

Diocesan Synod 2021

DIOCESE OF GLASGOW and GALLOWAY
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Scottish Charity no SC013925

1



Working towards a
Constitution for 2021
and beyond

In this brief presentation I wish to set before you this proposed new Constitution that has been worked on and reviewed over the last 9 months by the Bishop, Chancellor, myself, the Provost and the Diocesan Secretary, the Diocesan Council and with iterative input from the Bishops Staff Group.

It has arisen as an issue for many years now and those of you who have attended Diocesan Synod will have heard it referred to on many occasions.

In this revision we hope that we are presenting solutions to some of the issues raised: most notably about governance and accountability in the life of the Diocese – to produce a visionary Constitution for the life and work of the diocese

Scottish Episcopal Church part of the worldwide Anglican Communion

2

A Church which is
Episcopally led

&

Synodically Governed



This Constitutional review seeks to make clear how our Diocese, within the Scottish Episcopal Church, and being part of the worldwide Anglican community is Episcopally Led & Synodically Governed.

I hope that as these slides proceed you will come to appreciate further how this new Constitution strengthens both **Episcopal Leadership** in our diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, and also our **corporate and elected Synodical Governance**.

Glasgow and Galloway

we feed into the Provincial life of the SEC whilst being governed and organized in the diocese with these structures

Diocesan Synod

Diocesan Council

Bishops Core Group



• • • •



Provincial Life of the SEC

General Synod

As a diocese we are part of the Province. We feed into the life of the Province and we also receive back from the province.

The Constitution describes the organization of our Diocese, the composition and operation of the Diocesan Synod, the Diocesan Council and the Bishops' Core Group & our Regional Councils.

Glasgow and Galloway

we feed into the Provincial life of the SEC whilst being governed and organized in the diocese with these structures

Diocesan Synod

Diocesan Council

Bishops Core Group

4

Trustees of the Diocese

1.4 Heritable Trustees

Bishop, Dean, Synod Clerk, Registrar

2.1 Charity Trustees

Diocesan Council members

In section 4 of this new Constitution the work of the Bishop's Core Group is described – note the change in name from “*Bishops Staff Group*” to “**Bishops Core Group**” - this is to reflect the group's day-to-day work and the fact that the membership are not staff of

the Bishop – but rather **colleagues working collaboratively** to discharge **Episcopal Leadership together** for the wider mission of the SEC in our diocese.

Please note that in this new Constitution the **Bishop may bring others into the Bishop's Core Group** as may be needed to **collaboratively support Episcopal Leadership in the diocese**.

On the right I have listed the Trustees of the Diocese. It is important to note here as we explore the workings of governance and accountability in the diocese, that as a Charity we have trustees.

Theses fall into two types: **Heritable Trustees** and (elected) **Charity Trustees**. The Trustees form the Diocesan Council (*which remains in effect the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod*).

Together all the Trustees are accountable to OSCAR for the management of the life of the diocese as a Charity.

Being on the Diocesan Council means that you are a Charity Trustee – in section 2.1 it is pointed out that under the *Charity and Trustee Investment Act 2005* this is the case (*this is not new, but it is important to note*).

Having shown visually the structure of the governance of the diocese I will move on to look at some of the changes in the constitution.

Changes.....

from Constitution 2012 Append 3

Boundaries Committee; Protection of Vulnerable Groups; Ministry Development; Mothers' Union; Property Committee; Worship & Liturgy; Diocesan News Service and Website; and the Growth Strands of: Prayer And Spirituality; Learning And Discipleship; Missional Leadership; Numerical Growth ; Imaginative Outreach Into Communities; Children And Young People

Regional Councils

Constitution 2021

5

No names groups in the diocese
The Bishop can call groups into existence as needed or called for by Diocesan Synod

3 Regional Councils : Places of local support, friendship and celebration
Charges can ask to change region

I shall begin by considering the ever developing and changing work of mission across the diocese. In the current constitution we have listed in Appendix 3 (on the left) these various lists of Teams and Networks. (Some of which have not existed for some time). The new constitution doesn't prescribe such groups as **having** to exist. The new constitution gives

opportunity for the bishop, or indeed the Synod, to call into being any groups, teams or networks as we deem necessary to further our work.

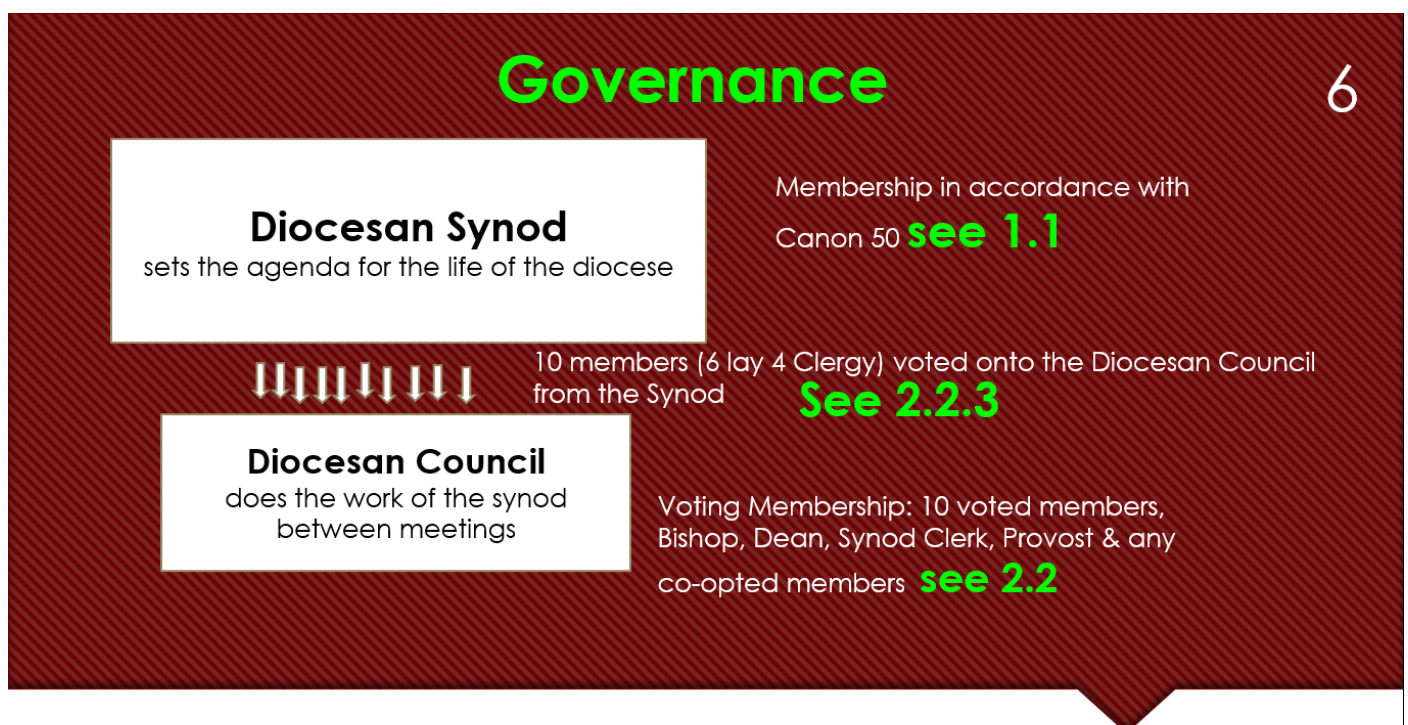
I shall address the bringing of business to Synod in a later slide.

Regarding Regional Councils – this new constitution considers them rightly as the historically inherited groups that they are, from before the days of General Synod, which now serve a **useful support role in the life of our Charges**, *rather than ones of Governance for the Diocese*, and Regional Councils are groups which are differently valued and supported by many across the Diocese.

The new Section 3 on Regional Councils **allows elements of local flexibility to adapt as local circumstances change**. The purpose of the Regional Councils is best developed when they are seen as tools for building up the life of the local Charges.

In Appendix 4 the Regions are listed along with their membership, and note that **any Charge may petition the Bishop to move region**. This may be particularly useful for Charges in different Regions sharing a Priest.

In this new constitution Regional Councils are not deemed to be part of the structures of Governance. Further will be said about this shortly.



I now move onto the issues of Governance and Responsibility in the new Constitution, and I shall be addressing the work of the **Diocesan Synod (as the primary place of Governance)**, and the **Diocesan Council (as a place of accountability)**.

As a prelude to what I am going to say here historically Regional Councils elected members to Diocesan Council as well as Synod. **This is not part of the governance structure of this**

new Constitution. The Diocesan Council (*the Charity Trustees*) are elected from the Diocesan Synod.

Membership – Diocesan Synod Membership is specified by Canon 50 (no change here) Two Houses – clergy and laity

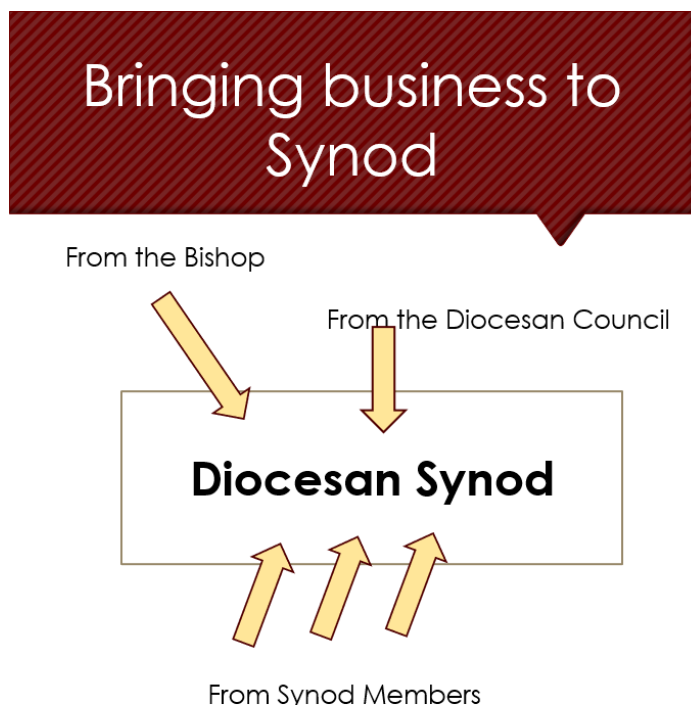
Membership of Diocesan Council – The diocesan Council is the Standing Committee of the Synod to **make sure that the work of the Synod is carried out throughout the year**. This new Constitution makes for a smaller Diocesan Council comprising 10 elected voting members from the Synod (4 clerical or 6 lay) and the Bishop, Dean, Synod Clerk, Provost and up to 3 further co-opted members from the Synod.

This provides the Diocese with a more streamlined Diocesan Council and hopefully making membership a more engaging role for **the members who are the Charity Trustees for the Diocese**, along with the heritable Trustees of the Diocese.

The Synod sets the work for the Diocesan Council, and the Bishops Core Group brings that about on a day to day basis.

The **Synod is the place of Governance in the Diocese in this constitution** – this puts us in line with the other dioceses of the Scottish Episcopal Church and also has clarity in terms of accountability and governance.

As I move on there are two more areas I wish to cover.



7

Appendix 3:

THE PROCESS OF BRINGING ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO SYNOD

1. By request from the Bishop
2. By Request from the Council
3. By individual Synod members as follows:

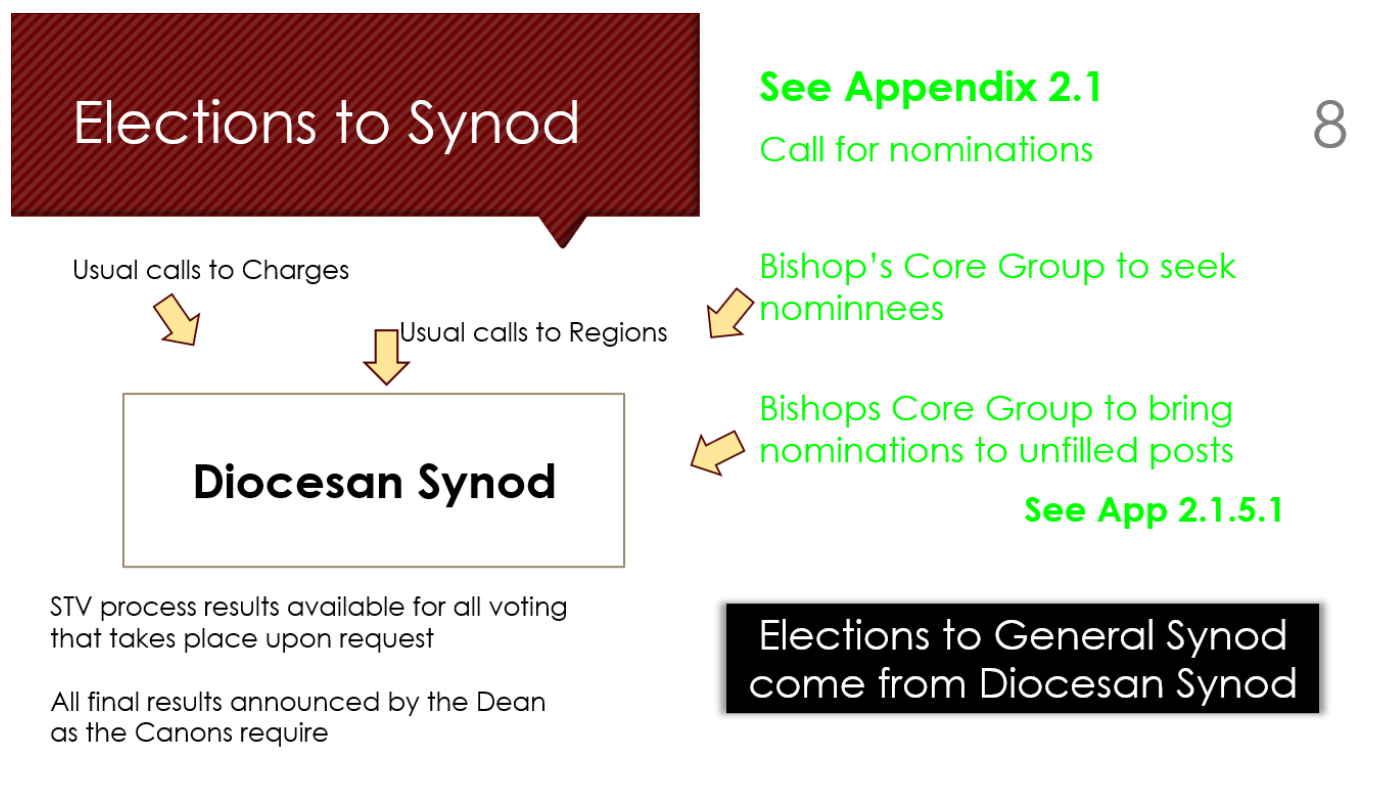
A clear process to enable members to bring items that they wish Synod to consider

The first is **bringing business to Synod**.

This has at times been a problematic issue in the past. This new constitution seeks to make channels clearly open to synod members to table issues for debate.

Appendix 3 of the New Constitution document outlines the processes for bringing business to Synod – always remembering that it is at the Bishop’s (Convenor’s) discretion to allow or remove items from the agenda.

In this way you will see that **the Bishop, the Diocesan Council** and **individual Members** can bring items to the agenda and we all know how to do it!



Finally, to consider the process for **Elections to General Synod**.

The elections to General Synod will come from the Diocesan Synod.

The process of Election at Synod now has a process laid out in **Appendix 2**. You will see we have covered the ability to vote physically, and if necessary by post as was the case this year.

Importantly we have also tried to aid the process of filling places by the addition of Section 2.1.5.1 of Appendix 2. This allows for unfilled places to be filled by BCG nominations to then be homologated – helping to ensure we get good representation and places filled.

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

9

A Constitution for a Church which is clearly

**Episcopally led
&
Synodically Governed**

**&
where business can be brought at all
levels of the Church as missional
initiatives arise**



To conclude. This new constitution which we are tabling for your consideration and adoption has **synodical governance is put at it's heart** whilst **also giving strength to collaborative Episcopal leadership**. Providing a constitutional framework which is flexible, and not a strait jacket to missional initiatives brought to the synod by the bishop, the Diocesan Council and synod members.

It is our hope that this Constitutional will iron out anomalies of the past and help the people of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway understand how they can engage with, and contribute to, the diocesan life and direction of mission.



A Constitution
for 2021
and beyond

We present this proposed Constitution to you as a visionary tool for our future, in the grace of God.

Thank you