GENERAL SYNOD

The Vacancy in See Committees (Amendment) Regulation 2026

The General Synod makes the following Regulation.

1. The Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2024 is amended as follows.

2. In paragraph 2(3) the words from "a reference" to "Isle of Man" become sub-sub-paragraph (a), after which insert—

"; and

(b) paragraph 5 is to have effect as if sub-paragraph (2)(c) were omitted".

3.—(1) In paragraph 2(3), at the end insert—

"(c) paragraph 6A is to have effect as if—

(i) in sub-paragraph (1), for the words "and, in the case of a relevant connection with the same cathedral church, A is of the same relevant description as B" there were substituted "and, in the case of a relevant connection with the same parish, mission initiative or cathedral church, A is of the same relevant description as B"; and

(ii) for sub-paragraph (2), there were substituted—

"(2) Accordingly, if two or more persons who are of the same relevant description and have a relevant connection with the same parish, mission initiative or cathedral church, are proposed and seconded for election under paragraph 5, or considered for nomination under paragraph 6, not more than one of them may be elected or nominated."

(2) In paragraph 6A—

(a) in sub-paragraph (1), at the end insert—

"and, in the case of a relevant connection with the same cathedral church, A is of the same relevant description as B";

(b) for sub-paragraph (2), substitute—

"(2) Accordingly, if two or more persons who have a relevant connection with the same parish, place of worship mentioned in paragraph 5(1)(b)(iii) or mission initiative, or who are of the same relevant description and have a relevant connection with the same cathedral church, are proposed and seconded for election under paragraph 5, or considered for nomination under paragraph 6, not more than one of them may be elected or nominated.";

(c) after paragraph (2) insert—

"(2A) For the purposes of sub-paragraphs (1) and (2), A is of the same relevant description as B if A and B are both clerks in holy orders or A and B are both lay persons.".

4. Paragraph 6A is further amended as follows—

(1) In sub-paragraph (1)—

(a) omit "an ex officio member of the Vacancy in See Committee under paragraph 4," and after "an elected member" insert "of the Vacancy in See Committee";

(b) in sub-sub-paragraph (c) for "paragraph 5(b)(iii)" substitute "paragraph 5(1)(b)(iii)".

(2) In sub-paragraph (2), for "benefice" substitute "parish" and for "paragraph 5(b)(iii)" substitute "paragraph 5(1)(b)(iii)".

(3) In sub-paragraph (3)(a), after "authorised by the bishop" insert "under Canon C 8, D 3, E 6 or E 7".

(4) After sub-paragraph (3), insert—

"(3A) A person is not to be treated as having a relevant connection with a parish for the purposes of sub-paragraph (3)(a) if the only authorisation the person has to exercise ministry there is—

(a) a licence or written permission to officiate throughout the diocese, or throughout an area of the diocese which is greater than the area of the benefice to which the parish belongs, or

(b) a licence under the Extra-parochial Ministry Measure 1967."

(5) For sub-paragraph (4)(a) substitute—

"(a)(i) in the application of this Regulation to diocese of Sodor and Man, the person holds office in the cathedral church;

(ii) in the application of this Regulation to the diocese of Oxford, the person is a member of the body constituted as the Dean and Chapter by the Statutes of Christ Church or receives a stipend, or is employed, in respect of work carried out under the Dean and Chapter;

(iii) in its application to any other diocese, the person is an executive member of the Chapter of the cathedral church (within the meaning of the Cathedrals Measure 2021) or receives a stipend from, or is employed by, the Chapter;".

(6) For sub-paragraph (5) substitute—

"(5) A person has a relevant connection with a place of worship mentioned in paragraph 5(1)(b)(iii) if—

(a) the person is the dean or a residentiary canon of that place of worship or receives a stipend from, or is employed by, its body corporate, or

(b) the person is declared by the dean to be a habitual worshipper under paragraph 5(1)(b)(iii)."

(7) In sub-paragraph (6)(b) for "paragraph 5(b)(iv)" substitute "paragraph 5(1)(b)(iv)".

5. In paragraph 8—

(a) after sub-paragraph (2) insert—

"(2A) A casual vacancy in the office of chair must be filled as soon as practicable by a further election from the members of the Committee by the members of the bishop's council of the diocese.";

(b) in sub-paragraph (3), at the end insert "and is to exercise the functions of the chair if there is a vacancy in the office of chair or if the chair is absent or otherwise unable or unwilling to act".

6. In paragraph 9, after sub-paragraph (2) insert—

"(2A) If the Convocations and the General Synod are dissolved before the Committee has completed its consideration of a vacancy, the members under paragraph 4(1)(e) and (f) (proctors and members of the House of Laity) are to continue to serve as members of the Committee until the completion of its consideration of the vacancy if they would otherwise cease to do so only as a result of the dissolution; and accordingly, any successor elected to replace such a member as a proctor or member of the House of Laity is not to serve for the Committee's consideration of that vacancy."

7. In paragraph 13(9A), for "paragraph 5(b)(iii)" substitute "paragraph 5(1)(b)(iii)".

8. This regulation comes into operation upon being approved by the General Synod.

Approved by the General Synod on 13th July 2026

A.S. McGregor
Registrar