

Synod Membership (Election of Parochial Representatives) Amendment Ordinance 2001

Explanatory Statement

Introduction

1. The purpose of the proposed ordinance is to amend the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 (the "Ordinance") to provide that, on the request of the parish council of a parochial unit with more than 1 church, the Regional Bishop acting on the advice of his Regional Council -

- (a) may direct that a person may be elected to be a Parochial Representative of the Parochial Unit at a combined annual vestry meeting or another vestry meeting of the Parochial Unit; and
- (b) in giving such a direction, may also direct that the persons elected to be the Parochial Representatives must not be parishioners of the same church.

Detail

2. At present the Parochial Representatives for multi-church parochial units are elected at a vestry meeting of the principal church of the parochial unit.

3. However it is considered desirable to give parishioners of any church which is not the principal church of a multi-church parochial unit an opportunity to participate in the election of Parochial Representatives if appropriate.

4. The proposed ordinance does not alter the current position in relation to the election of Parochial Representatives for multi-church parochial units unless, at the request of the parish council, a direction is given by the Regional Bishop acting on the advice of his Regional Council under the proposed clause 15A(2). Where such a direction is given, a person may be elected to be a Parochial Representative at a combined annual vestry meeting or another vestry meeting of the parochial unit.

5. The proposed clause 15A(3) allows the parish council to request that in giving a direction under clause 15(2), the Regional Bishop acting on the advice of his Regional Council may also direct that persons elected to be Parochial Representatives must not be parishioners of the same church. If utilised, clause 15(3) ensures that for parochial units which are entitled to elect 2 Parochial Representatives, at least 1 of the Parochial Representatives will be a parishioner of a church other than the principal church.

6. The proposed ordinance does not affect the election of Parochial Representatives for parochial units with only 1 church.

Recommendation

7. The Western Sydney Regional Council recommends that Synod pass the bill as an ordinance.

For and on behalf of the Western Sydney Regional Council

ROBERT WICKS
Legal Officer

28 August 2001