



Synodical Government Measure 1969

CHAPTER 2

SYNODICAL GOVERNMENT MEASURE 1969

- 1 Vesting of functions and authority of Convocations in a General Synod.
- 2 Renaming and reconstitution of the Church Assembly as the General Synod.
- 3 Functions under the Prayer Book Measures and the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure.
- 4 Constitution and functions of Diocesan Synods.
- 5 Constitution and functions of Deanery Synods.
- 6 Functions of Parochial Church Councils.
- 7 Church Representation Rules.
- 8 Transitional Provisions.
- 9 Short title, interpretation and extent.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Form of Proposed Canon

Of the General Synod and the Convocations

- 1 On such day as may be appointed by the Archbishops...
- 2 Notwithstanding such vesting as aforesaid, the said Convocation may continue...
- 3 The said Convocation may, by their Standing Orders or otherwise,...
- 4 The vesting of rights and privileges of the said Convocation...

SCHEDULE 2 — Constitution of the General Synod

- 1 The General Synod shall consist of the Convocations of Canterbury...
- 2 The House of Bishops and the House of Clergy shall...

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- 3 (1) The General Synod shall meet in session at least...
- 4 (1) The Archbishops of Canterbury and York shall be joint...
- 5 (1) A motion for the final approval of any Measure...
- 6 The functions of the General Synod shall be as follows:—...
- 7 (1) A provision touching doctrinal formulae or the services or...
- 8 (1) A Measure or Canon providing for permanent changes in...
- 9 (1) Standing Orders of the General Synod may provide for...
- 10 (1) The General Synod shall appoint a Legislative Committee from...
- 11 (1) The General Synod may make, amend and revoke Standing...
- 12 (1) References to final approval shall, in relation to a...
- 13 Any functions exercisable under this Constitution by the Archbishops of...

SCHEDULE 3 — Church Representation Rules

PART 1 — CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Compilation of the roll

- 1 (1) In every parish there must be a church electoral...

Additions to the roll

- 2 (1) The name of a person who is entitled to...

Revision of the roll: notice

- 3 (1) The roll of a parish must be revised annually,...

Revision of the roll: preparation

- 4 (1) On each revision of the roll of a parish—...

Publication of revised roll

- 5 (1) After the completion of a revision of the roll...

Preparation of new roll: notice

- 6 (1) Notice that a new roll for a parish is...

Preparation of new roll: process

- 7 (1) The PCC of each parish must take reasonable steps...

Publication of new roll

- 8 (1) After the completion of a new roll under Rule...

Boundary changes

- 9 (1) On an alteration of the boundaries of parishes, the...

Notification of number on roll

- 10 The chair, vice-chair, secretary or electoral roll officer of a...

PART 2 — PARISH GOVERNANCE

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Model Rules

- 11 The Rules in Part 9 apply to each parish.

Scheme for amendment

- 12 (1) The annual parochial church meeting or a special parochial...

Procedure for making scheme

- 13 (1) A scheme under Rule 12 is valid only if...

PART 3 — DEANERY SYNODS

Composition

- 14 A deanery synod consists of— (a) a house of clergy,...

House of clergy

- 15 (1) The members of the house of clergy of a...

House of laity

- 16 (1) The members of the house of laity of a...

Direction to join a different deanery synod

- 17 (1) A clerk in Holy Orders, deaconess or lay worker...

Co-option

- 18 (1) The house of clergy of a deanery synod may...

Election of parochial representatives

- 19 (1) The parochial representatives of the laity on a deanery...

List of members to be given to diocesan electoral registration officer

- 20 (1) The secretary of each deanery synod must, after the...

Number of members

- 21 (1) A diocesan synod must exercise its powers under this...

Scheme for variation of membership

- 22 (1) A diocesan synod may make a scheme to vary...

Scheme for representation for cathedrals and royal peculiars

- 23 (1) In the case of the cathedral church of each...

Scheme for representation for mission initiatives

- 24 (1) Where a bishop's mission order is in force, a...

Schemes: approval

- 25 (1) A copy of a proposed scheme under Rule 22,...

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Procedure

- 26 (1) A diocesan synod must make rules for the deanery...

Diocesan electoral registration officer

- 27 (1) In each diocese, a diocesan electoral registration officer is...

Mission initiative roll

- 27A (1) Where a direction is given under Rule 24(1), the...

Additions to and revision of mission initiative roll

- 27B (1) The name of a person who is eligible to...

Preparation of new mission initiative roll

- 27C (1) The leader of a mission initiative must, no later...

Notification of number on mission initiative roll

- 27D The leader of a mission initiative must, no later than...

Casual vacancies

- 28 (1) A casual vacancy among the parochial representatives elected to...
PART 4 — DIOCESAN SYNODS

Membership

Composition

- 29 (1) A diocesan synod consists of— (a) a house of...

House of bishops

- 30 The members of the house of bishops of a diocesan...

House of clergy

- 31 (1) The ex officio members of the house of clergy...

House of laity

- 32 (1) The ex officio members of the house of laity...

Power of bishop to nominate members

- 33 (1) The bishop of a diocese may nominate up to...

Restrictions on membership

- 34 (1) A person may not be a member of more...

Election of members

Timing

- 35 (1) Every three years beginning with 2021, the house of...

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Eligibility

- 36 (1) A clerk in Holy Orders who is a member...

Numbers

- 37 (1) A diocesan synod must, no later than 31 December...

Presiding officers

- 38 (1) The bishop of a diocese must appoint the presiding...

Qualified electors

- 39 (1) A person is a qualified elector in an election...

Nomination

- 40 (1) A candidate for election to the house of clergy...

Requirement for election

- 41 (1) If the number of candidates for an election to...

Conduct of election

- 42 (1) Where an election to a diocesan synod is to...

Scheme for variation of membership

- 43 (1) A diocesan synod may make a scheme to vary...

Procedure

- 44 (1) A diocesan synod must make standing orders.

Casual vacancies

- 45 (1) A casual vacancy among the members of a diocesan...
PART 5 — HOUSE OF LAITY OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Membership

- 46 (1) The members of the House of Laity of the...

Ex officio members

- 47 (1) Each of the following, if not in Holy Orders,...

Co-option

- 48 (1) The House of Laity may co-opt a lay person...

Numbers

- 49 (1) The total number of the members of the House...

Qualifications for election

- 50 (1) A lay person is qualified for election for a...

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Electoral areas

51 (1) Each diocese is an electoral area for the purposes...

Timing

52 (1) The elections to the House of Laity are to...

Presiding officer

53 (1) For an election to the House of Laity, the...

Entitlement to vote

54 (1) A person is entitled to vote in an election...

Nomination

55 (1) A candidate for election in a diocese to the...

Election rules

56 (1) The General Synod must make rules relating to the...

PART 6 — APPEALS

Enrolment appeals

57 (1) A person who is refused enrolment on the roll...
57A Enrolment appeals: referral and representations etc.

Election appeals

58 (1) An appeal may be made against a determination that...
58A Election appeals

Election appeals: power to make rules for House of Laity of General Synod

59 (1) The General Synod must make rules providing for—
59A Election appeals: appeal procedures

Referral of appeal to bishop's council and standing committee

60 (1) Notice of a summary election appeal—
60A Summary election appeal: referral to relevant judge, etc.
60B Summary election appeal: parties
60C Summary election appeal: determination

Determination of appeal

61 Full election appeal: notice of appeal
61A Full election appeal: referral to bishop's council and standing committee
61B Enrolment appeal or full election appeal: parties
61C Enrolment appeal or full election appeal: appointment of panel
61D Enrolment appeal or full election appeal: preliminary assessment
61E Enrolment appeal or full election appeal: appeal out of time
61F Enrolment appeal or full election appeal: consideration of matters at issue
61G Enrolment appeal: determination

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61H Full election appeal: determination

61I Appeals: general

PART 7 — DISQUALIFICATION ETC.

Disqualifications

62 (1) A person is disqualified from being nominated or elected...

Vacation of seat on deanery synod

63 (1) The seat of a clerical member of a deanery...

Vacation of seat on diocesan synod

64 (1) The seat of a clerical member of a diocesan...

Vacation of seat in House of Laity of General Synod

65 (1) The seat of an elected member of the House...

Ex officio membership

66 (1) A person is not disqualified from being elected or...

Resignation

67 (1) A person holding office under these Rules or who...

Safeguarding cases: disqualification and vacation of seat

68 (1) If a person is included in a barred list,...

Safeguarding cases: suspension

69 (1) This Rule applies where a member of a PCC...

Safeguarding cases: appeal against suspension

70 (1) A person who is given a notice of suspension...

Safeguarding cases: interpretation

71 (1) In this Part of these Rules— “barred list...

PART 8 — MISCELLANEOUS

Personal data handling

72 A person who holds personal data about one or more...

Casual vacancies

73 (1) An election to fill a casual vacancy under these...

Irregularities

74 (1) Where irregularities are found during an election such that...

Constraints in elections

75 (1) Where there is a requirement in an election conducted...

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Communicating by email or post

- 76 (1) If a person has provided an email address—

Implied power to vary or revoke

- 77 (1) A power conferred by these Rules to make, approve...

Power of bishop to make supplementary provision etc.

- 78 (1) In carrying out the provisions of these Rules in...

Delegation by archbishop or bishop

- 79 (1) An archbishop or any other bishop of a diocese...

Validity of proceedings, etc.

- 80 (1) The proceedings of a body constituted under these Rules...

Power of Business Committee to specify matters

- 81 (1) A power conferred by these Rules on the Business...

Interpretation: references to parishes and other areas

- 82 (1) In these Rules, “ parish ” means—

Interpretation: references to Church offices, structures etc.

- 83 (1) In these Rules, “ minister ”, in relation to...

Interpretation: minor definitions

- 84 (1) In these Rules— “ Business Committee ” means the...

PART 9 — PARISH GOVERNANCE: MODEL RULES

SECTION A: ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The annual meeting

Timing and attendance

- M1 (1) In every parish, the annual parochial church meeting (referred...

Convening meeting

- M2 (1) The minister must convene the annual meeting by displaying...

New parish: special meeting

- M3 (1) Where the parish is a new parish created by...

Proceedings and elections

Chair

- M4 (1) The chair of the annual meeting is—

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Business: reports etc.

M5 (1) The PCC must provide the annual meeting with each...

Business: elections and appointments

M6 (1) The annual meeting must, in the manner provided by...

Business: miscellaneous

M7 (1) Any person who is entitled to attend the annual...

Qualifications of persons to be elected

M8 (1) A person is qualified for election as a parochial...

Conduct of an election

M9 (1) This Rule applies in the case of every election...

Adoption of STV system

M10 (1) The annual meeting may resolve that the election of...

Postal voting

M11 (1) The annual meeting may resolve that a person entitled...

Result of an election

M12 (1) The result of an election held at the annual...

Special and extraordinary meetings

Special meeting

M13 (1) The minister may convene a special parochial church meeting...

Extraordinary meeting

M14 (1) The archdeacon whose archdeaconry includes the parish must, subject...

SECTION B: PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Membership

Members

M15 (1) The members of the PCC are—

Term of office: representatives of the laity

M16 (1) A person who is a member of the PCC...

Term of office: other cases

M17 (1) A person who is a member of the PCC...

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Casual vacancies

M18 (1) A casual vacancy among the parochial representatives elected to...

Officers

Chair and vice-chair

M19 (1) The minister is the chair of the PCC.

Secretary and treasurer

M20 (1) The PCC may appoint one of its members as...

Electoral roll officer

M21 (1) The PCC must appoint a person as electoral roll...

Independent examiner or auditor

M22 (1) If the annual meeting does not appoint an independent...

Business

Meetings: time and place

M23 (1) Each year, the PCC must hold a sufficient number...

Meetings: attendance

M24 (1) A person is entitled to attend a meeting of...

Meetings: notice

M25 (1) At least ten clear days before a meeting of...

Meetings: chair

M26 (1) The chair at a meeting of the PCC (other...

Meetings: procedure

M27 (1) The quorum for a meeting of the PCC is...

Meetings: minutes

M28 (1) The minutes of each meeting of the PCC must...

Business by correspondence

M29 (1) The chair of the PCC may, if he or...

Audit of financial statements

M30 (1) The independent examiner or auditor of the PCC's financial...

Standing committee

M31 (1) The PCC has a standing committee constituted in accordance...

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Other committees

- M32 (1) The PCC may appoint committees for the various branches...

Extraordinary meetings

- M33 (1) Where a written representation is made for the purposes...

Schemes

Parish with more than one place of worship: election of representatives of laity

- M34 (1) If there are in the parish two or more...

Parish with more than one place of worship: district church council

- M35 (1) If there are in the parish two or more...

District church council: disqualification

- M36 (1) The provisions of these Rules on disqualification from being...

SECTION C: JOINT COUNCILS

Power to make scheme

- M37 (1) A meeting of the parish and meetings of one...

Status, property and functions of joint council

- M38 (1) A joint council established by a scheme under Rule...

Officers, business etc. of joint council

- M39 (1) A scheme under Rule M37 for the establishment of...

Parish ceasing to be connected or being dissolved

- M40 (1) This Rule applies where a parish to which a...

Disqualification

- M41 (1) The provisions of these Rules on disqualification from being...

Procedure for making scheme

- M42 (1) A scheme under Rule M37 is valid only if...

PART 10 — FORMS

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PART 11 — INDEX

Each of the following expressions is defined or otherwise glossed...

SCHEDULE 4 — Transitional Provisions

Transfer of Functions from Convocations

- 1 (1) The transfer of functions from the Convocations of Canterbury...

Reconstitution of Church Assembly

- 2 (1) The reconstitution of the Church Assembly as the General...

Changes affecting Diocesan and Ruridecanal Conferences

- 3 (1) The dissolution of a diocesan conference and the transfer...

Commencement of Church Representation Rules

- 4 (1) The repeal of the Rules for the Representation of...
- 5 (1) The first elections of parochial representatives of the laity...

Power to Remove Transitional Difficulties

- 6 (1) If any difficulty arises on or in connection with...

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Sch. 3 Rules amendment to earlier affecting provision 2021 gsm 2, s. 40(3) by [2024 No. 1 Sch. 1 para. 24](#)
- Sch. 3 of Contents word substituted by [S.I. 2020/406 para. 10\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 10 Form M1 words substituted by [2024 No. 1 Sch. 2 para. 2](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Measure associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Measure (including any effects on those provisions):

- Pt. 11 words substituted by [2024 No. 1 s. 11\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 83A applied by 1986 gsm 3, s. 12(10) (as inserted) by [2024 No. 1 Sch. 2 para. 3](#)
- Sch. 3 rule M8(2A) inserted by [2024 No. 1 s. 17\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 83A inserted by [2024 No. 1 Sch. 2 para. 1](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 31(3)(c) word substituted by [2020 No. 2 s. 2\(1\)\(d\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 23(1)(a) words inserted by [2024 No. 1 Sch. 1 para. 2](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 40(9) words inserted by [S.I. 2020/406 para. 9\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 68(7)(a) words substituted by [2024 No. 1 s. 11\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 69(6)(a) words substituted by [2024 No. 1 s. 11\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 69(11)(d) words substituted by [2024 No. 1 s. 11\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 71(1) words substituted by [2024 No. 1 s. 11\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 45(5) words substituted by [2024 No. 1 s. 17\(1\)](#)