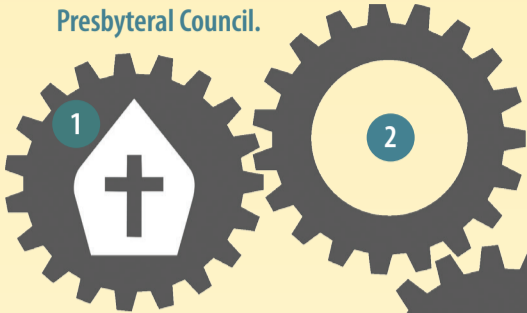


# THE SYNOD PROCESS

## I CONVOCATION AND PREPARATION OF THE SYNOD

- 1 The bishop convenes the synod with the consultation of the Presbyteral Council.**



- 2 Preparatory Commission**

- Members of the preparatory commission are chosen by the bishop.
- The preparatory commission assists the bishop in organizing and preparing for the synod.
- The bishop establishes a synodal secretariat and possibly a press office.

- 3 Publication of the Synodal Directory**

The Synodal Directory includes:

1. composition of the synod;
2. norms by which elections of synodal members are to be conducted;
3. various offices to be exercised by the synod;
4. procedural norms of the synod meetings.

- 4 Preparatory phases of synod**

- **Spiritual, catechetical and formational preparation**
  1. All are invited to pray for the ongoing intention of the synod and its results, that it might become an authentic event of grace for the Church.
  2. All should be informed on the nature and purpose of the synod and the scope of its deliberations.
- **Diocesan Consultation**
  1. The faithful and the clergy of the Diocese are encouraged to express their needs, desires, challenges and opinions regarding the synod topics.
  2. Meetings will take place at each parish, then deanery, to discuss synod topics.
- **Determining the questions**
  1. The bishop determines the questions on which the synodal debate will concentrate.

## II CONDUCTING THE SYNOD



- The actual synod consists of the synodal sessions, typically in the cathedral.
- Members of the synod make the profession of the faith before commencing synodal discussions.
- Themes to be examined are introduced from a brief report; discussion begins.
- Draft texts of synodal documents are prepared.

## III SYNODIAL DECLARATIONS AND DECREES



- The bishop will prepare final drafts of synodal decrees and declarations, sign them and order their publication.
- Decrees and declarations consist of directives for future pastoral programs and/or affirmations of the faith.

## COMPOSITION OF THE SYNOD



**The diocesan bishop presides over the synod.**

**Members of the synod by (Canon) law:**

- vicars general, vicars episcopal, vicars judicial
- members of the council of priests
- deans

**Elected members of the synod:**

- lay members (including members of consecrated life)
- at least one priest from each deanery