

## AGENDA 2.4.3

# Constitutional changes: Alternate lay delegates

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## PROPOSED MOTION

**BE IT RESOLVED** that **Article 7 The General Synod** of the Constitution of the Church be amended to remove the second sentence of clause 7.6 as follows (words to be deleted – ~~striketthrough~~):

7.6 In the absence of a delegate at a convention of the General Synod the right to vote may be accorded to an alternate appointed in a manner laid down in the By-laws to exercise that right. ~~The By-laws may provide that the alternate for a lay delegate of a parish need not necessarily be a lay member.~~

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that **Section 7 The General Synod** of the By-laws of the Church be amended in clause 7.1.4 as follows (words to be deleted – ~~striketthrough~~; words to be added – **bold**):

### Alternates

7.1.4 When an elected lay delegate cannot attend a convention of the General Synod and the parish cannot find a substitute from its midst, the parish may request ~~permission from the Bishop of the District to appoint its pastor, should the pastor not be a pastor delegate, or a member from another parish, to act as the alternate for its elected lay delegate at such convention.~~ **recommend to the parish an alternate lay delegate for consideration as its appointed delegate.**

## REASONS FOR THE MOTION

A principle of the 1966 Constituting Constitution established a ratio of one pastor delegate to every two lay delegates to General Synod. Currently Section 7.1.4, provides for a parish to request the Bishop of their District to appoint their pastor as their Alternate Delegate. This was often convenient in the past as the General Pastors Conference and General Synod were held at the same time and so there could be cost savings to the Parish in regard to travel costs.

However, the original intent was that lay people should be encouraged to be involved in the service of Synod and mechanisms put in place to enable this to occur.

Also, an aim is to remove any perception that there could be an imbalance in the required ratio of pastors to lay delegates.

The proposed change to Section 7.1.4, and a corresponding change to Article 7.6 of the Constitution of the Church, will address this issue by requiring the District Bishop to nominate to a parish/congregation an Alternate Lay Delegate should a parish/congregation be unable to nominate a Lay Delegate from their own membership.