

GENERAL SYNOD

THE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES (AMENDMENT) RESOLUTION 2014

Explanatory Memorandum

Introduction

1. The Resolution is introduced on the instructions of the Archbishops' Council to give effect to changes proposed to the Church Representation Rules ('the CRRs') by the Archbishops' Council's Simplification Group.
2. The background to the proposals embodied in the Resolution is set out in more detail in the Report of the Simplification Group (GS Misc 1048), which was laid before the Synod in July 2013.
3. The Simplification Group was established by the Archbishops' Council as one of a series of steps, agreed with the House of Bishops, in response to Archbishop Rowan Williams's Presidential Address at the November 2010 inaugural group of sessions. The Group's remit, as part of the 'Going for Growth' agenda, was "*to produce an initial assessment within twelve months of credible options (including as necessary ones that would require legislation) for reducing the time spent by clergy and church members on the management of structures and processes*" (GS Misc 995).
4. Following an open consultation process begun in October 2011 which invited suggestions for review and change, a number of responses were received which proposed changes. They were broadly consistent in identifying the following areas where parishes and their clergy would benefit from action from the centre:
 - a simplification of the CRRs;
 - a review of the faculty jurisdiction;
 - some streamlining of the processes in relation to pastoral reorganisation; and
 - the development of more online resources and advice for parishes.
5. The Simplification Group reported on possibilities for change in each of these areas to the Council in autumn 2012, when the Council accepted its recommendations in full. So far as the CRRs were concerned, the Council agreed a number of proposed changes and undertook in GS Misc 995 to bring them to the Synod for approval in November 2013 or February 2014. The Resolution gives effect to that commitment.

Notes on paragraphs

6. *Paragraph 1* deals with citation, interpretation and commencement.
7. *Paragraph 2* repeals Rule 3, which currently imposes certain obligations on parochial church councils ('PCCs') to notify other PCCs in connection with removals, and proposed removals, from church electoral rolls.
8. *Paragraph 3* removes the requirement in paragraph 2 of Appendix II to the CRRs for each PCC to hold a minimum of four meetings a year (in addition to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting) and replaces it with a requirement to hold at least one meeting a year.

9. *Paragraph 4* repeals paragraph 4(a) of Appendix II, which currently requires notice of every PCC meeting to be posted at or near the principal door of every church or building licensed for public worship in the parish at least ten clear days before the meeting is to take place.
10. *Paragraph 5* removes the prohibition in paragraph 6 of Appendix II on the transaction of any business not specified in the agenda unless at least one-third of the members are present and three-quarters of the members present and voting agree.
11. *Paragraph 6* repeals paragraph 7 of Appendix II, which requires business at a PCC meeting to be transacted in the order specified in the agenda unless the PCC resolve otherwise.
12. *Paragraph 7* amends paragraph 14(a) of Appendix II so as to remove the requirement that the standing committee of a PCC must consist of not fewer than five persons, including the minister and churchwardens *ex officio*, and replaces it with a requirement that only the minister and churchwardens must be members. But the PCC will continue to be able to appoint additional members if it wishes.
13. *Paragraph 8* removes the requirement imposed by paragraph 15 of Appendix II for the minister to be an *ex officio* member of all committees established by the PCC and replaces it with a provision under which he or she will be entitled to be, but does not have to be, a member of all such committees.
14. *Paragraph 9* inserts a new paragraph 15A in Appendix II expressly allowing a PCC to delegate functions to committees of the PCC.
15. *Paragraph 10* inserts a new paragraph 16A in Appendix II allowing a PCC to regulate its own proceedings, subject to any specific requirements of the Rules or any other enactment.

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February 2014