



Call for a Special General Meeting (SGM)

A Message to the *Supporting a Progressive Bishops* Community

Dear *Progressive Bishops* community,

As you are aware, we have gone to great lengths to engage with the OD Committee on a constructive basis, but unfortunately, those negotiations have proved unsuccessful. Therefore, it is with regret that we are writing to **call for a Special General Meeting (SGM)** of the OD Union. At that SGM, we would urge ODs to resolve that the **OD Committee no longer holds a current mandate**, and that such a mandate can only be restored through **full fresh elections**. We will shortly be approaching ODs to go through the formal process of requisitioning the SGM, and we will provide you with the accompanying resolution and details.

This call for an SGM is due to the following:

- 1. The OD Committee has refused to sign the Statement of Intention.** The Statement is a document they themselves drafted; [the unsigned Statement is here](#). It committed the Committee to fresh elections for every seat, concluded at the 2027 AGM, by worldwide electronic ballot under independent returning officers. The Committee now says 'elections will take place at the AGM.' Without the Statement, that means an ordinary AGM, without vital electoral integrity stipulations, and at which only potentially a few seats are due to be contested, not a fresh mandate for the whole Committee. Without the Statement, the 'Constitutional Subcommittee' that the Committee unilaterally established would be without crucial safeguards; these include that the Committee would support full elections at the AGM and step down by the AGM if necessary to ensure that they could occur. The OD Committee asked us to release the email chain on this matter; we will oblige and [you can find that email chain here](#).
- 2. The OD Committee has refused to provide interim reassurances.** There is a need for the OD Union to return back to basics - to focus on bringing us together as ODs, and supporting the growth of the School. Though some individual members of the OD Committee are doing just that, the Committee as a whole is stretching beyond its mandate in its interventions in the governance of the School. Despite the outcry from

the broader Bishops community regarding these interventions, the Committee has shown no willingness to give reassurances about staying within their constitutional mandate between now and the 2027 AGM.

3. **The mandate you provided to us.** On 27 July, 63% of you voted in favour of 'invite the OD Committee to hold full fresh elections now; SGM only if they refuse.' On 27 August, following our extensive negotiations with the OD Committee, we approached you again for a mandate, and 73% voted in favour of 'work within the new structures to deliver fresh elections at the 2027 AGM; no SGM for now.' As mentioned above, the OD Committee has now refused to sign the Statement of Intention - the basis on which the vast majority of you voted to defer an SGM and work within the structures. Essentially, the community has voted to work within a framework to which the OD Committee has since declined to commit.

We had always hoped the OD Committee would itself begin the process of renewing its mandate: first through our July resolution, and then through the compromise of elections at the AGM. **Both have now been rebuffed**, and our extensive, good faith negotiations since the mediated meeting of 4 August have, unfortunately, come to nothing.

None of us wants an SGM. We know it can be divisive, and that it risks damage to the OD Union and the School that we must do everything we can to limit. But **it is now the only route left through which the OD Committee's mandate can be restored by its members**, and it is **the route you mandated us to take if this point was reached**.

Communications on the requisition will follow shortly.

Yours Faithfully,

Daniel Tate & Joseph Raimondo

Co-Facilitators

Supporting a Progressive Bishops

Thursday 3rd September 2026