

## GENERAL SYNOD

## SIXTIETH REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The Standing Orders Committee has considered amendments to the Standing Orders, proposed by the Archbishops' Council, concerning the Crown Nominations Commission and vacancies in the sees of Canterbury and Dover. The Committee is of the view that the proposed amendments as drafted would achieve the intended effect.

1. The Standing Orders Committee ("the Committee") presents its sixtieth report to the Synod.
2. The Committee's membership is as follows:

Appointed members:

The Revd Canon Joyce Jones (Chair) (Leeds)  
 Mr Geoffrey Tattersall QC (Manchester)  
 Mr Clive Scowen (London)  
 The Revd Treena Larkin (Lichfield)  
 The Revd Susan Lucas (Chelmsford)  
 The Revd Amatu Christian-Iwuagwu (London)  
 Mrs Karen Czapiewski (Gloucester)

Ex-officio members:

The Ven Luke Miller (Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury)  
 The Revd Kate Wharton (Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of York)  
 Dr Jamie Harrison (Chair of the House of Laity)  
 Mrs Alison Coulter (Vice-Chair of the House of Laity).

**Proposals concerning the Crown Nominations Commission and vacancies in the sees of Canterbury and Dover**

3. At the February 2022 group of sessions, the Synod, on a motion to 'take note', debated [GS 2253 Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Canterbury CNC.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](#). The consultation envisaged by the Archbishops' Council in GS 2253 has been carried out.
4. Having considered the responses to the consultation, the Archbishops' Council intends to bring proposals for the amendment of SOs 136, 137 and 139 – which concern the role and composition of the Crown Nominations Commission ('CNC') to the July 2022 group of sessions. The Council has set out its proposals and the reasons for them in GS 2260. The proposed amendments would:
  - reduce from six to three the number of members elected by the Diocese of Canterbury to the CNC for consideration of a vacancy in the see of Canterbury;

- increase from one to five the number of representatives of other churches of the Anglican Communion who are members of the CNC for consideration of a vacancy in the see of Canterbury;
  - provide that one such representative is to be chosen by the Joint Standing Committee of the Primates Meeting of the Anglican Communion and the Anglican Consultative Council from each of the five regions of the Anglican Communion (the Europe region to include the provinces of the British Isles other than England);
  - provide that of those so chosen, at least one must be a primate, one a deacon or priest and one a lay person who is an actual communicant;
  - provide for vacancies in the see of Dover to be considered by the CNC as if it were a diocesan see.
5. The Committee has considered the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders that would give effect to these proposals. It is the Committee's duty under Standing Order 40(1) to submit to the Synod a written report or comment on any motion included on an agenda or notice paper for the amendment of Standing Orders.
  6. The Committee is of the view that the proposed amendments, as set out in the Annex to this report, would achieve the intended effect by implementing the proposals described in GS 2260.
  7. This Committee and the Business Committee have considered what practical steps might be taken to assist the Synod in taking decisions on the proposed changes to the process for electing members of the Crown Nominations Commission as set out in the Standing Orders. The usual procedure for making amendments to the Standing Orders is for each amendment to be moved, debated and voted on (unless the procedure for deemed approval applies to the amendment). It is additionally open to any member to give notice of an amendment to a proposed amendment, in which case that amendment is moved, debated and voted on before the vote on the main amendment takes place. The process can, therefore, be quite complex and may not be easy to follow.
  8. The Business Committee is of the view that the Synod – rather than simply being presented with a sequence of textual amendments to the Standing Orders – should be invited to vote, in turn, on a series of propositions which reflect the proposals in GS 2260. The outcome of those votes should reveal what changes to the Standing Orders the Synod wishes to make. It will then be possible to move the necessary amendments to the Standing Orders on a subsequent day during the July group of sessions.
  9. This Committee supports the procedure proposed by the Business Committee. The Business Committee have arranged the Synod's agenda accordingly, with votes on a series of propositions taking place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July and the moving of the necessary amendments to the Standing Orders on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

**Joyce Jones**  
Chair

June 2022

## ANNEX

### AMENDMENTS RELATING TO CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION

#### **Standing Order 136 (Crown Nominations Commission: functions)**

1. In Standing Order 136, in paragraph (2), after “diocesan bishopric” insert “, or in the suffragan bishopric of Dover (see further SO 137(6)),”.

*Explanatory note: this amendment would provide for the Crown Nominations Commission to consider a vacancy in the suffragan see of Dover as it would consider a vacancy in a diocese.*

#### **Standing Order 137 (Crown Nominations Commission: membership)**

2. In Standing Order 137, in paragraph (1)(d), after “the diocesan bishopric” insert “or, in the case of a vacancy in the Archbishopric of Canterbury, three members elected by and from the Vacancy in See Committee of the diocese of Canterbury”.

*Explanatory note: this amendment would provide that, where there is a vacancy for Archbishop of Canterbury, the voting members of the Crown Nominations Commission include three members (rather than the current six) elected by and from the Vacancy in See Committee of Canterbury diocese.*

3. In Standing Order 137, in paragraph (1)(e), for “that diocese” substitute “the diocese in which there is a vacancy in the diocesan bishopric”.

*Explanatory note: this is consequential on the previous amendment.*

4. In Standing Order 137, after paragraph (5) insert—

“(6) For the purposes of this Standing Order and the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 1993 (as amended from time to time), the suffragan bishopric of Dover is to be treated as being a diocesan bishopric and, in the application of this Standing Order and that Regulation to that suffragan bishopric, a reference to the diocese is, where the context requires, to be read as a reference to the diocese of Canterbury.”

*Explanatory note: this technical amendment would ensure the correct application to the suffragan see of Dover of the relevant Standing Orders and the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation.*

#### **Standing Order 139 (Crown Nominations Commission: archiepiscopal vacancy)**

5. In Standing Order 139, in paragraph (2)(a), for sub-paragraph (ii) (but not the following “and”) substitute—

“(ii) five representatives of other Churches of the Anglican Communion (see paragraph (2A)),”.

*Explanatory note: this amendment would provide that, where there is a vacancy for Archbishop of Canterbury, the voting members of the Crown Nominations Commission would also include five representatives of other Churches of the Anglican Communion (rather than the current single member of the Primates Meeting of the Anglican Communion).*

6. In Standing Order 139, after paragraph (2) insert—

“(2A) The five persons referred to in paragraph (2)(a)(ii) are to be chosen by the Joint Standing Committee of the Primates Meeting of the Anglican Communion and the Anglican Consultative Council—

- (a) with one person to be chosen from each of the five regions of the Anglican Communion (and, for this purpose, the Europe region includes the provinces of the British Isles other than England), and
- (b) with those chosen to include at least one primate, at least one priest or deacon and at least one actual communicant lay person.”

***Explanatory note:** this amendment would provide for the five representatives of the Anglican Communion referred to in the previous amendment to be chosen by the relevant Joint Standing Committee and for there to be one person chosen from each region of the Anglican Communion and for those chosen to include at least one bishop, at least one cleric and at least one lay person.*