

APPENDIX D Diocesan Synod 19th November 2022 Item 8

ELECTION OF DEANERY SYNODS

New deanery synods will be elected in **2023**. In Canterbury Diocese in recent years deaneries have been given a greater role in mission planning and being a place where mutuality and generosity can be expressed. These greater opportunities for strategic mission planning and joined up working haven't always been on the mind of parish churches when selecting their deanery synod representatives. Going forward we need to encourage mission minded people with a heart for the gospel and the kingdom to be those who join our deanery synods and shape the future of our church and have an overview beyond the parochial.

The Church Representation Rules require Diocesan Synod to determine the numbers of lay members of Deanery Synods. We will agree the formula for numbers today – but it will be for each parish to determine the qualities of the people elected from each annual parochial meeting.

Rule 21 of the 2022 Church Representation Rules states: -

1. *A diocesan synod must exercise its powers under this Part of these Rules so as to secure that the total number of members of each deanery synod in this diocese is: -*
 - a. *No more than 150 (subject to paragraph (2), and*
 - b. *So far as practicable, no less than 50*
2. *The figure of 150 given in paragraph (1)(a) may be exceeded in order: -*
 - a. *To secure that the house of laity has at least as many members as the house of clergy has,*

Rule 19 of the 2022 Church Representation Rules states: -

1. *The parochial representatives of the laity on a deanery synod –*
 - a. *Are elected every three years by the annual parochial meeting of each parish in the deanery*
 - b. *Hold office for a term of three years beginning **1 July** following the date of their election.*
2. *The numbers to be so elected from each parish is determined by a resolution of the Diocesan Synod not later than the **31 December** in the year preceding the elections,*
3. *A diocesan synod may calculate the numbers of representative from a parish for the purposes of paragraph (2) –*
 - a. *By reference to the number of names on the roll of the parish specified in the notification under Rule 10*
 - b. *By reference to the number of parish churches or districts in the parish, or*
 - c. *By a combination of both these methods.*
4. *The secretary of a diocesan synod must, no later than 31st December in the year preceding the elections –*
 - a. *Certify to the secretary of each PCC the number of parochial representatives to be elected at the annual parochial church meeting of the parish, and*

- b. Give the secretary of each deanery synod a copy of each certificate given under sub-paragraph a) and information relating to each parish in the deanery.

In 2008 Canterbury Diocesan Synod looked at a variety of schemes which attempted to give representation to the number of parish churches in a deanery (as per (3) (b) and (c) above). The straightforwardness of the scheme below as per (3) (a) and the power of deaneries to co-opt in their local context meant the scheme below was in 2008 and has been since the favoured option and fulfilled Diocesan Synod's requirements. However, the Deanery that would fail to reach its 50 by this formula is Ashford. Although a different formula could achieve 50, Ashford Town Parish's local scheme has capped its PCC membership so any additional members of Deanery Synod would not have enough PCC ex-officio places. The phrase in the CRR rule 21 (1) (b) 'in so far as practicable' comes into play here as a formula which gave a larger deanery number would not work locally. It is hoped that the less regulated Open Deanery Synod sessions around deanery mission planning etc. would not cap creative thinking and involvement and we encourage Ashford to draw in church people beyond their Synod membership to be fully involved at deanery level even if in their case they may not all be full members.

The Synod is therefore invited to adopt the following resolution:-

"That the numbers of lay persons to be elected from each parish to their respective deanery synod shall be related to the number of names on the roll of the parish in accordance with the following table:-

Number on the Rolls	Seats
1 - 25	1
26 - 100	2
101 - 200	3
201 - 300	4
301 - 400	5
Over 400	6

In addition, the synod is invited to adopt the following scheme of representation for Canterbury Cathedral on Canterbury Deanery Synod:

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules (2022) Rule 23 (1)(b) the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral will nominate two lay persons who are on the Roll of Members of the Cathedral Community to be members of Canterbury Deanery Synod for each triennium and additionally (Rule 23 (1)(a)) two ordained ministers selected from the Dean, the Residentiary Canons and other Cathedral licensed ministers. The Dean and Chapter will advise the Secretary of the Canterbury Deanery Synod of those nominated at the beginning of each triennium.

To note:

The clergy representatives on deanery synods are:

- i) All the licensed clergy in the deanery and no elections are required.
- ii) Representation of the clergy with PTO, determined by their own election CRR 15 (2) with a ratio of 1 per 10.