



of the proposals were accepted, but it was agreed to introduce a formal process to enable countermotions to be proposed and debated.

OTHER MATTERS

The Synod approved the annual report and accounts for the General Synod for the year ended 31 December 2021. Recognising that a new stipend policy adopted by Synod in 2021 would produce a significant increase in the level of stipend for 2023 and beyond, and also that current economic circumstances were likely to prove challenging for many congregations, the Standing Committee indicated its intention to make provision for Transitional Stipend Assistance Grants for congregations for 2023 and 2024. In addition, whilst provincial quota had been substantially reduced as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the intention that there would be a phased increase to £750,000 by 2024, the Committee proposed to further smooth the increase by deferring until 2025 the rise to £750,000. In consequence, the increase in provincial quota for 2023 was limited to £25,000, giving a total figure for provincial quota of £685,000 for that year.

The Synod also received reports on the development of lay learning opportunities, largely arising from experience during the pandemic of significant engagement of lay people in online lectures and discussion; on ongoing work by the Personnel Committee; on the development of training and resources for congregations on matters of health and safety and risk assessment; and a presentation by the Provincial Youth Committee.

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Governing Body of the Church in Wales

April and September 2022

MATTHEW CHINERY
Head of Legal Services

THE NEW ARCHBISHOP

The Governing Body of the Church in Wales met at the International Conference Centre, Newport on 27–28 April 2022 and 6–7 September 2022. The April session began with the formal notification to the Governing Body of the election of the Most Reverend Andrew John, Bishop of Bangor, as Archbishop

of Wales and therefore President of the Governing Body. His inaugural Presidential address called for the Russian Orthodox Church to condemn the killing of civilians in Ukraine and press for an immediate ceasefire to hostilities. He praised the actions of churches across the Province in their continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic in their respective communities.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Three sets of minor legislative amendments to the Constitution of the Church in Wales were approved. The first amended the Constitutional provisions for clergy housing to make it clear that the regulations apply to resident non-stipendiary ministers (sometimes colloquially known as ‘house for duty’ clergy). The second clarified the *ex officio* membership of church committees (a committee sitting underneath a parochial church council or a ministry area council in ministry areas with multiple places of worship, roughly akin to a district church council in the Church of England). The final amendment shortened certain time limits in the early part of the introduction of legislation to Governing Body concerning matters of doctrine, faith, worship and discipline. The intention is that this change would allow any piece of legislation to pass through Governing Body within 12 months from its first introduction.

MINOR LITURGICAL VARIATIONS

A canon permitting and regulating minor variations to the authorised liturgy of the Church in Wales was passed and promulgated at this session. The Canon, for the first time, formally permits minor variations from the authorised and published liturgies of the Province. The Canon has similarities with the Church of England’s Canon B5 but includes specific restrictions on variations to certain parts of liturgy (for example, eucharistic prayers).

OTHER MATTERS

The Bench of Bishops gave a formal report on their work over the past year and, for the first time, took questions from the floor on their report. The Standing Committee report included an outline of the Church in Wales’s ongoing response to the Enquiry and Review into the Diocese of Monmouth, published in December 2021.

The Governing Body formally adopted a Framework on working towards Net Zero Carbon, further to its previous resolutions to achieve Net Zero by 2030 or as soon as possible thereafter. An emergency motion calling on the World Council of Churches to take clear and appropriate action to distance the Council from the

actions of churches, including the Russian Orthodox Church, who had given support to the invasion of Ukraine was passed unanimously.

THE SEPTEMBER SESSION

The September session of the Governing Body will likely be of more future interest to historians than ecclesiastical lawyers. The legislative business had been scheduled for the final afternoon's session, but by lunchtime news of the rapidly declining health of Her Late Majesty had broken. The President adjourned the Governing Body immediately after lunch to allow the clergy to get back to their parishes as quickly as possible. The Governing Body's Standing Committee has since adjourned the legislative business until the scheduled session in April 2023.

Prior to the adjournment, the Archbishop announced in his Presidential Address the intention of the Representative Body to draw down £100m of reserves over the next 10 years as additional funding for mission and evangelism across the Province. The Governing Body received a report from the Bench of Bishops on the Lambeth Conference and a presentation from some of the projects funded by the Representative Body's £10 million 'Evangelism Fund' established in 2018.

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General Synod of the Church of England

July 2022

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INTRODUCTION

This report covers the group of sessions held in July 2022. General Synod met in York for the first time since the pandemic between 8 and 12 July 2022.

PENSIONS, STIPENDS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Three pieces of legislation received approval on first consideration. The Church of England Pension (Application of Capital Funds) Measure extends the period during which the Church Commissioners may resort to capital to meet their