

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.