

COVENTRY DIOCESAN SYNOD

STANDING ORDERS

2009 Edition

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- March 2022:
 - Language revised to ensure gender neutrality
 - SO 83: Church Representation Rule reference updated (Rule 39(8) CRR 2017 amended to Rule 56 CRR 2020).

STANDING ORDERS FOR DIOCESAN SYNOD

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SYNOD

Roll of members

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

Procedure for co-options

2. 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.

Participation by non-members

3. The secretary may address the synod on any matter, but shall have no right to move any motion or amendment or to vote. Any visitor by invitation of the president may, with the permission of the chair, address the synod but shall have no right to move any motion or amendment or to vote.

TERM OF OFFICE

Co-opted and nominated members

4. 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

Election of vice-presidents

5. Before the first meeting of the synod after the triennial elections and, where a casual vacancy occurs, as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, either: -
 - a) 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. The chair of the meeting of the house of clergy shall be the Bishop of Warwick and the chair of the house of laity shall be the Registrar. In their absence the chair shall be appointed by the president. In the case of an equality of votes the decision shall be taken by lot;
 - or
 - b) the secretary shall send to each member of the houses of clergy and laity or, where appropriate, the one house concerned, nomination and voting papers for the election of one of its members to be a vice-president of the synod. The presiding officer for an election by the house of clergy shall be the Bishop of Warwick and the presiding officer for an election by the house of laity shall be the Registrar.

CHAIR OF MEETING

Meetings of the synod

6. The president, unless on any occasion they nominate one of the vice-presidents or another member to take the chair; shall be chair at meetings of the synod.

Separate meetings of the houses

7. The president and each vice-president shall be chair of the house of which they are a member but need not preside over its meetings if and to the extent that standing orders of the house so provide.

Powers of chair

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

OFFICERS

Secretary

9. The synod shall appoint a secretary being either a member of the clergy or laity and either salaried or honorary, who shall:
- (i) Be responsible for the administrative arrangements for meetings of the synod;
 - (ii) Be in attendance at such meetings;
 - (iii) Prepare the draft agenda papers and minutes of the synod;
 - (iv) Act as secretary of the standing committee;
 - (v) Perform such other duties as the synod shall assign to them.

Assistant Secretary

10. The standing committee may appoint an assistant secretary.

Registrar

11. The registrar or in the event of their 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.

Terms of appointment

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

MEETINGS OF THE SYNOD

By whom convened

13. The synod shall meet upon the summons of the president.

When and where held

14. The president shall summon not less than two meetings in each year at such times and places as they shall direct after consulting the standing committee.

Meetings by request

15. 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 unless a later date was specified in the resolution or request.

Notice of ordinary meetings

16. 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 meetings 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 chairs of every deanery synod in the diocese.

Notice of special meeting

17. 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.

Form of notice

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

SEPARATE MEETINGS OF THE HOUSES

When and where held

19. Each house shall meet separately when:

- (i) It is required so to do under these standing orders;
- (ii) It has so decided in accordance with its own standing orders;
- (iii) The chair of the house has so directed; or
- (iv) The synod has so directed.

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

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20. 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.

Circulation

21. The secretary shall post or deliver an agenda paper to every member 21 days at least 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.

Business permitted to be considered

22. Save for urgent or other specially important business added thereto by direction of the president, an 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.

Order of business

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

- (i) Brought before the synod at the request or direction of the president;
 - (ii) 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.

Varying the order of business

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

NOTICE OF BUSINESS

Form of notice

25. 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.

Length of notice

26. The following periods of notice shall be required:

New business for the agenda	35 days
Motions arising from the agenda	10 days
Questions under standing order 69	10 days

When not required

27. Notice of the following business shall not be required:

- (i) A motion moved by permission of the chair, provided that, unless the chair otherwise permits, the full text of such motion shall be made available to members in a notice paper before it is moved;
- (ii) An amendment to a motion, provided that:
 - a. If the mover of the amendment has previously spoken on the motion they shall move any amendment thereto formally and without speech; and
 - b. Where no agenda or notice paper containing the text of the amendment has been made available to members at the time when the amendment is to be moved, such amendments may only be moved by permission of the chair.
- (iii) Business adjourned under standing order 54 or 55 to a specified time or meeting;
- (iv) A procedural motion specified in standing order 50 (subject as provided in that standing order);
- (v) A supplementary question by a member who has asked a question under standing order 69.

GENERAL RULES OF DEBATE

Quorum

28. 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.

If quorum not present

29. If a quorum is not present, the chair shall adjourn the synod until such time as they 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.

Order of speeches

30. The chair shall call upon members who desire to speak and may require them to give their names to the secretary in writing. They shall also determine the order in which they speak.

Breach of order

31. 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, disregard of the authority of the chair, or any other breach of order, and may order the member to end any speech which they are making.

Points of order

32. A member may submit a point of order under the standing orders at any time and for this purpose may interrupt another speaker. A member rising to a point of order shall state what they have to say in the

form of a succinct question and shall, if required by the chair, specify the standing order to which the point relates.

Personal explanations

33. 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 they have 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.

Interruptions otherwise not permitted

34. 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 speaking 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.

Speaking to a motion

35. A member shall not speak unless upon a motion or amendment save as provided in standing orders 32, 33 and 69. A member shall give their name and (if a deanery member) deanery before speaking upon any motion or amendment.

Speaking more than once

36. A member shall not speak more than once upon the same question, except:
- (i) As provided in standing orders 32 and 33;
 - (ii) By permission of the chair and with the consent of the synod;
 - (iii) The mover of a motion (but not an amendment) may reply; such reply shall not introduce any new matter and shall close the debate;
 - (iv) The mover of an amendment to a standing order may speak twice.

Length of speeches

37. Save as provided in 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 they shall inform the synod of their ruling, which shall not be open to debate or question.

Moving motions or amendments

38. (a) Every matter debated in the synod shall have been moved by a member.
(b) 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 any other member in their stead.

Withdrawal

39. A motion or amendment, once moved, may be withdrawn by the mover or at their request unless any member objects.

Reconsideration and rescission

40. 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.

Division of text

41. 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.

Reference-back motions not permitted

41A. 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.

Special powers of chair

42. Unless the synod otherwise provides, the chair shall:

- (i) Adjourn the synod at the hours fixed in accordance with these standing orders;
- (ii) Adjourn the debate on any question at the hour fixed for the commencement of other business in accordance with standing order 23;
- (iii) 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(ii) shall apply.

AMENDMENTS

When permitted

43. 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.

When not permitted

44. Amendments to the following shall not be permitted:

- (i) A procedural motion under standing order 50;
- (ii) A motion to receive the report of a committee under standing order 89;
- (iii) A motion under standing order 96(a) in reply to any question referred by the General Synod.

Amendments to amendments

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

Delivery in writing

46. Before an amendment is moved, a copy thereof in writing shall be delivered to the secretary, unless this requirement is dispensed with by the chair.

Form of amendments

47. An amendment may be made:

- (i) By leaving out words; or

- (ii) By leaving out words in order to insert other words; or
- (iii) By inserting or adding words.

Content

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

Order of consideration

49. 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 their permission, during the debate on an amendment, other amendments may be discussed but not moved.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Content

50. 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:

- (i) "That the synod do pass to the next business" (next business);
- (ii) "That the synod do now adjourn" (adjournment of the synod);
- (iii) "That the debate be now adjourned" (adjournment of debate);
- (iv) "That the debate be now closed" (closure);
- (v) "That all further speeches on this question be limited to minutes" (speech limit)
- (vi) A motion to vary the order of business
- (vii) A motion to suspend a standing order.

Seconding

51. [Withdrawn, May 1980]

When not permitted

52. A motion shall not be moved:

- (i) For next business, the closure or a speech limit on any question referred by the General Synod to the diocesan synod;
- (ii) For next business on an amendment or other procedural motion.

Next business

53. The following rules of debate shall apply:

- (i) 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".
- (ii) A motion for next business shall take precedence over all amendments of which notice has been given.
- (iii) If such motion is carried, the original motion shall lapse either forthwith or before the question is put, as the case may be, and not be reconsidered during the same meeting of the synod.
- (iv) If negated, such motion shall not be moved again on the original motion unless that motion is substantially amended.
- (v) During discussion on a motion "That the synod do pass to the next business before the question is put" it shall be in order to debate the merits of the original question.

Adjournment of the synod

54. The following rules of debate shall apply:

- (i) The motion to adjourn may but need not specify a time for the next sitting of the synod or the resumption of the business interrupted.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) 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 114.
- (iv) Subject to any resolution of the synod, the business interrupted shall be resumed at the next meeting.
- (v) If negatived, the adjournment of the synod shall not be moved again, except by permission of the chair, until a further hour has elapsed.

Adjournment of debate

55. Standing order 54 shall, unless the context otherwise requires, apply also to this motion except that:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) If the question adjourned is an amendment, the debate on the main motion shall also stand adjourned.

The closure

56. The following rules of debate shall apply:

- (i) If such motion is permitted by the chair, it shall be put forward without discussion.
- (ii) 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.

Speech limit

57. The following rules of debate shall apply:

- (i) If the motion is permitted by the chair, it shall be put forthwith without discussion.
- (ii) 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 they 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 their ruling and in exercising their discretion shall have particular regard to any member who has a right of reply to the debate.

Reference back

58. [Withdrawn, May 1980]

Suspension of standing orders

59. 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 motion shall not be deemed to have been carried unless at least three-fourths of those members present and voting are in favour.

VOTING

Assent of three houses

60. Subject to the two next following standing orders, nothing shall be deemed to have the assent of the diocesan synod unless the three houses with constitute the synod have assented thereto, but if in the case of a particular question (unless 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 includes the president.

Procedure for decisions

61. Questions relating only to the conduct of business shall be decided by the votes of all the 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.

Matters referred under Article 8

62. 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.

Voting by houses

63. A separate vote of each house shall be taken:

- (i) On any question referred by the General Synod to the diocesan synod;
- (ii) On any other question (except a question relating only to the conduct of business) where this is required under standing order 61.

Majority required for decision

64. 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 as 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.

Equal voting in house of bishops

64A. Where there is an equal division of votes in the house of bishops, the president shall have a second or casting vote.

Opinion of president

64B. The president shall have a right to require that their opinion on any question shall be recorded in the minutes.

Voting rights of chair

65. The chair (subject to the rights of the president when they are chair) shall have the same voting rights as other members and shall have no second or casting vote.

Mode of voting

66. The chair on putting any question to the vote shall take a show of hands, the result of which as announced by them shall be conclusive, and may at their discretion order the hands to be counted and shall so on a vote by houses.

Requests for separate voting

67. 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 their 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.

Procedure for count of hands

68. 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

To whom addressed

69. Subject to due notice under standing orders 25 and 26 a question may be asked of:

- (i) Any officer of the diocesan synod referred to in these standing orders;
- (ii) The chair of any body constituted by the synod or on which it is represented;

provided that the person asked may, without reason given, refuse to answer that question. The person asked may give a written reply to any question if, in their opinion, this would give a clearer answer to synod. A member may ask up to two 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.

Content

70. A question, if addressed to an officer, shall relate to the duties assigned to them 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. The president or their appointee shall decide whether the question is in order.

Persons authorised to reply

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

- (i) The president may instruct the secretary to reply on their behalf;
- (ii) A member who is absent may authorise another member to deputise for them.

THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE

Composition

72A. The Bishop's Council and Standing Committee is referred to in standing orders 72, 73, 74, 75 and 87 as "the Bishop's Council" and whenever in any other standing orders there is a reference to "the standing committee" it shall mean the Bishop's Council.

72B. The Bishop's Council shall consist of:

Ex officio members

- The President
- The Vice-Presidents

- All other members of the house of bishops
- The Archdeacons
- The Dean of the Cathedral
- The Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance (unless the person appointed to that post is already an elected or nominated member of the Bishop's Council)

Elected members

The following persons elected from members of the synod:

- Seven members from and elected by the house of clergy of which at least two shall be from the Archdeaconry of Coventry and at least two shall be from the Archdeaconry of Warwick.
- Eight members from and elected by the house of laity of which at least two shall be from the Archdeaconry of Coventry and at least two shall be from the Archdeaconry of Warwick.

Nominated members

Six persons (who need not be members of the synod) nominated as follows:

- The Parsonages Committee shall nominate one member
- The Diocesan Advisory Committee shall nominate one member
- The Diocesan Board of Education shall nominate one member
- The President shall nominate three members.

Co-opted members

The Bishop's Council may co-opt a maximum of three members and in any co-option the Bishop's Council shall have regard to the need to maintain as near as possible equality in numbers between clerical and lay members of the Bishop's Council.

Elections to Bishop's Council

73. The elected members of the Bishop's Council shall be elected by the House of which each is a member as soon as practicable after the election of a new synod and shall retire on the election of their successors. The procedure for their election shall be as provided in standing orders 81 – 85. The nominated and co-opted members shall serve for the same period as the elected members.

Officers

74. The officers of the Bishop's Council shall be as follows:

- (i) The president of the synod shall be chair
- (ii) The following shall be vice-chairs:
 - a. The vice-presidents of the synod to act when the president and the vice-chair appointed under (b) and (c) do not act
 - b. The Chair of the Board of Finance (when the Bishop's Council is acting as board of directors of the Board of Finance)
 - c. The person appointed to act as chair of the Bishop's Council in its role as the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee under paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 of the Diocese, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 (if the president does not desire to act as chair in that capacity)
- (iii) The Diocesan Secretary shall be secretary of the Bishop's Council.

Functions and task groups

75A. The functions of the Bishop's Council shall be:

- (i) To plan the business of the synod, to prepare the agenda for its sessions and to circulate to members information about matters for discussion.
- (ii) To initiate proposals for action by the synod and to advise it on matters of policy which are placed before it.
- (iii) To advise the president of any matters which he may refer to the Bishop's Council.
- (iv) Subject to the directions of the synod to transact the business of the synod when it is not in session.
- (v) To appoint members of committees or nominate members for election to committees subject to the directions of the synod.
- (vi) To act as the Board of Directors of the Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance Limited.
- (vii) To act as the Diocesan Pastoral Committee.
- (viii) To carry out such other functions as the synod may delegate to it.

75B. The Bishop's Council may appoint Task Groups or other bodies to report and advise on any matters referred to them consisting of such of the members of the Bishop's Council and others as the Bishop's Council shall determine and any Task Groups or other bodies so formed shall conform to any regulations that may be imposed upon them by the Bishop's Council and provided that all their acts and proceedings shall be reported back to the Bishop's Council as fully and promptly as Bishop's Council shall require.

OTHER COMMITTEES

Statutory committees

76. 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.

Committees other than statutory committees

77. 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 sees fit.

Membership of committees

78. 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. The president or a member nominated by him, being either a suffragan bishop or an archdeacon, shall be a member of every committee.

Duration of membership

79. 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.

Sub-committees

80. Every committee constituted by the synod may appoint working groups which shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the appointing committee.

Electors

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

Nominations for election to committees

82. Every nomination shall require a proposer and seconder who shall be qualified electors but the standing committee may (except in 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.

Voting in elections

83. (a) 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 they shall specify.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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 56 and for the time being in force, shall be used.

Casual vacancies

84. A casual vacancy to 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.

Directions by standing committee

85. 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

Chairs

86. If the president is a member of a committee they shall be the chair thereof if they so elects, or, if they do not elect to be chair, the committee shall, subject to any direction by the synod or the standing committee, at its first meeting elect a chair from among its own members. In the absence of the chair, a chair for that meeting may be similarly elected.

Quorum

87. 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 except that the quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Bishop's Council shall be fourteen provided that at least eight elected and three ex officio members are present.

Voting

88. 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.

Reports

89. Every committee shall report at such times and in accordance with such procedures as may be determined by the standing committee; provided that each 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.

General

90. 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 procedure.

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

Requirement of early circulation

92. 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. For the purpose of this standing order the consent of the synod shall not be deemed to have been given unless in the opinion of the chair a large majority of those present and voting has agreed.

REFERENCES BY THE GENERAL SYNOD

When considered

93. 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.

Prior notice and documents required

94. Unless the standing committee decide to the contrary for any reason:

- (i) Members of the diocesan synod shall receive at least three months' notice of the reference; and
- (ii) 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.

Consultations within the diocese

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

Procedure of debate

96. (a) 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.

(b) 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.

(c) When all motions under the foregoing paragraphs (a) and (b) have been decided, other motions arising therefrom may, if otherwise in order, be moved by any member.

Report on result

97. 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

Matters referable

98. 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:

(i) To express an opinion on or to record approval or disapproval of any matter; or

(ii) To supply information within their knowledge; or

(iii) To exercise any other functions within their competence;

and to report to the diocesan synod by a specified date.

Report on proposal to refer matters

99. 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.

Circulation of reference

100. 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.

Form and date of reply

101. 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.

Report on replies received

102. 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

By deanery synods

103. 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.

By parochial church councils and meeting

104. 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.

Notice to diocesan synod

105. 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

Duties of standing committee

106. The standing committee shall be responsible on behalf of the diocesan synod for developing policy and priorities and advising synod accordingly.

Duties of diocesan board of finance

107. The diocesan board of finance of the diocese (in these standing orders referred to as “the Board” as constituted under the Diocesan Board 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.

Presentation of annual accounts

108. As soon as possible after the Board’s annual general meeting the Board shall present to the synod the accounts for the preceding year.

Preparation and presentation of budget

109. The Board shall prepare and present to the synod a budget for the following year in consultation with the standing committee.

The budget shall identify and the standing committee shall detail new and developing work such that the synod may debate its inclusion in that budget.

The Board may make reductions to the budget on the grounds of financial expediency after consultation with the standing committee.

Special votes of expenditure

110. If the Board during any financial year either:

- (i) 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
 - (ii) Is so instructed by the synod,
- the Board 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.

Expenditure in excess of votes

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

Notice of proposals involving expenditure

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

Form of money resolutions

113. The Board shall not expend or engage to expend any of the synod's funds for which it is responsible without the authority of a resolution in the following form (to be known as a "money resolution": "That the synod authorise [or direct] the diocesan board of finance 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.

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 Board.

Inadmissible amendments to money resolutions

115. Save by consent of the Board, 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.

Reference back of money resolutions

116. A money resolution may be so amended as to provide that the motion be referred back to the Board for further consideration.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Admission of press and public

117. 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 representatives of the Press and the public to withdraw.

Periods of notice

118. Any period of notice required by these standing orders shall 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.

Procedural defects

119. 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.

Amendment of standing orders

120. 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 implication of each proposed amendment.