

Synod Membership (Election of Parochial Representatives) Amendment Ordinance 2004

Explanatory Statement

Introduction

1. The purposes of the proposed ordinance are –
 - (a) to provide that in a parochial unit with more than one church, a person may be elected to be a parochial representative of the parochial unit at a combined vestry meeting of parishioners of the whole parochial unit, and
 - (b) to provide that a person may be elected as a parochial representative of the parish of St George North at an annual parish meeting or other parish meeting within the meaning of the St George North (Special Administration) Ordinance 2004.

Detail

2. Under the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 parochial representatives for a multi-church parochial unit are elected at a vestry meeting of the principal church of the parochial unit. Parishioners of any branch church of the parochial unit are not strictly eligible to participate in the election of parochial representatives. This contrasts with the situation under the former Synod Representative and Membership Ordinance 1945 which made provision for the election of representatives at a combined annual vestry meeting of all the churches in the parochial unit if approval to do so was given by the Archbishop-in-Council.
3. It is proposed that the parochial representatives for a multi-church parochial unit be elected at a combined vestry meeting of parishioners of the whole parochial unit convened under the Church Administration Ordinance 1990. Combined vestry meetings of parishioners of the whole parochial unit are contemplated by clause 5(2) of the Church Administration Ordinance 1990.
4. In February 2004, the Standing Committee passed the St George North (Special Administration) Ordinance 2004. This ordinance put in place special arrangements to administer that parish over a trial 3 year period including provision for an annual parish meeting of the members of all congregations of the parish instead of an annual vestry meeting for each church of the parish.
5. Due to limitations in the delegated power to pass ordinances in respect of synod membership, the Standing Committee was unable to provide for the election of parochial representatives in the St George North (Special Administration) Ordinance 2004.
6. The proposed ordinance provides consistency with the special arrangements put in place for the parish of St George North by requiring parochial representatives to be elected at the annual parish meeting or other parish meeting of the parish.

Recommendation

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

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

ROBERT WICKS
Legal Officer

23 August 2004