



S3.1 Placements Commission By-Law

NAME

- S3.1.1 The name of the committee responsible under the Regulations for placements is the “Placements Commission”, a commission appointed by and responsible to the Synod of Western Australia, hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”.

DEFINITIONS

- S3.1.2 For the purpose of these By-Laws and in addition to the definitions in By-Law S1.1.6 unless the context or subject matter indicates otherwise or requires:

“body” or “bodies” means any council, commission, sub-committee, division, department, college, agency or other institution of the Church.

“Church Centre Staff” means people who are in placement with or employed by the Presbytery or Synod of the Uniting Church in Western Australia.

“Resources Commission” means the body established and appointed by the Synod to exercise the powers and responsibilities for the resources of the church as set out in By-Law S2.8.

“Sub-committee” means a committee established under By-Law S3.1.7(b).

“Ministry Agent” means a person, lay or ordained, engaged in a placement approved by the Presbytery.

PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION

- S3.1.3 The purpose of the Commission is:
- (a) to exercise an overview of placements having a regard for the interests of the whole church; and
 - (b) to work with other commissions and committees of the Synod in ensuring that the plans and strategies of the Synod are considered in all placement activities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE COMMISSION

- S3.1.4 The guiding Principles of the Commission shall be:
- (a) that the Placements Commission has general oversight of the designation of placements;
 - (b) in consultation with other commissions and committees, ensure the suitable placement of ministry agents in those placements.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- S3.1.5 The Commission is authorised and delegated to act in relation to all responsibilities listed at Regulation 3.7.4.2(b).
- S3.1.6 The Commission shall also:
- (a) maintain a list of the designation of every minister as per Regulation 2.6.1;
 - (b) be limited to making recommendations to the Synod or the Synod Standing Committee as appropriate on the admission of a Minister from another denomination or the admission of a former Minister.
 - (c) act in conjunction with Thrive Mission Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee.
 - (d) ensure that it properly manages and disburses the budget allocated by the Synod through the Resources Commission and agreed to by the Annual Synod.
 - (e) ensure that the sub-committees of the Commission properly manage and disburse any allocated budget and that they report all expenditure to the Commission, enabling the Commission to prepare its own budget to submit to the Annual Budget Conference.

DELEGATIONS

- S3.1.7 The Commission in accordance with the Regulations, By-Laws, and decisions of Synod as made or varied from time to time:
- (a) will determine delegations of its powers and authorities (except for the power of delegation); and
 - (b) may establish sub-committees such as steering sub-committees, advisory groups, reference groups, task groups, and special purpose subcommittees.
 - (c) will consider matters referred by sub-committees of the Commission as being matters of significance or outside the sub-committees delegated authority; and
 - (d) may require sub-committees of the Commission to refer specific matters to the Commission for consideration.

INQUIRIES REGARDING RISK

- S3.1.8 Where the Commission is of the opinion that an inquiry should be made regarding any risk or contingent liability where the inquiry may be, has been or is proposed to be undertaken or incurred in the name or on behalf of the Church, a congregation or body, the Commission will advise the General Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

- S3.1.9 The Commission shall consist of:
- (a) a Chairperson elected by each ordinary meeting of the Synod;
 - (b) the General Secretary (or nominee)
 - (c) 5 persons appointed by the Presbytery; and
 - (d) up to 2 persons appointed by the Synod Standing Committee after advice from the Commission, taking account of the factors referred to in Regulation 3.7.4.2(a)(iv).
- S3.1.10 The Moderator and any Associate General Secretary have the right to attend and speak at any meeting of the Commission but will not vote.
- S3.1.11 All members of the Commission will be members of the Church and, as far as possible, the Commission membership shall include at least one-third women and at least one-third men.
- S3.1.12 The participation of Church Centre staff shall be:
- (a) Church Centre staff of the Placements Commission as appointed by the General Secretary shall attend;
 - (b) Church Centre Staff, including those mentioned in S3.1.8.12(a), may be present and speak to assist the Commission in the fulfilling of its purpose and responsibilities but are not eligible to vote.

MEETINGS AND REPORTING

- S3.1.13 Frequency of meetings
- (a) The Commission will meet at least six times per year.
 - (b) At least four meetings each year of the Commission or its permanent sub-committees must be held in person.
 - (c) The Commission and sub-committees of the Commission may adjourn, determine time and place of meetings and otherwise regulate meetings as they consider appropriate subject to compliance with the Regulations and Rules.

TECHNOLOGY

- S3.1.14 A Commission or Commission sub-committee meeting may be called or held using any technology agreed to, in advance, by all the members of the Commission or sub-committee.

QUORUM OF THE COMMISSION

- S3.1.15 The quorum for a Commission meeting shall be a simple majority plus one, in person of members eligible to vote.

CIRCULATING RESOLUTION QUORUM

- S3.1.16 The quorum for a circulating resolution shall be all members entitled to vote on the resolution provided that this number is equal to or greater than the quorum for a meeting of the Commission or sub-committee as stated in these By-Laws.

MINUTES

- S3.1.17 Minutes will be kept of all meetings of the Commission and Commission Sub-committees in minute books provided for that purpose and the minutes will be confirmed by the next succeeding meeting of the Commission or sub-committee and signed by the Chairperson of that meeting.

Minutes of all sub-committee meetings will be provided to the Commission prior to the succeeding meeting of the Commission.

OFFICERS

- S3.1.18 In the absence of the Chairperson the members present at any meeting of the Commission or sub-committees of the Commission may elect a chairperson of the meeting from amongst those present.

CALLING A MEETING

- S3.1.19
- (a) The Chairperson or the General Secretary may convene a meeting of the Commission at any time, or upon receipt of a requisition in writing by any three members.
 - (b) The Convener of a sub-committee of the Commission or the Chairperson of the Commission may convene a meeting of the sub-committee at any time. The Convener or the Chairperson of the Commission shall on receipt of a requisition in writing by any three members of the sub-committee, convene a meeting of the sub-committee.
 - (c) The requisition for a meeting shall specify the reason for which the meeting is to be convened.
 - (d) At least seven days written notice of every Commission and Subcommittee of the Commission meeting shall be given to all members of the relevant group unless the Chairperson considers an emergency exists in which case a meeting may be convened on shorter notice.

The non-receipt by a Commission or sub-committee of the Commission member of a notice of meeting does not invalidate the meeting.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

- S3.1.20 The procedures of the Church's Manual for Meetings apply as far as practicable to all meetings of the Commission and sub-committees of the Commission. Each member of the Commission or sub-committee of the Commission has and may exercise one vote.

- S3.1.21 A resolution passed at a meeting of the Commission will not be rescinded at a subsequent meeting unless seven days' notice of the intention to propose the rescission is given in the notice convening the meeting.

REPORTING

- S3.1.22 The Commission will report to the Synod at each ordinary Synod meeting and will report to the Synod Standing Committee when requested. The Commission may at any time bring a matter before the Synod Standing Committee for consideration.

SUB-COMMITTEES

- S3.1.23 In accordance with S3.1.7(b) the Commission may establish entities such as steering sub-committees, advisory groups, reference groups, task groups, Commissions and special purpose sub-committees. Such entities:

- (a) shall be for a specified period not exceeding twelve months, subject to renewal by resolution of the Commission;
- (b) may include persons other than Commission members;
- (c) are to be chaired by a member of the Commission;
- (d) are to have responsibilities, powers and authorities as determined by the Commission;
- (e) may have their responsibilities, powers and authorities revoked or the entity terminated at any time by the Commission;
- (f) may have any member removed from office by the Commission;
- (g) shall include the Chairperson of the Commission, at their own discretion, at any meeting of a sub-committee; and
- (h) shall report to the Commission periodically or when requested to do so by the Commission.

- S3.1.24 Sub-committees of the Commission may establish entities such as steering subcommittees, advisory groups, reference groups, task groups and special purpose sub-committees. Such entities shall be for a specified period not exceeding 12 months, subject to renewal by resolution of the establishing sub-committee and may consist of existing members of the Commission or Commission Sub- committees or formed by co-opting individuals with specific expertise and knowledge.

- S3.1.25 Powers and responsibilities delegated by the Commission to sub-committees of the Commission will not be further delegated.

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

- S3.1.26 Membership of sub-committees of the Commission shall be determined by the Commission.

COMMISSION AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

S3.1.27 Eligibility and Competencies

All members of the Commission and sub-committees of the Commission must be persons who have knowledge or experience in an area of the responsibilities of the Commission.

TERM OF OFFICE

S3.1.28 Elected Members

Members of the Committee (other than the Chairperson) will hold office for a term of one year, unless a different term is specified when they are elected or appointed.

S3.1.29 Vacancies

- (a) A casual vacancy will occur in the membership of the Commission or a sub-committee of the Commission if a member:
 - (i) resigns by notice delivered to the Chairperson of the Commission or sub-committee;
 - (ii) becomes unable to act as a member of the Commission or subcommittee; or
 - (iii) is removed from office by notice from the body which appointed or elected the member, it being expressly declared that the notice is not required to state any reason for removal.
- (b) A casual vacancy in the position of Chairperson may be filled by the Synod Standing Committee. Any other casual vacancy in the membership of the Commission may be filled by the body which appointed or elected the outgoing members. All casual vacancies will be filled by appointment for the balance of the outgoing member's term.
- (c) If an ordinary meeting of the Synod fails to elect a Chairperson, the Chairperson is to be appointed by the Synod Standing Committee and until that appointment is made, the incumbent Chairperson will continue in office.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- S3.1.30** A member of the Commission or of any sub-committee of the Commission who has any direct or indirect pecuniary or beneficial interest, or whose unfettered or independent judgment is or could be perceived as impaired by any contractual, business or other relationship, in a matter being dealt with by the Commission or sub-committee must, as soon as the member becomes aware of that interest or relationship, disclose to the Commission or sub-committee the nature and extent of that interest or relationship. The Commission or any subcommittee of the Commission then determines whether the extent of the interest or relationship disclosed is such that the member should not participate in, vote on, or be present during any debate on that matter. The Commission or any sub-committee of the Commission will minute its decision and record that decision in a Register of Conflicts.

AMENDMENTS TO THESE RULES

- S3.1.31 The Commission may submit a request to the Synod for the amendment of these By-Laws and may only be amended in accordance with By-Law S1.2.