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THE GENERAL  
SYNOD

To  
Members of the General Synod  
Diocesan Secretaries  
Diocesan Registrars

David Williams  
*Clerk to the Synod*

10 June 2008

Dear Colleague

ELECTIONS REVIEW GROUP

I enclose a copy of the Report of the Elections Review Group, which was set up by the General Synod's Business Committee following the 2005 elections to the General Synod to review the rules governing elections, in the context of the Business Committee's overall responsibility for keeping the detailed aspects of Synodical government under review.

The Group was particularly concerned with elections to the General Synod, but it also considered matters relating to Diocesan and Deanery Synods, and sundry other matters concerning church representation. The Group was grateful to all those involved in Synodical elections who responded to its original invitation for submissions and comments, in the light of experience of the 2005 elections.

The Group's report has now been considered by the Business Committee, who have agreed that it should be sent for consultation to all Synod members, and to Diocesan Secretaries and Diocesan Registrars who are involved with the administration of elections. The intention is that comments should be submitted by the end of September. The Elections Review Group would then consider these and, subject to any changes required by the outcome of the consultation, would supervise the drawing up of a schedule of proposed amendments to the Church Representation Rules, the Clergy Representation Rules and other legislation. The Group's proposals would then be considered by the Business Committee in December, with a view any necessary legislative changes being taken to the February Synod next year.

The Business Committee therefore offers the Elections Review Group's report and recommendations for consultation. It has not yet formed a view on the specific matters which have been identified by the Group, but takes the view that they are all matters on which consultation should now take place.

However, the Business Committee wishes to draw attention to two particular and substantial items in the report, which have more significant resource implications. In relation to paragraph 13 of the report, the Committee wishes to invite views as to whether the issue of the balance of representation of the two provinces in the House of Laity should be pursued, for example along the lines identified by the Group in the penultimate sentence of this paragraph. This would require quite substantial analysis and examination before specific proposals could be put forward. In respect of paragraph 33 (concerning