

10 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- 10.1 An extraordinary general meeting of the provincial chapter may be called at any time by the request of a majority of the provincial council or by the request of one third of chapter rectors or by the request of five percent and not less than twelve members of the Society within the province.
- 10.2 The date and venue of such a meeting shall be arranged by those requesting the meeting.
- 10.3 The business of such a meeting shall be indicated to the provincial secretary who shall give notice of the meeting and its agenda to chapter rectors for immediate distribution to all members. At least six weeks' notice shall be given.
- 10.4 Only previously notified business may be conducted at an extraordinary general meeting.
- 10.5 All members of the Society named on the membership list held at that time by the membership secretary shall be entitled to attend.
- 10.6 The meeting shall be chaired by the provincial rector or another officer of the Society.
- 10.7 Resolutions may be passed by a simple majority of the members present and voting.

11 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

- 11.1 This constitution shall not be altered or added to except by the consent of two thirds of the members voting in accordance with paragraph 6.4 of this constitution.

THE SOCIETY OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS

CONSTITUTION OF THE EUROPEAN PROVINCE

1. TITLE

- 1.1 The province shall be known as the European Province of the Society of Catholic Priests ('the Society').

2 CONSTITUENT CHAPTERS

- 2.1 The province shall comprise the chapters of the Society constituted within the provinces of Armagh, Canterbury, Dublin, Wales, York, and the Scottish Episcopal Church.

3 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 3.1 There shall be an annual general meeting of the provincial chapter, to be held usually during the annual conference, and in any case no later than fifteen months after the previous annual general meeting.
- 3.2 A notice of the annual general meeting shall be sent by the provincial secretary to all chapter secretaries no later than six months before the date of the meeting.
- 3.3 Motions, including motions for the amendment of this constitution, for consideration at the annual general meeting, may be proposed by the provincial council or by chapters, having been passed by a simple majority of the provincial council or of members voting at a meeting of the chapter.
- 3.4 Motions and other items for inclusion on the agenda shall be sent by chapter secretaries to the provincial secretary no later than two months before the annual general meeting.
- 3.5 The provincial secretary shall send the agenda for the annual general meeting to chapter rectors and secretaries no later than one month before the meeting.
- 3.6 The annual general meeting shall be responsible for
 - .1 receiving a report from the provincial rector
 - .2 receiving a report from the provincial treasurer, to include a presentation of the financial accounts for approval
 - .3 such other business as has been requested by chapters (see 3.3 and 3.4 of this constitution)
 - .4 electing officers
 - .5 making amendments to the constitution
 - .6 approving the budget and the provincial subscription
 - .7 discussing relations with other organisations
 - .8 making arrangements for the subsequent annual general meeting

4 PROVINCIAL OFFICERS

4.1 The provincial officers shall comprise:

- The rector
- Such vice rectors as the annual general meeting may from time to time determine
- The secretary
- The treasurer
- The membership secretary
- The communications officer
- The vocations officer
- The representative on the executive of Affirming Catholicism.

4.2 All officers and committee members shall hold office for three years and may stand for re-election.

5 VISITOR

5.1 The metropolitan bishops of the area covered by the chapters should be invited to select one of their number to be visitor and, should none of them wish to perform this ministry, to nominate another bishop to act as visitor.

5.2 The Visitor will oversee the province, ensure good order and arbitrate in any dispute.

6 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6.1 The officers shall be elected by the members of the chapters of the Society within the province. It shall be the duty of the provincial secretary to organise the election of officers.

6.2 When any tenure of office is due to end, the provincial secretary shall inform all chapter secretaries accordingly no later than six months before the date of the annual general meeting. Nominations (duly proposed and seconded) for the election shall be sent to the provincial secretary no less than two months before the annual general meeting. The provincial secretary shall circulate the nominations to all chapter secretaries not later than one month before the annual general meeting.

6.3 Elections shall be by secret ballot; a simple majority of members voting shall secure election.

6.4 Members may vote in person or by proxy. Any member who does not attend the annual general meeting may nominate the provincial rector or any other member attending the meeting as their proxy by completing a proxy voting form. The form shall be brought to the annual general meeting by the nominee, or, where the provincial rector is nominated, sent to the provincial secretary.

7 THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

7.1 The officers as in paragraph 4 of this constitution, together with a representative of Affirming Catholicism, shall constitute the provincial council.

7.2 The council shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of the affairs of the Society and any matters not specifically remitted to the annual general meeting under paragraph 3.6 of this constitution.

7.3 The council shall have power to co-opt up to three additional members to undertake specific tasks

7.4 The council shall meet at least four times each year, one of which shall be at the annual conference. At each meeting, the date and venue of the next meeting shall be arranged.

7.5 Additional council meetings may be called at the request of the provincial rector or at the request of four members of the council. The date and venue shall be arranged by whoever requests the meetings. At least four weeks notice shall be given of such meetings.

7.6 Travelling expenses of the council will be borne by provincial funds.

8 PROVINCIAL SUBSCRIPTION

8.1 The provincial subscription for each financial year shall be decided by the annual general meeting as in paragraph 3.6.6 of this constitution

8.2 The financial year of the province shall run from 1st January to 31st December each year.

8.3 The membership of each chapter at any time shall be as held by the membership secretary from information given by chapter secretaries. Membership lists shall be closed one month before the annual general meeting and before any extra-ordinary general meeting

9 THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

9.1 There shall be an annual conference of the provincial chapter, to be organised by a chapter or by a group of chapters together.

9.2 The organising chapter or chapters should budget to avoid any financial loss; but in the event of a loss being incurred, the organising chapter or chapters is expected to bear it, although where necessary the organising chapter may request assistance from provincial funds. In the event of there being a financial surplus, that amount should be given to provincial funds normally to be used for future conferences.