

**STRATEGIC ISSUES, COMMISSIONS, TASK FORCES AND NETWORKS
CANON 1998**

**Canon 19, 1998 as amended by
Canon 12, 2001
Canon 4, 2004
Canon 6, 2004
Canon 3, 2007
Canon 21, 2017
Canon 6, 2022**

A canon to enable the consideration of strategic issues and for the appointment of Task Forces, expert Reference Commissions and General Synod Networks.¹

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

Part I - Preliminary

1. The Canon is divided into the following parts as follows:

Part I	Preliminary
Part II	Strategic Issues ²
Part III	Task Forces
Part IV	Reference Commissions
Part V	General Synod Networks
Part VI	General
Part VII	Repeal and Transitional
Part VIII	Title

Part II - Strategic Issues³

2.⁴ The Standing Committee and all the Commissions and Task Forces created under this Canon, in undertaking their functions, will focus their efforts primarily on outreach, the promotion of the Gospel and ensuring the engagement of the Anglican Church with the culture in which we live.

3.⁵ The Standing Committee shall consider issues of strategic importance to this Church and shall, at the first meeting of Standing Committee following each session

¹ Title amended by Canon 12, 2001.

² Amended by Canon 12, 2001.

³ Amended by Canon 12, 2001.

⁴ Amended by Canon 12, 2001.

⁵ Replaced by Canon 12, 2001.

of General Synod, ensure that steps are taken to identify the specific strategic issues to be addressed in the period prior to the next session.

- 4.⁶ The General Secretary, the Primate, a member of the Standing Committee, the Bishops' Conference, a Diocese, an organisation determined by the Standing Committee to be a national Anglican organisation and a General Synod Network may at any time propose to the Standing Committee strategic issues for consideration.
- 5.⁷ The Standing Committee may seek voluntary or remunerated expert advice on strategic issues.

Part III - Task Forces

6. The Standing Committee may establish a Task Force to deal with any issue, project or task or to achieve a specific purpose in any area of the mission of this church to be determined by the Standing Committee with such terms of reference and within such time as the Standing Committee determines.
7. The chairperson and other members of each Task Force will be appointed by the Primate on the advice of the Standing Committee for such period and on such basis as the Standing Committee shall determine.

Part IV - Reference Commissions

8.⁸ ⁹ The following expert Reference Commissions are established:

- (a) The Doctrine Commission;
- (b) The Mission and Ministry Commission;
- (c) The Liturgy Commission;
- (d) The Church Law Commission;
- (e) The Safe Ministry Commission;
- (f) The Public Affairs Commission;
- (g) The Ecumenical Relations Commission;
- (h)¹⁰ The Families and Culture Commission.

⁶ Replaced by Canon 12, 2001.

⁷ Replaced by Canon 12, 2001.

⁸ S. 8(e) added by Canon 6, 2004.

⁹ S. 8(e) amended by and S. 8(f) and (g) added by Canon 21, 2017.

¹⁰ Added by Canon 6, 2022.

Additional Commissions

8A.¹¹ The Standing Committee of General Synod may establish additional expert Reference Commissions and define the functions and term of such Commissions provided that the continuation of any such Commission be ratified by the next meeting of General Synod.

9. The functions of the Doctrine Commission are:

- (a) to examine questions of doctrine, referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and the Standing Committee, and
- (b) to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters of doctrine which are of importance to this church.

10.¹² The functions of the Mission and Ministry Commission are:

- (a) to examine questions of mission in this church on all matters dealing with the competency of ordained and authorised lay ministry, referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and to the Standing Committee, and
- (b) to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters of mission and ministry which are of importance to this church.

11. The functions of the Liturgy Commission are:

- (a) To examine questions of liturgy referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and the Standing Committee.
- (b) To advise the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, on matters relating to the creative nurture and renewal of the liturgical life of this church.

12. The functions of the Church Law Commission are:

- (a) to examine questions of Church law referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and the Standing Committee.
- (b) to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters of church law which are of importance to this church.

¹¹ Subsection 8A added by Canon 12, 2001.

¹² Replaced by Canon 12, 2001; amended by Canon 21, 2017.

12A.¹³¹⁴ The functions of the Safe Ministry Commission are:

- (a) to examine questions of professional standards, safe ministry practices and training, the protection of children and adults from abuse, and care and support for ordained and authorised lay ministry, referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and the Standing Committee;
- (b) to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters relating to professional standards, safe ministry practices and training, the protection of children and adults from abuse, and care and support for ordained and authorised lay ministry.

12B.¹⁵ The functions of the Public Affairs Commission are:

- (a) to develop a process to assist people engage with public affairs;
- (b) to respond within its capacity to aspects of public affairs referred by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod or initiated by the Commission;
- (c) to work collaboratively with any diocesan body engaged in public affairs or any network of diocesan bodies engaged in public affairs.

12C.¹⁶ The functions of the Ecumenical Relations Commission are:

- (a) to advise the Standing Committee on-
 - (i) contact between ecumenical organisations and the Anglican Communion Office in regard to ecumenical matters;
 - (ii) the nurturing of people interested in and with knowledge about ecumenical matters within the life of the Church;
 - (iii) liaison between the representatives of the Church engaged in bilateral dialogue with other groups;
 - (iv) responding to requests from other Churches or ecumenical bodies; and
 - (v) the appointment of representatives of this Church to ecumenical bodies;
- (b) to advise the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod on other ecumenical matters specifically referred to the Commission.

¹³ Added by Canon 6, 2004.

¹⁴ Amended by Canon 21, 2017.

¹⁵ Added by Canon 21, 2017.

¹⁶ Added by Canon 21, 2017.

12D¹⁷ The functions of the Families and Culture Commission are:

- (a) to examine questions that relate to family violence affecting members of the Church, the drivers of violence and the well-being of families and women referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and to the Standing Committee, and
 - (b) to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters relating to family violence affecting members of the Church, violence prevention and the well-being of families and women.
13. An expert Reference Commission may, with the leave of the Standing Committee pursue terms of reference arising from that Commission's own deliberations.
- 14.¹⁸ The Chairperson and other members of each Reference Commission will be appointed by the Primate on the advice of the Standing Committee. A member of a Reference Commission need not be a member of General Synod and save in the case of a Commission established under section 8A, shall serve for a term of up to 5 years and may be reappointed. The Standing Committee shall determine the number of members of an expert Reference Commission.
15. An expert Reference Commission may co-opt additional members according to conditions laid down by the Standing Committee.

Part V - General Synod Networks

16. The Standing Committee may facilitate the formation or recognition of a Network of people engaged in a discrete area of ministry.
17. The functions of a General Synod Network are:
- (a) To share information and ideas among those with common concerns;
 - (b) To facilitate joint action by the members of the Network from within their own shared resources;
 - (c) To communicate with Standing Committee on issues of significance.

¹⁷ Added by Canon 6, 2022.

¹⁸ Amended by Canon 12, 2001; amended by Canon 21, 2017.

Part VI - General

- 18.¹⁹
19. A member of a Reference Commission may resign his or her office in writing signed by him or her and delivered to the General Secretary.
20. A Task Force or Reference Commission may meet at such times and places as it determines, or in the absence of such a determination as the Chairperson determines.
21. Subject to this Canon a Task Force or expert Reference Commission may regulate the manner of its exercising its powers and performing its functions as it thinks fit.
- 22.²⁰ Each Task Force, General Synod Network and expert Reference Commission will report to the Standing Committee at such times and on such basis as the Standing Committee may from time to time require.
- 23.²¹ The Standing Committee shall determine the budget for each Task Force, General Synod Network and Reference Commission.
24. (1) The Standing Committee may appoint not more than three alternate members of a Reference Commission.
- (2) Where the chairperson of a Reference Commission is aware that a substantive member of the Reference Commission will be unable to attend a meeting of the Reference Commission, the chairperson may invite one of the alternate members to attend the meeting in the place of that member.
- (3) The chairperson of an expert Reference Commission may invite all or any of the alternate members to attend a meeting of the Reference Commission otherwise than in place of a member who will be absent if, but only if, the attendance of the member or members will not involve the Commission's expenditure in the year in which the meeting is held exceeding the budgeted estimate for the year.
- (4) An alternate member who attends a meeting of an expert Reference Commission as provided in sub-section (3) is not entitled to vote at the meeting.
25. At the request of the chairperson of a Reference Commission the Primate may approve the calling of a consultant to attend a meeting of that Commission and the payment of the fare of the consultant for travel within Australia.

¹⁹ Repealed by Canon 12, 2001.

²⁰ Amended by Canon 12, 2001.

²¹ Amended by Canon 12, 2001.

26.²² A Task Force or expert Reference Commission established by or pursuant to the provisions of this canon is a Commission within the meaning of Section 35 of the Constitution of this Church.

Part VII - Repeal and Transitional

- 27.²³ (1) The General Synod Commissions Canon 1969-1989 (-1992) ("**repealed Canon**") is repealed.
- (2) A reference in a Canon or Rule to a Commission defined in or provided for or created by or pursuant to the repealed canon is a reference to such Reference Commission or Task Force as the Standing Committee may determine from time to time for the purpose of that reference.

Part VIII - Title

28.²⁴ This Canon may be cited as the "Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998."

²² Amended by Canon 12, 2001.

²³ Sec. 27 (2) repealed, 27 (3) renumbered as 27 (2), and new 27 (3) added by Canon 12, 2001; Sub-section (3) subsequently repealed by Canon 3, 2007.

²⁴ Amended by Canon 12, 2001.