

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA  
DIOCESE OF WILLOCHRA



REGULATION TWO  
THE BISHOP

*Adopted 1994*

Pages

Last Amended

1

May 1996

2 - 4

May 1994

## THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

### The Bishopric Nomination Committee

1. When the See becomes vacant, or three months before the date of the retirement of the Bishop, the Administrator (as defined in Section 26 of the Constitution) shall call together the Bishopric Nomination Committee which shall nominate not less than three and not more than four persons to a special session of Synod to be called within three months of the vacancy of the See for the purpose of electing a Bishop.
2. The Bishopric Nomination Committee shall consist of the Administrator of the Diocese together with five clerical and five lay members of Synod who shall be elected at the first session of each Synod. There shall also be elected three clerical and three lay persons as reserves in the event of any member of the Committee being unavailable to serve. Any clerical member whose name is considered for nomination as Bishop shall cease to be a member of the Committee. In the event of the Administrator being nominated, the committee shall elect one of its members to chair the Committee.
3. The Administrator shall circularise all members of Synod inviting them to make submissions to the Nomination Committee.
4. A name shall not be included for nomination to the Synod unless a majority of the clerical and a majority of the lay members agree to such nomination.
5. The Nomination Committee shall present to the Synod a statement about each nominee.

### Election Synod

6. The Administrator shall cause a call of the Synod to be made within three calendar months of the vacancy of the See for the purpose of electing a Bishop.
7. During the deliberations of the Election Synod only members and officers shall be allowed to be present except by special leave of the Synod. No members shall at any time disclose any information concerning the proceedings of the Election Synod or the names of the candidates or the details of any ballot.

8. The Synod by a vote of the majority of members present may at any stage in the proceedings under this regulation resolve itself into a Committee of the whole and report back to Synod or may from time to time adjourn to a time to be fixed.
9. When the Synod has assembled the Administrator shall announce that a vacancy of the See has occurred. The Administrator shall state the cause thereof and explain the procedure to be followed in filling the vacancy, namely: that Synod shall receive the names submitted to it by the Nomination Committee together with not more than one name submitted by the House of Clergy and not more than one name submitted by the House of Laity.
10. The Administrator shall then inform members of Synod of the nominations being submitted to the Synod by the Nomination Committee.
11. Each House of Synod shall then meet separately. The House of Clergy shall be chaired by the Administrator and the House of Laity by a lay member of Synod appointed by the Administrator.
12. The business of each House meeting separately is to consider the question "Do we wish to add the name of one person to the list of nominees?" If a majority in either House agree on the name of a person to be added then that name shall be added to the list of nominees.
13. When both the House of Clergy and the House of Laity have completed the business before them the Administrator shall call Synod together again. Synod shall then resolve itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose of discussing the candidature of those who have been nominated. After discussion Synod shall resume and each name shall be balloted for individually by the House of Clergy and the House of Laity voting by orders. Every name which shall fail to obtain one third of the vote of each order shall be removed from the list.
14. The names remaining on the list shall then be balloted for each voter recording a vote for one person only. The candidate obtaining two-thirds of the votes of each order shall be the Bishop elect.
15. If after three ballots as in Clause 14 no candidate receives the requisite majority and if one of the candidates shall have obtained a majority of votes in each house and if the Synod decide in the affirmative it shall be permissible to move that such candidate be elected Bishop. If this motion is carried by a two thirds majority in each house voting by secret ballot then that person shall be the Bishop elect.

16. If no such motion is agreed to or if no candidate receive the requisite majority then the Synod shall be adjourned until such time as the Nomination Committee shall have prepared a further set of nominations for Synod.
17. If the person elected as aforesaid shall decline to accept the See the Synod shall proceed again under this Regulation.

### **Delegation of Powers**

18. If the Synod fails on two successive occasions to elect a Bishop it shall be competent for the Synod either absolutely or subject to any conditions it may think fit to impose to delegate its power and authority to elect a Bishop to the Primate, conjointly with some other Bishops of the Dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia to be named by the Synod.
19. If no such election of a Bishop as provided for by clauses 8 to 17 of this Regulation or no appointment of a Bishop under any delegated power and authority hereinbefore referred to shall be made within a period of twelve months from the date of the vacancy of the See then the appointment of a Bishop shall for this occasion pass to the Primate conjointly with the Bishops of the Dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia and shall be made by them.

### **Upon Election or Appointment**

20. The Administrator shall report to the Metropolitan the result of any election or appointment in order to obtain the confirmation required by the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia or by any Canon of the General Synod that may for the time being be in force and binding on this Diocese.
21. The election or appointment having been made and confirmed the person elected or appointed shall if not already consecrated be consecrated as provided in the Canons of General Synod. Provided that in every case the Bishop shall take the oath of canonical obedience to the Metropolitan and shall make a declaration to be subject to the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia and the Canons and Determinations of the General Synod for the time being in force and binding on this Diocese and the Constitution and Regulations of the Synod.

22. Any Bishop elected shall either before consecration or if already consecrated before exercising any episcopal function in the Diocese sign and subscribe the following declaration:  
I, A.B., Bishop elect of the Diocese of Willochra do promise that I will maintain and teach the doctrine and discipline of the Anglican Church of Australia and I consent to be bound by all the Constitution and Regulations of Synod now or hereafter in force and I hereby undertake immediately to resign the said Bishopric and all rights and emoluments appertaining thereto if sentence requiring such resignation shall at any time be passed upon me after due examination had by the Tribunal acknowledged by the said Synod for the trial of a Bishop in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Australia.  
Given under my hand this.....day of.....19...

### **THE WILLOCHRA SEE ENDOWMENT FUND**

23. The present and future property of the See of Willochra known as "The Willochra See Endowment Fund" shall be vested in the Synod and shall be administered by the Diocesan Council.
24. The net income of the Fund shall be used for the expenses of the Bishop.
25. During any vacancy in the See of Willochra the Administrator shall be paid out of the said income a stipend and travelling expenses determined by the Diocesan Council.
26. If any Bishop of Willochra be lawfully deprived of the office of Bishop of Willochra the See shall immediately on the pronouncing of such sentence of deprivation be vacant and the Bishop so deprived shall from the date of deprivation have no claim for or in respect of stipend which would but for deprivation have accrued after that date: and upon such deprivation the Bishop so deprived shall peaceably hand over and deliver up possession to the Diocesan Council or to such person as the Council may appoint all real and personal property belonging to the said Fund of which the Bishop may have occupation or possession or control.
27. At the Annual Meeting of the Synod the Diocesan Council shall present accounts showing how the Fund has been administered during the preceding twelve months.