

Provincial Synod - Constitution Ordinance 1994 Adopting Ordinance 1995

Explanatory Statement

Introduction

1. On behalf of the Sydney Synod, an ordinance to revise the 1902 Constitution was promoted to the Provincial Synod in 1989. It was eventually passed in an amended form during 1994.

Revision of 1902 Constitutions

2. The Provincial Synod - Constitution Ordinance 1994 (the "new Ordinance") restates the 1902 Constitutions (page 153 of *The 7th Handbook*) in contemporary language but deletes provisions which are best left to diocesan regulation. A comparison of the new provisions with the 1902 Constitutions follows.

<i>Description</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1902</i>
Diocesan Synod to be held	1	1,2
Power of Synod generally	2	3
Specific Powers	3	7, 20, 21
Rules for Conduct of Business	4,5	4 to 6
Membership of Synod	6	8 to 17
Delegation	7	No Equivalent
Provincial Synod	8	23
Provision as to new dioceses	9	22
Defects & errors as to elections	10	25
Absence, etc of Bishop	11	26
Registration of ordinances	12	28
Amendment of these Constitutions	13	29

3. The new Ordinance does not change anything in the 1902 Constitutions except to remit to dioceses matters of detail, to remove sexist language and to enable the Synod to delegate more of its ordinance-making powers.

How is the 1994 Revision to be Implemented?

4. Under the 29th of the 1902 Constitutions, the new Ordinance has to be adopted by the Synod of each Diocese in the Province of NSW and ratified by a canon of the General Synod. The revised constitution could be ratified by the General Synod in 1998. We will need to have in place legislation to take the place of the provisions which will be left to diocesan regulation (see the Bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995).

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Recommendation

5. The Standing Committee recommends that the Synod adopt the Constitution Ordinance 1994. The Bill was deferred at the second session of this Synod and starts at the second reading.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

W.G.S. GOTLEY
Diocesan Secretary

8 August 1995