

STATEMENT OF INTENTION

by the Old Diocesan Committee

Elections, terms of office and conduct to the 2027 AGM

ODC Draft v3, August 2026. For adoption by resolution.

1. WHO MAKES THIS STATEMENT

1.1 This statement is made by the Committee (“the ODC”) of the Old Diocesan Union (“the ODU”), being the elected representative body of the members of the ODU.

1.2 In this statement:

(a) “the Constitution” means the Constitution of the ODU as amended on 18 March 2026;

(b) “the 2027 AGM” means the next Annual General Meeting of the ODU, to be held no later than 31 March 2027; and

(c) “Progressive Bishops” means the informal group Supporting a Progressive Bishops Community.

1.3 This statement follows the ODC’s engagement with members concerning elections, terms of office and conduct, including the meeting held on 4 August 2026. It records the intentions of the ODC and the commitments it gives to the members of the ODU in advance of the 2027 AGM.

2. WHEN THIS STATEMENT TAKES EFFECT

2.1 This statement takes effect when the ODC adopts it by resolution at its meeting of 19 August 2026.

2.2 Once adopted, the statement will be published to all members on the ODU website within seven days.

3. THE CONSTITUTIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE

3.1 The ODC will establish a Constitutional Amendment Subcommittee (“the Subcommittee”) to consider proposed amendments to the Constitution.

3.2 The Subcommittee will consider, in particular:

3.2.1 an amendment to the term of office for Committee members, returning the term from three years, as amended in 2025, to two years;

3.2.2 the appropriate number of consecutive or total terms for which Committee members may serve; and

3.2.3 other proposed constitutional amendments, including the voting system and any other amendments that members of the ODU ask the ODC to consider.

3.3 The ODC supports the amendments referred to in clause 3.2.1 and will support their adoption through the appropriate constitutional process.

3.4 The Subcommittee will be chaired by an independent chair. The ODC will invite the Patron of the ODU to serve as chair or to appoint an independent chair.

3.5 The Chair will select the other members of the Subcommittee. Progressive Bishops will be entitled to nominate one member to serve on the Subcommittee.

3.6 The ODC will establish a joint working group (“the Working Group”), constituted in equal numbers from members of the ODC and members nominated by Progressive Bishops.

3.7 The Working Group’s sole remit is to bring about elections for all elected ODC positions, concluded at the 2027 AGM, through constitutional means. It will report to the Subcommittee.

3.8 The ODC invites Progressive Bishops to nominate its members of the Working Group.

4. TWO-YEAR TERMS

4.1 The ODC supports returning Committee terms of office from three years to two years.

4.2 The ODC will support the necessary constitutional amendment through the proper constitutional process.

5. ELECTIONS AT THE 2027 AGM

5.1 The ODC commits to elections for all elected ODC positions, with those elections concluded at the 2027 AGM, so that the newly elected Committee takes office at the close of that meeting and the ODU is at no point without a functioning Committee.

5.2 The mechanism for conducting the elections must be lawful under the Constitution. The Working Group, with such legal advice as it considers necessary, will propose the appropriate mechanism, for settlement by the Subcommittee.

5.3 The mechanism may include a constitutional amendment to the term of office, a coordinated resignation and reconstitution, or another constitutionally valid route.

5.4 If no other lawful route delivers elections concluded at the 2027 AGM, the members of the ODC will give effect to the certified ballot through constitutionally valid means, including resignation and reconstitution under clause 8.5 of the Constitution.

5.5 Nominations will be open to every ordinary member. The call for nominations will actively invite candidates from every part of the OD community.

5.6 Voting will be open to all members worldwide, by electronic means where permitted by the Constitution.

5.7 The ballot will be conducted by one or more independent Returning Officers nominated by the Vice Presidents of the ODU.

5.8 The Returning Officers will certify the results and publish them to members before the 2027 AGM.

5.9 The ODC will provide the Returning Officers with access to the membership database and such administrative support as they reasonably require.

6. CONDUCT

6.1 The ODC regards public insults directed at any member of the OD community, and the public misrepresentation of any member’s position, as inexcusable.

6.2 The ODC will raise any grievance directly with the person concerned before raising it in any public channel, and invites every member to hold themselves to the same standard.

6.3 The ODC will not attribute to any person views expressed by others, including views expressed in informal forums such as social media and messaging groups, and asks every member to extend the same courtesy to others.

7. TRANSPARENCY

7.1 ODC meetings will be open to observers as an ordinary practice. Any member may request to attend and will receive notice of the meeting and its agenda.

7.2 Observers may be invited to speak at the discretion of the Chair and will have no vote.

7.3 The ODC may exclude observers only for the consideration of legally privileged matters. Any such exclusion will be minuted, together with the reasons for it.

7.4 Attendance as an observer is subject to the condition that personal information concerning individual members disclosed at meetings is kept confidential.

7.5 The ODC will continue to record and publish its resolutions in accordance with clause 10.7A of the Constitution.

8. INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE REVIEW

8.1 The ODC has established, by resolution adopted at its meeting of 19 August 2026, an Independent Investigative Review (“the Review”) to investigate and independently assess the allegations and concerns that have been made publicly against the ODC, its office-bearers and/or its conduct and governance.

8.2 The purpose of the Review is to establish, as far as reasonably possible, the facts and circumstances relating to the allegations, to consider any relevant evidence, and to make such findings and recommendations as the independent reviewer considers appropriate.

8.3 In the interests of fairness, transparency and due process, a period of 14 days from the adoption of the resolution establishing the Review is provided during which any person may submit additional allegations or concerns that they wish the Review to consider.

8.4 The Review will be conducted independently and impartially, with appropriate opportunity for relevant persons to respond to allegations concerning them.

8.5 The Chairman of the Review will be appointed by the ODC subject to the approval of Justice Howie. The appointment will be announced together with the terms of reference and the process to be followed by the Review.

8.6 The Review will have access to such records, documents and persons as may reasonably be required to conduct its investigation, subject to applicable legal and confidentiality requirements.

8.7 Upon completion of the Review, the Chairman of the Review Committee will report its findings and any recommendations to the ODU before the 2027 AGM. The ODC will publish the report unedited.

8.8 The ODC affirms that the purpose of the Review is to ensure that the allegations are dealt with fairly, independently, transparently and on the basis of evidence, and to strengthen confidence in the governance of the ODU.

9. WHAT THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT COVER

9.1 Nothing in this statement restricts lawful communication with the membership.

9.2 Nothing in this statement restricts the ODC from carrying out its ordinary functions and duties under the Constitution.

9.3 Nothing in this statement is intended to amend the Constitution unless and until the relevant constitutional amendment is lawfully adopted in accordance with the Constitution.

10. ADOPTION

Adopted by resolution of the Committee at its meeting of 19 August 2026.

Simon Koch (1977)

Chairman, Old Diocesan Committee

Signature: _____ Date: _____