

Termination of Appointments

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7.1 Retirement

Diocesan Canon 4.06(c) states that upon attaining age sixty-five, members of the clergy will be deemed to have submitted their resignation from any position to which they have been appointed by the bishop. Any subsequent reappointment or appointment shall be for a one-year term. Thereafter, continuance of this appointment will be reviewed annually by the bishop.

Upon attaining age sixty-five, or if younger, upon completing thirty-seven years of participation in the Pension Plan of the General Synod (Canon VIII), a member of the clergy may retire with full pension from any position in the diocese, as appointed by the bishop.



7.2 Resignation

Upon accepting a new appointment, a member of the clergy will be deemed to have resigned from his or her current appointment. Clergy who wish to resign from an appointment for other reasons must do so by writing to the bishop.

7.3 Relinquishment or Abandonment of Ministry

Clergy may voluntarily relinquish their ministry, or may act in such a way that they are presumed to have abandoned their ministry. Relinquishment and abandonment of ministry are described in full in General Synod Canon XIX.

7.3.1 Relinquishment

A priest or deacon may relinquish the exercise of the ordained ministry by writing to the bishop. Relinquishment removes from the clergy person the right to exercise office, including spiritual authority as a minister of the Word and Sacraments.


The bishop may terminate the relinquishment and reinstate the priest or deacon. However, if reinstatement is declined by the bishop, the priest or deacon may appeal that decision.

7.3.2 Abandonment

A priest or deacon shall be presumed to have abandoned the exercise of ordained ministry if she or he has:

- publicly renounced the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Canada;
- abandoned the practice of the ordained ministry of Word and Sacraments for a period of two years (for reasons other than illness or other reasonable cause);
- engaged in secular employment without the written consent of the bishop.

Notice to this effect will be sent to the priest or deacon by the bishop. Within sixty days, the priest or deacon may:

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- reply to the bishop that the facts alleged in the notice are untrue;
 - retract the acts which constituted a renunciation of the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Canada; or
 - undertake to cease secular employment.

The bishop may either affirm or revoke the abandonment. Affirming the abandonment removes from the priest or deacon the right to exercise the office, including the spiritual authority as a minister of the Word and Sacraments.

On application of the priest or deacon, the bishop may restore the priest or deacon to the exercise of the ordained ministry. A priest or deacon may appeal refusal of reinstatement or affirmation of abandonment.



7.4 Revocation of Licence

General Synod Canon XVII (*anticipated in May 1998*) provides for revocation of licences and the steps to be followed when the terms of revocation are not agreed to by the licensee.



7.5 Request for Resignation

Diocesan Canon C.4.06(d) states that whenever the bishop believes that the welfare of the Church demands the resignation of a cleric from office, the bishop may write to the cleric requesting such resignation. If the cleric fails or refuses to comply with this request the bishop may, after a lapse of one month from the date of such request, notify the cleric concerned that if such resignation is not tendered within fifteen days the matter will be referred to the Court of the Diocese of Ottawa, and if the cleric does not then tender such resignation the bishop may refer the matter to that court.