II. RULES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A STANDING COMMITTEE OF GENERAL SYNOD AND DEFINING ITS POWERS AND DUTIES

1. At every ordinary session of the Synod a Standing Committee shall be appointed, the members of which shall continue in office until the appointment of their successors.

2.[1] The Standing Committee shall consist of:-

The Primate, who shall be the President;

The Metropolitans of the Provinces including any bishop exercising the authorities, powers, rights and duties of a metropolitan as provided in the Constitution;[2]

The Chair of Committees[3] for the time being of the Synod;

[4]****

Three Bishops to be elected by the House of Bishops;

Nine members of the House of Clergy to be elected by the House of Clergy;

Nine members of the House of Laity to be elected by the House of Laity;

Two persons nominated by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council, being one Aboriginal person and one Torres Strait Islander person, who are members of Synod;

The General Secretary for the time being of the Synod, but without the right to vote.[5]

2AA.[6](1) A person who is a member of staff of the General Synod Office is ineligible to become or remain a member of the Standing Committee by virtue of being the Chair of Committees for the time being of the Synod, a member of the House of Clergy, a member of the House of Laity, or a person nominated by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council.

(2) In this section, ***member of staff of the General Synod Office*** means a person with a contract of employment working in the General Synod Office and paid directly or indirectly from General Synod funds.

2A.[7] (1) If the Primate is absent from a meeting of Standing Committee, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside at the meeting.

(2) The person presiding at a meeting of Standing Committee may, at any time, during the meeting call upon a member present to preside, temporarily, at the meeting.

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1 Amended by Rule 2, 2007.
2 Amended by Rule 2, 1966.
3 Amended by Rule 4, 2022.
4 'The Secretaries for the time being of the Synod' deleted by Rule 4, 2022 (to take effect at the commencement of the 19th General Synod).
5 Added by Rule XXVI (Rule 1, 1981); amended by including the words ', but without the right to vote' by Rule 4, 2022 (took effect in February 2026, being the date on which the person who is General Secretary when this Rule was made ceased to be General Secretary).
6 Added by Canon 11, 2026.
7 Added by Rule XXIX (Rule 1, 1989).

3. If between sessions of Synod a vacancy should happen among the elected members, that is to say by death, resignation in writing to the Primate, or in the case of a member elected by the House of Clergy, election to the House of Bishops, the vacancy shall be filled by election by the Standing Committee.

If the Chair of Committees [8][9] should between sessions of Synod resign his or her office he or she shall cease to be a member of Standing Committee and the vacancy shall not be filled.[10]

A person must be a member of General Synod at the time of his or her election or appointment to the Standing Committee, but shall not cease to be a member of the Standing Committee by reason only of ceasing to be a member of General Synod.[11]

4.[12] (1) The Primate shall summon meetings of the Standing Committee at such places as he may determine by giving one month's notice to the members and at such times as follows:-

(a) Within six months of the close of an ordinary session of Synod.

(b) Not more than nine nor less than six months prior to the holding of an ordinary session of Synod.

(c) Upon receiving a written request from not less than ten members of the Standing Committee.

(d) At such times in addition to the above as he may deem advisable.

Provided however that the giving of one month's notice shall not be required where the Primate either before or during a session of Synod summons a meeting of the Standing Committee to occur immediately before, during or immediately following that session.[13]

(2)[14] Subject to rule 4A(6), a quorum of the Standing Committee consists of one half the total number of the members (ignoring any fraction resulting from the division) plus one.

(3) Subject to sub-section (2) the Standing Committee may act notwithstanding vacancies in its membership or a defect in appointment of a member.

(4) A decision carried by a majority of the votes cast by the members present at a meeting is a decision of the Standing Committee.

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8 Amended by Rule 4, 2022.

9 The words 'or a Secretary of Synod' deleted by Rule 4, 2022 (to take effect at the commencement of the 19th General Synod).

10 Added by Rule 2, 1966, and amended by Rule 1, 1998.

11 Added by Rule 1, 1998.

12 Amended and sub-sections 4(2) – (7) added by Rule 2, 2007.

13 Proviso added by Rule 6, 1992.

14 Amended by Rule 3, 2022.

(5) Each member present at a meeting of the Standing Committee has one vote on a matter arising for decision and, if the votes are equal, the decision is not carried.

(6) A telephone or video conference between members will, for the purposes of this section, be taken to be a meeting of the Standing Committee at which the participating members are present.

(7) A proposed resolution of the Standing Committee becomes a valid decision of the Standing Committee despite the fact that it is not voted on at a meeting of the Standing Committee if:

(a) notice of the proposed resolution is given to all members in accordance with procedures determined by the Standing Committee; and

(b)[15] at least two thirds of the members respond in writing to the notice and of those who do so respond and do not in that response declare that they have a conflict of interest at least three-quarters express their concurrence with the proposed resolution.

4A.[16](1) A member who has a conflict of interest in relation to a matter that is to be considered by a meeting of the Standing Committee must declare that conflict to the meeting—

(a) if the matter is on the agenda of a meeting, at a time when considering or approving the agenda is a question before the meeting; or

(b) in any other case, where the matter is the question.

(2) Subject to sub-rules (3) and (4), a member who has a conflict of interest in relation to a matter must not be present while the matter is being considered.

(3) After a member who has a conflict of interest has left the meeting, the meeting may resolve to allow the member to return to be present (but not to speak or to vote or to be counted as a person who is present for the purposes of rule 4(4)).

(4) In the exercise of its powers under sub-rule (3), a meeting may resolve that all members who have left the meeting may return and be present, but may not resolve that some of those members but not others of those members may return and be present.

(5) In the case of a resolution proposed under rule 4(7)(b), a member who has a conflict of interest must declare that conflict by stating in their response to the notice that they have a conflict of interest.

(6) Despite rule 4(2), a quorum of the Standing Committee for the purposes of disposing of the business of the meeting, in respect of which one or more members have left the meeting under sub-rule (3) due to a conflict of interest, is, until that business has been disposed of, the members who were present when that item of business was reached and who do not have a conflict.

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15 Amended by Rule 4, 2017; amended by Rule 3, 2022.

16 Added by Rule 3, 2022

(7) For the purposes of this rule, a member of the Standing Committee has a conflict of interest when their responsibilities as a member may be influenced or affected, or may reasonably be perceived as being influenced or affected, by—

(a) their personal financial interest, or those of their family or friends;

(b) their reputation, or that of their family or friends;

(c) their obligations or loyalty to another person or organisation (other than a Diocese, or a body established by the Constitution or a canon of General Synod);

(d) their previous or current relationship (whether personal or professional) with someone who might be affected by how they discharge those responsibilities; or

(e) their previous or current involvement in another capacity in a matter now falling within those responsibilities.

5. It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee:-

(a) To act as advisers to the Primate in all such matters as he may refer to them arising out of the rules and canons of Synod or affecting the general welfare of the Anglican Church of Australia.

(b) To make arrangements for the sessions of the Synod, and to prepare the business to be brought before the Synod.

(c) To propose such business as may appear to the Committee to be necessary or desirable to be brought before the Synod.

(d) To print a report of the proceedings of the Synod from time to time, and all documents ordered by the Synod to be printed.

(e) To apportion among the dioceses on an equitable basis the necessary working expenses of the Synod and of the Standing Committee and other expenses specially authorised by the Synod; to collect such apportionments, and therewith to defray the expenses aforesaid.

(f) To make elections to vacant offices as the Synod shall from time to time determine.

(g) To consider and report upon any matter which the Synod may from time to time refer to it and to carry out or assist in carrying out the resolutions passed by the Synod.

(h) To communicate the canons of the Synod to the dioceses, and conduct such correspondence as may be necessary for the forwarding of the work of the Synod.

(i) To procure and have in custody all requisite documents and funds in connection with the proceedings of the Synod.

(j) To consider such matters as by the Constitution it is directed to consider and to advise the President of Synod thereon.

(k) By resolution to request the Primate to convene a special session of Synod under Sec. 23b of the Constitution.

(l) To attend to all such other business as the Synod may from time to time refer to it.

(m) To present a report of its proceedings including an audited statement of receipts and expenditure to the Synod at every ordinary session thereof and an interim report of its proceedings annually to all members of Synod through the diocesan bishops.

(n)[17] To invest and deal with the moneys of the General Synod not immediately required in such manner as the Standing Committee may from time to time determine.

6. The Standing Committee is hereby authorised:-

(a) To appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer who need not be members of the Committee and an Auditor who shall not be a member of the Committee.

(b) To delegate any portion of its powers and duties to committees with obligation to report to the Standing Committee, but the powers so delegated shall be strictly defined and be revocable by the Standing Committee at pleasure.

(c) To deliberate and confer upon all matters affecting the interests of the Anglican Church of Australia and cognisable by the Synod.

(d) To communicate with the civil powers and all such bodies and persons as it shall consider necessary, to present petitions and addresses to all such bodies and persons, and take such action with reference to national issues and public functions as it should consider desirable, to confer with or co-operate with other Christian bodies on such subjects and at such times as it may think fit - provided that any such action taken by the Standing Committee under this sub-section and not previously sanctioned by the Synod shall be reported to the Synod at its next meeting.

(e) To obtain such expert opinion as it may seem desirable upon the legal and constitutional validity of rules and canons made by or proposed to be brought before the Synod.

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17 Added by Rule 3, 1995.