

**STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN OUR PARISH BUILDINGS**  
**(Canon 14, Section 5)**

It is clear that the Canons require the Diocesan Council to approve new construction and/or radical structural changes and/or “major repair or substantial redecoration” to existing buildings.

Synod 1998 carried a motion to add, “*A copy of any building permit obtained by any parish or congregation shall be sent to the Synod office as soon as practicable after its issuance.*”, to Canon 14, Section 5.

We have obviously been very uneven in our scrutiny in the past, therefore in order to facilitate Diocesan Council’s decision making in these building projects, we can still agree on the following pattern as recommended by the Bishop on November 11, 1985

1. Plans for all new construction and any structural alterations (where there is any change to bearing walls, or major change in appearance), will be examined by the Territorial Archdeacon and/or the Archdeaconry Commission, with the Archdeacon to decide. Special attention will be paid to accessibility by handicapped persons, in light of earlier policy recommendations of our Synod.
2. The Archdeacon will report to the Diocesan Council with the recommendations on:
  - i) the structural matters themselves, and
  - i) the plans to finance such construction.
3. The Diocesan Council will then take the appropriate action.

*Revised July 2003*