

Electoral, 1914.

ELECTORAL ORDINANCE, 1914.

1914. No. 18.

Preamble.

Whereas it is provided by the Constitution contained in the Schedule to the Church of England Constitutions Act Amendment Act 1902, that the Synod of each Diocese may make rules for altering the periods within which and the manner in which subsequent Synods shall be convened, and the mode of electing Representative Members, and for regulating the number of the Clergy and Representative Members to be respectively summoned to any future Synod, and as to the manner in which such regulation shall be effected and as to the number necessary to constitute a quorum: Be it therefore ordained by the Synod of the Diocese of Grafton as follows, that it is to say:—

Constitution of Synod.

1. The Synod shall consist of the Bishop of the Diocese as President, and of the Clergy holding the Bishop's License under seal, and of Laymen elected as hereinafter provided, to represent the several Parishes and Parochial Districts of the Diocese. And the Bishop may summon to the Synod his Chancellor and his Registrar.

Meetings of Synod.

2. The Synod shall ordinarily meet once in each year, at a time and place to be determined by the Bishop-in-Council, and in case of the absence of the Bishop or the vacancy of the See, by the Administrator-in-Council.

Electoral Districts.

3. Every Parish and Parochial District already or hereafter declared shall be an electoral district for the purposes of this Ordinance, and entitled to elect as hereinafter provided one or more Lay Representatives

Bishop to Convene.

4. The Bishop, or if he be absent, or the See be vacant, the Administrator, shall be the convener of the Synod, by summons, under his hand and seal.

Special Meeting.

5. The Bishop may, at his own discretion, and the Bishop or Administrator shall, at the request of two-thirds of the Dio-

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cesan Council, summoned by notice as hereinafter provided a special meeting of the Synod, stating the business therein to be done, and that business alone shall then be considered.

Bishop's Mandate for Election.

6. Whenever a new Synod is to be elected or whenever a vacancy by death, resignation or other cause has occurred in the representation of any electoral district, or whenever a new electoral district has been declared, the Bishop shall, by mandate under his hand and seal, require the Clerk licensed to the separate Cure of Souls in the said electoral district to proceed to the election of one or more Lay Representatives in manner hereinafter provided.

Qualifications of Electors.

7. Every adult member of the Church of England ordinarily resident within the boundaries of the Electoral District as defined under the Parishes Definition Ordinance 1914, shall be qualified as an elector of the said district.

Qualifications of Lay Representatives.

8. Any male communicant elector, or any male communicant member of the Church of England having freehold property within the Diocese shall be qualified for election as a Lay Representative.

Parochial District Representation.

9. Every Parochial District shall be entitled to return one Lay Representative only.

Parish Representation.

10. Every Parish shall be entitled to return two Lay Representatives, and if the number of electors registered as hereinafter provided exceed 200, one additional Representative may be returned: Provided, that the number of Lay Representatives to be summoned shall not be more than twice the number of Clergy to be summoned.

Roll to be kept and exhibited.

11. In every Parish or Parochial District the Vicar or Minister shall cause to be kept a list in which shall be entered the names of all adult communicant electors. On the 1st day of June in every year and for fourteen days thereafter a copy of such list shall be exhibited for public information on the door of the principal church within the Parish or Parochial District, and the Vicar or Minister shall add thereto the names of all other qualified electors who shall make application within the said period of fourteen days in the form of Schedule B. Such

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list when completed shall be the Electoral Roll for the Parish or Parochial District, and a statement in the form of Schedule C to this Ordinance as to the number of persons entered therein, certified as correct by the Vicar or Minister, shall be sent to the Registrar of the Diocese between the 1st and 14th days of July in each year, to be filed in the Registry.

Notice of Exhibition of Roll.

12. Notice of the intended exhibition of the list mentioned in the foregoing clause shall be published at every service held in the Parish or Parochial District during the month of May in each year, and it shall also be notified that forms of application may be obtained from the Vicar or Minister by any person desiring the same.

Notice of Election.

13. Upon receipt of the Bishop's mandate the Clerk in charge shall cause notice to be given in every church or building customarily used for Divine Service during the time of holding service therein, at as many services as shall be possible, specifying a date not less than fifteen nor more than thirty days from the first day of notice within which nomination papers may be sent to him. A copy of such notice shall also be affixed to the door of every licensed church building. Nominations shall be in the form of Schedule A hereto, signed by not less than two electors, and each person so nominated shall sign the consent and declaration contained in the said Schedule.

Nominations not more than number specified.

14. If not more than the number specified in the Bishop's mandate be nominated, the Clerk in charge shall return the said mandate to the Bishop duly endorsed with the name or names of the persons nominated, and a certificate to that effect.

Ballot—how taken.

15. If more than the required number of persons be nominated, the Secretary of the Parochial Council shall within seven days after the date fixed for closing the nominations forward to every elector on the Roll a ballot paper in the form of Schedule D. Such elector shall thereupon mark with a X the names of those candidates for whom he desires to vote (marking neither more nor less than the required number), and shall place the ballot paper in an envelope endorsed "Ballot Paper," to be provided for the purpose. The sealed envelope shall then be enclosed in another envelope in which the voter shall sign his name, and shall be forwarded to the Secretary in time to reach him not later than fourteen days from the closing of the nominations.

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Scrutineers.

16. The Clerk in charge, together with two members of and elected by the Parochial Council (not being candidates) shall act as Scrutineers. The envelopes containing the ballot papers of all electors whose names appear on the Electoral Roll shall be deposited in a box and after all have been so deposited they shall be opened and the votes for each candidate counted and recorded, all ballot papers not marked in accordance with the last preceding clause being rejected as informal.

Certificate and Declaration of Election.

17. The Clerk in charge shall cause to be delivered to each person elected a certificate in the form of Schedule D, signed by the Scrutineers, and shall forward to the Bishop within three days after the election a declaration of the result in the form of Schedule E, certified by the Scrutineers to be correct, together with all ballot papers used during the election, which ballot papers shall be retained in the Registry until one month after the first day of Synod.

Term of Office.

18. Every Lay Representative duly elected shall hold his office until the ensuing general election and no longer.

Representative may resign.

19. Any Lay Representative by writing under his hand addressed to the Bishop may resign his seat, and from the time the Bishop shall have received and accepted such resignation the seat of such member shall be vacant.

Absence from Synod.

20. The seat of any Lay Representative who shall have been absent from Synod for an entire ordinary session without leave of Synod may be thereupon declared vacant by resolution of the Bishop in Council.

Forfeiture of Seat.

21. Any Lay Representative who shall cease to be a member of the Church of England shall be deemed to have forfeited his seat, and such seat may be declared vacant by a resolution of the Synod.

Vacancies—how filled.

22. If a Lay Representative die or resign his seat, or if his seat be forfeited and declared vacant as aforesaid, the Bishop shall issue his mandate for a new election to be made in the stead of the person who shall have so died, resigned, or whose seat shall have been forfeited and declared vacant, and every

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election held to fill a vacancy however occasioned, shall be conducted in the manner herein provided for General Elections.

If no Election—Bishop's Commission.

23. If at the time of a vacancy occurring from whatever cause there be no Clerk-in-charge of the Electoral District, or if such Clerk neglect or refuse to proceed to an election under the Bishop's mandate within the appointed time, the Bishop may issue a commission to the Archdeacon or some other licensed Clerk directing him to take the necessary steps to procure such new election.

Failure to Elect not to Invalidate Synod Proceedings.

24. If one or more electoral districts fail to elect Lay Representatives, such failure shall not prevent the Synod from proceeding to business or in any way invalidate its proceedings.

Dissolution of Synod.

25. Notice of the dissolution of Synod by effluxion of time or otherwise as provided in section two of the Constitutions shall be given by the Bishop in such manner as to him may seem meet, and a general election of Lay Representatives shall take place within six months of every such dissolution.

Time may be extended.

26. The Bishop may, if he think fit, extend the time named in his original mandate for any election of Lay Representatives, and any election within such extended time shall be good and valid to all intents and purposes.

Elections and Qualifications Committee.

27. At the opening of the first session of each Synod the Bishop shall lay upon the table of the Synod a list of names not exceeding five members chosen by him as a Committee of Elections and Qualifications to which shall be referred all questions and petitions as to the validity of any disputed election.

Decisions of Committee to be final.

28. The Committee shall not be competent to transact business unless at the least three members thereof shall be present, and its decisions on all questions referred to it shall be final.

Petitions to Committee.

29. No petition shall be referred to the said Committee unless it be presented on the first day of the Session of Synod immediately following the disputed election, and unless it be signed by a candidate at such election or by three duly qualified electors, but the Bishop may refer, without petition, such questions to the Committee as he may deem necessary.

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Person returned not duly elected.

30. If such Committee shall determine and report to the Synod that a person who was returned as elected has not been duly elected, the person so declared not to be duly elected shall cease to be a member of the said Synod.

Person not returned duly elected.

31. If such Committee determine and report to the Synod that any person who was not returned as elected has been duly elected, the person so declared to be duly elected shall be admitted a member of the Synod.

Title.

32. This Ordinance may be cited as the "Electoral Ordinance 1914."

Schedule "A."

SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF GRAFTON.**Nomination of Lay Representatives.**

We, the undersigned, do hereby nominate for election as Lay Representative of the Parish or Parochial District of _____ in the Diocesan Synod; and we hereby severally declare ourselves to be members of the Church of England, above the age of 21 years, and ordinarily resident within the said Parish or Parochial District.

(Signatures of two Nominating Electors.)

Date

Consent and Declaration of Nominee.

I, the said _____ above nominated, do hereby signify my consent to such nomination. I declare myself a Layman of the full age of 21 years and a communicant member of the Church of England, and duly qualified for election. And I do declare my submission to the authority of the Synod of the Diocese of Grafton, and of the Provincial Synod of the Church of England in the State of New South Wales, established under the Constitutions set out in the Schedule to the Church of England Constitutions Act Amendment Act, 1902, and my consent to be bound by all the provisions of the said Constitutions, and by all Rules, Ordinances and Determinations which are now or may be hereafter made under or by virtue or in pursuance thereof by the said Synod of the Diocese of Grafton, or the said Provincial Synod of New South Wales.

(Signature.)

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Schedule "B."

DIOCESE OF GRAFTON.

Statement of Registered Electors.

I certify that the electors of the Parish or Parochial District of ... duly registered under the provisions of the Electoral Ordinance 1914, number ... on this ... day of ... 19 ... (Signature of Vicar or Minister.)

Schedule "C."

DIOCESE OF GRAFTON.

I, ... of ... being a resident within the Parish or Parochial District of ... hereby apply to have my name inserted in the list of electors for the said Parish or Parochial District of ... and I declare that I am a member of the Church of England. (Signature.)

Date.....

Schedule "D."

DIOCESE OF GRAFTON.

Electoral District of

BALLOT PAPER.

[Insert names of candidates in alphabetical order, thus:

- Brown, James
Johnson, Robert
Sutton, William

..... to be elected.]

DIRECTIONS.

Put a X against the names of the candidates for whom you wish to vote (marking neither more nor less than the required number), place the ballot paper in the small envelope and fasten it. Then put both in the large envelope, sign your name inside the flap, seal it up, and post in time to reach the Secretary of the Parochial Council by

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Schedule "E."

DIOCESE OF GRAFTON.

Electoral District of

We hereby certify that ... of ... has been duly elected a Lay Representative of the above District in the Synod of the Diocese of Grafton.

Dated this ... day of ... 19

.....

Scrutineers.

Schedule "F."

SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF GRAFTON.

Electoral District of

RESULT OF ELECTION, 19

Name of Candidate.

Votes polled.

.....

We declare the above to be correct.

.....

Scrutineers.

Date.....

I assent to the above Ordinance,

23rd June, 1914.

CECIL H. GRAFTON.