Council, Diocesan Council shall make one clergy and one lay appointment to each Commission from those nominated by Synod.
11. Each of the Commissions is to have up to a further six members whose appointments have been ratified by Diocesan Council following their nomination by the relevant Chairperson taking into account those nominated by Synod and the other members of each Commission appointed by Diocesan Council.
12. The Chairperson of each Commission shall appoint a Secretary to their Commission.
13. Members of the Commissions shall hold office until the first meeting of the Diocesan Council following the First Session of each Synod of the Diocese unless Diocesan Council declares a member's position vacant for reason that:
 - a. the member has tendered their resignation in writing; or
 - b. upon advice from a Commission a member has been absent from three consecutive meetings of the Commission without leave.
14. All vacancies on a Commission shall be filled by the Diocesan Council, having received advice from the Chairperson of the relevant Commission, and those appointed to fill vacancies shall hold office until the first meeting of the Diocesan Council following the First Session of each Synod.
15. The Commissions shall meet on no less than three occasions in each financial year. The travel costs incurred by Commission members in fulfilling their responsibilities can be reimbursed out of funds provided for this purpose in the Diocesan budget each year.
16. The Commissions shall report through their respective Chairperson to the Ministry Council and from time to time to the Diocesan Council as may be requested by that body.

The Commission for Evangelism and Mission

“CEM aims to introduce people to Jesus, to reach people facing a Christless eternity and to send God’s people out into the world as salt and light.”

17. The responsibilities of CEM shall be, but not limited to:

- a. encouraging, facilitating and supporting the proclamation of the Gospel within the Diocese;
- b. fostering and encouraging regional prayer meetings across the Diocese;
- c. assisting parishes to resource, train and facilitate evangelism by both individuals and Christian communities;
- d. identifying ‘unreached people groups’ within the Diocese and facilitating outreach to them through individuals and Christian communities;
- e. being a stimulus to, and a sounding board for, Diocesan-wide evangelism and outreach events involving adults, youth and children;
- f. promoting within the Diocese interest in, and active support for, the missionary task of God’s people throughout the world;
- g. recommending to Diocesan Council targets for missionary giving and the manner of distribution of monies received for unspecified missionary causes; and
- h. undertaking such other matters as the Synod or Diocesan Council may from time to time delegate to it.

The Commission for Education and Discipleship

“CED aims to help people home to heaven by growing devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.”

18. The responsibilities of CED shall be, but not limited to:
 - a. facilitating and encouraging growth in Christian maturity within both Christian communities and their leaders;
 - b. giving attention to the developing of “disciple-making disciples” across the Diocese;
 - c. stimulating, encouraging, facilitating and co-ordinating the development of Christian education and discipleship programs for adults, youth and children;
 - d. reviewing and promoting resources considered useful for education and discipleship across parochial districts and on the Diocesan website;
 - e. overseeing training in relation to, and providing advice on, religious education in government schools and the accreditation and encouragement of Special Religious Education teachers;
 - f. liaising in matters of Special Religious Education with other Dioceses, inter-church bodies and appropriate secular agencies; and
 - g. undertaking such other matters as Synod or Diocesan Council may from time to time delegate to it.

The Parish and Ministry Development Commission

“PAMDC aims to help people home to heaven by recruiting godly leadership across all ministries and building Christian communities in every town.”

19. The responsibilities of PAMDC shall be, but not limited to:
 - a. assisting in the building of Christian communities, including maintaining mature Anglican ministry in every town across the Diocese;
 - b. considering and assisting where possible in the equipping of clergy and lay leadership for parochial and wider Diocesan responsibilities;
 - c. acting as a “think tank” for the form and content of adult, youth and children’s ministries within the Diocese;
 - d. assisting in the recruitment of godly leadership across all Diocesan ministries;
 - e. supporting the Bishop and Examining Chaplain in the recruitment of godly

leaders for both ordained and lay ministry training, with a view to establishing continuity in Christian leadership across the Diocese;

- f. assisting the Bishop and Examining Chaplain in the facilitation of post-ordination training;
- g. working to facilitate and support Christian community in isolated communities;
- h. managing reviews of the Diocese which may be requested and authorized by the Synod or Diocesan Council;
- i. providing a consultancy service to parochial districts and promoting and encouraging plans and strategies at the parochial level to assist in the realization of the Diocesan mission;
- j. liaising in matters of educational concern with other Dioceses, inter-church bodies and appropriate secular agencies; and
- k. undertaking such other matters as the Synod or Diocesan Council may from time to time delegate to it.

20. This Ordinance shall be cited and known as the “Ministry Council and Commissions Ordinance 2014”.