



DIOCESE IN EUROPE

CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES

BISHOP'S INSTRUMENT (2021 No.2) *DIOCESAN SYNOD ELECTIONS 2021*

WHEREAS THE BISHOP OF GIBRALTAR IN EUROPE (“the Bishop”) has recently received representations that the postal systems in a significant number of countries in the Diocese are functioning so inadequately as to prevent reliance being reasonably placed on them for the purposes of the current Diocesan Synod elections taking place in each archdeaconry of the Diocese (“the Elections”)

AND WHEREAS the Bishop wishes to ensure that the full participation of prospective candidates and electors in the Elections is not jeopardised by the present exceptional circumstances

AND WHEREAS the Bishop has consulted the Registrar of the Diocese, being the Presiding Officer for the said Elections and he has concurred in the making of this Instrument

THE BISHOP in exercise of the powers conferred by paragraph 47 (a)(iii) of the Constitution of the Diocese in Europe (“the Diocesan Constitution”), and rule 78 of the Church Representation Rules (“the Rules”) HEREBY MAKES THE FOLLOWING PROVISION

1. The provisions of this Instrument apply to the Diocesan Synod elections being held in each archdeaconry of the Diocese in 2021.
2. This Instrument is made on the date on which it is signed by the Bishop and has effect from that date.
3. The provisions of this Instrument shall have effect notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Diocesan Constitution or the Rules.

4. Where a communication (including any notice or form relating to the Elections) is sent to a person by email at the most recent address provided by that person to the secretary of the relevant Archdeaconry or Deanery Synod, it is to be treated as having been given to the person at the time at which it is sent.
5. A communication sent by email is to be treated as being in writing if it is capable of being read and used for subsequent reference.
6. A nomination is valid only if made on a nomination paper in the form specified by the Presiding Officer and, where sent to him by email, is in the form of a scanned or photographic copy of the signed original.
7. A vote is counted only if it is given on a voting paper in the form specified by the Presiding Officer and, where sent to him by email, is in the form of a scanned or photographic copy of the signed original.
8. Where a nomination paper or voting paper is sent to the Presiding Officer by email, it must be sent to him at election@europe.anglican.org
9. For the avoidance of doubt
 - (a) where a valid nomination has been received by email by the closing date for nominations, the requirement for the original nomination paper to have been received by the Presiding Officer within three days of the close of nominations is hereby waived; and
 - (b) a voting paper shall not be invalid solely on the basis that it has been sent to the Presiding Officer by email.
10. All provisions of the Constitution and the Rules relating to the Elections which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Instrument shall continue to have full force and effect.
11. Nothing in this Instrument shall prevent a nomination paper or a voting paper being delivered by post or in person.
12. An elector may request a paper copy of a nomination paper or a voting paper to be sent to him or her by post and the Presiding Officer shall respond to such a request promptly but this shall not in any way affect the published timetable for the Elections.

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

BISHOP OF GIBRALTAR IN EUROPE

3 June 2021

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note does not form part of the instrument)

The Bishop has made this instrument in response to the significant difficulties which have recently been reported with postal services across the Diocese.

As a result of this instrument, a nomination may be made, and a vote may be given, validly **by email**, in the Diocesan Synod elections. Where email is used, there is no need additionally to send the original hardcopy nomination or voting paper to the Presiding Officer.

In order to be valid, a legible scan or photograph of the completed and signed nomination paper or voting paper must be sent by email to the Presiding Officer at election@europe.anglican.org by the specified deadline.

(It remains open to candidates, proposers and seconders to submit separate nomination papers, if they wish to do so, provided that all the required details are fully completed in each case, and each form is signed by the relevant person(s). A nomination will not be valid unless the Presiding Officer has received by the deadline, in one or more forms, the details and signed statement of the proposer, the details and signed statement of the seconder, and the details and signed declaration of the candidate.)

This is *in addition to* the existing provision for nomination papers and voting papers to be submitted by post or in person.

All other requirements relating to the completion and submission of nomination papers and voting papers remain in force, and it is essential that they are carefully followed to ensure that a nomination or vote is valid.

The instrument also permits communications to be sent to electors by email instead of post. An elector may nevertheless request a paper copy of a nomination paper or voting paper to be sent by post.