

## **Regional Councils Ordinance 2000**

### **Explanatory Statement**

#### **Objects of the Proposed Ordinance**

1. The objects of the proposed ordinance are to -
  - (a) clearly express the method for the election of members of a regional council; and
  - (b) to allow a regional council to appoint up to 2 additional members.

#### **Background**

2. Under clause 4(1) of the Regions Ordinance 1995, the regional council of a region consists of -
  - (a) the regional bishop;
  - (b) the regional archdeacon;
  - (c) 1 layperson from each area deanery in the region elected by the regional electors of that region;
  - (d) 1 minister from each area deanery in the region elected by the regional electors of that region; and
  - (e) 2 ministers and 4 laypersons each of whom may come from any area deanery in the region elected by the regional electors of that region.

3. The election of the members of the regional council referred to in paragraphs 2(c), (d) and (e) is to take place during the first ordinary session of each Synod although neither the Regions Ordinance 1995 nor the Elections Ordinance 1970 clearly expresses the method by which the elections are to take place.

#### **Additional Declaration on Nominations**

4. Clause 2 of the proposed ordinance seeks to insert a new clause 7A into the Elections Ordinance 1970 to require that a nomination in an election for lay members of the Regional Council declare the area deanery the nominee is from. This will facilitate the election process.

#### **Conduct of Elections**

5. In 1996, on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, there was 1 election for lay members of each regional council with the result being determined as follows -
  - (a) the layperson from each area deanery who received the most votes was elected as the layperson from that area deanery; and
  - (b) the 4 laypersons who received the highest votes, excluding the names of the persons referred to in (a), were also elected.

## **268 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

---

6. There was also 1 election for minister members of each regional council with the result being determined in a similar manner.

7. After consultation with each of the regional councils, the Standing Committee considers that the Elections Ordinance 1970 should be amended to expressly provide that the election for laypersons and ministers on regional councils be conducted in the manner set out in items 4 and 5 above. Clause 3 of the proposed ordinance seeks to insert a new clause 37B into the Elections Ordinance for this purpose.

### **Expansion of Membership of a Regional Council**

8. Clause 4 of the proposed ordinance seeks to allow regional councils to elect up to 2 further persons to the regional council. This recognises that there are persons with special skills who can assist a regional council in its work but who have not been elected, or were ineligible to be elected. Regional councils have been consulted about this proposal.

### **Recommendation**

9. Standing Committee recommends that the Synod pass the proposed ordinance.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARK PAYNE  
*Diocesan Secretary*

1 August 2000