

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA



The Eighteenth Session of General Synod

Message from the General Secretary (Circular 06)

Eighteenth Session of General Synod

8 April 2022

To all General Synod Members

Additional Bills on the GS18 Portal

I encourage you to review the **Bills** page on the [GS18 Portal](#).

Bills for consideration at General Synod are circulated 3 months in advance of the session with the exception that the General Synod Standing Committee can approve additional legislation which must be circulated no later than one month in advance of the session.

There are three new Bills for a Canon and one new Bill for a Rule now published on the GS18 Portal with the approval of the Standing Committee.

Bill 12 - A Bill for a Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2022

This Bill asks the General Synod to ratify the establishment of a new General Synod reference commission arising from a recommendation of the Family Violence Working Group – detailed in its report to the General Synod. See **Reports to General Synod** page of the GS18 Portal.

Bill 13 - A Bill for the Eighteenth General Synod Participation Canon 2022

Bill 14 A Bill for the General Synod Presence Canon 2022

Bill R4 - A Bill for a Rule to amend Rule III – Rules for the Conduct of Elections (Nominations and Balloting) 2022

Bills 13 and 14 and R4 all relate to Synod processes and have been developed to provide the capacity for online participation in the General Synod in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia does not allow for online participation at a session of General Synod. **Bill 14** proposes a new Canon that resolves this for all future sessions.

Bill R4 to amend Rule III will allow the conduct of online elections as an alternative to paper-based election ballots which require members to be physically in attendance to vote.

It is intended this bill to amend Rule III will be presented on the first day of the session to ensure that online elections can be implemented at this session of General Synod.

Bill 13 has been developed to address the specific need to have members participate online at GS18 should it be required. This Bill is designed to enable a GS18 member who is prohibited from attending in person as a result of government travel restrictions or health directives to fully participate at this session of General Synod by Zoom videoconference.

This would result in a hybrid meeting where some members are in attendance in the Synod Hall and others would be able to fully participate by Zoom. Full participation means a member is able to engage with all proceedings including submitting amendments by email, speaking in debate and voting using electronic means.

The Bill makes this access available to members needing to comply with isolation requirements as they have contracted COVID-19 or are a close-contact of a person who has COVID-19. These circumstances will occur in the week before the session commences, or even during the session, when it is too late for the diocese to appoint an alternate member.

You are encouraged to review the Bill and the Explanatory Memorandum for more information on its objective and practical implementation.

More detailed information on how online access will be confirmed for affected members will be circulated separately.

Consideration of Bill 13 will be the first item of business on Day 1 of the Session to ensure that online access is immediately made available.

Elections – New qualifications for candidates for the Long Service Leave Board

Any member who wishes to stand as a candidate for appointment to the Long Service Leave Board should review the **Elections** page on the GS18 Portal, and review the information provided on the link to the Long Service Leave Board election.

A person elected as a member of the Long Service Leave Board is deemed to be a Director of the Fund's corporation, the Anglican Long Service Leave Fund Limited. From April 2022, new government regulations have come into effect for the appointment of directors to incorporated entities. The information on the GS18 Portal outlines new qualification

requirements for candidates who wish to be elected as a member of the Long Service Leave Board and the nomination form has been amended.

Nomination forms can be submitted to the secretaries at General Synod or can be emailed in advance to gs18elections@anglican.org.au.

Please contact the GSO at GS18@anglican.org.au or by telephone on 02 8267 2700 if you require any assistance in preparation for GS18.

I look forward to seeing you on the Gold Coast in May 2022.

Anne Hywood

General Secretary

