



Amendment to Standing Order 12

BACKGROUND

The updated Church Representation Rules allows for the Chairs of both Houses to continue to hold office as such until the election of their successors under the new CRR rule 44 (5).

The Chairs of Houses are usually elected in October/November at the start of the new three year term of Diocesan Synod and so there can technically be a vacancy when a Chair is not intending to stand again.

To avoid this happening again in three years time, Bishop's Council has approved an amendment to the Standing Orders of the Bristol Diocesan Synod (under Standing Order 127ⁱ) to enable the Chairs of both Houses each to continue to hold office as such until the election of their successors.

To be put into effect, Diocesan Synod is now asked to consider this proposed change and approve the motion described below.

AMENDMENT

Having consulted with the Diocesan Registrar, the following wording is therefore suggested to amend Standing Order 12:

Existing wording:

Election of Vice-Presidents

- 12 *Before the first meeting of the Synod after the triennial elections and where a vacancy occurs, as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, each of the houses of clergy and laity or where appropriate the one House concerned, shall hold a special meeting to elect one of its members to be a vice-President of the Synod. A member of the appropriate House appointed by the President shall act as Chairman for such meeting. Whoever so presides shall have a vote in the election and in the case of an equality of votes the decision shall be taken by lot.*

Suggested revised wording:

Election of Vice-Presidents

- 12 *Before the first meeting of the Synod after the triennial elections and where a vacancy occurs, as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, each of the houses of clergy and laity or where appropriate the one House concerned, shall hold a special meeting to elect one of its members to be a vice-President of the Synod **and they shall each to continue to hold office as such until the election of his or her successor as chair.** A member of the appropriate House appointed by the President shall act as Chairman for such meeting. Whoever so presides shall have a vote in the election and in the case of an equality of votes the decision shall be taken by lot.*

MOTION TO AMEND STANDING ORDER

Having been considered under SO 127 of Standing Orders and duly approved by Bishop's Council (as Standing Committee), the President to move:

that this Synod approves the changes to the wording of Standing Order 12, as detailed above..

ⁱ The wording of Standing Order 127 is as follows:

Amendment of Standing Orders

- 127 A motion for the amendment of these Standing Orders shall not be moved before it has been considered by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee shall report to the Synod orally or in writing as it thinks fit on the implication of each proposed amendment.