

**GRAFTON DIOCESAN GOVERNANCE ORDINANCE 2008
AMENDING (SYNOD) ORDINANCE 2012**
Ordinance No. 9 of 2012

An Ordinance to amend the Grafton Diocesan Governance Ordinance 2008 relating to the Synod of the Diocese.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS presently the construct and function of the Synod of the Diocese of Grafton is contained within Chapter 7 of the Grafton Diocesan Governance Ordinance 2008 AND WHEREAS it is desirable to have the Ordinance amended THEREFORE the Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Grafton decree and enact as follows:

AMENDMENT

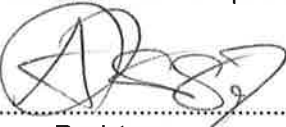
1. Chapter 7 of the Grafton Diocesan Governance Ordinance is amended by deleting the present Chapter 7 and substituting in place thereof the Schedule to this Ordinance.
2. This Ordinance may be cited as The Grafton Diocesan Governance Ordinance 2008 Amending (Synod) Ordinance 2012
3. This Ordinance shall come into effect upon receiving the assent of the Bishop.

ASSENT

I hereby certify that the Ordinance as printed is in accordance with the Ordinance as passed.


.....
Chairman of Committees

I certify that this Ordinance was passed by Synod on the 16th day of ~~September~~ ^{NOVEMBER}, 2012.


.....
Registrar

I assent to this Ordinance.


.....
Bishop.

GRAFTON DIOCESAN GOVERNANCE ORDINANCE 2008

AMENDING (SYNOD) ORDINANCE 2012

SCHEDULE

CHAPTER 7 – SYNOD

39 *Mission and Objectives*

39.1 Synod is the meeting together of the Bishop and the representatives of the clergy and the laity of the Diocese—

- a. to affirm and celebrate their common life in the Lord Jesus Christ;
- b. to conduct the business of the Synod which is-
 - (i) the expression, through the resolutions of Synod, of the minds of the people of the Diocese on matters of common concern relating to the Church and to the world in which the Church is called to exercise its mission and ministry;
 - (ii) the ordering of their common life by the making of Ordinances; and
 - (iii) the oversight of the conduct of the affairs of the Diocese by the agencies and officers of the Diocese.

40 *Functions and Powers*

40.1 Synod has the function of making Ordinances for the management and good government and regulation of the Church within the Diocese in accordance with Article 2 of the Schedule to the *Anglican Church of Australia Constitutions Act 1902* and Chapter VIII of The Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

40.2 Synod also constitutes a forum in which the members of Synod may consult together on all matters concerning the life of the Church and its Ministry Units within the Diocese.

40.3 Synod exercises oversight over the administration of the institutional affairs of the Diocese by requiring those responsible for the conduct of those affairs to account to Synod when required to do so—

- c. by Ordinance; or
- d. in accordance with a resolution of Synod.

40.4 Synod may by Article 3(2) of the Schedule to the *Anglican Church of Australia Constitutions Act 1902* call, by resolution, on any person holding church trust property to account for that property and its administration.

41 Term

41.1 The term of a Synod is three years.

41.2 Prior to the commencement of each term of Synod the Bishop shall issue a Mandate requiring the election of Synod Representatives for a period of three years.

42 Convening

42.1 Synod shall, in accordance with Article 1(2) of the Constitution of the Province, be convened at least once in every year by the issue of the Bishop's Summons.

42.2 The Bishop's Summons, stating the time and place of Synod, shall issue to those who by virtue of clause 44-43 are members of Synod.

42.3 The Bishop must convene a session of Synod when requested to do so in writing by such number of members of Synod as are, in accordance with rules made by Synod, sufficient to constitute a quorum of Synod.

42.4 A session of Synod is the period between the time when Synod convenes in accordance with a Bishop's Summons and the time when, in accordance with Synod's rules, it adjourns until the date on which it is next summoned by the Bishop.

43 Membership

43.1 Synod intends that-

- a. Synod shall consist of three Houses, namely the House of the Bishop, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity, (the three Houses shall sit together in full Synod and shall deliberate and transact business therein and shall vote together unless a vote by Houses is required);
- b. those charged with the responsibility for electing or appointing members of Synod should choose those able to make a significant contribution to its work;

- c. members of Synod accept responsibility for effective communication between Synod and the ministry units of the Diocese by reporting back to their Parish Council and other appropriate ministry groups; and
- d. members of Synod may be called upon to vote according to their Houses (other than the Bishop) and for a vote according to Houses to pass a majority is required in both the House of Clergy and the House of Laity.

43.2 The Synod is composed of:

- a. the Bishop (who shall not vote in Synod)
- b. the ex officio members (with full participation and voting rights):
 - (i) the Archdeacons;
 - (ii) the Dean;
 - (iii) the Chancellor;
 - (iv) the Registrar;
 - (v) the Diocesan Advocate;
 - (vi) the Diocesan Treasurer;
 - (vii) the Chair of the Diocesan Property Board; and
- c. other full time stipended clergy, full time stipended Lay Ministers, and other stipended clergy or Lay Ministers as determined by the Bishop;
- d. two lay Synod Representatives from each Parish;
- e. an additional lay Parish Synod Representative for each stipended clergy person (additional to the Incumbent) called to Synod from that Parish;
- f. the principals of Diocesan schools;
- g. one lay person from each Diocesan school, appointed by the Board thereof;
- h. one person from Anglicare North Coast, appointed by the Board thereof;
- i. representatives of the Household of Deacons chosen in accordance with sub clause 43.3;
- j. such other persons determined by Synod or Bishop-in-Council to be members of Synod or have a seat at Synod from time to time, and who shall be subject to any

restrictions placed upon them by Synod or Bishop-in-Council.

43.3 A person who is a member of Synod by virtue of subclauses (f), (g) or (h) of clause 43.2 shall not have voting rights unless he or she is a communicant member of the Anglican Church.

43.3 There shall be called to Synod not more than twenty five percent of the active and licensed non-stipendiary Vocational Deacons of the Diocese, who shall be selected from and by any Household of Deacons or similar Synodically approved representative body including as the majority of their membership Non-stipendiary Vocational Deacons, or should no such Household or body exist (or should such body be unable or unwilling to select members to attend the Synod), then selected by the Bishop in whatever manner the Bishop chooses;

43.4 Unless otherwise provided, persons elected or appointed to be members of Synod hold office for the term of the Synod to which they are elected or appointed unless they should resign or be removed from the position which entitled them to be a member of Synod.

44 Election of Parish Synod Representatives

44.1 Following receipt of the Bishop's mandate for Election of Synod Representatives each Parish shall elect at the Annual General Meeting or duly convened Special Meeting of parishioners the requisite number of lay Synod representatives as prescribed by clauses 43.2 (d) and (e), and alternative lay Synod Representatives (who shall attend Synod if one or more of the original Synod Representatives is unable to attend), chosen from the Parishioners for the life of the Synod.

44.2 Nominations shall be received in accordance with clause 80 of this Ordinance.

44.3 The Synod Representatives upon election shall sign and date a declaration that:

"I the undersigned (full name and address) do declare that I am a communicant member of the Anglican Church of Australia and will endeavour to faithfully perform the duties of Synod Representative to the best of my ability and will conform to the Ordinances of the Synod of the Diocese of Grafton relating to this office."

- 44.4 The Incumbent shall forward the names and contact details of the elected Synod Representatives to the Bishop together with the Mandate, the Declarations made, a certified copy of the minutes of the election and the ballot papers (if any).
- 44.5 The ballot papers and minutes shall be held by the Registrar for one month after the first session of Synod following before being destroyed.
- 44.6 If the Parish is unable to elect sufficient Synod Representatives the Bishop, upon request in writing from the Parish Council, may allow for the election of a Representative from outside of the Ministry Unit's borders who is a Member of the Church resident within the Diocese provided the person does not represent any other Ministry Unit at Synod.
- 44.7 If for any reason no election is able to be held, such failure will not invalidate the proceedings of Synod. In such circumstances the Bishop in consultation with the Parish Council and Incumbent may take whatever steps are required to enable the Parish to be represented at Synod.
- 44.8 The Synod Representatives for a Ministry Unit shall hold office for the life of the Synod (three years).
- 44.9 Any Synod Representative may resign in writing to the Bishop.
- 44.10 An elected Synod Representative may be removed following a resolution of Bishop-in-Council if the representative:
- a. becomes mentally or physically incapable of undertaking duties as a Synod Representative;
 - b. is convicted of an indictable offence in any court;
 - c. ceases to be qualified under any provision of this Ordinance; or
 - d. fails to attend any session of Synod without reasonable excuse or Leave of Absence granted by the Bishop.
- 44.11 Any vacancy occurring in the number of Synod Representatives for a Parish shall be filled by election at the next Annual General Meeting of the Parish.
- 44.12 If a vacancy occurs between the Annual General Meeting and the next Synod session that vacancy shall be filled by the Parish Council; if this (by reason of time) is not possible, the vacancy will be filled by the

Bishop in consultation with the Incumbent and members of the Parish Council.

45 ***Standing Orders***

The Standing Orders of Synod shall be as determined by Synod and are attached to this Ordinance as the First Schedule.