

**DIOCESAN GOVERNANCE ORDINANCE 2008 AMENDING ORDINANCE
(SYNOD STANDING ORDERS) 2020
Ordinance No. 8 of 2020**

An Ordinance to amend the Standing Orders for Synods of the Diocese of Grafton.

PREAMBLE

Whereas the Standing Orders of Synod are detailed in the First Schedule of the Diocesan Governance Ordinance 2008; and

Whereas in consideration of the COVID-19 outbreak and other matters, it is prudent to amend the Standing Orders prior to the holding of the First Session of the Thirty Seventh Synod of the Diocese of Grafton.

Therefore, the Bishop-in-Council in pursuance of powers provided in clause 48.2 of the Diocesan Governance Ordinance 2008 hereby decrees and enacts as follows:

AMENDMENTS

1. Insert new clauses as follows immediately following clause 5.4 of the First Schedule of the Diocesan Governance Ordinance 2008 ('the Schedule').

"Health and Safety Provisions

5A.1 For the purpose of the protection of members and others from communicable diseases, the Bishop-in-Council may approve protocols for:

- (a) the screening of members and visitors for admission into the synod venue; and
- (b) practices in the venue for the maintenance of health and safety.

5A.2 A member of Synod or any other person may be excluded from the Synod venue, for part or all of the session, where such action is in accordance with the approved screening protocol.

5A.3 A member of Synod failing to adhere to the protocols for practices in the venue for the maintenance of health and safety has committed disorderly conduct which shall be considered under clause 33.1 of the Schedule."

2. Insert a new clause as follows immediately following clause 9.4 of the Schedule and replace the word "Dress" with "Conduct" in the title of the group of clauses.

"9.5 Members shall conduct themselves with care and respect for each other and a desire for the welfare of Christ's church. Particular notice shall be taken of 'Being Together' (General Synod Resolution 45/14 and reproduced as section 3.1 of GEN-005 Grievances) as a benchmark for words and actions from members during the course of a session.

GEN-002 Faithfulness in Service provides further guidance for Synod to be conducted in an environment where 'the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare and safety of all people, particularly within its own community' is created. Members shall take particular notice of Section 6 of GEN-002 Faithfulness in Service relating to 'Personal Behaviour'."

3. Insert new clauses as follows immediately following clause 1.2 of the Schedule.

“Use of Information

- 1A.1 All material provided to members of Synod under clauses 1.1 and 1.2 of these Standing Orders is provided for the member’s information to allow the member to prepare for participation in the business of the Synod. In doing so, a member may discuss the information within this material with other members of Synod or a Member of the Church in this Diocese, except that:
- (a) any material marked ‘Confidential’ shall not be discussed with or revealed to a person who is not a member of the Synod; and
 - (b) no material or part of any material shall be provided to any media outlet, social media platform or other distribution mechanism; and
 - (c) the member is responsible to take reasonable efforts to prevent an infringement of (a) and (b) above.
- 1A.2 Any variation to the provisions of clause 1A.1 of these Standing Orders requires the express permission of the Bishop.
- 1A.3 Following the adjournment of a session of Synod, members may use any of the materials received as a member of Synod, except those marked ‘Confidential’, to report on the Synod to members of their Ministry Unit and otherwise for the good conduct of the affairs of the Church in this Diocese.
- 1A.4 Following the adjournment of a session of Synod, members may engage with or respond to any report or comment regarding the business of the Synod, including a report or comment made by or through a media outlet or on a social media platform, but the member shall not purport to be a representative of the Synod or the Diocese and shall not disclose information made available to them as a member of Synod except for information that has already been openly published by the Bishop, Registrar or other person authorised by the Bishop.

Members’ Personal Information

- 1B.1 Personal information gathered from members for the purpose of meeting the requirements of these Standing Orders will be confined to the information necessary for that purpose and will not be used for other purposes. Possible uses may include:
- (a) Providing a list of members, the member’s house in Synod, and Ministry Unit for the information of members of the Synod; and
 - (b) Displaying information concerning candidates for elections to be held at that session; and
 - (c) Inclusion of the member’s image in a photograph taken at the Synod venue and subsequently published.
- 1B.2 Any member who personally requires a variation of the provisions of clause 1B.1 may apply to the Bishop at least 21 days prior to a sitting of Synod for the protection of their personal information or image. The Bishop shall consider any such request with regard to the circumstances of the request.”

4. Insert new clauses as follows immediately following clause 11.6 of the Schedule.

“Recording of Synod

11A.1 No person may make an audio or video recording of any part of the proceedings of a session of Synod without the approval of the Synod.

11A.2 Any person wishing to make an audio or video recording of the Synod shall submit their request to a Secretary of the Synod. The President may either reject the request or submit it to a vote of the Synod, at a time of the President’s choosing.”

COMMENCEMENT

5. This Ordinance shall come into effect upon the assent of the Bishop.

SHORT TITLE

This Ordinance may be cited as the Synod Standing Orders Amending Ordinance 2020.

ASSENT


We hereby certify that this Ordinance was passed by Bishop-in-Council on the Sixteenth day of July, 2020 and that the Ordinance as printed is in accordance with the Ordinance as passed.


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Chair of Committees


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Registrar

I assent to this Ordinance.

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Bishop


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Date