

A MEASURE FOR

AN ORDINANCE to amend *The Standing Orders Ordinance 1980*.

**NOW THE SYNOD HEREBY DETERMINES:**

**Part 1 - Preliminary**

**1 - Short title**

This Ordinance may be cited as *The Standing Orders Ordinance Amendment Ordinance 2021*.

**2 - Commencement**

This Ordinance will come into operation on a date and at a time to be determined by the President.

**3 - Amendment of principal ordinance**

*The Standing Orders Ordinance 1980* is amended in the manner set out in Part 2.

**Part 2 - Amendment of *The Standing Orders Ordinance 1980***

**4 – Insertion of section 2A**

After section 2 insert:

General provisions about use of electronic documents, procedures and voting

2A. (1) The President may, after consultation with the Diocesan Council, determine, in relation to a session of Synod, any of the following:

- (a) that summonses, and any report, notice, petition, question, notice paper or other document to be provided before the session, or for the purposes of the session, may be in the form of an electronic document (in a format determined or approved by the President) and may be delivered, provided, forwarded or lodged by means of electronic communication

or through any other electronic method determined or approved by the President;

- (b) that any report, notice, petition, question, notice paper or other document to be used, tabled, presented or provided at a session may be provided or displayed electronically (in a format, and in a way, determined or approved by the President) and need not be printed for the purposes of the session;
  - (c) that any signature will be taken to be provided if it conforms with any requirement, or is represented, provided or acknowledged in a way or by a method, determined or approved by the President;
  - (d) that any document will be taken to be tabled at the session if it is to be entered into the electronic records of the Synod in a manner determined or approved by the President;
  - (e) that voting on any question or motion to be determined at the session will be conducted electronically in a manner (and using such technology) determined by the President (and in such a case any requirement to stand for voting purposes will not apply).
- (2) In addition, during any session of the Synod held under section 15(4) of the Constitution, the President may determine:
- (a) that any requirement to speak standing will not apply but that a person will be recognised and heard in a manner determined or approved by the President; and
  - (b) that any requirement that a member resume their seat will be taken to be a requirement that they cease speaking; and
  - (c) that a person (not being a member of Synod) may, by a motion without notice duly passed, have the right to participate in the session but not to vote or to move or second motions.
- (3) The President will take reasonable steps to provide information to members of the Synod about any determination of the President under this section, including information about:

- (a) the procedures to be followed for the purposes of submitting any report, notice, question, petition or other document; and
  - (b) if voting is to be conducted electronically – the method to be used.
- (4) The President may, in any case where it is necessary or advisable to do so because of special or extenuating circumstances, after consultation with the Diocesan Council or at least a majority of members of Diocesan Council, vary or revoke an earlier determination under this section (and any such variation or revocation may take effect without the need to give any notice if it is to take effect immediately and including at a session of the Synod where it has been previously determined to apply).
- (5) A process, proceeding, step or other action taken under and in accordance with a determination under this section will apply despite any other provision made by this Ordinance (and in the event of an inconsistency between a determination under this section and another section, the determination will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency).

### **5 – Amendment of section 3 - Summons**

- (1) Section 3(1) – delete “Such summons shall state the date, time and place of the session.”
- (2) Section 3 – after subsection (1) insert:
- (1A) A summons will:
- (a) state the date and time of the session; and
  - (b) provide information about:
    - (i) the place where the session is to be conducted; or
    - (ii) if the session is not to be conducted as a meeting held at a place with members of the Synod being physically present – how the session is to be

conducted and how members may register to be a participant at the session.

- (3) Section 3(2) – after “an invitation to attend” insert:

together with relevant information about arrangements for the session if the meeting is not to be held with members of the Synod being physically present

## **6 – Amendment of section 12 – Notice of Motion Arising out of Reports**

Section 12(1) – after “referred to in section 11 of this Ordinance and” insert:

at least seven clear days

## **7 – Amendment of section 13 – Order of business**

- (1) Section 13(1)(o) – after “in the order in which the same shall stand on the notice paper” insert:

and, unless otherwise determined by the President, at the times indicated on the notice paper

- (2) Section 13 – after subsection (2) insert:

(3) Despite subsection (1)(a), a service of worship need not be conducted before or during a session of the Synod if the President determines that it is not reasonably practicable to conduct any such service.

(4) The President may determine to deliver a pastoral address to the Diocese under subsection (1)(b) by electronic or other means of communication determined to be appropriate by the President in particular circumstances.

## **8 – Amendment of section 18 – Amendments**

- (1) Section 18(1) – delete “until two written copies thereof shall have been handed to the Secretary of Synod” and substitute:

unless a copy of the proposed amendment has been delivered to the Secretary of Synod in a manner and form determined by the Secretary of Synod

(2) Section 18(2) and (3) – delete subsections (2) and (3) and substitute:

(2) If an amendment is proposed, the following provisions will apply:

(a) If the purpose of the amendment is to add a word or words to the original motion only:

The motion to be moved by the person proposing the amendment will be:

*That the word (or words) shown as being inserted be so inserted.*

(b) If the purpose of the amendment is to delete one or more words from the original motion only:

The motion to be moved by the person proposing the amendment will be:

*That the word (or words) shown as being struck out be deleted.*

(c) If the purpose of the amendment is to delete one or more words from the original motion and to insert a new word or words (including in a different place):

The motion to be moved by the person proposing the amendment will be:

*That the word (or words) shown as being struck out be deleted and that the words shown as being inserted be so inserted.*

(d) Alternative amendments may be moved if a preceding amendment is not agreed to until there is agreement as to the amendment (or amendments) to be made to the motion.

- (3) In connection with the operation of subsection (2), the President or the Chairperson of Committees (as the case may be) may -
- (a) require that a proposed set of amendments be split into two or more separate amendments in order to assist with handling, and voting on, the amendments; and
  - (b) determine the order in which different amendments moved by different persons will be moved, discussed and put; and
  - (c) allow a person, with leave, to move an amendment in an amended form.
- (4) Without limiting the powers of the President or the Chairperson of Committees (as the case may be) (the Chair) to refuse to accept, or to refuse to put, an amendment on any ground, an amendment should not be accepted -
- (a) if the amendment would, in the opinion of the Chair, substantially change the original motion (as members of the Synod or the Committee would then be asked to vote on something completely different to what was being proposed at the first instance); or
  - (b) if the amendment would, in the opinion of the Chair, directly contradict the original motion (as the person seeking to move the amendment should instead vote against the original motion).
- (5) A motion (with or without amendment) must be formally put in its entirety once all amendments have been dealt with.

## **9 – Amendment of section 42 – Committee Procedure**

Section 42(1a)(a), (b) and (c) – delete paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) and substitute:

- (a) a copy of the proposed amendment must be delivered to the Secretary of Synod in a manner and form determined by the Secretary of Synod, with the amendment being presented and considered in a form and according to a process consistent with section 18;

## **10 – Amendment of section 49 – Synod in Public**

Section 49 – delete and substitute:

Subject to the provisions of any Ordinance of the Synod and unless the Synod shall by resolution otherwise determine the discussions of the Synod:

- (a) in the case of a session of the Synod other than a session conducted in accordance with the provisions of section 15(4) of the Constitution, must be always open to members of the Church and the public; and
- (b) in the case of a session of the Synod conducted in accordance with the provisions of section 15(4) of the Constitution, must be made available for viewing by members of the Church and the public on a platform determined by the Diocesan Council.