

## BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

### What is a Warden?

*Elected by Vestry*

*Appointed by Rector/Dean*

Peoples' Warden

Rector's/Dean's Warden

Deputy Peoples' Warden  
Warden

Deputy Rector's/Dean's

Assist. Deputy Peoples' Warden

Assist. Deputy  
Rector's/Dean's Warden

- Wardens serve as a team, advise and support the rector/dean, and carry out the vision of the congregation. They seek to understand the needs of the congregation.
- A warden is a financial officer of the church. Some of their duties are specified by Acts of Legislature.
- They are part of the corporation of the parish which is responsible for how the temporal and financial resources of the parish corporation are to be used.
- It is their duty to carry out directions from Synod and the vestry meeting of the congregation.
- They are usually involved in search committees for new rectors and play a role in many activities of the parish as they arise. They perform ceremonial roles at times (get to carry wands at some services!).

See link to Diocesan Website for Canons related to Wardens in the Diocese of Toronto:

- <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/clergy-resources/constitution-and-canons/?lang=en>
- <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/churchwarden-resources/parish-leaders-manual/?lang=en>

## What is a Synod Representative?

- Diocesan synod meetings: **Toronto Nov 7&8 2025 in person. Pre Synod meeting Oct 4 virtual.**
- Diocesan Synod is a gathering of lay and clerical members who constitute the governing body of the Church. This has been the most common way of involving the laity in the governance of the Church.
- Synod gatherings are a time of worship, inspiration and education, and a forum for affirming the direction of our ministry together.
- This is an opportunity to learn about and participate actively in issues before the wider church, beyond the Parish and local area, and to influence the future direction of the Diocese.
- **A lay synod rep** is elected by their parish to represent the parish at the diocesan general synod meeting. Although synod reps should be aware of the values and opinions of their fellow parishioners, for voting purposes they are to vote their conscience.
- St. James elects 5 primary synod reps and two alternates who attend if one of the 5 reps is unable to do so.
- In the past decisions have been concerned with governance reform, justice issues, partnerships, ecumenical and interfaith relationships, and finances

See link to Diocesan Website for Canons related to Synod Reps in the Diocese of Toronto :

- <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/clergy-resources/constitution-and-canons/?lang=en>
- <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/churchwarden-resources/parish-leaders-manual/?lang=en>

## **What is a member of the Parochial Tribunal?**

- Elected members of the Parochial Tribunal are part of vestry and at St. James Cathedral Share responsibility for insuring that members attending annual and special vestry meetings are eligible to vote.
- If there is a dispute as to whether someone is allowed to vote at vestry, the elected members of the Tribunal along with the rector and church wardens adjudicate the decision.
- Such situations are rare and usually easily resolved.

See link to Diocesan Website for Canons related to the Parish Tribunal in the Diocese of Toronto

- <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/canon14.pdf>

## What is a Cathedral Council Member?

- The generic name for the Cathedral Council and the one used in other parishes is the Advisory Board
- The duties of the Board shall be to perform such duties as may be delegated to it by the vestry, the Incumbent or the Churchwardens, and to act in an advisory capacity to the Incumbent and Churchwardens as follows:
  - To receive from the Churchwardens at least quarterly a written financial statement and a report on all parish matters of importance and to make recommendations thereon.
  - To receive the budget to be submitted at the annual meeting of the vestry as prepared, after consultation with the Incumbent, by the Churchwardens, and to make recommendations thereon.
  - To make recommendations on any other matters affecting responsibilities of the parish.
- Council members seek to be aware of the needs of the congregation,

See link to Diocesan Website for Canons related to Cathedral Council Members in the Diocese of Toronto:.

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