



Questions from Report

Report R3.2 – General Secretary

Question #1

Question

Can you please make a summary of the substantive changes made to the By-laws by the SSC and provide them to the Synod, or could you please also make a copy of the By-laws as in power at the last Synod in session available so as to make such comparisons possible by members of the next Synod in Session? *David Ferguson*

Answer

The process undertaken to consolidate the By-laws was as follows:

- (a) The By-laws, including all amendments, were obtained and merged into a single document.
- (b) All definition clauses were consolidated into Schedule Q1 “Definitions” and duplications were removed.
- (c) References to the existence / non-existence of boards, committees, departments and organisations was corrected.
- (d) All references to Regulations, the Act, the Constitution and other governing documents were reviewed for accuracy.
- (e) Updates were made to align with for current terminology (e.g. Synod Leadership Team was removed).
- (f) Corrections to grammar were made.
- (g) The following were removed:
 - Duplication of Regulation wording;
 - Other duplicated content; and
 - Historical references (e.g. reference to past Synods).
- (h) The sequence of content was moved in some instances, particularly for committees.

Other more substantive changes were:

- (a) Schedule Q2 “Glossary” was removed.
- (b) References to the “GNRC conflicts policy” were replaced with the “Synod conflicts policy”.
- (c) Previous By-laws Q3.5.9 to Q3.5.12 (part thereof) were deleted as the retirement housing fund (Housing Acquisition Fund) was closed to new members from 27 May 2013, as resolved at the 30th Synod.
- (d) A section of previous By-law Q3.5.1, dealing with ministers in placements sharing accommodation was deleted. This By-law was amended by the GNRC in 2013 and the Ministry Agent Housing Policy, as approved by the SSC in May 2016, also reflects the current practice.
- (e) The By-laws were restructured to establish a more logical grouping, with resultant renumbering undertaken. Any previous “gaps” in the numbering were removed such that the By-law numbering is sequential. Cross-referencing within the By-laws was reviewed and updated to reflect any changes from the above re-numbering.