

MEMORANDUM

Date: 11 July 2016
To: Synod Members
From: Jeremy Johnson, Chancellor

THE CATHEDRAL CHAPTER BILL

1. Leave will be sought to bring before Synod the Cathedral Chapter Bill (**Bill**). The Bill is intended to replace the Cathedral Statute as it presently exists (**Existing Statute**).
2. The Bill also repeals the Dean and Chapter Estate Statute and the Dean and Chapter Income Augmentation Statute. These two statutes can be repealed as they no longer serve a purpose. The first of them was a statute that dealt with a specific situation; accordingly it is no longer required. The second is an instruction to the Church Property Trustees (**CPT**) which has been overtaken by the current way in which CPT and the Chapter approach distributions from the Dean and Chapter Estate.
3. The Bill makes a number of changes when compared to the Existing Statute. In particular:
 - a. it more clearly defines the objects of the Chapter with a focus on mission and ministry first as well as matters of administration and places the objects at the start of the Bill;
 - b. it reduces the size of the Chapter from 17 to 11 (with the reduction coming from a reduction in the Diocesan appointments and removing additional staff members from the membership);
 - c. it aligns the terms of office for all of the canons – presently those appointed by the regulars have a shorter term – so there are terms of three years with a maximum term limit of nine years;
 - d. the (legal) powers of the Chapter are clearly defined;
 - e. provisions relating to Honorary Canons are removed;
 - f. there are some minor changes to the appointment process of the Dean and the Canons.
4. There are also transitional provisions that deal with existing Chapter members; of note they will be subject to the same term limits as the Existing Statute.
5. Chapter has reviewed the Bill three times but to date has not approved it. In particular Chapter has not reached a settled view around:
 - a. the objects of the Chapter as they relate to buildings; and
 - b. the provisions relating to Honorary Canons.
6. It is hoped that Chapter will finish its consideration before Synod. An update on the views of Chapter will be provided at that time.