

THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE

Standing Orders of the Diocesan Synod: S.O. 72 revised June 1997

Statutory Provisions:

Synodical Government Measure 1969, Church Representation Rule 28 (1) "The diocesan synod shall make standing orders which shall provide:-

.... that there shall be a *bishop's council and standing committee* of the diocesan synod with such membership as may be provided by standing orders and with the functions exercisable by it under section 4(4) of the Measure and such other functions as may be provided by the standing orders or by these rules or by any Measure or Canon".

Synodical Government Measure 1969. Section 4 provides that the following "advisory and consultative functions" of the diocesan synod may be discharged on behalf of the synod by the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee:

Advising the Bishop on any matter on which he may wish to consult the synod [Note: the Measure requires the Bishop to consult with the diocesan synod on matters of general concern and importance to the diocese.]

Diocesan Provisions:

Standing Orders for the Diocesan Synod and Rules for Deanery Synods were revised by the March 2008 and June 2011 Synods respectively. Save for minor deviation they followed closely the models prepared by the Diocesan Standing Orders Committee of the Church Assembly.

The membership of the Bishop's Council was substantially revised by the Diocesan Synod in June 2018 and is now as set out in S.O. 103 and reproduced below:-

Membership

Ex officio: The Bishops, the Archdeacons, the Dean
Chairmen of the Houses of Clergy and Laity of the Diocesan Synod
Chairmen of Boards:
Diocesan Board of Finance
Diocesan Board for Mission and Ministry
Diocesan Board of Education

Elected: Three members of the clergy, by and from the House of Clergy.

Nine lay people, of whom at the time of their election at least two shall reside in each Archdeaconry, by and from the House of Laity

Co-options: Four, on the nomination of the Bishop, to ensure that, as far as is reasonably possible, the Standing Committee is composed of equal number of clergy and laity.

Officers: In attendance only when requested for particular items

Functions:

- 1) S.O. 75: The functions of the standing committee 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 on any matters which he may refer to the committee;
 - 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 carry out such other functions as the synod may delegate to it.
- 2) S.O. 106: The standing committee shall be responsible for advising the president and the synod on the determination of priorities in the allocation of any funds at the disposal of the synod.

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