

The Anglican Church of Canada

**REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP
TO GENERAL SYNOD 2023**

The work of the Governance Working Group (“GWG”) during the last four years can be described in two main areas.

1. Work on General Synod 2019 Resolution C005–Constitutional Review

General Synod 2019 passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved that this General Synod

Direct Council of General Synod to review the composition of the membership and the rules of order and procedure of General Synod and bring forward any recommended changes for consideration at the 2022 General Synod.

At its November 2019 meeting, CoGS referred this resolution to the GWG to engage the Council in process of consideration at subsequent meetings. GWG prepared five reports to educate and animate the discussion by CoGS:

- Report No. 1, 5 February 2020 [027-01-20-03], which described the current composition of General Synod; the current processes for amending the Declaration of Principles, the Constitution, Canons dealing with Doctrine, Worship or Discipline, and other Canons; with some ideas about possible changes that might be made to the number and composition of the three Orders; possible changes that might be made to the various procedural requirements for making different types of decisions, including the thresholds for passing required votes by Orders, and the ability to requisition a vote by dioceses. The interrelationship among these provisions is subtle. CoGS discussed these issues at its March and June 2020 meetings.
- Report No. 2, 25 July 2020 [027-03-20-07], which considered in some detail questions about whether the size of General Synod could or should be made smaller; the number of elected clerical and lay delegates from a diocese; and possible revisions to the current allocations contained in section 8 of the Constitution. CoGS continued its discussion at the July 2020 meeting.
- Report No. 3, 12 September 2020 [027-04-20-09], which continued the discussion about the number of elected delegates, as well as a discussion about the size of the Order of Bishops; and a discussion about thresholds and methods for voting on particular types of issues. Various models were presented. In addition, there was a proposal for revised Rules of Order and Procedure for General Synod. CoGS continued the discussion at its September and November 2020 meetings.
- Report No. 4, 19 October 2020 [027-05-20-11], which described the current different voting methods and thresholds for different types of issues; asked whether the two-thirds threshold should be changed for votes by Orders; and continued the discussion about the number of

clergy and lay members from each diocese. CoGS continued the discussion at its November 2020 meeting. GWG also made a presentation to the House of Bishops in October 2020.

- Report No. 5, May 2021 [027-08-21-05], identified the guiding principle for changes to be “*How can we govern ourselves effectively? Which provisions add value?*” Coming out of the discussions to date, GWG identified the following five proposals:
 1. Change the bands for determining the number of elected clergy and lay members from each diocese.
 2. Change the threshold for *required* Votes by Orders from two-thirds of each Order to two-thirds of General Synod as a whole with a majority in each Order.
 3. Eliminate the need for approval by two successive sessions of General Synod.
 4. Enact the revised Rules of Order and Procedure.
 5. Commission a short document describing the history, structure and governance of the various levels of the Church in Canada, with particular reference to the role and work of the national Church by General Synod.

The GWG’s report also identified a number of other possible changes which it did not recommend.

CoGS accepted these proposals at its November 2021 meeting, and directed GWG to prepare wording for motions to give effect to these proposals. GWG provided wording for the motions to CoGS in March 2023, and CoGS directed the motions for consideration by General Synod 2023.

GWG Report No. 5 [027-08-21-05; May 2021] is attached to this report.

2. Other Matters

CoGS accepted the GWG’s recommendation to send the following matters to General Synod 2023:

A. Adopted by #CoGS 007-11-20:

THAT the number of clergy and lay delegates for General Synod 2022 [postponed to 2023] be determined by reference only to the four specified dates (Easter, Pentecost, the 2nd Sunday of September, and Christmas) in 2019

Note: This will need to be ratified at the beginning of General Synod 2023

B. Adopted by #CoGS 010-11-21:

1. Second Reading to GS 2019 A051-R2: Prayer for Reconciliation with the Jewish People
2. Second Reading to GS 2019 A030: Amendment to the Declaration of Principles— Handbook Committee
3. Motion repealing Canon XIII on Deaconesses
4. Motion to amend Canon III to extend the term of office of the Primate if the next session of the General Synod is scheduled to occur soon after the Primate turns 70
5. Motion to amend Canon V (Archives)
6. Motion to amend Canon XVII (Licensing) to clarify that licences may be granted to bishops, priests and deacons ordained in The Anglican Church of Canada or a church in full communion with The Anglican Church of Canada.

C. Adopted by CoGS at 027-11-23-03:

Motion to eliminate the Audit Committee as a separate committee from the Financial Management Committee.

The following were members of the Governance Working Group for some or all of the quadrennium:

Clare Burns, Ann Chaplin, Ven. Trevor Freeman (till October 2021), Ven. Alan Perry, Ven. Michael Thompson (while General Secretary), Rev. Cynthia Haines Turner, Very Rev. Peter Wall (while Acting General Secretary), and David Phillip Jones (Chair).

March 15, 2023.

Attachment: CoGS document 027-08-21-05.

**REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP
TO THE COUNCIL OF GENERAL SYNOD
MAY 2021**

PURPOSE: **The purpose of this Report is to provide the Council with GWG’s recommendations for changes in the composition and membership of General Synod and the rules of order and procedure**

The Report is for Council’s information at this meeting, with a view to discussion and action at Council’s November 2021 meeting (which ideally will be in-person).

A. BACKGROUND

1. General Synod 2019 passed the following resolution:

Resolution C005—Constitutional Review (as amended)

Be it resolved that this General Synod

Direct Council of General Synod to review the composition of the membership and the rules of order and procedure of General Synod and bring forward any recommended changes for consideration at the 2022 General Synod

2. CoGS referred this resolution to the GWG to engage the Council and others about these issues, and to bring proposals for the Council to consider recommending to General Synod 2022.

B. REASONS FOR MAKING CHANGES

3. One of the recurring questions throughout our consultations was: *Why are we doing this?*
4. Although C005 may have been initiated prior to General Synod 2019 dealing with the marriage canon issue, a considerable number of persons perceive that it was a reaction to the outcome of that vote. Some see that issue as a failure of governance on an issue that took too long to be considered and thwarted the significant majority of the members of General Synod. Others are wary of changes that would have led to a different result on that (or any) particular issue.
5. GWG urges CoGS to be guided by the following principle:

“How can we govern ourselves effectively? Which provisions add value?”

C. CONSULTATIONS BY THE GWG

6. In doing this work, the GWG prepared five memoranda for discussion at successive meetings of CoGS.¹ which considered the following topics:
- A description of the different levels in our constitutional structure (Declaration of Principles, Constitution, Canons), the process required for amendment to each level, and the fundamental principles about the membership of General Synod which are contained in sections 2 and 3 of the Declaration of Principles.
 - Membership of General Synod.
 - The thresholds and methods of voting on particular issues.
 - The operating Rules of Order and Procedure.

Membership of General Synod

7. With respect to the membership of General Synod, the majority of CoGS were in favour of keeping the size of General Synod approximately the same as it currently is; maintaining the current minimum of two elected clergy and two elected lay members; maintaining the youth member as an *additional* member from each diocese; and revising the provisions in the Constitution that determine the number of elected clerical and lay members dioceses are entitled to send to General Synod. In addition, there was a discussion about limiting the number of episcopal members from a diocese who would be voting members of the Order of Bishops so as not to exceed the number of elected clergy members from the diocese, which would be consistent with the principle of representation by population.

Thresholds and methods of voting

8. With respect to the thresholds and methods of voting on particular issues, the majority of CoGS were open to changing the current two-thirds thresholds required for passing most votes by Orders;² and deleting some or all of the requirements for certain types of motions to be passed at two successive sessions of General Synod.

1. The GWG memoranda are located in the CoGS docket at numbers 027-01-20-03 (March 2020); 027-02-20-06 (June 2020); 027-03-20-07 (July 2020); 027-04-20-09 (September); and 027-05-20-11 (November 2020).

2. Only a majority in each Order is needed to pass a vote by Orders requisitioned by six members of General Synod pursuant the Rules of Order and Procedure (Rule 19).

Rules of Order and Procedure

9. With respect to the operating Rules of Order and Procedure, members of CoGS were strongly in favour of the draft revision which is in plain language.
10. In addition to discussions with CoGS, GWG received some written submissions and had a discussion with the House of Bishops at their meeting in October 2020.

D. PROPOSALS FOR CoGS TO CONSIDER

11. After considering the issues, preparing our memoranda, and listening to the discussion at the five CoGS meetings and the House of Bishops, we recommend that CoGS propose the following changes to General Synod 2022.

Proposal #1: Change the bands for determining the number of elected clergy and lay members from each diocese

12. GWG recommends amending the formula³ for determining the number of elected clerical and lay members from a diocese so as to spread the dioceses out over the grid by reference to average weekly attendance, while maintaining 2+2 as the minimum, and maintaining the Youth as an *additional* member.
13. While incorporating these features may result in a slightly larger General Synod,⁴ in our view the additional cost would not be significant, can be met in different ways, and is justified by the fact that General Synod is the premiere consultative and legislative gathering for the whole Church which needs to include and hear voices from all parts of our life together.
14. Appendix 1 shows the distribution which would result from this proposal.

3. The formula is contained in section 8 f) of the Constitution. The Constitution can be amended by two-thirds of each Order voting at one session of General Synod. If General Synod 2022 were to accept this proposal, it would come into effect for General Synod 2025.

4. Assuming average weekly attendance does not decrease so as to cause a diocese to move down a band.

Proposal #2: Change the threshold for *required* Votes by Orders from two-thirds of each Order to two-thirds of General Synod as a whole with a majority in each Order.

15. By far the usual and most frequent method of voting at General Synod is by all members voting together with a simple majority of the whole required for a motion to pass.⁵
16. However, section 11 of the Declaration of Principles requires votes by Orders for certain types of decisions and currently requires a two-thirds majority in each Order for such a motion to pass.⁶
17. The current provision effectively allows one-third plus one member of any Order to be able to veto such a motion. This equates to a veto being able to be exercised by:
 - 6% of the members of General Synod (Order of Bishops), or
 - 12% of the members of General Synod (Order of Clergy), or
 - 16% of the members of General Synod (Order of Laity).⁷

Put a different way, depending upon the Order, 94%, 88% or 84% of the members of General Synod could be in favour of a motion but it would nevertheless fail.
18. While some have suggested that all motions should be decided by a simple majority of General Synod as a whole, the matters referred to in section 11 of the Declaration of Principles are important matters, and it makes sense to require a higher threshold than a simple majority to deal with such matters.

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5. Of the 54 substantive motions at General Synod 2019, 44 were ordinary Acts of Synod decided by a simple majority of General Synod voting as a whole. Of the ten motions which engaged *required* Votes by Orders pursuant to section 11 of the Declaration of Principles:
 - 2 were amendments to the Constitution;
 - 3 were amendments to Ordinary Canons;
 - 1 was to give first reading to a Canon on Doctrine, Discipline and Worship;
 - 2 were to give second reading to Canon on Doctrine, Discipline and Worship (one of which failed);
 - 1 amended the Rules of Order and Procedure;
 - 1 gave first reading to an amendment to the Declaration of Principles.
 6. Rule 19 of the Rules of Order and Procedure provides that any six members of General Synod may requisition a Vote by Orders on any motion, but only a simple majority in each Order is required to pass such a motion.
 7. Using membership figures from General Synod 2019, and assuming all of the members are present at the time of the vote.

19. In addition, because we are an ordered Church, and it makes sense that on these types of matters there should be a requirement that a majority of each Order is in favour.
20. The proposed amendment recognizes that General Synod as a whole represents the entire Church, while ensuring the agreement of a majority of each Order .

Proposal #3: Eliminate the need for approval by two successive sessions of General Synod

21. Currently, amendments to the Declaration of Principles and the enactment or amendment to Canons dealing with doctrine, worship or discipline must be approved by two successive sessions of General Synod.⁸
22. Given that General Synod only meets once every three years, the requirement for approval at two successive sessions of General Synod prolongs the time frame for making these types of decisions. While the current provision may in earlier times have assisted informed debate throughout the broader Church, it does not seem to be necessary with modern methods of communications.
23. Adopting this proposal would provide the Church with the ability to be able to respond more quickly changing circumstances.⁹
24. In addition, the current provision requires such decisions to be approved by a second session of General Synod which will necessarily have a different membership from the first.
25. The proposal would not affect either (a) the need for notice of such motions to be provided to diocesan and provincial synods,¹⁰ or (b) the need for provincial synods to consent to changes in sections 6, 7 and 8 of the Declaration of Principles.

Proposal #4: Enact the revised Rules of Order and Procedure

26. The GWG has revised the Rules of Order and Procedure which govern the day-to-day operation of General Synod while it is in session. The object is to put these provisions into plainer language, eliminate some inconsistencies and uncertainties, and add a few additional helpful

8. Sections 11 a) ii) and c) i) of the Declaration of Principles.

9. Because Proposal #3 would involve an amendment to the Declaration of Principles, it would require two readings, so if adopted would not be able to come into effect until General Synod 2028.

10. The diocesan synods elect all of the clergy, lay and episcopal members of General Synod from the diocese.

provisions (such as building in the no-debate list procedure).

27. The proposed revised Rules of Order and Procedure are contained in the Appendix to this Memorandum.

Proposal #5: Commission a short document describing the history, structure, and governance of the various levels of the Church in Canada, with particular reference to the role and work of the national Church by General Synod

28. The GWG has been struck by the need for education about the history, structure and governance of the various levels of the Church in Canada, including a description of the role and work of General Synod at the national level (much of which does not require legislative action).
29. Such a document would be helpful to orient new members of General Synod, new bishops, members of the wider Church at every level, and the general public.

E. SOME OTHER MATTERS NOT BEING RECOMMENDED

30. In the course of our work, other suggestions were proposed which we are not recommending to be pursued at this time, even though arguments can be made in favour of them. Some of these included:
- Limiting the number of bishops from a diocese who would be voting members of the Order of Bishops, so as not to exceed the number of elected clergy members from that diocese.
 - Changing the requirement that the number of elected clergy and lay members from a diocese be equal, and the requirement that the number be related to the relative size of the diocese.
 - Increasing the number of persons required to requisition a vote by Orders or a vote by Dioceses at General Synod.
 - Deleting the provision for votes by Dioceses.
 - Increasing the terms of members of CoGS to two triennia so as to be able to stagger the number retiring after each General Synod.
 - Creating a provision for the Order of Laity and the Order of Clergy to be able to meet separately and send messages to General Synod, similar to the current provision relating to the House of Bishops.
 - Creating the ability of a member of General Synod who is absent for good cause to

be able to vote by proxy.

- Creating the ability to hold some or all sessions of General Synod on a virtual platform rather than in-person.

31. Finally, there was some discussion about the need for greater diversity in the membership of General Synod. Because virtually all of the members of all three Orders are provided by the dioceses, the issue of diversity needs to be addressed at their level and in other ways, perhaps such as guidance documents from CoGS or the Primate or through the sharing of diocesan best practices to encourage the diversity of nominees.

Canon Clare Burns
Ann Chaplin
Rev. Cynthia Haines Turner
Ven. Trevor Freeman
Ven. Alan Perry, General Secretary
Canon David Jones, Chair

Attachments:	Appendix 1	Proposed new bands for number of elected clergy and lay delegates to General Synod
	Appendix 2	Proposed new Rules of Order and Procedure

Re-distribution of GS 2019--Iteration 3
 dioceses ordered by size
 2+2 minimum plus Youth

		Up to 2,500		2,501 - 7,500		7,501-15,000		15,001+ (5 plus 1 per add'l 7,500)		Youth	Bishops	Proposed total	2019	2016	2013
		2+2	3+3	4+4	5,000										
Keewatin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Yukon	296	2	2							1	1	6	7	5	3
Caledonia	462	2	2							1	1	6	6	6	6
Moosonee (no bishop)	485	2	2							1	0	5	5	5	6
Mishamikoweesh	689	2	2							1	2	7	7	5	0
Cariboo (APCI) (TOP)	734	2	2							1	1	6	6	6	6
Athabasca	777	2	2							1	1	6	6	6	6
Brandon	1074	2	2							1	1	6	6	6	8
Saskatoon	1098	2	2							1	1	6	6	5	8
Saskatchewan	1143	2	2							1	2	7	7	7	9
Quebec	1320	2	2							1	1	6	6	7	8
Qu'Appelle	1657	2	2							1	1	6	6	6	8
Kootenay	2148	2	2							1	1	6	6	6	8
Algoma	3000			3	3					1	1	8	6	6	10
Ontario	3501			3	3					1	1	8	6	5	9
Arctic	3571			3	3					1	4	11	9	7	8
Western Nfld.	3623			3	3					1	1	8	6	6	8
Central Nfld.	4157			3	3					1	1	8	6	6	8
Edmonton	4302			3	3					1	1	8	6	6	10
Rupert's Land	4568			3	3					1	1	8	8	8	10
Montreal	4518			3	3					1	1	8	6	6	10
Calgary	5221			3	3					1	1	8	8	8	8
British Columbia	5699			3	3					1	1	8	8	8	10
Fredericton	6761			3	3					1	1	8	8	8	9
Eastern Nfld. & Lab.	6994			3	3					1	1	8	8	8	10
New Westminster	8494					4	4			1	1	10	10	8	12
N.S. and PEI	9419					4	4			1	1	10	10	10	13
Niagara	10069					4	4			1	1	10	10	8	12
Ottawa	10251					4	4			1	1	10	11	10	10
Huron	13831					4	4			1	1	10	10	13	15
Toronto	30949							7	7	1	5	20	22	21	24
ACIP		2	2							1		5	5		
		26	26	36	36	20	20	7	7	31	38	247	237	222	280
Cdn. Forces (2+2+1)+1youth-		2	2							1	1	6	6	6	5
Religious Orders (2)			2									2	2	2	2
NIAB											1	1	1	1	1
Primate											1	1	1	1	1
General Secretary												1	1	1	1
Chancellor												1	1	1	1
TOTAL										41		259	249	234	291

**DRAFT
8 March 2021**

Rules of Order and Procedure

Order of Business

1(1) The business of each day shall commence with prayer, after which the order of business shall be as determined by the Agenda Committee.

Registration and Credentials

2(1) Before taking a seat in the General Synod, each member shall register on a form provided for this purpose, giving all particulars called for thereon. Registration shall be the responsibility of the Credentials Committee.

2(2) All registration forms shall be referred to the Credentials Committee, which shall report to the General Synod on the standing of persons who claim membership.

2(3) Any appeals arising from the committee's report shall be heard by the Assessors, who shall report to the General Synod for decision.

Courtesies of the General Synod

3(1) The President or other presiding officer may invite any person who is not a member to sit with the General Synod or to address the General Synod, but that person shall have no right to participate in debate or to vote.

3(2) During the consideration of any report submitted by any committee, council, board or commission, the members of such committee, council, board or commission, if not members of the General Synod, may be permitted the privilege of sitting with the General Synod and participating in its debate, but shall not be entitled to vote.

3(3) During a meeting of the General Synod the Treasurer, overseas, ecumenical and Indigenous partners, and representatives of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund shall be entitled to be present and, subject to these Rules of Order and Procedure, to participate in any discussion without the right to vote.

The General Synod Service

4(1) A service of the Holy Communion shall be held on the first day of the General Synod as determined by the Primate. The preacher shall be appointed by the Primate and special prayers shall be said for the General Synod. The offering shall be applied to whatever purposes may be determined by the Primate.

4(2) There may be a special public General Synod service, which may be the same as 4(1), during the session of the General Synod.

Sessional Officers

5(1) Secretaries

a) On nomination of the General Secretary, the Prolocutor shall appoint from the membership of the General Synod an Honorary Clerical Secretary, an Honorary Assistant Clerical Secretary, an Honorary Lay Secretary and an Honorary Assistant Lay Secretary, who shall assist the General Secretary in keeping minutes of the General Synod.

b) In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of clerical or lay secretary by death or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled by the Prolocutor, or in the event of a vacancy in that office, by the Deputy Prolocutor, and in the event of a vacancy in both offices, by the Primate.

5(2) The Prolocutor shall appoint two or more Assessors to advise the chairperson in respect to points of order and the Constitution and Canons.

Sessional Committees

6(1) The following sessional committees shall, except where otherwise specified, be appointed from the members of the General Synod by the Council of the General Synod in consultation with the Prolocutor:

a) Agenda Committee — consisting of the chair of the General Synod Planning Committee and not more than seven members to be drawn from the members of the General Synod. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to prepare and publish the agenda for each day of the session.

b) Certification of Minutes Committee — consisting of the General Secretary, the Prolocutor or Deputy Prolocutor, the Honorary Clerical and Lay Secretaries, and a member of the Resolutions Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to certify the accuracy of the minutes of the session of the General Synod.

c) Credentials Committee — consisting of the General Secretary, the Prolocutor or Deputy Prolocutor, and one Assessor. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to report to the General Synod on the standing of all persons who claim membership therein, and to advise the chairperson as to a quorum of each Order.

d) Nominating Committee — consisting of one bishop, one clerical member and one lay member from each ecclesiastical province. The committee shall be constituted not later than one month prior to the opening of the General Synod, to receive nominations for standing committees and the Council of the General Synod and to supervise the election process.

e) Resolutions Committee — consisting of up to eight members, one of whom shall be an Assessor, and with at least one bishop, one clerical and one lay member. It shall be the

responsibility of the committee to receive resolutions from members of the General Synod and prepare them for submission in accordance with guidelines approved from time to time by the Council of the General Synod.

f) Expenditures Committee — consisting of members appointed by the Primate and the Prolocutor in consultation with the chairperson of the Financial Management Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to implement Rule of Order 14(4) with respect to spending motions for which sources of funds have not been identified prior to the General Synod session.

g) Special committees as required.

6(2) When a committee is appointed, the appointment shall contain the name of the chairperson.

6(3) Notice shall be given at the first sitting of each session of the General Synod of the membership of all sessional committees and lists of the same shall be posted.

The Chairperson

7(1) The Chairperson is responsible for preserving order and decorum at meetings of the General Synod, including by:

- a) recognizing members who wish to speak and determining the order of speakers,
- b) inviting the mover of a motion to present the opening and closing arguments on the question (reply),
- c) facilitating discussion and enabling the members to hear and listen to each other,
- d) ensuring that all views are heard and none dominate,
- e) ruling, when necessary, that speeches be limited to the time limits specified in section 10(8),
- f) ruling whether proposed procedural motions or amendments to motions are in order,
- g) putting the question to a vote when all views have been sufficiently expressed, and
- h) when necessary, calling members to order.

7(2) The Chairperson may request the advice of the Chancellor or the Assessors on questions of order and shall rule on such questions stating the applicable rule or practice without argument or debate. When a question of procedure or order is not covered by these Rules, the Chairperson may refer to Kerr and King's *Procedures for Meetings and Organizations* for guidance

7(3) Any member may appeal the Chairperson's ruling on a question of order and the General Synod shall decide the appeal without debate.

Quorum

8(1) A quorum of the General Synod shall consist of not less than a majority of the members of each Order, excluding those who do not have a right to vote in the synod.

8(2) If the attention of the Chairperson is drawn to the fact that a quorum is not present, the sitting shall stand adjourned until a quorum can be secured.

8(3) If the quorum cannot be secured within one hour, the General Synod shall stand adjourned until the next sitting. If the adjournment for lack of a quorum occurs at the final sitting the President shall declare the General Synod prorogued in accordance with section 31 of the Constitution.

Order and Decorum

9(1) Members are responsible for assisting debate by:

- a) identifying themselves and addressing all remarks to the Chairperson,
- b) confining their remarks strictly to the motion being considered,
- c) stating their positions clearly, succinctly and without repetition,
- d) maintaining an impersonal tone and avoiding (not engaging in) personal comments, and
- e) respecting the Chairperson's calls to order.

9(2) A member wishing to speak shall rise and address the Chairperson.

9(3) When two or more members rise at the same time, the Chairperson shall determine the order in which they shall speak.

9(4) A member called to order while speaking shall sit down without further comment, unless permitted by the Chairperson to explain.

9(5) A member, if not interrupting a speaker, may at any time request that the motion being debated be read for clarification of the debate.

9(6) No member shall speak more than once on the same question, except the mover of the motion, who shall have the right to reply at the close of debate.

9(7) A member who has spoken on a question may speak in explanation if recognized by the Chairperson, but may not introduce new information.

9(8) No speaker may speak for more than three minutes in debate, except the mover of a motion, who may not speak for more than five minutes in presenting a motion, and for three minutes in reply at the close of debate.

9(9) The seconder of a motion shall have the right to speak immediately after the mover, but may defer speaking until a later time in the debate.

9(10) The mover of a motion may delegate the right of reply to the seconder.

Reports of Committees

10(1) Reports of any committee or other body required to report to the General Synod shall be in writing and signed by the chairperson of the committee or other body.

10(2) Motions with reference to reports from standing committees shall take precedence over other motions on the agenda.

Notice of Canonical Resolutions

11 No Canon or amendment to the Declaration of Principles, Constitution or any existing Canon shall be proposed or enacted unless notice has been transmitted by the General Secretary of the General Synod to the members of the General Synod at least 30 days prior to the meeting of the General Synod, or unless it has been left over as unfinished business and printed in the journal of the previous session.

No Debate List

12(1) There may be a No Debate List of resolutions prepared by the Resolutions Committee of motions which, in the opinion of the Committee, do not require debate.

12(2) The No Debate List shall be circulated on the floor of General Synod not less than twenty-four hours prior to its consideration.

12(3) Any member of General Synod may require that a resolution be removed from the No Debate List by:

- a) giving written notice to the Resolutions Committee stating that the member will speak against the resolution;
- b) providing notice of motion in writing and duly seconded to amend the resolution; or
- c) providing written notice to the Resolutions Committee that the member requires clarification of the resolution.

12(4) When the No Debate List is presented to General Synod, there shall be an omnibus motion moved by the chairperson of the Resolutions Committee to adopt all the resolutions on the List, which shall be decided without debate.

12(5) If the omnibus motion is defeated, each resolution on the List shall be presented individually by the original mover to the General Synod and decided without debate or amendment.

Motions

13(1) No motion or amendment shall come before the General Synod unless it is seconded and in writing.

13(2) No motion shall contain a preamble, however a motion may be accompanied by explanatory material setting out the rationale of the motion, but such explanatory material shall not form part of the motion.

13(3) No substantive motion, except a procedural motion, shall be received without notice unless permitted by the General Synod.

13(4) No motion that would result in a new expenditure may be considered unless it identifies a proposed source of funding or is qualified as being subject to available funding. Prior to considering any such motion, it shall be referred by the Chairperson to the Expenditures Committee for a report as to whether the money proposed to be spent is available, or if not, what steps should be taken to provide the money should the motion be adopted.

13(5) When a motion has been read by the Chairperson it cannot be withdrawn without the consent of the General Synod.

13(6) When a motion is being considered, no other motion shall be received except

- a) to adjourn,
- b) to consider it clause by clause,
- c) to divide a complex motion,
- d) to postpone it until a certain time,
- e) to postpone it indefinitely,
- f) to refer it,
- g) to amend it, or
- h) that the debate be closed,

and such motions shall have precedence in the order named.

13(7) No more than one amendment to a proposed amendment of a motion shall be in order at one time.

13(8) Motions to adjourn, or to close the debate shall be decided without debate.

13(9) With respect to a motion to close debate:

- a) When a motion or an amending motion has been made and seconded, any member who has not spoken on the motion or amendment may move that the debate be closed and a vote taken on the motion or the amendment.
- b) The Chairperson shall not accept a motion that the debate be closed if in the opinion of the Chairperson the motion that the debate be closed is an abuse of the rules or would deny members of the General Synod of an adequate opportunity for discussion.
- c) When the Chairperson accepts a motion that the debate be closed that motion, when seconded, shall be decided without debate.
- d) A motion that the debate be closed, to be carried, requires a two-thirds majority of the members of the General Synod present, voting together.
- e) When a motion that the debate be closed is carried the Chairperson shall immediately call the question on the motion or amendment before the General Synod, subject to the mover's right of reply. When a motion that the debate be closed is lost, discussion shall continue on the motion or amendment before the General Synod.

13(10) Debate on a motion to refer shall be restricted to questions whether to refer and to whom.

13(11) Debate on a motion to postpone a motion to a certain time shall be restricted to the specified time.

13(12) When amendments to a motion are proposed, the amendments and the original motion shall be put in the reverse order to that in which they were made.

13(13) When the Chairperson declares that a question is being put no further debate shall be allowed and no member shall rise.

Voting

14(1) When a question is put, all members present shall vote, except that a member who declares a conflict of interest to the Chairperson may abstain from voting. Any such abstentions shall be recorded in the minutes.

14(2) A vote may be taken by show of hands, by standing vote, or by electronic voting terminal.

14(3) The three Orders of Bishops, Clergy and Laity shall vote together unless a vote by Orders is required by the Declaration of Principles or the Constitution, or is requisitioned pursuant to the Rules of Order and Procedure.

14(4) In order to pass, a motion shall obtain the required majority of the votes cast, and abstentions shall not be counted in determining whether the required majority has been achieved.

14(5) In voting, those who vote in the affirmative shall so signify first, and then those who vote in the negative. When voting electronically, members may vote simultaneously.

14(6) The names of those who vote for or against a motion shall be recorded in the minutes if required by three members.

14(7) A question once determined shall not again be drawn into discussion at the same meeting of the General Synod without the unanimous consent of General Synod.

Voting by Orders

15(1) When required by the Declaration of Principles or the Constitution, a vote of the General Synod shall be taken by the three Orders of Bishops, Clergy and Laity voting separately. The required majority of each Order shall be necessary for an affirmative decision.

15(2) In addition, when requisitioned in writing by any six members of General Synod prior to the debate being closed, the vote of General Synod upon any substantive motion, other than a procedural motion under Rules 13(6) or 17, shall be taken by Orders voting separately, and in such a case a simple majority in each Order shall be necessary for an affirmative decision.

15(3) Votes by Orders shall be taken in all three orders in the sequence Laity, Clergy and Bishops.

15(4) If the motion is defeated on a Vote by Orders there shall be no recourse to voting by dioceses.

Voting by Dioceses

16(1) Upon any question being carried in the affirmative by a Vote by Orders, and before proceeding to the next order of business, any six members (two from each of three different dioceses) may require that a vote on the question be taken by diocese.

16(2) *Ex officio* and other non-diocesan members of General Synod shall vote with the diocese in which they are normally geographically resident, for laity, or canonically resident, for clergy.

16(3) Each diocese shall cast one vote. The vote of each diocese shall be determined by the majority of the members of all Orders of that diocese and in the case of an equality in the votes of the members of any diocese, the vote of that diocese shall not be counted.

16(4) If a majority of the dioceses vote in the negative, the question shall be declared in the negative.

16(5) A tied vote shall be declared to be in the affirmative on the basis of the previous affirmative vote by Orders.

Suspension of the Rules of Order

17 A motion to suspend a Rule of Order and Procedure shall take precedence over all other motions, shall be decided without debate, and to be carried requires the affirmative votes of two thirds of the members present.