

CANON 5

OF THE ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DIOCESAN SYNOD

(Refer Constitution, Part E Clauses 5 & 7: Title B, Canon II, Clauses 1.1-1.6)

Lay Representatives to the Diocesan Synod

1. One lay representative shall be elected by each parish. In the case of any parish constituted between the sessions of the Diocesan Synod, the Standing Committee may allot one representative to such parish.
2. The Bishop of the diocese shall issue a writ for the election of the lay representative every second year dating from the year 1994, and such election shall take place at the annual meetings of the electors of each parish. The representatives so elected shall enter on their office on the opening of the ensuing ordinary session of synod when their predecessors shall vacate office. PROVIDED IF a vacancy shall occur in any Bishopric, no election of lay representatives shall take place until the diocesan synod shall have disposed of the election of that Bishop, either by appointment or delegation; in which case the general election shall take place at the next ensuing annual meetings; and the next general election shall be held at the date fixed.
3. Any parish shall after the election of its representative, proceed at the same annual meeting of parishioners to elect an alternate person to represent the parish at any session of the diocesan synod which the first-mentioned lay representative is unable to attend.

PROVIDED ALWAYS that such alternate lay representative shall not be entitled to take any part in the proceedings of any session of the Diocesan Synod unless notice signed by the churchwardens shall have been sent to, received, and approved by the Diocesan Bishop prior to the opening of the session that the parish will be represented by such alternate person stating the reason.

And PROVIDED FURTHER that any such notice shall be irrevocable and shall be valid only for the duration of the session in respect of which it shall have been given.

And PROVIDED FURTHER that no person elected to represent a parish in the capacity of a substitute shall be eligible for election as a lay member of the General Synod/te Hinota Whanui or of the standing committee of the Diocesan Synod.

4. The Notice convening the annual meeting at which such election is to be held shall announce the election as part of the business to be transacted.
5. The chairperson of the meeting shall be the returning officer who shall report the result of the election to the Diocesan Bishop on the writ provided.
6. In the case of one of the church wardens being the chairperson of the meeting and also being a candidate for the office of lay representative the meeting shall appoint a

returning officer who shall preside at the election and report the result of the election to the Diocesan Bishop on the writ provided.

7. If more than the authorised number to represent the parish are nominated at the meeting, the election shall be decided by ballot. Should the first or any subsequent ballot not be conclusive in consequence of an equality of votes for any candidates, further ballots shall be taken until the election is completed. Nomination is to consist of a proposal and seconding by two qualified electors and acceptance by the candidate, all in writing. Nominations may be made in like manner to that chosen for electing a vestry member.
8. In the event of no election taking place at the meeting, or of the death of the lay representative or in the event of the lay representative becoming legally incapable of discharging the duties of office during the period for which the representative has been elected, it shall be the duty of the churchwardens of the parish of the representative to report the same to the Diocesan Registrar who shall report the same to the Diocesan Bishop.
9. On the receipt of such report by the Diocesan Bishop, or on the receipt by the Bishop of the resignation of any lay representative the Bishop shall forthwith declare the seat vacant and shall direct that vacancy be filled by the electors in the manner thereinbefore provided at a special meeting if necessary to be convened for the purpose.

PROVIDED THAT no such notice of election shall be issued within thirty days of the commencement of the next session of the diocesan synod.

10. In the event of any lay representative failing to attend any duly summoned session of the diocesan synod, unless excused therefrom by the Diocesan Bishop, the seat of such lay representative shall be declared by the Bishop to be vacant, and such vacancy shall be filled in the manner hereinbefore provided for the filling of vacancies.
11. Any registered member of any parish desiring to object to the validity of the election of the lay representative must register such objection in writing to the returning officer. The returning officer shall transmit the objection together with a report thereon to the Standing Committee.
12. Should such objection be sustained by the standing committee it shall be their duty to declare the seat of such lay representative to be vacant and to request the Bishop to issue a notice for the holding of a fresh election.