

## 4/91 Regionalisation/Diocesan Development

(A report from a committee of the Standing Committee and adopted by the Standing Committee.)

*This report was received by the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney in October 1992.*

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### Introduction

1. At the Second Ordinary Session of this Synod, held in October 1991, 4 reports were received -
  - (a) Regionalism/Diocesan Development (reports from the Standing Committee and WARC);
  - (b) Establishment of Sydney as a separate Province (a report requested by the Standing Committee); and
  - (c) Proposal to create a Diocese of Western Sydney (a report from PARC).
2. These reports, which are printed in the 1992 Diocesan Year Book at pages 377 to 415, were considered in a joint debate and Synod passed the following resolutions -

"Synod, noting that the WARC Report proposes that further powers be granted to the Regional Councils, and that the Standing Committee's Report outlines other possibilities of further delegations, requests the Standing Committee to bring before the next session of Synod proposals on how the principle of regionalism can be further extended within the one Diocese of Sydney." (4/91)

"Synod requests Standing Committee in its deliberations on regionalism to consider an amendment to the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance so as to provide for alternate clerical and lay delegates to the Presentation Board who -

- (a) come from the regions in the Diocese;
- (b) are elected by the Synod representatives from the relevant regions; and
- (c) sit as alternate members in all matters relating to their respective regions;

and a further amendment requiring that all presentation boards relating to the respective regions meet at a place within the relevant region." (30/91)

### Terms of Reference and Proceedings

3. To assist it in carrying out these requests, the Standing Committee appointed a committee "to prepare material with recommendations that would be the basis of a major discussion, at its March 1992 meeting, on future directions for the Diocese, with a view to making recommendations for the consideration of the Archbishop and the Synod".
4. The Standing Committee requested that the committee consider the following matters among other relevant issues -
  - "(a) The most appropriate number and size of future regions.
  - (b) The possibilities that might be developed for planning ministry strategies and directing financial support thereto within regions or deaneries.
  - (c) The regionalisation of the functions of the Presentation Board. (resolution 28/91)"

5. The following persons were appointed members of the committee (Bishop Goodhew was elected Chairman) -

The Rev S.N. Abrahams	The Rev R.C. Forsyth
The Rev B.A. Ballantine-Jones	Bishop R.H. Goodhew
Bishop P.W. Barnett	Canon P.S. Kemp
Miss J. Blackman	Mr D.R. Lewarne
Mr N.M. Cameron	Bishop J.R. Reid
Mr K. Castle	Mr R. Tong
Mr G.A. Collins	Bishop P.R. Watson
Mr B.R. Davies	Dr A.R.M. Young
The Rev T. K. Dein	

6. The committee was unable to complete its deliberations in time to report to the Standing Committee for its March 1992 meeting. It met on 7 occasions, 2 of which were full days, and reported in July 1992.

#### **The Committee's Objective**

7. The Committee's objective is to provide a diocesan structure within which -
- strong, viable and regenerating congregations can be developed as the main thrust of ministry;
  - those congregations can make their maximum contribution to the work of the Gospel by engaging in ministry strategies at parish, area and regional levels;
  - positive leadership and direction can be given across the diocese;
  - pastoral care and encouragement of clergy, their families and congregations can be exercised.
8. Structures in themselves will not achieve this. After some hard decisions have been made it will require changes of attitude and a deep level of commitment by clergy and laity.

#### **The Roles of Archbishop and Regional Bishops**

9. The Committee is firmly of the view that 3 principles should underlie our whole approach to regionalisation -
- that the Diocese should remain one with the Archbishop as the Chief Minister;
  - that each Regional Bishop should exercise real episcopal powers delegated by ordinance and/or instrument of delegation by the Archbishop, so as to function as the Bishop of clergy and people in his region as constrained by the first principle; and
  - that the Archbishop and Regional Bishops should function in a collegiate fashion.
10. If the Archbishop is to function as the chief instrument of unity, and be an effective force for the maintenance of one Diocese, he must be placed in the best possible position to do that.
11. The unity we seek will not be obtained simply by legal prescription. It will be the role of future Archbishops to win the heart and mind of the Diocese for a common vision, common action and common directions that will keep the Diocese as one unit. Ordinances may be necessary to make the situation clear, but unity and common purpose is a matter of the spirit rather than what can be written in the ordinances.
12. The Archbishop should be allowed as much freedom and power in the selection and deployment of his Regional Bishops as possible. He should administer the Diocese through them and delegate to them maximum powers and functions for the exercise of their roles.
13. The Archbishop will need to see the diocesan vision implemented through appropriate strategies that are developed in his leadership team and in bodies such as the Standing Committee. His Regional Bishops should be the ones through whom those strategies are implemented in the various regions, and they should chair any committees responsible for broad strategy and the corresponding distribution of financial resources.
14. The Archbishop should be encouraged to enable his Regional Bishops to be effective leaders in at least the following ways -
- by involving them in the process of presentation and exchange;
  - by committing to them the oversight of clergy;
  - by encouraging them to work with individual parishes and groups of parishes to develop and implement strategies that will enhance the growth of the Gospel; and

- (d) by working with them, as an episcopal team, to create a sense of unity and dynamic ministry development across the whole Diocese.

### **The Number and Size of Regions**

15. This can only be considered in relation to the whole regionalisation proposal, including the proposed roles of Regional Bishops and functions of bodies such as the Regional Councils. The appropriate number and size of regions could not be determined, therefore, until the overall proposal had been developed.

16. Strong views were put forward that the number of regions should be greater but it is felt that there are compelling reasons for having 6 regions as soon as it is financially feasible.

17. The number and boundaries of regions should be reviewed after say 5 years in the light of experience and developments in the greater Sydney area.

18. Appendix "A" shows feasible boundaries and population statistics, but if Synod decides to have 6 regions, boundary locations must be examined in greater detail.

### **Areas**

19. There was a view that provision should be made for regions to be divided into areas each to be controlled by an Area Committee. Such a structure would replace the Area Deaneries.

20. It was decided to give flexibility to the Regional Councils on this issue so that Area Committees could be established or not. If Area Committees are established the Regional Council could determine how they should be constituted and operated.

### **Summary of Proposals**

21. An Assistant Bishop should be appointed to each region as the Regional Bishop. Such regions will be termed episcopal regions. The following paragraphs constitute an overall regionalism proposal.

#### *22. Roles of Archbishop and Regional Bishops*

- (a) The Diocese should remain one ministry unit with the Archbishop as Chief Minister.
- (b) The Archbishop and Regional Bishops should function in a collegiate fashion.
- (c) Significant episcopal powers should devolve upon Regional Bishops.
- (d) There should be no change in the method of appointment of Assistant Bishops.

#### *23. Number and size of Regions*

The Diocese should be divided into 6 regions, but this should be reviewed together with regional boundaries after, say, 5 years. The establishment of regions and the determination of boundaries should be by the Archbishop-in-Council. Following the initial establishment any alteration of regions and their boundaries should be after consultation with the regional councils involved.

#### *24. Regionalisation of Functions of the Presentation Board*

- (a) The initial conference (clause 21 of the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988) should usually be held with the Regional Bishop rather than with the Archbishop.
- (b) The Presentation Board should meet within regions if so determined by the parish representatives.
- (c) The presentation of a name from the Presentation Board, in the first instance, should be made to the Regional Bishop who would forward the name to the Archbishop with his comments.
- (d) Appointments to parochial units which do not have the right of presentation should be at the instance of the Regional Bishop to the Archbishop, with the Archbishop having the same right of rejection of a name as he does with respect to those parochial units with the rights of presentation.

#### *25. Regional Administration*

- (a) Episcopal regions should have the same constitutional structure, and follow the PARC and WARC model where appropriate.
- (b) Within each episcopal region there should be one formally constituted decision-making body.
- (c) The regional body should be a council, chaired by the Regional Bishop and its members elected by regional Synod representatives.
- (d) All Regional Councils should have the same constitution.
- (e) Substantial powers, at least those presently given to PARC and WARC, should be granted to all Regional Councils.
- (f) Significant fiscal powers should be devolved to the regions.
- (g) Each Regional Council should have the power to delegate its powers within the region.
- (h) Where feasible, funding for ministry within the regions should be distributed through Regional Councils.

- (i) A Large Receipts Committee should be constituted for each relevant ordinance and comprise representatives of Standing Committee and the relevant Regional Council.
- (j) Each Regional Council may declare a church in its region to be the Regional Cathedral, subject to the approval of the Archbishop and the Parish Council concerned. The present Pro-Cathedrals shall be designated as Regional Cathedrals.

26. *Fiscal Matters*

- (a) Grants under the Income and Expenditure Ordinance should be made to each Regional Council.
- (b) Regional Councils should have total responsibility for the allocation of grants.
- (c) Funds currently controlled by HMS Parish Support and Development Division, the Inner City Committee and MADCOM should be distributed by the Regional Councils.

27. *Archdeacons*

- (a) Provision should be made for the Archbishop to appoint a minister to be an Archdeacon in a Region only on the proposal of the Regional Bishop of that Region.
- (b) The Archbishop should have the power to revoke any appointment of an Archdeacon at any time.
- (c) The office of Archdeacon -should only be a full-time appointment if special circumstances apply.

28. *Areas*

- (a) Provision should be made for regions to be divided into areas, each under an Area Committee.
- (b) The Ordinance contains a Schedule which provides a format for the constitution, functions and procedures of Area Committees which the Regional Council may adopt.

29. *Standing Committee*

Provision should be made for regional representation on Standing Committee if the above proposals are adopted. This would require a review of the constitution of Standing Committee.

**Draft Regions Ordinance 1993**

30. A draft Regions Ordinance, incorporating the changes necessary to give effect to the proposals in this report, is attached as Appendix B and should be read as part of the report.

31. Although the substance of this draft ordinance forms part of the proposals in this report, it is not presented for adoption as an ordinance at this stage. If Synod endorses the proposals now put forward an ordinance along these lines will be presented to the Synod in 1993.

For and on behalf of the Regionalisation/Diocesan Development Committee

R.H. GOODHEW (Bishop)  
*Chairman*

20 July 1992

**Appendix A: Map**

Map not reproduced here.

**Appendix A: Population Statistics****North Sydney**

Sub Regions	No of Parishes	Population 1986	Population Change	Anglican Population
North Sydney	5	41,241	625	9,870
Mosman	4	35,439	155	10,917
Willoughby	6	39,665	194	9,706
Lane Cove	3	32,644	74	8,546
Manly	5	62,311	(2,071)	19,470
Forest	4	54,834	(464)	17,606
Warringah	5	87,895	2,326	28,637
Lower North Shore	7	43,186	146	13,401
Region Total	39	397,215	985	118,153

**Ryde/Hornsby**

Sub Regions	No of Parishes	Population 1986	Population Change	Anglican Population
Ryde	8	100,368	(342)	23,842
Dundas	2	25,743	(1,351)	7,554
Hornsby	7	56,923	1,387	17,230
Epping	4	40,548	(381)	11,418
Carlingford	4	62,518	8,290	17,980
Hills	5	68,777	7,401	21,339
Upper North Shore	6	64,696	(1,090)	21,674
Hawkesbury	5	48,253	7,237	16,010
Region Total	41	467,826	21,151	137,047

**Bankstown/Strathfield**

Sub Region	No of Parishes	Population 1986	Population Change	Anglican Population
Liverpool	4	83,478	(691)	23,474
Bankstown	7	119,642	(954)	32,407
Canterbury	5	103,695	1,693	17,107
Hurstville	9	79,380	(2,833)	21,132
Kogarah	9	73,577	(290)	20,097
Rockdale	4	59,592	311	10,765
Burwood	8	83,165	(31)	12,433
Strathfield	6	54,780	(319)	9,959
Region Total	52	657,306	(3,114)	147,347

**Sydney**

Sub Region	No of Parishes	Population 1986	Population Change	Anglican Population
Marrickville	7	93,432	(1,766)	12,101
Drummoyne	4	34,902	(606)	6,649
Leichhardt	6	55,838	(969)	10,542
Sydney	8	48,875	4,962	7,938
Woollahra	8	71,715	(5)	15,576
Randwick	8	127,427	(3,266)	22,894
Botany	5	83,805	(412)	16,987
Region Total	46	515,994	(2,062)	92,687

**Western Sydney**

Sub Region	No of Parishes	Population 1986	Population Change	Anglican Population
W Parramatta	4	64,456	(774)	17,373
Parramatta	9	134,404	135	32,061
Blacktown	8	177,992	9,997	49,047
Penrith	6	129,397	26,444	42,247
Blue Mountains	9	80,645	8,077	22,985
Fairfield	5	135,838	21,787	21,327
Auburn	5	51,122	549	9,098
Total	46	783,854	66,215	194,138

**Illawarra/Macarthur**

Sub Region	No of Parishes	Population 1986	Population Change	Anglican Population
Sutherland	9	173,147	9,032	57,248
Campbelltown	7	131,957	30,006	42,468
Camden	3	20,511	1,909	7,314
Wollongong	11	147,933	(1,237)	40,562
Shellharbour	4	62,949	1,023	16,053
Kiama	3	13,443	1,507	4,628
Shoalhaven	5	55,469	9,243	20,318
Sthn Highlands	6	40,411	5,225	14,208
Region Total	48	645,820	56,708	202,799
Total	272	3,468,015	139,883	892,198

**Appendix B: Regions Ordinance 1993**

No ..... 1993

An Ordinance to provide for order and good government of the Diocese.

Now the Synod of the Diocese ordains as follows:

1. *Citation*

This Ordinance may be cited as the "Regions Ordinance 1993".

2. *Definitions and Interpretation*

2.1 In this Ordinance -

"Area", at any time, means an area constituted under clause 13.

"Area Committee" means the Committee of an Area, being a committee constituted by this Ordinance.

"Assistant Bishop" means a person who holds the office of an assistant bishop in the Diocese.

"Council" means the Council of a Region being a Council constituted by this Ordinance.

"Region" means a part of the Diocese designated by the Synod as being a Region of the Diocese for the purpose of this Ordinance.

2.2 A reference in this or any other ordinance to a Regional Bishop is a reference to -

- (a) the Assistant Bishop who has the episcopal oversight of the Region; and
- (b) where the Archbishop has the episcopal oversight of a Region, the Archbishop.

2.3 Words and expressions used in this Ordinance have the same meanings as in the schedule to the Interpretation Ordinance 1985 and in clause 2 of the Church Administration Ordinance 1990.

3. *General Principles*

3.1 The Archbishop is the principal minister of the Diocese.

3.2 The Archbishop and the Assistant Bishops, as regards matters within the Diocese, are to function as a college.

3.3 Subject to this clause, a Regional Bishop is responsible for the episcopal oversight of the Region.

4. *Regional Bishop - General Responsibilities*

The Regional Bishop has a responsibility for -

- (a) instructing and teaching in his Region;
- (b) correcting false doctrine in his Region;
- (c) living a life that is an example to others;
- (d) assisting the poor and needy in his Region;
- (e) confirming persons within his Region;
- (f) pastoral care of clergy, their families and congregations in his Region;
- (g) developing ministry strategies within his region in consultation with the Regional Council; and
- (h) such other functions of the Archbishop in the Region which the Archbishop may delegate to him in writing.

5. *Appointment of Ministers*

5.1 The Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1968 is amended as follows -

- (a) substitute "Regional Bishop of that parish" for "Archbishop" in clauses 20(3), 21(1) and 21(2);
- (b) delete clause 21(4);
- (c) substitute "Regional Bishop of that parish" for "Archbishop" in clause 32(1);
- (d) insert the following after clause 32(1) -

"(2) The Regional Bishop (if not the Archbishop) must provide the Archbishop with the name or names and his comments thereon within 7 days of being notified of the name or names."

and

- (e) re-number clause 32(2) as clause 32(3).

5.2 Where the procedures in the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988 do not apply in relation to a parish of a Region -

- (a) the Regional Bishop may present the name of a clergyman [insert qualification] to the Archbishop;
- (b) the Archbishop shall (unless he is satisfied that there is good and sufficient reason for refusing to accept the presentation) offer, in writing, to appoint the clergyman presented to him;
- (c) if no name is presented under paragraph (a) within 3 months of the relevant vacancy, the Archbishop may make an appointment;
- (d) if an offer is made under paragraph (b) and the offer is not accepted or rejected within 1 calendar month of the date on which it is made, for the purposes of this clause, the relevant vacancy is deemed to have occurred for the first time on the last day of that calendar month; and
- (e) the provisions of this clause 5.2 do not apply where the Archbishop is the Regional Bishop.

6. *Facilities etc.*

The Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance 1990 is amended as follows -

- (a) in clause 9 insert -  
"Regional Bishop in which the church is situated (if not the Archbishop)"  
after "Archbishop";
- (b) in clause 10(1) insert -  
"or for the approval of the Regional Bishop in which the parish is situated (if not the Archbishop)"  
after "Archbishop"
- (c) in clauses 10(3) and 11, substitute -  
"Regional Bishop" for "Archbishop".

7. *Archdeacons*

7.1 The Archbishop may appoint, on the proposal of the Regional Bishop, a minister to be an Archdeacon in the Region.

7.2 The Archbishop may revoke any appointment made under clause 7.1 at any time.

8. *Formation of Regions*

8.1 Initial establishment of regions and determination of their boundaries shall be by decision of the Archbishop-in-Council. Thereafter, regions shall be created or abolished, and regional boundaries determined or altered, by decision of the Archbishop-in-Council after consultation with the Regional Councils of the regions involved.

8.2 Each Region shall have a Regional Council.

9. *Regional Councils - Constitution*

9.1 The Council of a Region consists of -

- (a) the Regional Bishop,
- (b) the Archdeacons in the Region,
- (c) 5 qualified ministers, and
- (d) 6 qualified laypersons together with one additional qualified layperson for each Archdeacon in the Region.

9.2 A person is a qualified minister if, at the time of the appointment or election of that person, that person -

- (a) is in priests or deacons orders,
- (b) is licensed to officiate in the Region or any part thereof, and
- (c) has not attained 72 years of age.

9.3 A person is a qualified layperson if, at the time of the appointment or election of that person, that person -

- (a) is a parishioner of a church situated in the Region, and
- (b) has not attained 72 years of age.

9.4 The members of the Council of a Region are to be elected -

- (a) at the first ordinary session of each Synod, and
- (b) by the persons who:
  - (i) are the representatives of a parish in the Region, or
  - (ii) are summoned or elected under the 14th of the Constitution and are resident in the Region.



An election under this clause is not invalid merely because a person entitled to vote was not given the opportunity of voting by reason of any accidental omission or any inadvertence.

9.5 A person who is a member of the Council or a Region (apart from the Regional Bishop) ceases to be a member -

- (a) upon that person reaching 72 years of age;
- (b) if that person resigns;
- (c) in the case of a minister, if that person ceases to hold a licence to officiate in the Region or any part thereof;
- (d) in the case of layperson, if that person ceases to be a parishioner of a church situated in the Region;
- (e) if that person is made bankrupt;
- (f) upon that person becoming mentally ill or otherwise incapable of acting;
- (g) if the person is absent from 3 successive meetings of the Council without permission of the Council; and
- (h) upon the first day of the first ordinary session of each Synod.

A person who ceases to be a member by paragraphs 9.5(g) or 9.5(h) is eligible for re-election.

9.6 Casual vacancies which occur by the operation of clause 9.5 may be filled by the remaining members of the Council of the Region. Persons so appointed hold office until the first day of the next ordinary session of the Synod. The Council of a Region may carry on its business notwithstanding a vacancy in its membership.

## 10. *Regional Councils - Powers*

10.1 The Council of a Region has the following powers -

- (a) to exercise the functions conferred on it by any ordinance including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Delegation of Powers and Ordinance Procedure Ordinance 1973 and the Parishes Ordinance 1979;
- (b) in respect of any parish in the Region, to be a Council of advice to the Regional Bishop on -
  - (i) any request for permission to have a combined annual vestry meeting under clause 16 of the Church Administration Ordinance 1990,
  - (ii) any request for a modification of a parish Council under clause 30 of the Church Administration Ordinance 1990,
  - (iii) any question or dispute under part 9 of the Church Administration Ordinance 1990, and
  - (iv) any other matter on which he may seek its advice;
- (c) to carry out or assist in carrying out any resolutions passed by the Synod or the Standing Committee and referred to it for implementation;
- (d) to develop ministry strategies in the Region;
- (e) to assess applications for grants in the Region made or referred to it;
- (f) to make grants or loans from moneys (consistent with any trusts on which those moneys may be held) available to it for distribution or for lending;
- (g) to accept gifts, grants and loans;
- (h) to act as a committee to review the proposed application of receipts of substantial sums arising from the sale, leasing or other realisation of land situated in the Region and held for the benefit of a parish in the Region before any ordinance to authorise such sale, leasing or other realisation is made;
  - (i) to solicit gifts;
  - (j) to employ persons;
  - (k) to manage and control any endowment held for the Region as a whole;
  - (l) to discuss matters affecting the Region, to make enquiries into aspects of ministry in the Region and to disseminate information in the Region;
- (m) to delegate, at any time and from time to time, functions conferred on it and to revoke any such delegations; and
- (n) to exercise such other functions as the Synod or the Standing Committee may from time to time prescribe in relation to it.

10.2 All powers of the Council of a Region must be exercised subject to such policies and principles as are determined from time to time by the Synod or the Standing Committee.

11. *Regional Councils - Procedures*

11.1 Subject to this Ordinance, a Council may conduct its affairs as it considers fit.

11.2 The Regional Bishop is the chairman of meetings of the Council of the Region but, in his absence, the members present must elect a chairman for the meeting from among their numbers.

11.3 The chairman of a meeting of a Council has a deliberative but not a casting vote.

11.4 A Council must meet at least 4 times in each calendar year.

11.5 Each Council must present to the Standing Committee an annual report of its proceedings since its last such report in sufficient time each year to enable the Standing Committee to include the report in the report for that year of the Standing Committee to the Synod.

11.6 Each Council is an organisation for the purposes of the Accounts Ordinance 1975.

12. *Use of Church Buildings for Regional Purposes*

The Regional Bishop may have occasional use of any church in his Region for any of the purposes listed in clause 8(1) of the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance 1990.

13. *Areas*

13.1 The Council of a Region may divide the Region or part of the Region into 2 or more areas. Each area would normally be comprised of 8 or more parishes and have an Area Committee.

13.2 A Council may amend or revoke, from time to time, any decision made under this clause.

13.3 On a Council, acting pursuant to clause 13.2, all members of each committee of the area or areas affected cease to hold office.

13.4 The Council, acting pursuant to clause 13.1, may adopt the constitution, functions and procedures in the Schedule or may otherwise determine the constitution, functions and procedures of an Area Committee.

14. *Standing Committee*

14.1 Clause 14.2 takes effect on the last day of the first session of the next Synod constituted after assent is given to this Ordinance.

14.2 The following is substituted for clause 1(2) of the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897 -

"The Standing Committee consists of -

- (a) the Archbishop,
- (b) the Chancellor,
- (c) the Regional Bishops,
- (d) one lay member of the Synod elected by the Council of each Region,
- (e) one clerical member of the Synod elected by the Council of each Region,
- (f) 8 clerical members of the Synod, and
- (g) 15 lay members of the Synod.

Four of the clerical members elected under 14.2(f) must be ministers (within the meaning given to that word in clause 2(1) of the Church Administration Ordinance 1990) and, in any election, the 4 ministers who receive the greatest number of votes cast in their favour are those elected. The Standing Committee may carry on its business notwithstanding a vacancy in its number."

15. *Miscellaneous*

The following ordinances are repealed -

Area Deanery Conference Ordinance 1965.

Parramatta Anglican Regional Council Ordinance 1975.

Wollongong Anglican Regional Council Ordinance 1972.

**Schedule**

1. *Area Committees*

1.1 The committee of an area consists of -

- (a) the Area Dean,
- (b) the Area Secretary,

- (c) a representative of each parish, and
- (d) 3 ministers.

1.2 The representative of each parish must be a layperson selected by the parish Council (if there is one) of the parish, but if there is no parish Council of the parish then by the churchwardens of the principal church in the parish. The appointment of a person as a representative may be revoked at any time by the body which made the appointment.

1.3 The 3 ministers who are members of the committee, the Area Dean, and the Area Secretary are persons, being qualified ministers, chosen by all persons who are qualified ministers of the area.

1.4 A person is a qualified minister if that person is the minister of a parish in the area.

1.5 A person who is a member of an area committee ceases to be a member -

- (a) upon that person reaching 72 years of age,
- (b) if that person resigns,
- (c) in the case of a minister, if that person ceases to be a qualified minister,
- (d) in the case of a layperson, if that person ceases to be a parishioner of a church situated in the Region or the appointment is revoked under clause 16.2,
- (e) if that person is made bankrupt,
- (f) upon that person becoming mentally ill or otherwise incapable of acting,
- (g) if the member is absent for 3 successive meetings of the area committee without the permission of the area committee,
- (h) the area is amended or revoked under clause 15.2, and
- (i) upon the first day of the first ordinary session of each Synod.

A person who ceases to be a member by Paragraphs 1.5(g), (h) or (i) is eligible for re-election.

1.6 Casual vacancies which occur by the operation of clause 1.5 of the Schedule may be filled under clauses 1.2 of the Schedule and 1.3 of the Schedule. Persons so appointed hold office until the first day of the first ordinary session of the next Synod. An area committee may carry on its business notwithstanding a vacancy in its membership.

## 2. *Area Committees - Functions*

An area committee has the following powers -

- (a) to arrange meetings and conferences of persons (or some of them) who are resident in the area or parishioners of churches in the area;
- (b) to develop ministry strategies in the area;
- (c) to apply to the Council of the Region for grants;
- (d) to accept gifts, grants or loans;
- (e) to solicit gifts;
- (f) to employ persons;
- (g) to review the effectiveness of work funded or supported by grants made by the Council of the Region;
- (h) to review and advise the Council of the Region on the amalgamation and creation of parishes; and
- (i) to carry out or assist in carrying out any resolutions passed by the Synod or the Standing Committee or the Council of the Region and referred to it for implementation.

## 3. *Area Committees - Procedures*

3.1 Subject to this Ordinance, an area committee may conduct its affairs as it considers fit.

3.2 The area dean is the chairman of meetings of the area committee but, in his absence the members present must elect a chairman for the meeting from among their numbers.

3.3 The chairman of a meeting of an area committee has a deliberative but not a casting vote.

3.4 An area committee must meet at least 4 times in each calendar year.

3.5 Each area committee, if required by the Regional Council, shall present to the Council of the Region an annual report of its proceedings since its last such report in sufficient time each year to enable the Council of the Region to take account of the contents of the report in preparing the report of the Council for that year for the Standing Committee.