

## **General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Suspension of Bishops) Canon 2007 Assenting Ordinance 2009**

### Explanatory Statement

1. The Constitution Amendment (Suspension of Bishops) Canon 2007 amends s61A to provide for –

- (a) the possible suspension of any bishop who is subject to a charge before the Special Tribunal,
- (b) machinery to convene and chair a meeting of a diocesan council to consider whether to concur with a proposed suspension, and
- (c) a situation where the Primate is the subject of a charge and possible suspension.

2. The 1961 Constitution already provides for suspension of a diocesan bishop who is the subject of a charge before the Special Tribunal. The amendments enable non-diocesan bishops who are subject to a charge before the Special Tribunal to be suspended. It is considered that the amendments are not objectionable.

### **Recommendation**

3. The Standing Committee recommends that the Synod pass the bill as an ordinance.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

STEVE LUCAS  
*Manager, Legal Services*

2 September 2009