

## AGENDA 2.1.11

# Changes to By-laws: General Synod

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### PROPOSED MOTION

*Submitted by General Church Board*

**PROPOSED THAT** the General Synod confirms the following changes (words to be added - **bold**) to Sections 7.2 'The Convening of General Synod'; 7.3 'Procedures in Transacting Business' and 7.4 'Nominations and Elections' that were resolved by a postal ballot of the 19<sup>th</sup> Synod delegates and the results announced by the bishop in April 2021:

#### SECTION 7.2 THE CONVENING OF GENERAL SYNOD

7.2.1 The regular convention of the General Synod shall **take place by meeting in person or by electronic means and** be held in the month of October or as near as practicable to that month, or as arranged by the General Church Board and the inviting body.

#### SECTION 7.3 PROCEDURE IN TRANSACTING BUSINESS

**7.3.33 In the event that a convention of the General Synod is held using electronic means in place of meeting in person, these procedures may be amended to suit that environment.**

#### SECTION 7.4 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

**7.4.13 In the event that a convention of the General Synod is held using electronic means in place of meeting in person, these procedures may be amended to suit that environment.**

### REASONS FOR PROPOSAL

The General Church Board (GCB), mindful of the implications of a COVID-19 outbreak impacting the physical meeting of delegates and officers of the church at Convention of General Synod, proposed changes to the By-laws that would enable the 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of General Synod to be conducted in part or in its entirety via electronic means.

This was necessary as the LCA's By-laws did not accommodate this scenario. In addition, the GCB was of the view that a change to the By-laws was also necessary to provide flexibility as to how conventions are conducted in the future to meet changing circumstances.

Therefore, under By-laws Section 7.6 (Method of Voting Between Conventions), GCB proposed to delegates to the 19<sup>th</sup> Convention of General Synod (2018) to make changes to the by-laws that would allow a convention of General Synod to be held in person or by electronic means.

The ballots received approving the changes were sufficient to meet the constitutional provisions for such amendments.

However, it has been noted that the requirements of Section 7.6.1.2 were not fully met because no reasons against the proposal were included in the ballot.

The General Church Board acknowledges and regrets this oversight and is therefore proposing that the delegates to this convention of General Synod confirm the results of the postal ballot.

The passing of this resolution will also ensure there is a formal record of the change to the By-laws in the minutes of the convention of General Synod.