

THE ACTS OF THE DIOCESE OF NATAL

ACT ONE

Interpretation of Terms

- 1 In the construction and for the purposes of these Acts and in the construction and for the purposes of all Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Synod of the Diocese of Natal within the Province of Southern Africa, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively (unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant thereto), viz:
- (a) "Act" when used in reference to a Synod, shall mean any measure, passed by that Synod, which is intended to have a mandatory effect, and to enjoin upon any person or persons, as of obligation, to perform or abstain from performing any action or actions.
 - (b) "Adoption of the Report" of any Committee appointed by Synod, or of any Board or person required to report to Synod, shall mean an expression of approval of the general tenor of the same, but it does not of itself constitute an Act.
 - (c) "Assistant Cleric" shall mean a duly licensed Cleric assisting an Incumbent.
 - (d) "Bishop" or "the Diocesan Bishop" shall mean the Bishop of the Diocese of Natal.
 - (e) "Bishop Suffragan" or "Suffragan Bishop" shall mean a Bishop, duly elected, consecrated and licensed as provided for in the Constitution and Canons of the ACSA, whose ministries are exercised within the Diocese of Natal at the direction of the Bishop of the Diocese in accordance with the provisions of the Commission approved by the Synod of Bishops in terms of the Canons.
 - (f) "Bylaw" shall mean a regulation, directive, guideline, norm or standard issued by the Bishop in terms of the Canons of the ACSA or the Acts of the Diocese.
 - (g) "Church Censure" is and shall mean any deprivation of Church rights duly carried out under the second or third paragraphs of the Rubric preceding the Office of Holy Communion in the Book of Common Prayer, or under Canons 39 or 41.
 - (h) "Churchwarden" and "Alternate Churchwarden" shall mean a person holding such an office in terms of Canon 29.
 - (i) "Cleric" shall mean a member of the ordained clergy.

- (j) "Confirmed Communicant", in terms of Article XXIV para.10. of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, shall mean a person who shall have received the Holy Communion three times at least during the preceding year at the hands of a Cleric of this Province or of some other Church in communion with the same.
- (k) "Cure" or "Incumbency" shall mean a duly defined sphere of spiritual and pastoral authority, activity and responsibility.
- (l) "Diocese" shall mean the Diocese of Natal as defined in the Canons and Constitution of the ACSA and shall include all offices regions, parishes, institutions and societies falling under the authority of the Bishop of Natal.
- (m) "Diocesan Board of Trustees" or "Diocesan Trustees" means the Board of Trustees established by Act 15.
- (n) "Development District" shall mean an area and unit of the Diocese constituted by the Bishop under Act 4 with a view to it progressing to a self-supporting Pastoral Charge.
- (o) "House of Synod" shall mean any of the three orders, viz. Bishops, Clergy and Lay Representatives, of which the Synod consists.
- (p) "Incumbent" or "Rector" or Priest in Charge shall mean a Cleric holding separate Cure holding the Bishop's licence.
- (q) "Licence" means a written authorisation by the Diocesan Bishop for an ordained or lay person named in that licence to exercise a ministry in a parish, Anglican institution or Anglican organization or for a specific purpose; provided the Diocesan Bishop may in his sole discretion issue a general licence which shall apply to the whole of the Diocese or such part of the Diocese as is specified in the licence. A Church Unity Commission (CUC) Church shall be regarded as Anglican for this purpose.
- (r) "Lay Person" shall mean a person not in Holy Orders.
- (s) "Meeting" of the Synod shall mean the sitting together of the Synod for any period of minutes or hours, uninterruptedly.
- (t) "Parishioner" shall mean a person not being under Church censure who is on the list of Communicants as defined in Article XXIV 10. of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.
- (u) "Parish Treasurer" shall mean a person either elected by Vestry or elected by the Parish Council, to assist the Churchwardens in the execution of their financial responsibilities.
- (v) "Pastoral Charge" shall mean a Parish or other unit of Pastoral Charge, the boundaries of which shall have been defined in terms of Act 4 Section 1.

- (w) "Permission to officiate" means a written authority from the Diocesan Bishop to an ordained person to exercise a liturgical and pastoral ministry in a specific parish, or institution or organisation.
- (x) "Resolution" when used in reference to a Synod, shall mean any expression of the judgement or opinion of the Synod, which is intended to have an appreciative, hortatory or advisory, and not a mandatory effect.
- (y) Self Supporting Cleric is a Bishop, Priest or Deacon referred to in Section 3 of Act 11.
- (z) "Session" of the Synod shall mean a meeting or series of meetings of the Synod held in pursuance of any one summons issued by the Bishop.
- (zi) "Sidesperson" means a person appointed in terms of Canon 29(9).