

OXFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD

Amendment to Standing Orders for the Diocesan Synod

The Standing Committee (Bishop's Council) is proposing that standing order 5(c) be replaced with immediate effect. This is to provide in future for the Chairs of the Houses of Clergy and Laity to be able, each, to appoint a deputy. The existing standing order only provides for a deputy to a single meeting and to act in place of the Chair. The proposed standing order allows for a Chair to share responsibilities at a meeting with a deputy and to be appointed to serve for a much longer period of time. This proposed change has the full support of the current Chairs of the Houses of Clergy and Laity.

The current standing order is as follows:

'A vice-president of the synod may appoint a member of the bishop's council of the same house as that vice-president to act as vice-president of the synod for a particular meeting of the synod or of the appropriate house. A person so appointed shall have all the powers of a vice-president of the synod for the duration of that meeting.'

The proposed new standing order is:

'A vice-president of the synod may appoint a member of the bishop's council (of the same house as that vice-president), after consultation with the bishop of the diocese and the appointments committee of the bishop's council, to serve as their deputy. A person so appointed shall act in place of (or alongside) the vice-president, either when the vice-president is absent or otherwise requests. A deputy serves for the remainder of the triennium unless their term is brought to an end by their own resignation or by the vice-president, after consultation with the bishop, deciding to do so.'

Mark Humphriss

Diocesan Secretary

May 2024