



Faculty Policy – Alterations to Churches v1.0			
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Archbishop		
<b>Body endorsing policy:</b>	Diocesan Council	<b>Date of adoption or last review:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
<b>Related Documents:</b>	<i>Parochial Administration Ordinance 1985, s83</i> <i>Cathedral Ordinance 2013, s 29</i> Faculty Procedures	<b>Review schedule:</b>	5 yearly

### 1. Purpose

In the Anglican tradition, certain powers and authority are inherent in the office of a diocesan bishop (the Bishop). One such area concerns the suitability of places where worship is offered.

The Bishop is responsible to ensure that:

- Anglican churches in the diocese, and
  - the fittings furniture and ornaments in Anglican churches
- are suitable for worship in the Anglican tradition.

Therefore, any proposal to undertake changes to a licensed church building, and/or to its contents or immediate surroundings requires a faculty (permission) from the Bishop.

The Bishop has invited the Diocesan Council to endorse this Policy.

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to churches in all parishes for which the Synod holds property upon the trusts of the Model Declaration of Trust 1985 (Model Trust Parishes). Other parishes which are not Model Trust Parishes are encouraged to adopt these principles.

### 3. Definitions

**Churches** are buildings in the Diocese that have been consecrated, dedicated or licensed by the Bishop for worship.

### 4. Principles

- 4.1. Obtaining a faculty involves a consultative process which parishes are required to follow if they intend to make alterations to
  - a church, or
  - church contents, or
  - in the immediate vicinity of a church.
- 4.2. The faculty process is intended to ensure that each church is a worthy place for Anglican worship, and that the will and needs of the people of that place are respected.
- 4.3. The Bishop delegates the responsibility for developing detailed procedures concerning the faculty process to the Registrar.

4.4. The Bishop (or delegate) is responsible for issuing faculties.

4.5. Where alterations have been made to a church without obtaining a Bishop's faculty in accordance with this Policy, the Bishop may direct that the church be re-instated. Any such reinstatement will be at the parish's expense.

## **5. Responsibilities**

### **5.1. Bishop**

The Bishop (or delegate) is responsible for:

5.1.1. issuing faculties; and

5.1.2. approving the faculty procedures developed by the Registrar.

### **5.2. Diocesan Council**

Diocesan Council is responsible for endorsing this Policy.

### **5.3. Registrar**

The Registrar is responsible for developing procedures concerning implementation of this Policy, for approval by the Bishop.

### **5.4. Archdeacons**

Archdeacons are responsible for:

5.4.1. advising parishes whether proposals are within the scope of this Policy; and

5.4.2. guiding parishes through the faculty process and procedures.

### **5.5. Parishes**

The priest and churchwardens in the parish are responsible for ensuring that a faculty is obtained prior to commencing work on a church in accordance with the Faculty Procedures.

## **6. Review schedule**

This Policy will be reviewed every 5 years.

## **7. Related Documents**

7.1. *Parochial Administration Ordinance 1985, s83*

7.2. *Cathedral Ordinance 2013, s29*

7.3. Faculty Procedures