

# GENERAL SYNOD

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## NOVEMBER GROUP OF SESSIONS 2023

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### NINTH NOTICE PAPER

#### RULING UNDER STANDING ORDER 25

On 7<sup>th</sup> November, the Chair received a request for a ruling on whether the motion under Item 7 Living in Love and Faith (GS 2328) for the November 2023 group of sessions was contrary to Standing Order 25 *Reconsideration* (“SO 25”). The request was accompanied by a detailed note explaining the reasons why it was said that the motion offended SO 25(1)(b).

The Chair considered the request. **He concluded that the text of the motion did not offend SO 25(1)(b).**

SO 25(1)(b) reads:

“(1) It is not in order, subject to this Standing Order, to move a motion or amendment ...

(b) which proposes a course of action contrary to or substantially inconsistent with a decision made by the Synod within the preceding 11 months.”

The reasons were as follows:

- The consideration of whether the motion offended SO 25 must be limited to the text of the motion itself. The text of a Synod paper or speech is not relevant to this consideration.
- The meaning of the word “substantially” was considered. The Chair noted the context in which the word was used in SO 25 and determined that it meant “much more than significantly” and represented high threshold to establish.
- It was noted that it was not the role of the Chair to interpret the contents of a GS paper. The text of the

motion asks Synod to “recognise” the progress as set out in GS 2328 and to “encourage” the House of Bishops in implementing the February 2023 motion. Accordingly, the motion did not propose a course of action contrary to or substantially inconsistent with a decision made by the Synod at the February 2023 group of sessions.

The full text of the decision is available for review at the Information Desk.