CONSTITUTION

OF THE

COUNCIL OF PRIESTS

DIOCESE OF PRINCE GEORGE

January 21, 2015

In each diocese a presbyteral council is to be established, that is, a group of priests which, representing the presbyterium, is to be like a senate of the bishop and which assists the bishop in the governance of the diocese according to the norm of law to promote as much as possible the pastoral good of the portion of the people of God entrusted to him (canon 495, 1).
Article 1

1. By virtue of canon 495, 1, the Council of Priests of the Diocese of Prince George is established.
2. The Council of Priests is to have its own statutes, approved by the Bishop, (canon 496), whereby the role, composition, governance and manner of procedures of the Council are defined.

Article 2

ROLE

The role of the Council shall be:
1. The Council of Priests is to assist the Bishop in the governance of the diocese, in accordance with the norms of the law, so that the welfare of the people of God entrusted to the Bishop may be most effectively promoted (canon 495 §1).
2. among the areas in which the Council can assist the Bishop are liturgy, evangelization and catechetics, education, vocations, social justice and service concerns and by promoting inter-parish collaboration.

Article 3

COMPOSITION

The Council of Priests of Prince George Diocese shall consist of the following: (cf. canon 498 §1)

a) All Diocesan priests incardinated in the diocese;

b) Diocesan priests not incardinated and priests who are members of religious institutes and societies of apostolic life living in the diocese and assigned to ministry.

c) The Vicar General and the Chancellor (if a priest) are ex officio members (cf. canon 497, 2).
a) The diocesan Bishop shall convene and preside over the Council of Priests at least twice annually, determining the date, time, place and manner of meeting, and in consultation with the *presbyterium*, determine the matters to be discussed in the meeting (cf. canon 500, 1).

b) A secretary shall be designated by the Bishop.

c) The Council of Priests has only a consultative vote. The Bishop is to listen to it in matters of great importance, but needs its consent only in those matters expressly defined by law (canon 500, 2).

The cases expressly defined by law:

- before calling a diocesan synod (canon 461, 1);
- before establishing, suppressing or notably altering a parish (canon 515, 2);
- before prescribing regulations regarding remuneration given to parishes for specific services (canon 531);
- before establishing a pastoral council in each parish (canon 536, 1);
- before building a church (canon 1215, 2);
- before allowing a church to be used for some secular but not unbecoming purpose after it is no longer to be used for divine worship (canon 1222, 2);
- before levying a tax on public juridical persons subject to him and other physical and juridical persons (canon 1263);
- before the choice of a stable group of pastors from persons proposed by the Bishop to be available for processing the removal of a pastor whose ministry for some reason has become harmful or at least ineffective (canon 1742).
d) When consensus is not achieved in important decisions, the matter in question is to be tabled or deferred for further consideration and/or study.

e) In matters of more serious moment, the Bishop may seek the opinions of the Council either by phone or by letter.

f) The Council of Priests cannot act without the diocesan Bishop. The Bishop alone is to make public those things expressly defined by law, which have been decided, after consultation with the Council of Priests (canon 500, 3).

Article 5

GENERAL

Amendments to the Constitution of the Council of Priests will be brought to the presbyterial meeting for approval.

Article 6

When the See is vacant the Council of Priests lapses. Its functions are fulfilled by the College of Consultors. The new Bishop must reconstitute the Council of Priests within a year of taking possession of the diocese (canon 501, 2).

Approval

These revised statutes, subrogating, “the Constitution for the Council of Priests for the Diocese of Prince George, British Columbia, issued on August 5 1993”, are approved by the undersigned Bishop of Prince George, at Prince George, BC on this twenty-first day of January, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and fifteen.

Bishop of Prince George

Chancellor