

CANON 29

RELINQUISHMENT AND ABANDONMENT OF THE ORDAINED MINISTRY

[As MS Word Format](#)

A. RELINQUISHMENT

1. Any priest or deacon licensed by the Bishop of Nova Scotia (the Bishop) may declare in writing, according to the form prescribed in Schedule "A", that he or she wishes to relinquish the exercise of the ministry. The form of relinquishment duly signed and witnessed shall be delivered to the Bishop of Nova Scotia.
2. The Bishop, having consulted personally where possible with the priest or deacon, shall communicate in writing to the person so declaring, acceptance of the relinquishment.
3. The Bishop shall give notice of the relinquishment to all diocesan bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada according to the form prescribed in Schedule 'B'.
4. Relinquishment of the exercise of the ministry removes from the priest or deacon the right to exercise that office, including spiritual authority as a minister of Word and Sacraments conferred in ordination. Any license held by that person for which it is an indispensable qualification for that person to have such ministry shall be null and void.
5. On application of the priest or deacon the Bishop or successor in the See may terminate such relinquishment and reinstate the priest or deacon in the exercise of the ministry and thereupon issue a new license to the priest or deacon. Notice thereof shall be communicated to the metropolitans and diocesan bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada.
6. If, following consultation and due enquiry, reinstatement is declined, the priest or deacon may appeal to the Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (The Province). The Metropolitan shall attempt to mediate between the parties, and if, unsuccessful in resolving the matter, shall refer the request to the Provincial Court. If the bishop declining reinstatement is the metropolitan the appeal shall be made to the other diocesan bishop in the Province, senior according to the Rule in the Province.

B. ABANDONMENT

1. Any priest or deacon licensed by the Bishop of Nova Scotia who has not relinquished the exercise of the ordained ministry (the ministry) and has:

(a) abandoned the Anglican Church of Canada either by public renunciation of its doctrine or discipline, or by formal admission into another religious body, or in any other manner; or

(b) abandoned the practice of the ministry of Word and Sacraments for a period of two years, unless prevented from practicing ministry by illness or other reasonable cause (including retirement); or

(c) engaged in secular employment without the written consent of the Bishop to the substantial detriment of that person's ministry; shall be presumed to have abandoned the exercise of ministry. Notice to this effect shall be sent to the priest or deacon according to the form of declaration prescribed in Schedule "C", along with a copy of this Canon.

2. (a) It shall be the right of the priest or deacon to submit to the Bishop within sixty days either:

(i) a statutory declaration that the facts alleged in the notice are untrue, or

(ii) a retraction of the acts and declarations which constitute a renunciation of the doctrine and discipline of the Anglican Church of Canada, or which led to admission into another religious body, or other act of abandonment, or

(iii) an undertaking to cease secular employment.

3. Should the priest or deacon not oppose the notice in writing within sixty days from the date thereof, the Bishop shall then affirm that the priest or deacon has abandoned the exercise of the ministry and shall notify that person in writing of this decision.

4. The Bishop's affirmation of abandonment of the exercise of ministry removes from the priest or deacon the right to exercise the office, including the spiritual authority as a minister of Word and Sacraments conferred in ordination. Any license held for which it is an indispensable qualification to have such a ministry shall be null and void.

5. The Bishop shall give notice of the abandonment of the exercise of the ministry to all metropolitans and diocesan bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada according to the form prescribed in Schedule "D".

6. On application of the priest or deacon the Bishop or successor in the See may restore such priest or deacon to the exercise of the ministry and thereupon issue a new license to the priest or deacon. Notice thereof shall be communicated to all metropolitans and diocesan bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada.

7. A priest or deacon may appeal an affirmation of abandonment of the exercise of the ministry or a refusal of reinstatement to the metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province. The metropolitan shall attempt to mediate between the parties, and, if unsuccessful in resolving the matter, shall refer the request to the Provincial Court of Appeal. If the Bishop affirming the abandonment or refusing the reinstatement is the metropolitan the appeal shall be made to the other diocesan bishop in the Province, senior according to the Rule of the Province.

C. BISHOPS

1. The provisions of Parts A and B of this Canon shall also apply to bishops of the Diocese of Nova Scotia. In such cases the metropolitan of the Province of Canada shall perform the functions assigned by these Sections to the Bishop in the case of clergy. In the case of a provincial metropolitan, the Primate shall perform the functions assigned by these Sections to the Bishop in the case of clergy. In the case of the Primate, the metropolitan senior by election shall perform the functions assigned by these Sections to the Bishop in the case of clergy.

2. The right of appeal defined in Sections A.6. and B.7. of this Canon shall lie in the case of a bishop with the Provincial House of Bishops, and in the case of a metropolitan, to the metropolitans not involved in the case.

CANON 29 - SCHEDULE "A"

Relinquishment of the Exercise of the Ministry

I, , having been admitted to the office of priest/deacon of The Anglican Church of Canada have voluntarily relinquished the exercise of that ministry according to the terms of Canonof the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada.

Witness Signed

Date

CANON 29 - SCHEDULE "B"

Notice of Relinquishment of the Exercise of the Ministry

This is a notification that the Reverend having been admitted to the office of priest/deacon in The Anglican Church of Canada, has voluntarily relinquished the exercise of that ministry

according to the terms of Canon of the General Synod Anglican Church of Canada. The date from which this relinquishment is effective is

Signed

CANON 29 - SCHEDULE "C"

Notice of Presumption of Abandonment

To the Reverend , this is to advise that under the terms of Canon (enclosed) of the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada you are presumed to have abandoned the exercise of the ministry to which you were ordained.

This notice is based on the following facts:

.....
.....

Date Signed

Witness Bishop of

(Chancellor or Registrar)

CANON 29 - SCHEDULE "D"

Notice of Abandonment

This is a notification that the Reverend having been admitted to the office of priest/deacon in The Anglican Church of Canada, has abandoned the exercise of that ministry.

Signed