

Synod Standing Orders

Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2019

40/18 Synod business rules concerning moving amendments to motions

(A report of the Standing Committee.)

Key Points

- A number of substantial changes are proposed to the Synod business rules to increase the efficient use of Synod time. Notably –
 - Allowing procedural motions to be taken on the callover
 - Requiring questions on day 1 to be submitted 7 days prior to Synod, allowing them to be tabled on day 1 (rather than notice being given of each individually)
 - Providing rules for presentations, requiring that usually they be less than ten minutes and held prior to the dinner break
 - Introducing standard expedited timing and processes which Synod may adopt to speed up consideration of matters, in order to allow more time for core Synod business
 - Removal of the ‘introduction’ stage when considering ordinances.
- A number of confusing or previously controversial rules are addressed –
 - Alternative approaches to the procedural motion “that the motion not be put”
 - Allowing a member to speak in the debate on a principal motion and move amendments in the same matter.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations in response to Synod resolution 40/18 regarding changes to Synod business rules.

Recommendations

2. Synod receive this report.
3. Synod pass the Bill for the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2019 as an ordinance of the Synod.
4. Synod consider the following motion to be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod, “by request of the Standing Committee” –

‘Synod, noting the report “Synod Standing Orders” –

- (a) agrees to adopt as a trial for this session the amendments to the business rules proposed in the Bill for the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2019 (the Bill), as shown in the marked form of the *Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000* (included as an attachment to the report “Synod Standing Orders”),
- (b) agrees to consider the Bill on day 4 of this session, and
- (c) suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.’

Background

5. At its ordinary session in 2018 the Synod resolved as follows –

40/18 Synod business rules concerning moving amendments to motions

‘Synod –

- (a) encourages Members to provide comments regarding the trial arrangements concerning moving amendments to motions, and any other matters concerning the conduct of Synod business, to the Diocesan Secretary by 30 November 2018, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee, in light of comments received from Synod Members, to consider bringing a Bill to amend the *Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000* to the next ordinary session of Synod, and requests the Standing Committee to identify training needs and provide resources to further equip members in their understanding of, and engagement with, the business of Synod.’
6. This report addresses the request of paragraph (b) of the resolution, regarding amendments to the *Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000* (the **Principal Ordinance**). The request of the rider of the resolution, regarding training needs and resources to equip members in their understanding of, and engagement with, the business of Synod, is addressed in a separate report, “40/18 Enhancing engagement of Synod members”.
7. At its meeting on 10 December 2018, the Standing Committee constituted a committee (the **Committee**) comprising the Chancellor (chair), Dr Laurie Scandrett, the Rev Anthony Douglas, the Registrar, and the Diocesan Secretary, to consult with the Archbishop and address the request of paragraph (b) of the resolution.
8. In February 2019 the Diocesan Secretary administered a survey (the **Survey**) to Synod members regarding engagement as to the business of Synod seeking both rating scale and open-ended comments from Synod members. The survey results provided a broad range of feedback (from 309 Synod members) which is referred to throughout the report. A summary of the results of the Survey are provided as an attachment to the report, “Enhancing engagement of Synod members / 40/18 Synod business rules”.

Proposed amendments

9. The Committee reviewed the comments of Synod members, Standing Committee members and the survey of Synod members conducted in February 2019, and identified several key issues to address in the Rules. Each is discussed briefly below, with the recommendation implemented in the accompanying Bill for the Conduct of the Business of Synod 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2019 (the **Bill**). A form of the Principal Ordinance showing all proposed changes in marked form is also provided as an attachment to this report [*not reproduced here*]. The clause number from that marked ordinance is (where possible) referenced in square brackets in the following headings, for ease of reference.

Synod Standing Orders (Business Rules) [1]

10. One prominent but immaterial change is the amendment of the name of the Rules, from “Synod business rules” to “Synod Standing Orders”. This change reverts to the historical term and is consistent with most other Anglican dioceses.

Priority amendments

11. The trial of ‘priority amendments’ at previous sessions of Synod received written comments from four members, as well as feedback noted during the session of Synod. The overwhelming response was that the trial was worthwhile in some regard, but ultimately should not be pursued. A recurring

comment was that, while the trial intended to promote the use of the amendment sheet, it also had the effect of stifling debate. Implementing the priority amendments is not recommended.

Election of officials on the calling of motions [3.2(e & g)]

12. At the first session of each Synod, but also upon any casual vacancies at other sessions, elections to all the Synod offices (Secretary of Synod, Chair of Committee, Deputy Chairs of Committee) and Synod Committees (Committee of Elections and Qualifications, Committee for the Order of Business, Minute Reading Committee) takes place. Typically, a group of Synod members stand to move motions appointing individuals to positions. These motions are usually unopposed, and the person being nominated does not have opportunity to leave the theatre.
13. It is recommended that the Rules be amended to allow the election of Synod officials and Synod committees to be taken on the calling of motions, each election having its own motion as per the current practice. This will likely have little effect on most elections, as typically the same statement "I move the motion standing in my name" is made for calling of motions and the current practice for the appointment of Synod officials. However, holding this during the calling of motions allows any opposed nomination (should this ever occur) to be flagged during the callover, giving the mover opportunity to make a suitable introductory speech, and the person nominated the time to exit the theatre.

Questions [3.2(k) and 6.3]

14. It is helpful to recall the current practice regarding questions –
 - (a) Members may ask questions in accordance with Rule 6.3 on days 1-3, by lining up and stating their name and the topic about which they are asking the question (they do not read the text of the question).
 - (b) Once the text of the question is submitted to Synod staff, the question is typed up (during the session) and emailed to a person judged best able to answer the question, typically staff or representatives of Diocesan organisations, boards or committees.
 - (c) The text of the questions (not answers) are added to the business paper for the next day.
 - (d) The person answering the question researches in whatever time is available in order to have the text of a draft answer by the next morning.
 - (e) Answers are checked and reviewed, compiled into a document and printed for the Archbishop to read aloud as one of the first items in the afternoon session.
 - (f) Once the Archbishop has read aloud the answers to questions, a copy is attached to the noticeboard in the foyer of Synod.
15. Feedback on the value and desired format of questions varied, from strong suggestions to reduce the number of days on which questions may be asked, or not requiring the answers to be read aloud (a practice that currently consumes almost approximately 1.5 hours per Synod); to requests not to amend the format of questions, noting that questions allow members, who may otherwise not do so, to engage in the process of Synod.
16. However, noting that –
 - (a) the process of asking (or submitting) questions occupies significant time and detracts from time otherwise available for debate,
 - (b) the current practice places burdens on staff and other Synod members to research and answer questions overnight for publication early the next afternoon,
 - (c) if questions for the first day were submitted 7 days prior to the session and tabled on the first day, it would free time for debate and ease burdens on those responding to questions,the following approach is recommended –
 - (i) Require questions for day 1 to be submitted to the Secretary of the Synod 7 days prior to day 1, and tabled on day 1 (forgoing entirely on day 1 the practice of standing to submit the question).
 - (ii) Instruct the Secretary to print copies of any questions received for day 1 on the noticeboard in the foyer and on website prior to commencement of business on day 1.

- (iii) Permit the tabling of answers, unless questioners 'opt in' expressing a desire that the Archbishop read aloud the answer to the question.

17. In this manner, some of the pressure is relieved on those preparing answers to questions; time is saved on day 1 by tabling the questions already received, and the Archbishop need not read aloud the answers to all questions (at the discretion of the questioner).

Procedural motions on the calling of motions [3.2(m) and 3.3(f)-(h)]

18. Many of the Survey responses drew attention to the length of time spent considering procedural motions. Procedural motions on the business paper are usually self-explanatory, but since movers of procedural motions are not entitled to a right of reply, movers often feel compelled to promote and explain the motion for fear it is misunderstood. A simple and recommended solution is to amend the Rules to allow procedural motions on the business paper to be taken on the callover. This allows desirable and self-explanatory procedural motions to pass without a speech, focusing procedural discussion on contentious or misunderstood matters.

Presentations [3.6]

19. The survey to Synod members and feedback provided by the Standing Committee contained frequent suggestion that presentations at Synod were given too much prominence and occupied too much time. Presentations are either included by the Standing Committee on the business paper for day 1, or are approved by the Synod itself following a procedural motion moved by a member of Synod.

20. The Standing Committee has adopted the following principles for the approval of a presentation at Synod –

- (a) Presentations should be ordinarily scheduled before 4:30pm, but not before the time for petitions, questions and answers, and notices of motion has concluded.
- (b) Presentations should not be considered for scheduling unless the intending presenter has indicated to the Secretary of Synod prior the August meeting of Standing Committee –
 - (i) what the missional importance of the presentation is,
 - (ii) what the proposed time limit is,
 - (iii) what action is desired from Synod members, and
 - (iv) why it is that Synod members need to receive the information this way, and not by some other means (for example, by regular notice of motion, or by SDS website access available to Synod members).
- (c) Presentations should be limited in time (including any prayers or ancillary comments) to no more than ten minutes and preferably to five or less.
- (d) No organisation should ordinarily expect to present to Synod two years in a row.

(Per resolution of Standing Committee 27 August 2018)

21. It appears that the larger problem expressed is in relation to those presentations approved by procedural motion by the Synod itself. Typically, such motions will seek for a presentation of a certain length, at a certain time, possibly with presenters who are not members of Synod, and usually involving audio visuals. In such circumstances, the procedural motion will also seek 'to suspend so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements'. Typically, Synod will pass these procedural motions, and not object to the suspension of business rules.

22. The frequent need to suspend business rules suggests that a solution may be found by including *reasonable* rules for the arrangement of presentations. In determining reasonable rules, there are a number of considerations –

- (a) Any two members of Synod who want to give a presentation on any matter could simply give notice of a motion and use the time for speeches moving the motion to instead make a presentation. In this circumstance, the mover and seconder of 'an innocuous motion moved as a front for a presentation' would be entitled to 15 minutes. So, if rules for presentations were adopted that are overly restrictive (e.g., limiting presentations to 5 minutes), they would likely be ineffective.

- (b) However, Synod is principally a forum for debate of matters as distinct from receipt of information. If Synod is presented with an uncontentious motion, it would usually pass the motion on the callover in order to save Synod's time. Therefore as a guide, proportionally less time should be allocated to a presentation than a substantive motion.
 - (c) The evening session typically receives higher turnout than the afternoon sessions, and significant matters of debate are accordingly scheduled for the evenings. The substantial presentations will tend to be matters that have been determined with the Standing Committee in advance, and may be scheduled for the evening. The Committee for the Order of Business may also act to allow certain presentations for an evening session. Presentations that arise on the floor of Synod, approved by procedural motion of the member, should normally be considered during the afternoon session.
23. These considerations suggest that an appropriate length of time for presentations should be shorter than speeches in support of a motion, and should be held during the afternoon session.
24. Accordingly, it is proposed that the Synod adopt new rules to regulate the scheduling of Presentations, providing a clear pathway for presentations up to ten minutes to be held prior to the dinner break. The proposed rules should still require Synod's approval, so that Synod can oppose (by simple majority) such presentations. The real benefit of these rules is that any member wishing to make a presentation longer than 10 minutes, or held following the dinner break, will necessarily require the suspension of business rules and therefore may be more readily identified and blocked. The proposed rules for presentations would form a new clause 3.6.

Notice of motions required [4.3]

25. At Rule 4.3, we have –

'4.3 Notice of motions required

- (1) The Synod is not to consider a motion unless
 - (a) notice of the motion was given on a previous day, or
 - (b) the Synod agrees to consider the motion.'
26. A plain-text reading of this Rule suggests that a member could move a motion without notice, and so long as a simple majority of Synod agrees to consider the motion anyway, proceed to consider the motion immediately. Our practice, notwithstanding the Rule, has been that moving a motion without notice may be blocked by any 8 members standing to indicate their objection. Presumably, this flows from Rule 6.5 where 'Any rule of procedure may be suspended by motion... without notice unless 8 members object'.
27. It appears that the wording of Rule 4.3 is an oversight, and the Rule should be amended to remove paragraph (b). This will have the effect, when read alongside Rule 6.5, of not allowing a motion to be moved without notice if 8 members object (as is the current practice).

Amendments and speaking more than once to a motion [4.7]

28. Many Synod members will recall from the ordinary session in 2018 the matter of 'speaking twice in a debate'. At issue is Rule 4.7 which currently reads –

'4.7 Number of speeches

- (1) No member may speak more than once on the same motion except
 - (a) during a meeting of the Synod in Committee, or
 - (b) when invited to give an explanation, or
 - (c) when exercising a right of reply under rule 4.11.
 - (2) A member who formally seconds a motion is not regarded as having spoken to the motion.'
29. This Rule prevents a member from speaking to the principle of the motion and also moving an amendment to the motion.

30. It is recommended to insert a new Rule establishing that once a motion to amend a motion (the **principal motion**) has been moved, it is a separate motion. In this way, if a member has already spoken on the principal motion, they may not move a motion to amend the principal motion; but they may speak on any amendment to the principal motion.
31. This should remove ambiguity while clarifying that, if called to do so, a member can speak on the principal motion and *speak on* an amendment to that motion – but cannot speak on a motion and also *move* an amendment to that motion. The proposed Rule is inserted at subclause 4.7(3).

Order of debate on a motion [4.8]

32. When a motion has been moved and seconded, the current Rules allow speeches for or against the motion, or amendments to the motion to be considered. Perhaps in part due to the priority amendment trial or due to the presence of proposed amendments on the business paper, our recent practice has been to immediately consider amendments to the principal motion.
33. Many of the comments received from Synod and Standing Committee members suggested that some time should be given debating the motion in principle prior to considering amendments, in order to best frame the debate. However, there is little appetite to *enforce* a particular approach to a debate: in some circumstances it is most helpful to commence with consideration of amendments, and the President should be given flexibility to determine the best approach. The Bill includes an amendment to Rule 4.8(3) to give effect to this sentiment.

Moving that a motion 'not be voted on' [4.14]

34. The Rule at 4.14 allows a member who 'desires to avoid or postpone a vote on a motion' to move without notice: 'That the motion not be voted on'. This Rule provides Synod the opportunity to, among other things, neither vote for nor against a motion.

Background to this rule

35. Many parliamentary systems have rules directed to avoiding or postponing indefinitely debate on motions. In some systems the rules are referred to as moving 'the previous question'. Regrettably, many of the rules regarding disposing of a motion in this way in various parliamentary systems and the commentary about them are complicated.
36. It is said that objectives in moving such a motion vary according to circumstances. Practical reasons include –
 - (a) if the body considers that it is not adequately informed to express a view on the motion before it,
 - (b) preventing the feeling of a meeting being tested (e.g., because it has been raised at an inopportune time),
 - (c) enabling the motion to be shelved without its opponents needing to disclose who they are,
 - (d) that it is inexpedient or not in the best interests of the body for any decision at all to be made,
 - (e) that discussion may be embarrassing to certain members or become acrimonious with little chance of a compromise decision being achieved, and
 - (f) that the majority may prefer to dispose of a motion without the harshness of its overwhelming defeat where the mover declines to agree to a generally expressed wish that the motion be withdrawn.¹
37. The effect of the motion if acceded to is to dispose of a motion being debated without it being voted on and recorded as having been passed or defeated.

¹ See e.g. A.D. Lang 'Horsley's Meetings Procedure, Law and Practice' 6th Ed (2010) at [12.11].

38. The use of this procedure (as distinct from debate and voting on other principal motions) allows a means of forcing of a determination on the form of the principal motion so as to preclude 'compromise' amendments. In some systems the motion may not be moved while an amendment is being debated, however if moved after an amendment is debated the effect of the mechanism is to allow opportunity for that amendment to be disposed of but to force a vote before any further amendments are considered.
39. Commentary indicates that the 'not voted on' question itself may be debated and the discussion may deal with a subject matter of the main motion. The mover of the 'not voted on' motion does not have a right of reply.²

Our current practice

40. When this procedural motion is moved, according to the current Rules the President is to immediately ask the Synod whether debate on the principal motion should continue before the procedural motion is put. From this point on, the Rules indicate that –
- (a) If Synod answers "Aye" to the question, debate continues on the principal motion including amendments and the right of reply; but before the motion is put to the vote, the procedural motion ('that this motion not be voted on') is put to the vote.
 - (i) If the procedural motion is carried, the principal motion is not put to the vote.
 - (ii) If the procedural motion is not carried, the principal motion (along with any amendments to that point, but no further amendments) are voted on.
 - (b) If members answer "No" to the question, the procedural motion ('that this motion not be voted on') is immediately put to the vote without any debate.
 - (i) If the procedural motion is carried, the principal motion is not put to the vote.
 - (ii) If the procedural motion is not carried, the Rules do not specify what action to take.
41. There are a number of problems with this Rule.
- (i) First, as experienced in 2018, the Rule does not give specific guidance on the action to take if Synod has agreed to cease debate on the principal motion but does not carry the procedural motion. (Should debate on the principal motion recommence? Should amendments be considered?)
 - (ii) Second, it is apt to confuse: the moving of a motion results in the asking of a question; it is also a confusing mix of terms – 'principal motion', 'procedural motion', 'the question asked by the President in rule 4.14(2)', etc.
 - (iii) Third, the one Rule is the only mechanism to both end debate on a motion and to agree not to vote on a motion. These are two separate matters. Quite apart from whether a Synod member might wish to avoid a vote on an issue, a Synod member may wish to test the mood of the meeting as to whether a motion has been sufficiently debated (in the same way as the President may do pursuant to Rule 4.10).
42. The Bill includes a proposed new Rule at 4.14 to replace the current, which provides that when the procedural motion, "That this motion not be voted on", is moved, debate on the principal motion is suspended (without asking the question whether to do so or not) and the Synod immediately considers speeches for and against the procedural motion. From that point, either the procedural motion is carried and debate ceases on the principal motion; or the procedural motion is not carried and debate on the principal motion continues.
43. The Bill also includes a new Rule 4.14A, dealing with the ending of debate issue. By this rule, a Synod member may move that the debate cease and the motion be immediately put to the vote.

² Horsley's at [12.11].

Use of expedited timing and procedures [4.19]

44. A feature of most sessions of Synod is a proposal on about the 4th day to change the time limits for speeches, or shorten the dinner break, etc in an effort to save time. By review of the minutes of Synod, these proposals are often not carried; but can attract significant debate, thereby having the opposite effect of that desired. There are a few key issues which dominate the debate and perhaps lead to these motions failing (and taking up the time of Synod in the process) –
- (a) When these measures are introduced from the floor, there is the question of how well thought-through the solution is – are proposed changes the result of a considered reflection upon what is suitable, or is it the mover's instinct at the time?
 - (b) Similarly, when these measures are introduced from the floor, often the proposed rules have consequential effects that need to be considered through further procedural amendments. For example if dinner is to finish 15 minutes early, how will members who are only arriving for the evening session be informed? Or, if the Archbishop is not required to read aloud the answers to questions; how will members be informed of the answers without undue impact on Synod staff?
 - (c) It may also be that a well-intentioned proposal relies too heavily on the officers or staff of the Synod.
 - (d) In certain circumstances, a motion may also fail due to a perception that changing the rules in a particular way may unduly advantage one side in an upcoming debate.
45. The Bill includes a set of standard expedited timings for speeches and standard expedited processes, which can be adopted in whole or in part, by the Synod for the remainder of a session by procedural motion. Incorporating these standards into the Rules removes many of the problems outlined in the paragraphs above, meaning that even if the procedural motion is not carried, less time is spent proposing alternatives and improvements. The suggested Rules propose –
- (a) shorter times for some speeches (these are intended to provide an appropriate balance between shortened timing and still allowing enough time for robust debate),
 - (b) the possibility that the Archbishop may not read aloud all answers to questions (even if members requested him to do so),
 - (c) the extension of afternoon sessions by 15 minutes, shortening the dinner break (by starting the break later).
46. It is intended that Synod members may invoke any of all paragraphs of the proposed options. The President is also provided the option to apply any or all of the expedited time limits proposed for any particular matter before the Synod.

Introduction of proposed ordinances [5.3]

47. The Rules currently require the Synod to 'permit the introduction' of a proposed ordinance. A member moves, "Synod permits the introduction of the [name of the proposed ordinance]" before then specifying the manner in which it is proposed that Synod consider the Bill. For our purposes this motion is a redundant step, merely adding confusion; and should be removed.
48. The proposed amendment removing the introduction stage also seeks to give greater clarity to the options for consideration of an ordinance, clearly setting out two possibilities of considering the Bill 'formally' or 'in-principle' and the steps to take to do so.

Objections to considering an ordinance formally [5.4]

49. The Rules contain the option for a Bill for an ordinance to be considered one of two ways –
- (a) 'in principle' – where the mover seeks to convince the Synod that the principle of the ordinance is worthy of consideration, and Synod may hear speeches for or against the motion, and may amend the text of the ordinance in committee (Rules 5.5-5.8), or
 - (b) 'formally' – where, following Synod's agreement to consider the ordinance formally, members may ask questions but may not speak for or against the ordinance, or make amendments to the text of the ordinance before ultimately voting on whether to pass the ordinance (Rule 5.4).

50. Rule 5.4(9) may be enlivened when an ordinance is being considered formally and provides –
- ‘(9) If –
- (a) prior to the motion in rule 5.4(7) [that the ordinance pass formally as an ordinance of the Synod] being voted on, 8 members stand in their place to object to the proposed ordinance being passed formally, or
- (b) the motion in rule 5.4(7) is not passed,
- the mover is to immediately move a motion to the effect
- “That Synod agrees to consider [forthwith or at a specified time] a motion that the [name of proposed ordinance] be approved in principle.”
51. The Rule 5.4(9) gives the impression that objecting to the formal passing of the ordinance may only occur *immediately* prior to voting on the passing of the ordinance; and is also unclear whether the mover is given the opportunity to move that the ordinance be considered in principle (including the full amount of time to make the speech in support of that motion).
52. Amendments are proposed to clause 5.4(9) that –
- (a) clarify that an objection may be made by 8 members at any time after the motion in 5.3(2) (that the Synod agree to consider passing the ordinance formally) is passed, and
- (b) specify that if an objection by 8 members is made under 5.4(9), the mover is to move the ordinance in principle ‘in accordance with clause 4.6(1)(a)’.

Press coverage

53. Unless the Synod otherwise determines as a result of a motion with or without notice passed by the Synod, the proceedings of the Synod are to be open to the media (clause 6.6(1)). With the permission of the President, the proceedings, or parts of the proceedings, may be televised, broadcast or photographed (clause 6.6(2)). Therefore while there is a policy of open proceedings, there is no standard or criteria which determines or gives guidance regarding when any part of the proceedings should be held in camera or otherwise kept confidential. Any restrictions in that regard are left to the opinion of the Synod. Typically, special sessions of Synod to elect an Archbishop are held in camera, as was the special session in 2016 to consider the merger of Anglicare and Anglican Retirement Villages.
54. In the process of review of matters concerning the conduct of Synod business, several Synod and Standing Committee members provided thoughtful feedback on matters relating to the public nature of Synod information and press coverage. Interestingly, some argued that the press should be restricted and Synod should be open to Synod members only; while others argued for the necessity of keeping ordinary sessions of Synod open to the public (and press). Neither the Review Committee nor Standing Committee recommend any changes to the provisions as appearing in clause 6.6.
55. While there are specific rules relating to the open forum of Synod, there are no specific provisions regarding public accessibility of materials to be used at Synod. There is no provision which requires Synod materials to be publicly accessible. However, there has nonetheless been a longstanding practice of public accessibility to Synod materials (no doubt reinforced by the presumption embodied in clause 6.6 that Synod proceedings are open to the public and media).
56. There was feedback suggesting that materials should if possible not be made available on the public website. While this is a technical possibility, Standing Committee does not recommend any deviation from the current practice that Synod materials be publicly accessible. This recommendation is made noting the desirability of transparency, in particular to members of parishes who are not Synod members.
57. If the question regarding review of the policy of open proceedings and public access to Synod materials is to be considered in the future, questions may arise as to whether the questions of open forum and access to materials should be –
- (a) determined by reference to any specific standard or criteria,

- (b) left to the broad discretionary opinion of the Synod, without any specific guidance provisions, or
- (c) left in a discretionary form for the opinion of Synod but with reference to specific provisions, to guide the exercise of Synod's discretion.

Miscellaneous matters

- 58. There are a number of other matters which have been identified for correction or improvement. These are included below.
- 59. **Chair of Committee:** The Rules currently refer throughout to the Chair or Deputy Chairs of Committees. However, "Committee" in this setting is "a Committee of the Whole Synod", of which there is only ever one; hence the titles are correctly 'Chair of Committee' and 'Deputy Chairs of Committee'. Accordingly, it is recommended to remove the "s" wherever it occurs.
- 60. **Presidential Address:** Currently Rule 3.2(c) suggests that the Presidential Address is to occur at a certain place in a sequence of events on the first day of each session. Each session typically has a corresponding procedural motion allowing the President to make his Address at a certain time. It is recommended that the Rules be amended to allow the Presidential Address to commence at a time of the President's choosing.
- 61. **Declaration of vacancies on the Anglican Church Property Trust:** Under section 12 of the *Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917*, the Synod declares vacancies in the offices of members of the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney by resolution. This is another matter which requires a motion on the first day of each session. It is recommended that the motion is allowed to be taken on the callover.
- 62. **Notice of motion on the first day:** Currently, Rule 4.3(4) provides "If notice in writing is given to a Secretary of the Synod by 7.00 pm on the first day of a session then notice of the motion will be regarded as having been given on a previous day for the purposes of rule 4.3(1)." It seems that this is intended to allow motions that are given notice on first day in the afternoon to be considered that night. It is recommended to remove this subclause.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

DANIEL GLYNN
Diocesan Secretary

29 August 2019