

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE SYNOD

### **1. Roll of Members**

2.

- 1.1. The secretary shall keep a roll of the members of the synod constantly up to date.

### **2. Procedures for co-options**

- 2.1. The standing committee constituted under standing order 72 shall have the right to nominate persons for co-option by the house of clergy or the house of laity or otherwise to determine who else may nominate such persons but in other respects the procedure for co-opting members shall be determined by the respective houses.

### **3. Participation by non-members**

- 3.1. Any visitor attending by invitation of the president or standing committee may, with the permission of the chair, address the synod but shall have no right to move any motion or amendment or to vote.
- 3.2. When a special speaker has addressed the synod, as provided by standing order 20.2., the chair may permit questions upon the substance of the address so given, subject to the Rules of Debate.
- 3.3. Subject to standing orders any member of the synod may move a motion upon the substance of the address.

## TERM OF OFFICE

### **4. Co-opted and nominated members**

- 4.1. Unless the house concerned or the president, as the case may be, fixes a shorter period of office, co-opted and nominated members shall retire on the last date for the return of results in the triennial elections.

## THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

### **5. Election of vice-presidents**

- 5.1. Before the first meeting of the synod after the triennial elections and, where a casual vacancy occurs, as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, **each** of the houses of clergy and laity or, where appropriate, the one house concerned, shall hold a special meeting to elect one of its members to be a vice-president of the

synod. A member of the appropriate house appointed by the president shall act as chair for such meeting. Whoever so presides shall have a vote in the election and in the case of an equality of votes the decision shall be taken by lot.

## CHAIR OF MEETING

### **6. Meetings of the Synod**

- 6.1. The president, unless on any occasion s/he nominates one of the vice-presidents or another member to take the chair, shall be chair at meetings of the synod.

### **7. Separate meetings of the houses**

- 7.1. The president and each vice-president shall be chair of the house of which s/he is a member but need not preside over its meetings if and to the extent that standing orders of the house so provide.

### **8. Powers of chair**

- 8.1. Subject to these standing orders, the procedure of the synod and its houses shall be regulated by the respective chair of each.

## OFFICERS

### **9. Secretary**

- 9.1. The synod shall appoint a secretary being either a clergy person or lay person and either salaried or honorary, who shall:-
- 9.1.1. be responsible for the administrative arrangements for meetings of the synod;
  - 9.1.2. be in attendance at such meetings;
  - 9.1.3. prepare the draft agenda papers and minutes of the synod;
  - 9.1.4. act as secretary of the standing committee;
  - 9.1.5. perform such other duties as the synod shall assign to her/him.

### **10. Assistant Secretary**

- 10.1. The standing committee may appoint an assistant secretary.

## **11. Registrar**

- 11.1. The registrar or in the event of his/her absence or incapacity the deputy registrar where appointed shall be the legal adviser to the synod and when required shall attend the meetings of the synod, its houses and the standing committee.

## **12. Terms of appointment**

- 12.1. Subject to any statutory provision and to these standing orders, the terms and conditions of service on which officers are appointed shall be determined by the standing committee.

## **MEETINGS OF THE SYNOD**

## **13. By whom convened**

- 13.1. The synod shall meet upon the summons of the president.

## **14. When and where held**

- 14.1. The president shall summon not less than **two** meetings in each year at such time and places as s/he shall direct after consulting the standing committee.

## **15. Meetings by request**

- 15.1. If either the standing committee by resolution so requests or if the president receives a requisition for that purpose signed by not less than thirty members the president shall summon a meeting of the synod which shall be held within eight weeks following the resolution or request.

## **16. Notice of Ordinary Meetings**

- 16.1. The date, time and place of ordinary meetings of the synod, when fixed, shall be announced to members as soon as possible in such manner as the president shall approve; provided that not less than six weeks before each meeting a notice thereof specifying any business proposed to be transacted thereat and inviting other business, shall be posted or delivered to every member and to both chairmen of every deanery synod in the diocese.

## **17. Notice of special meeting**

- 17.1. In case of sudden emergency or other special circumstances a meeting may be convened at not less than 7 days' notice but the quorum for the transaction of any business at such a meeting shall be a majority of the members of each house and only business specified in the notice may be transacted.

## **18. Form of notice**

- 18.1. Every notice under standing orders 16 and 17 shall be in writing and signed by the secretary.

## **SEPARATE MEETINGS OF THE HOUSES**

## **19. When and where held**

- 19.1. Each house shall meet separately when:
- 19.1.1. it is required so to do under these standing orders;
  - 19.1.2. it has so decided in accordance with its own standing orders;
  - 19.1.3. the chair or standing committee of the house has so directed; or
  - 19.1.4. the synod has so directed;
- 19.2. and subject to any directions by the synod or the house concerned, the date, time and place of any separate meeting shall be fixed by the chair of that meeting.

## **AGENDA**

## **20. Content**

- 20.1. Subject to these standing orders and any resolution of the synod, and without prejudice to the rights of individual members to a reasonable opportunity within the time available of bringing matters before that synod, the standing committee shall settle the agenda for each of its meetings, specifying therein all business of which due notice has been received and which is in order, and shall determine the order in which the business so included shall be considered.
- 20.2. The standing committee shall have the power to invite a special speaker to address the synod on any matter of concern to the Church or to the diocese, and such special speaker need not be a member of the synod.

## **21. Circulation**

- 21.1. The secretary shall post or deliver an agenda paper to every member 21 days before a meeting or, in the case of a special meeting called at less than 21 days' notice, at the same time as the notice.

## **22. Business permitted to be considered**

- 22.1. Save for urgent or other specially important business added thereto by direction of the president, such matters as may arise therefrom, no business shall be considered at a meeting other than that specified in the agenda (or any notice paper relating thereto) or arising from business so specified.

## **23. Order of business**

- 23.1. In considering the order of business the standing committee shall give special consideration to items:-

23.1.1. brought before the synod at the request or direction of the president;

23.1.2. referred to the diocesan synod by the General Synod or by a Deanery Synod in the Diocese;

and may also allot special times at which such items shall, unless previously disposed of, be taken and set time-limits for debates on any motions, where it considers this to be necessary.

## **24. Varying the order of business**

- 24.1. The order of business may be varied by resolution of the synod or, unless any member objects, by the chair.

## **NOTICE OF BUSINESS**

## **25. Form of Notice**

- 25.1. Subject to standing order 17, notice of any business for a meeting of the synod shall be in writing, signed and delivered to the secretary by hand or by post not later than the period before the meeting which is specified in standing order 26.

## **26. Length of notice**

26.1. The following periods of notice shall be required:-

New business for the agenda	35 days
Motions and amendments arising from the agenda	7 days
Questions under standing order 69	7 days

## **27. When not required**

27.1. Notice of the following business shall not be required:-

- 27.1.1. a motion or amendment moved by permission of the chair; provided that the full text of such motion or amendment shall be handed to the secretary before it is moved;
- 27.1.2. business adjourned under standing order 54 or 55 to a specified time or meeting;
- 27.1.3. a procedural motion specified in standing order 50 (subject as provided in that standing order);
- 27.1.4. a supplementary question by a member who has asked a question under standing order 69.

## **GENERAL RULES OF DEBATE**

## **28. Quorum**

- 28.1. Subject to standing order 17, one third of the members of each house shall form a quorum of the synod which shall be necessary for the consideration of all business except the adjournment of the synod under standing order 54 or of a debate under standing order 55.

## **29. If quorum not present**

- 29.1. If a quorum is not present, the chair shall adjourn the synod until such time as he shall determine. Any member may call the attention of the chair to the absence of a quorum at any time before the question is put on a motion or amendment. A quorum shall thereafter be deemed to be present and it shall not be in order to query again the presence of a quorum until after the chair has conclusively announced the result of the vote on that question.

### **30. Order of speeches**

- 30.1. The chair shall call upon members who desire to speak and may require them to give their names to the secretary in writing. S/he shall also determine the order in which they speak.

### **31. Breach of order**

- 31.1. The chair shall call a member to order for failure to address the chair, irrelevance, tedious repetition of arguments previously put forward by the same or any other member, unbecoming language, reading a speech without permission of the chair, disregard of the authority of the chair, or any other breach of order, and may order the member to end any speech which s/he is making.

### **32. Points of order**

- 32.1. A member may submit a point of order under these standing orders at any time and for this purpose may interrupt another speaker. A member rising to a point of order shall state what s/he has to say in the form of a succinct question.

### **33. Personal explanations**

- 33.1. A member may ask permission to interrupt a debate to make a personal explanation but only so as to correct an important misunderstanding of fact during that debate with regard to what s/ he has said, or to explain some matter of strictly personal concern, and for this purpose, may interrupt another speaker. Such permission shall be given only if any person interrupted consents and if in the opinion of the chair the debate is likely to benefit from such an explanation.

### **34. Interruptions otherwise not permitted**

- 34.1. Save as provided in standing orders 32 and 33 the interruption of a speech (by question, point of information or otherwise) shall not be permitted, but where it occurs in breach of this standing order it shall be reckoned as a speech on the question before the synod and shall preclude the interrupter from speaker further on that question. The ruling of the chair on a point of order or the admissibility of a personal explanation shall not be open to question.

### **35. Speaking to a motion**

- 35.1. A member shall not speak unless upon a motion or amendment save as provided in standing orders 3, 32, 33 and 69.

### **36. Speaking more than once**

- 36.1. A member shall not speak more than once upon the same question, except:-
  - 36.1.1. as provided in standing orders 32 and 33;
  - 36.1.2. by permission of the chair and with the consent of the synod;
  - 36.1.3. the mover of a motion (but not an amendment) may reply; such reply shall not introduce any new matter and shall close the debate;
  - 36.1.4. the mover of an amendment to a standing order may speak twice.

### **37. Length of speeches**

- 37.1. Save as provided in these standing orders, no speech shall exceed ten minutes or, in the case of a member introducing a report, fifteen minutes, but the chair may at any time lengthen or shorten either of these periods; provided that he shall inform the synod of his ruling, which shall not be open to debate or question.
- 37.2. A visiting speaker under standing order 3 shall be exempt from this standing order.

### **38. Moving motions or amendments**

- 38.1. Every matter debated in the synod shall have been moved by a member.
- 38.2. A motion or amendment which, when called by the chair, is not moved by the member who has given notice thereof may be moved by some other member in her/his stead.

### **39. Withdrawal**

- 39.1. A motion or amendment, once moved, may be withdrawn by the mover or at her/his request unless more than five members object.

### **40. Reconsideration and Rescission**

- 40.1. No motion or amendment to the same effect as, or dependent on, one which has been rejected within the preceding twelve months and no motion to rescind a resolution passed within the same period shall be proposed without leave by the standing committee.

### **41. Division**



- 41.1. The chair may, with the consent of the mover, divide any motion or amendment in such manner as to enable the synod to express its judgement separately upon each part of the motion or amendment so divided.
- 41.2. Reference-back motions not permitted
- 41.2.1. During the debate on any motion it shall not be in order to move a further motion to refer back that motion or any recommendation to which it relates but if otherwise permissible an amendment to this effect may be moved. Where a motion so amended is carried but specifies no one to whom the matter is to be referred, this question shall be decided by the standing committee. No amendment shall be moved for the reference back of any matter referred by the General Synod to the diocesan synod.

## **42. Special powers of chair**

- 42.1. Unless the synod otherwise provides, the chair shall:-
  - 42.1.1. adjourn the synod at the hours fixed in accordance with these standing orders;
  - 42.1.2. adjourn the debate on any question at the hour fixed for the commencement of other business in accordance with standing order 23;
  - 42.1.3. close the debate on any motion at the hour appointed in accordance with standing order 23, whether or not there are other members who still desire to speak, and thereupon the provisions of standing order 56.1.2. shall apply.

## **AMENDMENTS**

### **43. When permitted**

- 43.1. Except as provided in standing order 44 any member may move an amendment to a motion which has been duly moved and such amendment shall be disposed of before that motion is put or any further amendment is moved.

### **44. When not permitted**

- 44.1. Amendments to the following shall not be permitted:-
  - 44.1.1. a procedural motion under standing order 50;
  - 44.1.2. a motion to receive the report of a committee under standing order 89;
  - 44.1.3. a motion under standing order 96.1. in reply to any question referred by the General Synod.

**45. Amendments to amendments**

- 45.1. No amendment may be moved to an amendment, except by permission of the chair.

**46. Delivery in writing**

- 46.1. Before an amendment is moved, a copy thereof in writing shall be delivered to the secretary.

**47. Form of amendments**

- 47.1. An amendment may be made:-
- 47.1.1. by leaving out words; or
  - 47.1.2. by leaving out words in order to insert other words; or
  - 47.1.3. by inserting or adding words.

**48. Content**

- 48.1. An amendment shall be relevant to and shall not have the effect of negating the main motion or amendment.

**49. Order of consideration**

- 49.1. Amendments shall be moved and put to the vote in the order in which they first affect the main motion or amendment to which they relate, and if more than one amendment has been received affecting the same place in that motion or amendment, they shall be moved and put to the vote in the order determined by the chair. By his permission, during the debate on an amendment, other amendments may be discussed but not moved.

## PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

### **50. Content**

- 50.1. Subject to these standing orders, the following procedural motions may, with the consent of the chair, be moved with or without notice but not so as to interrupt the speech of any member:-
  - 50.1.1. "That the synod do pass to next business" ("next business");
  - 50.1.2. "That the synod do now adjourn" ("adjournment of the synod");
  - 50.1.3. "That the debate be now adjourned" ("adjournment of debate");
  - 50.1.4. "That the debate be now closed" ("closure");
  - 50.1.5. "That all further speeches on this question be limited to ..... minutes" ("speech limit");
  - 50.1.6. A motion to vary the order of business;
  - 50.1.7. A motion to suspend a standing order.

### **51. Deleted**

### **52. When not permitted**

- 52.1. A motion shall not be moved:-
  - 52.1.1. for next business, the closure or a speech limited on any question referred by the General Synod to the diocesan synod;
  - 52.1.2. for next business on an amendment or another procedural motion.

### **53. Next business**

- 53.1. The following rules of debate shall apply:-
  - 53.1.1. The motion may be moved either in the form "That the synod do forthwith pass to the next business" or in the form "That the synod do pass to the next business before the question is put".
  - 53.1.2. A motion for next business shall take precedence over all amendments of which notice has been given.

- 53.1.3. If such motion is carried, the original motion shall lapse. It shall not be in order to reconsider the original question in the same or any other form which in the opinion of the Standing Committee is substantially similar within the remainder of the life-time of the synod except by permission of the standing committee.
- 53.1.4. If negatived, such motion shall not be moved again on the original motion unless that motion be substantially amended.
- 53.1.5. During discussion on a motion "That the synod do pass to next business before the question is put" it shall be in order to debate the merits of the original question.

#### **54. Adjournment of the synod**

- 54.1. The following rules of debate shall apply:-
  - 54.1.1. The motion to adjourn may but not need specify a time for the next sitting of the synod or the resumption of the business interrupted.
  - 54.1.2. The mover shall be allowed to speak for not more than three minutes; the mover of the original motion, if any, or, if not, some other member may speak for not more than three minutes in reply; the question shall then be put without further debate.
  - 54.1.3. If the motion to adjourn is carried and the diocesan synod has not by the same resolution appointed a time for its next sitting, such sitting shall be held at the time appointed in accordance with standing order 14.
  - 54.1.4. Subject to any resolution of the synod, the business interrupted shall be resumed at the next meeting.
  - 54.1.5. If negatived, the adjournment of the synod shall not be moved again, except by permission of the chair, until a further hour has elapsed.

#### **55. Adjournment of debate**

- 55.1. Standing Order 54 shall, unless the context otherwise requires, apply also to this motion except that:-
  - 55.1.1. If such motion is carried and the synod has not by the same or a later resolution appointed a time for resuming the interrupted debate, it shall be resumed only by direction of the standing committee.
  - 55.1.2. If the question adjourned is an amendment, the debate on the main motion shall also stand adjourned.

## **56. The closure**

56.1. The following rules of debate shall apply:-

- 56.1.1. If such motion is permitted by the chair, it shall be put forthwith without discussion.
- 56.1.2. If the closure is carried, the member, if any, who has a right of reply on a motion superseded by the closure shall be given an opportunity to speak for not more than five minutes in reply, and the motion or amendment shall be put without further debate.

## **57. Speech Limit**

57.1. The following rules of debate shall apply:-

- 57.1.1. If this motion is permitted by the chair, it shall be put forthwith without discussion.
- 57.1.2. Notwithstanding the time limits imposed by standing order 37, on this motion being carried, no speech shall exceed the number of minutes specified therein, but the chair may, for any special reason of which he shall be the sole judge, allow a longer or shorter time to any member; provided that when so doing the chair shall inform members of her/his ruling and in exercising his discretion shall have particular regard to any member who has a right of reply to the debate.

## **58. Deleted.**

## **59. Suspension of standing orders**

- 59.1. After notice or, by permission of the chair, without notice a member may move that a standing order be suspended during a particular debate or meeting. Such motions shall not be deemed to have been carried unless at least three-fourths of those members present and voting are in favour.

## VOTING

### **60. Assent of three houses**

- 60.1. Subject to the two next following standing orders, nothing shall be deemed to have the assent of the diocesan synod unless the three houses which constitute the synod have assented thereto, but if in the case of a particular question (except a matter referred to the diocesan synod by the General Synod under the provisions of Article 8 of the Constitution of that Synod) the president (if present) so directs, that question shall be deemed to have the assent of the house of bishops only if the majority of the members of that house who assent thereto include the president.

### **61. Procedure for decisions**

- 61.1. Questions relating only to the conduct of business shall be decided by the votes of all members of the diocesan synod present and voting, and every other question shall be decided in like manner, the assent of the three houses being presumed, unless the president (if present) requires, or any ten members require, that a separate vote of each house be taken.

### **62. Matters referred under Article 8**

- 62.1. If the vote of the houses of clergy and laity are in favour of any matter referred to the diocesan synod by the General Synod under the provisions of Article 8 of the Constitution of that Synod, that matter shall be deemed to have been approved for the purposes of the said Article.

### **63. Voting by houses**

- 63.1. A separate vote of each house shall be taken:
- 63.1.1. on any question referred by the General Synod to the diocesan synod;
  - 63.1.2. on any other question (except a question relating only to the conduct of business) where this is required under standing order 61.

### **64. Majority required for decisions**

- 64.1. Subject to any statutory requirements, decisions of the synod when no separate vote is taken by each of the houses shall require the votes of a majority of all the members of the synod present and voting; and decisions of the synod when a separate vote is taken by each of the houses shall, subject to the aforesaid and to standing order 60, require the votes of a majority of all the members of each house present and voting; provided that a motion to suspend a standing order

shall require the votes of at least three-fourths of the members of the synod present and voting.

64.2. Equal voting in house of bishops

64.2.1. Where there is an equal division of votes in the house of bishops, the president shall have a second or casting vote.

64.3. Opinion of president

64.3.1. The president shall have a right to require that her/his opinion on any question shall be recorded in the minutes.

**65. Voting rights of chair**

65.1. The chair (subject to the rights of the president when s/he is chair) shall have the same voting rights as other members and shall have no second or casting vote.

**66. Mode of voting**

66.1. The chair, on putting the question to the vote shall take a show of hands, the result of which, as announced by her/him, shall be conclusive, unless immediately upon such announcement a member rises in her/his place and asks for the hands to be counted. In such event the hands shall forthwith be counted under the direction of the chair. The chair may also at her/his discretion order the hands to be counted, and shall do so on a vote by houses.

**67. Requests for separate voting**

67.1. Where the president requires, or any ten members require, a separate vote of each house, or where the president gives a direction under standing order 60 (that his assent shall be necessary to carry a proposal in the house of bishops), such requirement or direction shall be made or given before the question is put or immediately upon the announcement of the result of a show of hands, whether counted or not.

**68. Procedure for count of hands**

68.1. The counting of hands on a separate vote of each house shall be conducted in accordance with instructions to be issued from time to time by the standing committee, and, subject thereto, the administrative arrangements for each count shall be made by the secretary under the direction of the chair.

**QUESTIONS**

**69.** Subject to due notice under standing orders 25 and 26 a question may be asked for oral or written answer of:-

- 69.1.1. any officer of the diocesan synod referred to in these standing orders;
- 69.1.2. the chair of any body constituted by the synod or on which it is represented;
- 69.2. a member may ask up to three original questions at any one meeting and a member who has asked a question may ask one supplementary question in respect of each such original question;
- 69.3. any member may, in the light of the answer given to a question for oral answer, ask without notice one supplementary question in respect of and arising from each question asked;
- 69.4. the member who asked the question shall have priority in asking the first supplementary question;
- 69.5. a supplementary question shall be strictly relevant to the original question and to the answer given;
- 69.6. with the chair's permission a single reply may be made to more than one question;
- 69.7. if there is no time for any reply to be made orally within the period allotted for oral replies at the meeting, the secretary shall send a copy of the reply to the member who asked the question;
- 69.8. copies of questions (whether for oral or written answer) shall be made available to members before the time replies are due to be given.
- 69.9. A written copy of the reply to all questions shall be delivered to the Secretary before the meeting.

**70. Content**

- 70.1. A question, if addressed to an officer, shall relate to the duties assigned to her/him and, if addressed to the chair of any body, to the business of that body. Questions shall not ask for an expression of opinion or for the solution of either an abstract legal question or a hypothetical problem, and shall be otherwise in order.

**71. Persons authorised to reply**



71.1. If the person of whom the question is asked is a member or officer of the synod s/he shall reply personally and, if not, the reply may be given by one of its members nominated by the president; provided that:-

71.1.1. the president may instruct the secretary to reply on her/his behalf;

71.1.2. a member who is absent may authorise another member to deputise for her/him.

## THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE

### **72. Composition**

72.1. The bishop's council and standing committee (in these standing orders referred to as "the standing committee") shall consist of:-

72.1. ex-officio members

The president

The vice-presidents

All other members of the house of bishops

The dean

The archdeacons

The chair of the diocesan board of finance

72.2. nominated members

The bishop of the diocese may nominate two members, lay or clerical.

72.3. deleted

72.4. Elected members

Three clerical and six lay members from among the members of the diocesan synod.

72.5. In Attendance

The chair of any board who is not a member of the bishop's council shall have the right to ask to be allowed to attend a meeting of the council for the business that affects that board.

### **73. Elections to the standing committee**

73.1. The elected members of the committee shall be elected by the house of which each is a member, immediately after the election of a new synod, and shall retire

on the election of their successors or on ceasing to be qualified. The procedure for their election shall be as provided in standing orders 81-85.

#### **74. Officers**

74.1. The officers of the committee shall be as follows:-

74.1.1. The president of the synod shall be chair.

74.1.2. A member of the committee nominated by the president with the consent of the committee shall be vice-chair.

74.1.3. The secretary of the synod shall be secretary.

#### **75. Functions**

75.1. The functions of the standing committee shall be:-

75.1.1. to plan the business of the synod, to prepare the agenda for its sessions, and to circulate to members information about matters for discussion;

75.1.2. to initiate proposals for action by the synod and to advise it on matters of policy which are placed before it;

75.1.3. to advise the president on any matters which s/he may refer to the committee;

75.1.4. subject to the directions of the synod to transact the business of the synod when it is not in session;

75.1.5. to appoint members of committees or nominate members for election to committees, subject to the directions of the synod;

75.1.6. to carry out such other functions as the synod may delegate to it;

75.1.7. to carry out its functions under standing order 106.1.

#### **OTHER COMMITTEES**

#### **76. Statutory Committees**

76.1. The synod shall establish such committees or other bodies as may be required by law (to be known as "statutory committees") with such membership, functions and procedure as may be provided in the relevant enactment. Subject thereto, these standing orders shall apply to such committees or other bodies.

76.2. Synod has resolved that the Standing Committee shall be the Pastoral Committee of the Diocese as statutorily constituted.

## **77. Committees other than Statutory Committees**

77.1. The synod may at any time constitute such other committees as in the opinion of the synod are necessary or desirable and may delegate to a committee so constituted, with or without conditions, such functions of the synod as it thinks fit.

## **78. Membership of Committees**

78.1. Subject to any directions of the synod and to any statutory provision, the standing committee shall determine the number of the members of a committee and whether they shall be appointed or elected. A committee may include persons who are not members of the synod; provided that a majority of the members of the committee shall be members of the synod.

## **79. Duration of membership**

79.1. The standing committee may, subject to these standing orders and any resolution of the synod, at any time dissolve a committee or alter the number of its members or its composition, and shall determine the term of office of its members.

## **80. Sub-Committees**

80.1. Every committee constituted by the synod may appoint sub-committees for such purposes as it thinks fit.

## **81. Electors**

81.1. Any elected members of a committee may be elected by the whole synod without discrimination as to houses or by the three houses voting separately.

81.2. In the absence of any direction by either the synod or the standing committee, they shall be elected by the whole synod.

## **82. Nominations for election to committees**

- 82.1. Every nomination shall require a proposer and seconder who shall be qualified electors but the standing committee may (except in an election to itself) collectively nominate candidates. Nominations which shall be in writing and accompanied by signed evidence of the candidate's willingness to serve shall be delivered to the secretary within such period (not being less than 14 days) as he shall specify. If the number of nominations is no more than that of the seats to be filled, all the candidates shall be declared elected.

### **83. Voting in elections**

- 83.1. The names of the candidates shall in any other event be circulated to every qualified elector on a voting paper which when marked and signed shall be returnable to the secretary within such period (not being less than 14 days) as s/he shall specify.
- 83.2. Subject to paragraph (c) below, each elector shall have as many votes as there are seats to be filled, but shall not give more than one vote to any one candidate. In the event of an equality of votes the election shall be decided by lot.
- 83.3. Where the synod or standing committee has directed that the election shall be conducted by the method of the single transferable vote, the rules, with the necessary modification, made by the General Synod under Church Representation Rule 33(4) and for the time being in force, shall be used.

### **84. Casual Vacancies**

- 84.1. A casual vacancy in the office of any member other than an ex-officio or co-opted member shall be filled within six months of the occurrence of the vacancy; provided that a vacancy which occurs within six months before the next triennial elections to the synod need not be filled.

### **85. Directions by standing committee**

- 85.1. The conduct of elections to committees shall, subject to these standing orders, be in accordance with any directions by the standing committee.

## **PROCEDURE OF COMMITTEES**

### **86. Chairs**

- 86.1. If the president is a member of the committee other than the Finance Committee or such other committee as shall from time to time comprise the Board of

Directors of the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance, s/he shall be chair thereof if s/he so elects or, s/he may nominate a chair or s/he may invite the committee to elect at its first meeting, subject to any direction by the synod or the standing committee, a chair who shall be a member of the diocesan synod from among its own members. In the absence of the chair or vice-chair a chair for that meeting may be similarly elected.

- 86.2. A vice-chair shall be elected by the committee, from among its own members.

## **87. Quorum**

- 87.1. Not less than one third of the total members of a committee shall form a quorum but a committee may act notwithstanding a vacancy in its membership.

## **88. Voting**

- 88.1. Questions submitted to a meeting of a committee shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting, save that in the case of an equality of votes the chair shall have a second or casting vote.

## **89. Reports**

- 89.1 Every committee shall report at such times and in accordance with each procedure as may be determined by the standing committee; provided that such report shall be presented by a member of the committee which is responsible for the report, on the motion "That this report be received". No amendment to such motion shall be permitted but if carried it shall not be deemed to commit the synod to the acceptance of any matter in the report.

## **90. General**

- 90.1. Subject to these standing orders and to any directions by the synod or the standing committee, a committee shall have power to determine its own procedures.

## **REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES**

91. The procedure for appointing or electing representatives to serve on any committees or other bodies which are not statutory committees or responsible to the synod but on which it is required or permitted to be represented shall be determined in each case by the standing committee.

## **DOCTRINAL MATTERS AND FORMS OF SERVICE**

## **92. Requirement of early circulation**

- 92.1. If notice is given of a motion, whether or not under standing order 96, which raises any question touching doctrinal formulae or the services or ceremonies of the Church of England the standing committee shall include it on the agenda of the earliest convenient meeting of the synod; provided that, save by permission of the chair and the consent of the synod, copies of such motion, together with a report thereon by the standing committee, shall be sent to members at least three months before it is finally voted on by the synod.

## **REFERENCES BY THE GENERAL SYNOD**

## **93. When considered**

- 93.1. When a reference is received from the General Synod, whether under Article 8 of the Constitution of that Synod or otherwise, the standing committee shall include it on the agenda of such meeting of the diocesan synod as the committee may consider appropriate.

## **94. Prior notice and documents required**

- 94.1. Unless the standing committee decide to the contrary for any reason:-
- 94.1.1. members of the diocesan synod shall receive at least three months' notice of the reference; and
- 94.1.2. a report or other document prepared by or on behalf of either the General Synod or the standing committee of the diocesan synod shall be circulated.

## **95. Consultations within the diocese**

- 95.1. The diocesan synod, before voting on a reference, may refer any question arising from it to the deanery synods or parochial church councils or parochial church meetings in the diocese for the expression of their views.

## **96. Procedures of debate**

- 96.1. When the reference by the General Synod is in the form of a question requiring the answer Yes or No, the question shall be put to the diocesan synod as a formal motion in the affirmative sense. No amendment shall be in order and a separate vote of each house shall be taken under standing order 63. If the motion is defeated, the question shall be decided in the negative.

- 96.2. When the reference invites a fuller statement of opinion, a motion containing a draft of such statement shall be moved on behalf of the standing committee and amendments to such a motion shall be in order.
- 96.3. When all motions under the foregoing paragraphs 96.1. and 96.2. have been decided, other motions arising therefrom may, if otherwise in order, be moved by any member.

**97. Report on result**

- 97.1. The decisions on such motions and on any related motions not specifically included in the reference, together with any opinion recorded by the president and the number of votes cast in each house, shall be reported by the secretary of the diocesan synod to the secretary of the General Synod.

**REFERENCES BY THE DIOCESAN SYNOD TO DEANERY SYNODS AND PARISHES**

**98. Matters referable**

- 98.1. The diocesan synod may on the motion of any member invite all or any deanery synods or parochial church councils or parochial church meetings in the diocese:-

- 98.1.1. to express an opinion on or to record approval or disapproval of any matter; or
  - 98.1.2. to supply information within their knowledge; or
  - 98.1.3. to exercise any other functions within their competence;
- and to report to the diocesan synod by a specified date.

**99. Report on proposals to refer matters**

- 99.1. The standing committee shall report to the diocesan synod on any proposal under the last preceding standing order and, if necessary, consideration of such proposal shall be postponed or adjourned until the standing committee has so reported.

**100. Circulation of reference**

- 100.1. The secretary of the diocesan synod shall send a copy of any resolution under standing order 98 to the secretary of each body concerned, together with such instructions and other information as the diocesan synod or the standing committee may direct.

## **101. Form and date of reply**

- 101.1. Subject to any direction by the diocesan synod, where a reference under standing order 98 invites approval or disapproval of any proposal, those bodies to whom such reference is sent shall be requested to frame their replies in the common form prescribed by the standing committee and shall be informed of the date for reply which shall be not less than three months later than the date of the resolution by the diocesan synod.

## **102. Report on replies received**

- 102.1. At the earliest convenient meeting of the diocesan synod after the period for replies has expired, the standing committee shall report, orally or in writing as it thinks fit, on the outcome of the reference.

## **MATTERS RAISED BY DEANERY SYNODS AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS AND MEETINGS**

### **103. By deanery synods**

- 103.1. A deanery synod may, on a motion moved by a member of the diocesan synod who represents that deanery, bring before the diocesan synod any question of general Church interest or affecting the deanery or any parish within the deanery.

### **104. By parochial church councils and meetings**

- 104.1. A parochial church council or parochial church meeting may, on a motion moved on its behalf in the deanery synod by a member of that synod who represents the particular council or meeting, request the deanery synod to take appropriate action under the last preceding standing order.

### **105. Notice to diocesan synod**

- 105.1. Notice of a motion to be moved in the diocesan synod under standing order 103 shall be given by the secretary or a member of the deanery synod duly authorised for the purpose to the secretary of the diocesan synod.

## **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

### **106. Duties of standing committee**

- 106.1. The standing committee shall be responsible for advising the president and the synod on the policies and strategies for the Diocese and for advising the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance Limited Board (in these Standing Orders referred to



as the Company) on the determination of priorities and the allocation of any funds at the disposal of Synod

## **107. Duties of diocesan board of finance**

107.1. The Company as constituted under the Diocesan Boards of Finance Measure 1925 shall be the financial executive of the Synod and responsible for the custody and management of the Synod's funds and the employment of all persons in receipt of salaries paid directly from those funds

### **107.2 Procedure for Finance Business**

The financial business of the Synod shall be transacted by the eligible members of the Synod sitting as the company. Subject to any statutory requirements financial questions decided by the Synod sitting as the company shall not require any further assent of the Synod sitting as the Synod. In case of doubt, the question of whether any business or question is financial shall be decided by the president

## **108. Preparation of annual accounts and draft budget**

108.1. The directors of the Company (in these Standing Orders referred to as "the Finance Committee") shall not later than 31st May in each year submit to the standing committee, a report and accounts for the preceding financial year ended on 31st December and not later than the 31st October a draft budget for the following year. The standing committee may make to the Finance Committee and the synod sitting as the Company such recommendations thereon as it thinks fit.

## **109. Presentation of annual accounts and budget**

109.1. Not later than 30th June the Finance Committee shall present to the synod and to the members of the company simultaneously the accounts for the preceding year and not later than 30th November the Finance Committee shall present to the synod for approval the budget for the following year as approved by the Finance Committee. The budget shall provide for the expenditure required by every committee and other body responsible to the synod, subject to any reductions made by the Finance Committee on grounds of priority or financial expediency after consultation with the standing committee under standing order 108.

## **110. Special votes of expenditure**

110.1. If the Finance Committee during any financial year either

- 110.1.1. anticipates that expenditure sanctioned by the budget for that year will be inadequate because costs of authorised policies have risen or because new policies have been authorised since the budget, or
- 110.1.2. is so instructed by the synod sitting as the company,
- 110.1.3. the Finance Committee shall submit at any meeting of the synod before the end of that year a supplementary budget together with recommendations as to how the additional expenditure can be met.

## **111. Expenditure in excess of votes**

- 111.1. In presenting the accounts for the preceding year the Finance Committee shall report any expenditure in excess of the funds voted for that year and give the explanation of those responsible, together with the Finance Committee's comments and recommendations as to how the excess expenditure shall be sanctioned.

## **112. Notice of proposals involving expenditure**

- 112.1. Except with the consent of the standing committee and the Finance Committee or their authorised representatives in the synod, no motion involving expenditure shall be put to the vote unless fourteen days' notice of motion has been given to the standing committee and the Finance Committee, so as to give opportunity for their views on the proposal to be formulated and expressed during the debate.

## **113. Form of money resolutions**

- 113.1. The Finance Committee shall not expend or engage to expend any of the synod's funds over and above the amounts set out in the approved budget without the authority of a Resolution in the following form (to be known as a money resolution) "that the synod authorise or direct the Finance Committee to expend a sum not exceeding (a named sum); provided that no amendment which would make a motion take the form of a Money Resolution shall be in order

## **114. Persons authorised to move money resolutions**

- 114. No motion framed as a money resolution shall be moved otherwise than by a member authorised by the Finance Committee.

## **115. Inadmissible amendments to money resolutions**

- 115.1. Save by consent of the Finance Committee, an amendment (other than an amendment moved by a member on behalf of the standing committee) shall be

out of order if its effect would be to increase the expenditure which a motion framed as a money resolution seeks to authorise.

## **116. Reference back of money resolutions**

- 116.1. A money resolution may be so amended as to provide that the motion be referred back to the Finance Committee for further consideration.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

## **117. Admission of press and public**

- 117.1. Subject to any directions by the synod or the standing committee, any member of the synod may move that the representatives of the Press and members of the public shall withdraw during the whole or part of the business before the synod. If the motion is carried, the chair shall request the representative of the Press and the public to withdraw.

## **118. Periods of notice**

- 118.1. Any period of notice required by these standing orders will be deemed to consist of clear days or weeks, not including the date of despatch and the date of the event before which the notice must be delivered.

## **119. Procedural defects**

- 119.1. A meeting of the synod or any of its committees of which the minutes have been approved and signed shall be deemed to have been duly summoned and held notwithstanding any defect in the procedure for summoning or conducting such meeting and no proceedings thereat shall be invalidated by the accidental omission to give the required notice of the meeting to any member.

## **120. Amendment of standing orders**

- 120.1. A motion for the amendment of these standing orders shall not be moved before it has been considered by the standing committee. The standing committee shall report to the synod, orally or in writing as it thinks fit, on the implications of each proposed amendment.

**Note:** For rules governing the membership and election of the Diocesan Synod please see the Church Representation Rules.

## **CONTENTS**

### **STANDING ORDERS FOR THE DIOCESAN SYNOD**

Membership of the synod	1
Term of office	1
The President and vice-presidents	1
Chair of Meeting	2
Officers	2
Meetings of the Synod	3
Separate Meetings of the Houses	4
Agenda	4
Notice of business	5
General Rules of Debate	6
Amendments	9
Procedural Motions	11
Voting	14
Questions	16
The Bishop's Council and Standing Committee	17
Other Committees	19
Procedure of Committees	21
Representation on other bodies	22
Doctrinal matters and forms of service	22
References by the General Synod	22
References by the Diocesan Synod to deanery synods and parishes	23
Matters raised by deanery synods and parochial church councils and meetings	24
Financial business	25
General provisions	27

**DIOCESE OF CARLISLE**

**DIOCESAN SYNOD**

**STANDING ORDERS**

**2022**