

## **Agenda item 06**

### **Review of Standing Committee Membership**

#### **Background**

The Diocesan Constitution defines membership of its Standing Committee as follows:

#### **Membership of the Standing Committee**

*59. Members of the Standing Committee must be members of the Diocesan Conference.*

*60. The Standing Committee shall consist of:*

#### **Ex-Officio members:**

*The Bishop,*

*The Chancellor of the Diocese*

*The Dean*

*The Archdeacon of Wrexham*

*The Archdeacon of St Asaph*

*The Archdeacon of Montgomery*

*Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance*

*Vice Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance*

*Chair of the Diocesan Property Board*

*The Diocesan Registrar*

*The Secretary of the Diocesan Conference*

*The Lead Officers of the Diocesan Boards and Councils*

*The Lead Officers of the Diocesan Steering Groups and the Diocesan Grants Committee*

#### **Elected members**

*One elected clerical representative for each Mission Area.*

*One elected lay representative from each Mission Area.*

*61. Elected members shall hold office for the triennium of the Diocesan Conference for which they were elected, or until they cease to be members of the Diocesan Conference.*

In addition, all Mission Area Leaders (lay and ordained), are invited to attend Standing Committee meetings but are not entitled to vote unless they are also an elected member of the Standing Committee.

## **For Consideration**

The current membership criteria leads to some disparity in the representation of Mission Areas at meetings of the Standing Committee. In some cases, the Mission Area Leader is also the elected lay or clerical representative and so attends the meeting, is entitled to speak on all issues and also has the right to vote. In other cases, the Mission Area Leader attends in addition to the elected representatives and is entitled to speak on all issues but does not have the right to vote. In other Mission Areas, the Mission Area Leader rarely attends meetings of the Standing Committee and is content for the elected representatives to fulfil the responsibilities of membership.

## **Update following the discussion at Standing Committee on 28 June 2022**

This matter was first discussed when Standing Committee met on 28 June 2022. Members of the Committee engaged in a wide-ranging debate and there was no clear consensus of opinion. It was agreed that a clear proposal would be brought to the next meeting with options for consideration.

Further discussions have taken place since the meeting of the Standing Committee, and it has been acknowledged that the triennial elections to the Standing Committee have just taken place in the Mission Areas for the triennial period 2022 – 2025. We are conscious of the amount of work that these elections create and want to honour the discernment of the Mission Areas

In recognition of this, the following two options are presented for consideration:

**Option One:** Mission Area Leaders currently have the right to attend and to speak at Standing Committee meeting. They should also have the right to vote. This proposal, if accepted, would be tested over the new triennial period after which the impact of the change would be assessed and a recommendation made as to whether the change should become permanent or not.

**Option Two:** There should be no change to the current voting arrangements for the Standing Committee

## **Action required**

Members of the Standing Committee are invited to discuss the options outlined above and to vote on their preferred course of action. If the Members of the Standing Committee vote for a change to its current voting arrangements, the proposal will be referred to the Diocesan Conference on 8 October 2022 as any change will involve amending the Diocesan Constitution.