

GENERAL SYNOD

DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO. 32
THE CONVOCATIONS (ELECTIONS TO UPPER HOUSE) (AMENDMENT)
RESOLUTION 201-
THE CLERGY REPRESENTATION RULES (AMENDMENT) RESOLUTION 201-
THE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES (AMENDMENT) RESOLUTION 201-

Explanatory Memorandum

Introduction

1. The draft Amending Canon and draft resolutions are introduced on the instructions of the Business Committee to give effect to changes proposed by the Elections Review Group.
2. The background to the proposals embodied in the draft legislation is set out in more detail in the First Report of the Business Committee on the Work of the Elections Group (GS 1901), to which members are accordingly referred.

Draft Amending Canon No. 32 (GS 1902)

3. *Paragraph 1* makes a number of amendments relating to the arrangements for elections to the Lower Houses of the Convocations.
4. *Paragraph 1(2) and (3)* remove the fixed maxima for the numbers of seats in the Lower Houses of the Convocations to be allocated to the two provinces and limits the total number of directly and specially elected proctors to 195. (That figure represents the current total of 195 for the number of directly and specially elected proctors: 136 for Canterbury and 59 for York.)
5. The overall effect of these changes, and that made by paragraph 1(4)(a) of the Amending Canon, will be that the numbers of proctors to be elected to the Convocations by the dioceses (other than Sodor and Man) will be determined, under the opening words of paragraph 2 of Canon H 2, solely by reference to the number of electors within each diocese, subject to an overall maximum of the directly and specially elected proctors of 195.
6. *Paragraph 1(4)(a)* removes the current limitation (to two) on the number of proctors to be elected from the Diocese in Europe, with the result that its representation in the Lower House of Canterbury Convocation will be calculated on the same basis as the mainland dioceses.
7. *Paragraph 1(6)* removes the provision for electoral areas comprising universities – thus ending the universities constituencies. *Paragraphs 1(4)(b), 1(5), 1(7)(a), 1(8) and 1(9)* make further amendments which are consequential on that.
8. *Paragraph 1(7)(b)* corrects an incorrect cross-reference.
9. *Paragraph 2* increases the number of bishops to be elected to the Upper House of the Convocation of Canterbury from 4 to 5.

10. *Paragraph 3* provides for the changes made by the Canon not to affect the composition or membership of the current Convocations.

The Convocations (Elections to Upper House) (Amendment) Resolution 201- (GS 1903)

11. This Resolution amends the detailed provision made in the Convocations (Elections to Upper House) Rules for elections to the Upper Houses of the Convocations of Canterbury and York.
12. *Paragraph 1* is a consequential amendment, reflecting the fact that by virtue of paragraph 2(2) of Amending Canon No. 32 the number of bishops to be elected to the Upper House of the Convocation of Canterbury will be increased from 4 to 5.
13. *Paragraph 2* makes fuller provision for the nomination process in elections to the Upper Houses of both Convocations, including by allowing nominations to be submitted to the presiding officer by FAX (as is already the case in elections to the Lower Houses of the Convocations and the House of Laity)
14. *Paragraph 3* deals with citation and commencement.

The Clergy Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution 201- (GS 1904)

15. This Resolution amends the detailed provision made in the Clergy Representation Rules for elections to the Lower Houses of the Convocations of Canterbury and York.
16. *Paragraphs 1, 5 and 6* are consequential amendments, reflecting the repeal by Amending Canon No. 32 of the provisions of Canon H 2 that provide for the election of proctors in Convocation by the universities constituencies.
17. *Paragraph 2* amends Rule 20(1) so as to allow an elector to ask for his or her voting paper to be sent to some other address than that recorded in the register of clerical electors provided he or she makes a written request to the presiding officer before the close of nominations.
18. *Paragraph 3* amends the wording of Rule 20 to make it clearer that a candidate is required to indicate whether they have served previously as a member of a Convocation.
19. *Paragraph 4* inserts a new rule requiring the presiding officer to ensure that, before voting papers are issued, copies of the candidates' election addresses are posted on the diocesan website, together with a list of all the candidates.
20. *Paragraph 5* deals with citation and commencement.

The Church Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution 201- (GS 1905)

21. This Resolution amends the provisions of the Church Representation Rules.
22. *Paragraph 1* deals with citation, interpretation and commencement.

23. *Paragraph 2* removes the fixed maxima for the numbers of seats in the House of Laity to be allocated to the two provinces, and limits the total number of directly and specially elected members of the House of Laity to 195. (That figure represents the current total of 195 for the number of directly and specially elected members: 136 for Canterbury and 59 for York.)
24. *Paragraph 3* removes the current limitation (to two) on the number of members of the House of Laity to be elected from the Diocese in Europe, with the result that its representation will be calculated on the same basis as the mainland dioceses.
25. *Paragraph 4* removes the requirement that the number of members to be elected to the House of Laity from the dioceses of the Provinces of Canterbury and York must be in the proportions 70 to 30, so removing the current weighting in the allocation of seats in favour of the Province of York.
26. The overall effect of the changes made by paragraphs 2 to 4 of the Resolution will be that the numbers of members to be elected to the House of Laity by the dioceses (other than Sodor and Man) will be determined, under Rule 36(2), solely by reference to the number of names on the rolls of parishes within dioceses, subject to an overall maximum of the directly and specially elected members of 195.
27. *Paragraph 5* amends Rule 39(3) so as to allow an elector to ask for his or her voting paper to be sent to some other address than that recorded in the register of clerical electors provided he or she makes a written request to the presiding officer before the close of nominations.
28. *Paragraph 6* amends the wording of Rule 39(4) to make it clearer that a candidate is required to indicate whether they have served previously as a member of the House of Laity.
29. *Paragraph 7* inserts a new rule 39(6A) requiring the presiding officer to ensure that, before voting papers are issued, copies of candidates' election addresses are posted on the diocesan website, together with a list of all the candidates.
30. *Paragraph 8* deletes the reference in Rule 46A(c) to the Central Board of Finance, since that body no longer exists.
31. *Paragraphs 9, 10 and 11* amend the application form for enrolment on the church electoral roll contained in Section 1 of Appendix I, the form of notice for revision of the church electoral roll contained in Section 2 of Appendix I and the form of notice of preparation of a new roll contained in Section 3 of Appendix I to make it explicit in each case that only lay persons are entitled to be entered on the church electoral roll.
32. *Paragraph 12* amends the notice of election for diocesan synod elections contained in Section 5 of Appendix I.
33. *Paragraph 13* amends the nomination form for diocesan synod elections contained in Section 6 of Appendix I.