

Council of Nelson Cathedral Statute 2025

Be it enacted by the Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Nelson in Synod assembled and by the authority of the same as follows: -

1. The Statute set out in the schedule is hereby amended in terms of the schedule.

Schedule

Council of Nelson Cathedral Statute 2025

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A STATUTE for the GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR THE NELSON CATHEDRAL, KNOWN AS THE COUNCIL OF NELSON CATHEDRAL (CNC), AND FOR DEFINING ITS MEMBERSHIP, POWERS AND DUTIES AND REPLACING THE CURRENT CATHEDRAL VESTRY STATUTE 2015.

A PREAMBLE

The Christ Church Cathedral holds a unique and important place in the life of the Diocese and this Act is required for the governance of the cathedral to fulfil its roles being:

- the seat of the Bishop (otherwise known as the *Cathedra*), symbolising the authority of the Bishop. The presence of the Bishop's seat is what makes this church the 'Cathedral'
- as the seat of the Bishop, it is the principal or "mother" church of the Diocese, upholding the vision, mission and values of the Diocese (Diocese of Nelson Structures Statute 2021) and the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia (1992)
- the parish church for its members, and
- the civic role in Nelson city.

BE IT ENACTED by the Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Nelson in Synod assembled and by authority of the same as follows: -

The Short Title of this Act shall be "The Council of Nelson Cathedral Act 2025" and shall come into force at the next Cathedral AGM.

PART 1 THE COUNCIL OF NELSON CATHEDRAL

1. The Nelson Cathedral [Christ Church Cathedral Parish, Nelson] shall be governed by a new body known as the **Council of Nelson Cathedral (CNC)**.

2. Membership of the Council

(1) Membership of the Council shall comprise

- The Bishop
- The Dean
- The Vicar of Christ Church Parish [if not also the Dean]
- The Dean's Warden
- The People's Warden
- Up to two Clerical Canons appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Dean
- Up to two Lay Canons appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Dean
- Both Clerical and Lay Canons to be appointed for up to a 3-year term which can be renewed by the Bishop.
- Five Lay Council members elected by the Cathedral congregation at the Parish AGM from those Lay persons contained on the Parish Roll and following Diocesan procedures of election.
- If any of the elected lay Council members hold other seats on the council by rite of role (Synod reps and Wardens), a meeting of parishioners may appoint a further member of Council from the Cathedral congregation.
- Co-option by the Council of up to two independent specialists as required for their specific skills.

- (2) Before entering into office, each Council member shall make and subscribe to the Declaration of Adherence and Submission to the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia as required by required by Title B Canon XXI. The signed declarations shall at once be forwarded to the Diocesan Manager.
- (3) If a vacancy arises on the Council through the death, resignation, or removal of an elected member of the Council, or for any other reason-
 - (a) The position may remain vacant unless it is necessary to fill the office in order to provide a quorum for the Council, as required by section 8.
 - (b) The position may be filled by appointment made by the Council.
- (4) Any Canonical vacancy may be filled by the Bishop in consultation with the Dean.

3. Primary Duties of the Council of Nelson Cathedral

- (1) The primary duties of the Council are to focus on the missional strategy, risk policy and compliance of Cathedral Governance by
 - (a) Enabling the worship of Almighty God and to provide all things necessary for the ordering of public worship
 - (b) Encouraging all members of the parish to live out the missional strategy of the Cathedral and grow in the faith and service of Christ.
 - (c) Foster the spiritual growth and wellbeing of the parishioners, including Christian education for persons of all ages.
 - (d) Promoting and encouraging the use of the Cathedral for such civic, diocesan, ecumenical and missionary functions as may be approved by the Bishop and the Dean (or by the Vicar of the Parish of Christ Church if he/she is not the Dean)
 - (e) Overseeing the management of the Cathedral/Parish, risk policy and compliance.
 - (f) Determining the establishment of any paid position within the Cathedral.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not limit the responsibility of the Vicar, under the authority of the Bishop, for the pastoral care of the parish, for Christian education in the parish, and for the spiritual wellbeing of the parishioners.
- (3) The Council of Nelson Cathedral may delegate operational authority through written policies and facilitated by sub-committees.

4. Further duties in respect of property

The Council of Nelson Cathedral shall have the following duties:

- (a) Provide and care for the Cathedral buildings (including repair, maintenance and enhancement), the Cathedral furnishings, and the equipment needed for the good working of the parish
- (b) Plan, authorise, and execute all capital works, alterations, and improvements that may be necessary or desirable for the proper functioning of the Cathedral buildings, subject always to the provisions of the Diocesan Properties and Faculties Act
- (c) Provide a Vicarage in the parish free of charge to the Vicar, and free accommodation to other full-time Assistant Clergy who are paid from parish funds, or, instead of accommodation, to provide an allowance approved by Standing Committee
- (d) Cause to be inspected at least once in each year the Cathedral, the vicarage, and all other buildings and property for which Council is responsible and ensure that all necessary repairs and maintenance are carried out.
- (e) The Council shall ensure the Cathedral in the name of the Trustee for functional replacement value. The Vestry is not required to insure the Cathedral at full replacement.

5. Meetings of Council

- (1) Meetings of the Council shall be held at least bi-monthly at such time and place as the Council may determine.
- (2) A special meeting of Council may be called at such time as the Dean or the Churchwardens may determine, or upon a request in writing signed by a majority of Council members.
- (3) A special meeting may be called for any purpose by the Bishop.

6. Chairing of Council

- (1) The Dean is the Chair of the Council of Nelson Cathedral and normally presides at every meeting.
- (2) Voluntary Delegation by the Dean:
 - The Dean may, for any meeting or item of business, invite another member of the Council to act as Chair.
 - The delegation must be declared to the Secretary before the meeting opens and be recorded in the minutes.
 - Reasons may include absence, conflict of interest, succession development, or any circumstance the Dean considers will enhance effective governance.
 - Delegation for a meeting or item does not remove the Dean's overall leadership responsibilities between meetings.

(3) Absence or Vacancy in the Office of the Dean:

If the Dean is unable to attend a meeting or if the office of the Dean is vacant:

1. The Bishop may elect to chair that meeting;
2. If the Bishop declines, the Dean's Warden will chair;
3. If the Dean's Warden is unavailable, the People's Warden will chair;

(4) Revocation of Delegation -

The Dean (or, where the Bishop is presiding, the Bishop) may revoke a delegation at any time before or during the meeting by advising the Council and ensuring the decision is recorded in the minutes.

(5) The person chairing any meeting of the Council shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote.

7. Persons with right to attend Council meetings

Any person may attend Council meetings at the invitation of Council and have the right to speak but not to vote.

8. Quorum for Council

- (1) No business shall be transacted at a meeting of **Council** unless a quorum is present.
- (2) The **Council** quorum shall be six and shall include the Dean or the Bishop or at least one of the Churchwardens and at least one of the clerical or Lay Canons
- (3) **Council may**, with the express consent of the Dean and the Churchwardens, delegate to a member of **Council** or a subcommittee of **Council** the power to deal with any particular item of business or to be responsible for any particular aspect of parish life, with power to co-opt additional parishioners or persons who are not members of **Council**; and in such a case the subcommittee may conduct the business committed to it even though the Dean or a Churchwarden is not present or is not a member of the subcommittee.

9. Election of Parochial Nominators

At a meeting held not later than two months after the annual general meeting at which it was elected, **Council** shall elect two persons, who are qualified to be members of **Council**, and two members of the **Council** [total of four] to be the Parochial Nominators for the Cathedral parish.

10. Keeping of minutes

The Council shall ensure that full minutes of all its meetings, and of all annual and special general meetings of parishioners, are kept.

11. Collections

The Council shall ensure that all collections within the parish are fully recorded, safely kept, and promptly banked.

12. Contributions for objects outside parish

- (1) **The Council** may at its discretion pay money from parish funds for religious, charitable, or educational objects outside the parish and authorise collections to be made for any such purposes.
- (2) All special offerings and collections shall be paid to the object specified within two months after their receipt.

13. Council bound by acts of predecessors

All contracts and undertakings that have been duly and lawfully entered into prior to the existence of the Council shall (according to their tenor) be binding upon their successors in office from year to year.

14. Control of funds

All funds under the control of the Cathedral Chapter (Fabric/Chapter Fund) and the Cathedral Vestry (Parish Funds and Trusts) as at the commencement of this Statute shall for its duration be under the control of the Council of Nelson Cathedral for the purposes that the funds are held or received.

The Cathedral Fabric/Chapter Fund shall be recorded under Cathedral Accounts not the accounts of the Nelson Diocesan Trust Board.

PART II: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PROVISIONS

15. Suspension of provisions

The following statutory provisions shall be suspended with regard to the operation of the Cathedral for the duration of this Statute

- (a) Sections 3,5 and 6 of the Cathedral Act 2002
- (b) Part 111 of the Cathedral Act 2002
- (c) Section 19 of the Parishes Statute2006
- (d) Part IV of the Parishes Statute2006

16. Interpretation

Where there appears to be a conflict between this Statute and any other Diocesan Statute this Statute shall prevail.

17. Duration of Act

2026 This Act shall cease to have effect on 31 December 2028 pending a review by Standing Committee.

18. The Cathedral Vestry Statute 2015 is hereby repealed.