

Cover Letter to Requisition an SGM

For the Attention of the OD Committee

Dear members of the OD Committee,

We write to requisition a Special General Meeting (SGM) of the OD Union (ODU) (henceforth, 'the requisitioned SGM'). The requisitioners comprise 122 ODs, all ordinary members of the ODU under Clause 5.1.1 of the ODU Constitution. Our details are listed in Schedule 1 (*Requisitioners List*) below and we are all cc'd in the email attaching this cover letter.

We hereby submit a written requisition to activate Clause 6.3.1 of the ODU Constitution, binding the OD Committee to convene the requisitioned SGM. We simultaneously endorse the two resolutions to be tabled at the requisitioned SGM, contained in Schedule 2 (*SGM Resolutions*) below.

We make three stipulations for the requisitioned SGM:

1. Scheduling the Requisitioned SGM:

- 1.1.** We request that notice of the requisitioned SGM be issued to all members within 14 calendar days of this requisition (i.e., notice should be issued by Thursday 1st October 2026).
- 1.2.** We request that the SGM itself be scheduled to take place within four calendar weeks of the notice being given (this would mean the SGM should have taken place by Thursday 29th October 2026 at the very latest).
- 1.3.** In the event that the deadlines in 1.1 and 1.2 are not adhered to, please note that we will be obliged to take urgent action.

2. Chair of the Requisitioned SGM:

- 2.1.** We note that the post of ODU President, who would ordinarily chair all general meetings (Clause 6.5.3, ODU Constitution), is currently vacant.
- 2.2.** We note that the ODU President can only be appointed by members at an Annual General Meeting (Clause 7.2.3, ODU Constitution).
- 2.3.** We note that, if the President is unable to chair a general meeting, the ODC Chair shall chair that meeting, or failing which, any other member of the ODC shall chair that meeting (Clause 6.5.4, ODU Constitution).
- 2.4.** We recognise that the ODC Chair and all other members of the ODC (elected, co-opted, and casual vacancy-appointed) have a conflict of interest in chairing the requisitioned SGM, given the business of the meeting concerns the present democratic mandate of the ODC as a collective body. Accordingly, all members of the ODC would be obliged to recuse themselves from chairing the requisitioned SGM. The notion that a member of the ODC chairs the requisitioned SGM would render it ungovernable.

- 2.5.** We note that there are no stipulations in the ODU Constitution regarding the protocol for the chairing of a general meeting when there is no President and no-one in the ODC is able to chair that general meeting.
- 2.6.** To fill this vacuum, one of the Vice-Presidents, nominated by the Vice-Presidents collectively, should chair the requisitioned SGM.
- 3. Voting at the Requisitioned SGM:**
 - 3.1.** We note that the ODU Constitution gives no stipulation that voting may occur outside of a general meeting.
 - 3.2.** We therefore request, in line with the ODU Constitution and legal guidance that the ODC has received in the past, that voting on resolutions takes place only *during* the meeting (including for those attending online).

Thank you in advance for convening the requisitioned SGM as soon as possible and in line with the three stipulations above.

Yours Faithfully,

The 122 ODs requisitioning the September-October 2026 SGM of the OD Union

SGM Resolutions

Returning the OD Committee's Mandate to the Members & Fresh Elections

Required threshold for both resolutions: simple majority (Clause 6.7.2, ODU Constitution)

Preamble

The Old Diocesan Union (ODU) belongs to its members. Our ODU Constitution says so in as many words: the members of the ODU in general meeting 'exercise jurisdiction over all affairs of the Union' and are 'entitled to do all such things as may be necessary to carry out the objects and functions of the Union' (Clause 6.1). This meeting is the ODU members exercising that jurisdiction.

Our ODU Constitution also opens with the values that bind us. These are equality, unity, inclusiveness, transparency, loyalty, respect, courage, humility, and good citizenship (Clause 2). It asks us to promote good fellowship among ODs, to enable a worldwide community of ODs, and to connect ODs to one another and to Bishops (Clause 3).

The past year has been hard on the ODU community. ODs of goodwill have found themselves on different sides of questions they care deeply about. There has been division and discord, in public and in private, and many ODs, of every shade of opinion, feel that the ODU does not currently speak with their voice. Whatever the rights and wrongs of particular disputes, the loss of confidence in the OD Committee as a body is now deep and wide. The divisions that have arisen within the OD community are so severe that they require the mandate of the OD Committee to be returned to the members.

These resolutions are not directed at any individual, and do not constitute a finding against anyone. We are grateful to every OD who has given their time to serve on the OD Committee, and every serving member is free to stand again. Nor do the resolutions ask for anything the OD Committee has not itself proposed in its own draft Statement of Intention of August 2026, in which the Committee committed to elections for every elected position, open to every ordinary member, by worldwide electronic ballot, with results certified by returning officers nominated by the Vice-Presidents. These resolutions ask for that election now, held under the authority of the ODU members rather than at the OD Committee's discretion.

During the brief interim period whilst elections are conducted, we note with regret that there would not be a quorate OD Committee in office. However, we are relieved that all essential day-to-day functions of the ODU can continue without a quorate OD Committee, under the competent ODU staff led by the Executive Director.

We do not pretend this will be easy. But an election in which the whole worldwide OD community takes part, in which any OD may stand and every OD may vote, is the one thing that can settle the question of who speaks for ODs. It is also the best chance we have of bringing the ODU back together. Under the mandate of its members, full fresh elections will be held for every position.

Resolution 1: Vote of No-Confidence & Removal of Elected ODC Members

The members of the ODU resolve as follows:

- 1. Vote of no-confidence:**
 - 1.1.** The meeting records that the members no longer have confidence in the OD Committee as a body.
 - 1.2.** The meeting resolves that the mandate under which the OD Committee holds office is returned to the members with immediate effect.
- 2. Removal of ODC members and dissolution of ODU (sub-)committees:**
 - 2.1.** The meeting removes from office, with immediate effect, every elected member of the OD Committee holding office when this resolution is passed.
 - 2.2.** Every elected position on the OD Committee becomes vacant immediately after this resolution is passed at this Special General Meeting.
 - 2.3.** The meeting calls on every co-opted or casual vacancy-appointed member of the OD Committee to tender their resignation within three calendar days of this meeting.
 - 2.4.** The meeting confirms that no substantive business of the OD Committee may occur without a quorum on that Committee.
 - 2.5.** The meeting dissolves, with immediate effect, all existing committees and sub-committees of the ODU, including any working groups of the ODU.

Resolution 2: Fresh Elections for the ODC

The members of the ODU resolve as follows:

- 1. Calling an immediate election for a new OD Committee:**
 - 1.1.** Under the jurisdiction of members in a general meeting under Clause 6.1 of the ODU Constitution, the meeting directs the ODU Executive Director to conduct an election for all elected positions on the OD Committee, under the oversight of the Vice-Presidents of the ODU.
 - 1.2.** On declaration of the results of the election, the persons elected constitute the elected members of the OD Committee, by the authority of the members under Clause 6.1 of the ODU Constitution, with a full and fresh mandate, and hold office in terms of Clause 8.7 of the ODU Constitution. At their first meeting, they shall elect the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Treasurer, as well as any other office-bearers.
- 2. Arrangements for the election:**
 - 2.1.** The Vice-Presidents act as returning officers for the election, or must nominate one or more independent returning officers to act on their behalf, and the Vice-Presidents must certify the results.
 - 2.2.** Nominations open within seven days of this meeting and must remain open for three weeks. The call for nominations must be sent to every member whose contact details are known, published on every ODU channel, and must

actively invite candidates from every part of the OD community. Any ordinary member may stand, and any ordinary member may nominate.

- 2.3.** Voting must be by electronic ballot, open to every ordinary member worldwide for fourteen days from the close of nominations, so that every OD can vote wherever they live. Each ordinary member has one vote for each position to be filled.
- 2.4.** The returning officers must certify the results and publish them to all members, with the full vote counts, within seven days of the close of voting. The candidates with the most votes, up to the number of positions to be filled under Clause 8.2 of the ODU Constitution, are elected.
- 2.5.** The ODU Executive Director must give the returning officers access to the members' roll and such administrative support as they reasonably require, and the reasonable costs of the election shall be met by the ODU.
- 2.6.** This resolution, the call for nominations, the certified results, and every decision taken to give effect to the election must be published on the ODU website and sent to all members.

3. Continuity:

- 3.1.** The ordinary, day-to-day affairs of the ODU must continue, in the hands of the ODU office under the Executive Director.
- 3.2.** The meeting directs the members of the outgoing OD Committee to hand over to the newly-elected OD Committee in an orderly and constructive way.