

# **General Synod (Remote Meetings) Measure**

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DRAFT OF A MEASURE passed by the General Synod of the Church of England to make provision enabling remote meetings of the General Synod.

## **1 Power to make standing orders for remote meetings of General Synod**

- (1) The officers of the General Synod acting jointly may make standing orders for persons to attend, speak at, vote in, or otherwise participate in meetings of the General Synod without all of the persons, or without any of the persons, being together in the same place. 5
- (2) The officers of the General Synod are—
  - (a) the Archbishops of Canterbury and York,
  - (b) the Prolocutors of the Convocations of Canterbury and York, and
  - (c) the Chair and Vice-Chair of the House of Laity of the General Synod.
- (3) Standing orders under this section may disapply or modify provisions of the Standing Orders of the General Synod. 10
- (4) Standing orders under this section may not include provision which would apply to business on—
  - (a) a Measure, Canon or other provision touching any of the matters referred to in Article 7(1) of the Constitution, 15
  - (b) a Measure or Canon to which Article 8 of the Constitution applies by virtue of paragraph (1) of that Article, or
  - (c) a scheme to which Article 8 of the Constitution applies by virtue of paragraph (1) or (1A) of that Article.
- (5) Before making standing orders under this section, the officers of the General Synod acting jointly must, so far as practicable, consult—
  - (a) the Business Committee of the General Synod appointed in accordance with section 10 of the National Institutions Measure 1998, and
  - (b) the Standing Orders Committee of the General Synod appointed under the Standing Orders of the Synod. 20
- (6) After making standing orders under this section, the officers of the General Synod acting jointly must ensure that—
  - (a) the standing orders are published on the Church of England website, and
  - (b) a copy of the standing orders is sent to each member of the Synod. 25
- (7) In this section and section 2, “the Constitution” means the Constitution of the General Synod set out in Schedule 2 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969. 30

## **2 Operation of standing orders under section 1**

- (1) Standing orders made under section 1 come into operation on the day after that on which they are published under section 1(6)(a) and continue to have effect pending the decision by the General Synod on the question of whether to approve the standing orders. 5
- (2) The question of whether to approve the standing orders is to be the first item of business at the first meeting of the General Synod held (in whatever manner) after the standing orders come into operation.
- (3) If the standing orders are approved by the General Synod (with or without amendment), they continue to have effect until the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which they are so approved. 10
- (4) But the General Synod may resolve that the standing orders –
  - (a) are not to cease to have effect at the time when they would otherwise cease to do so under subsection (3) or under the most recent resolution made under this subsection or subsection (5), and 15
  - (b) are instead to continue to have effect after that time for such period as the General Synod specifies in the resolution.
- (5) If standing orders under section 1 have ceased to have effect, the General Synod may resolve that they are to be revived and to have effect for such period as the General Synod specifies in the resolution. 20
- (6) Standing orders under section 1 have effect in spite of any provision in the Constitution or in the Standing Orders of the General Synod with which they are inconsistent.

## **3 Short title and commencement**

- (1) This Measure may be cited as the General Synod (Remote Meetings) Measure 2020. 25
- (2) This Measure comes into force on the day on which it is passed.