

# **Canon for Safe Churches**

## **ADOSC Diocesan Council – August 27, 2026**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Since our last meeting, my office has continued to work with our churches to ensure all necessary staff and volunteers are trained using our Praesidium videos. This will be an ongoing project, but for the most part, our churches are making a diligent effort to keep everyone current on training. The recent incident at Pawleys Island Community Church has proved to be a heartbreaking example of the importance of everyone working together to ensure children are safe.

Our Child and Youth Protection Policy Manual was reissued in its entirety earlier this year, and now includes a section of Policies and Practices for Protection of Adults. Everyone who currently has a manual should have removed and replaced all pages of their original manual by now. If there are any issues with printing copies of the revised manual, please contact me and I'll help get this done.

This summer, the new provincial disciplinary canon was approved and it will become effective on January 1, 2027. In the interim, we are reviewing our processes to ensure ADOSC will be in compliance with the new provincial requirements when the time arrives.

Earlier this month, I attended a week-long Provincial Safeguarding Conference in Florida where we spent much time discussing the implementation of the new disciplinary canon. There was also significant discussion about dioceses working together to investigate complaints of misconduct. In that regard, we are ahead of the curve – since we already have a working relationship with at least 2 other dioceses for this purpose.

Right now, I am working on investigations here and in DOMA – and I regularly receive calls and emails from ADOSC (and DOMA) clergy and parishioners about their concerns – for our churches, for our children, and for how we are to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as our province continues to evolve. I look forward to working with all of you!

Blessings,

Laura+

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Canon for Safe Churches

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