

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH IN WALES
TRANSCRIPTION OF ROYAL CHARTER (excluding Schedule) AND WORKING
DOCUMENT OF SCHEDULE

This PDF document contains the text of the main body Royal Charter dated 24 April 1919 and a working document of the Schedule as amended by Supplemental Royal Charters in 1967 and 2015, and by resolution of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales (in exercise of the power granted by the original Royal Charter) at various points since 1919.

***Disclaimer** – this is a working document for day-to-day use of trustees and staff, prepared by the Head of Legal Services to the Representative Body. This compiled document has not been approved by Her Majesty in Council and therefore the original Charter, Supplemental Charters and Constitution of the Church in Wales should be carefully checked before placing any reliance on the provisions set out below.*

The text has been updated as at 01 May 2021

Matthew J Chinery
Head of Legal Services
The Representative Body of the Church in Wales
June 2021

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George the Fifth by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas by the Welsh Church Act 1914 it was enacted that on the day after the expiration of six months or such extended period as We might fix by Order in Council not being more than twelve months after the passing of the said Act the Church of England so far as it extends to and exists in Wales and Monmouthshire (in the said Act referred to as "the Church in Wales" and hereinafter referred to as "the said Church") should cease to be established by law and that on the date of disestablishment every Cathedral and Ecclesiastical Corporation in the Church in Wales whether sole or aggregate should be dissolved.

And whereas the said Act was passed on the 18th day of September 1914.

And whereas by Sub-section 1 of Section 13 of the said Act it was further provided that nothing in any Act Law or Custom should prevent the Bishops Clergy and Laity of the said Church from holding synods or electing representatives thereto or from framing either by themselves or by their representatives elected in such manner as they should think fit constitutions and regulations for the general management and good government of the said Church and the property and affairs thereof whether as a whole or according to Dioceses and the future representation of members thereof in a general synod or in Diocesan synods or otherwise and by Sub-section 2 of Section 13 aforesaid it was further provided that if at any time it should be shewn to Our satisfaction that the said Bishops Clergy and Laity had appointed any persons to represent them and hold property for any of their uses and purposes it should be lawful for Us by Charter to incorporate such persons (in the said Act referred to as "the Representative Body") with power to hold land without licence in mortmain.

And whereas by the Suspensory Act 1914 it was enacted that notwithstanding anything in the Welsh Church Act 1914 the date of disestablishment under that Act should be postponed until the

expiration of twelve months from the date of the passing of that Act or if at the expiration of those twelve months the present war had not ended until such later date (not being later than the end of the present war) as might be fixed by Us by Order in Council.

And whereas by an Order in Council made on the 14th day of September 1915 the date of disestablishment under the Welsh Church Act 1914 was postponed until the end of the present war.

And whereas a Convention of the Bishops Clergy and Laity of the Church in Wales was duly held at Cardiff in the month of October 1917 at which a scheme was adopted and approved for the constitution of a body to be known as the Governing Body of the Church in Wales (hereinafter referred to as "the Governing Body") with power among other things to make constitutions and regulations for the general management and good government of the said Church and the property and affairs thereof.

And whereas the Bishops Clergy and Laity of the said Church have appointed the following persons to be the members of the body referred to in the Welsh Church Act 1914 as the Representative Body—that is to say—

The Right Reverend Father in God ALFRED GEORGE
Lord Bishop of the Diocese of St. Asaph.
The Right Reverend Father in God JOHN
Lord Bishop of the Diocese of St. David's.
The Right Reverend Father in God WATKIN HERBERT
Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Bangor.
The Right Reverend Father in God JOSHUA PRITCHARD
Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Llandaff.

(being the Diocesan Bishops of the said Church and the ex-officio members of the said Body).

The Ven. THOMAS LLOYD, ARCHDEACON OF ST. ASAPH, The Vicarage, Rhyl.
The Ven. DAVID GRIMALDI DAVIS, D.D., ARCHDEACON OF MONTGOMERY,
Llandrinio Rectory, Llanymynech.
The Rev. Canon DANIEL DAVIES, The Vicarage, Wrexham.

The Rev. Canon THOMAS REDFERN, The Rectory, Denbigh.
 The Right Hon. Sir JOHN ELDON BANKES, Soughton Hall, Northop.
 The Right Hon. FREDERICK HENRY BARON COLWYN, Colwyn Bay.
 Sir HERBERT LLOYD WATKIN WILLIAMS-WYNN, Bart., C.B., Wynnstay, Ruabon.
 Major-General ARTHUR EDMUND SANDBACH, C.B., D.S.O., Bryngwyn,
 Bwlchycibau.
 Colonel THOMAS ALURED WYNNE EDWARDS, Plas Nantglyn, Denbigh.
 Mr. HENRY NEVILLE GLADSTONE, Hawarden Castle, Flints.
 Mr. DAVID FALCONER PENNANT, Nantlys, St. Asaph.
 Mr. WALTER BALDWIN YATES, Cilcen Hall, Mold.

(Elected by the Diocesan Conference of the Diocese of St. Asaph.)

The Right Rev. EDWARD LATHOM BEVAN, D.D., BISHOP OF SWANSEA, The
 Vicarage, Brecon.
 The Ven. ROBERT WILLIAMS, ARCHDEACON OF CARMARTHEN, The Vicarage,
 Llandilo.
 The Rev. GILBERT CUNNINGHAM JOYCE, D.D., St. David's College, Lampeter.
 The Rev. Canon DAVID WATCYN MORGAN, The Vicarage, Llanelly.
 MARGARET CHILD LADY DYNEVOR, Dynevor Castle, Llandilo.
 Mrs. KATHARINE MINNA DILLWYN VENABLES-LLEWELYN, Llysdinatr, New-
 bridge-on-Wye.
 Sir EVAN DAVIES JONES, Bart., Pentower, Fishguard.
 Sir OWEN PHILIPPS, G.C.M.G., M.P., Coomb, Llangain, Carmarthen.
 Mr. WILFRED SEYMOUR DE WINTON, Tymawt, Brecon.
 Mr. RICHARD TOWNSEND GREER, Frongog, Llanbadarn, Aberystwyth.
 Mr. FRANCIS WILLIAM GILBERTSON, Glynteg, Pontardawe.
 Mr. WILLIAM EDWARD CECIL TREGONING, Warborough, Llanelly.

(Elected by the Diocesan Conference of the Diocese of St. David's.)

The Rev. Canon EDMUND OSBORNE JONES, The Vicarage, Llanidloes.
 The Rev. WILLIAM MORGAN, St. Anne's Vicarage, Bethesda.
 The Rev. THOMAS EDWARD OWEN, Aberdaron Vicarage, Pwllheli.
 The Rev. FRANCIS PARRY WATKIN-DAVIES, The Rectory, Llanfairfechan.
 The Hon. ALICE DOUGLAS PENNANT, Penrhyn Castle, Bangor.

Sir HUGH JOHN ELLIS-NANNEY, Bart., Gwynfryn, Criccieth.
 Colonel The Hon. RICHARD SOUTHWELL GEORGE STAPLETON COTTON, Lliwynon,
 Llanfair P.G., Anglesey.
 Lieut.-Colonel ALAN PERCY GEORGE GOUGH, C.M.G., D.S.O., Gelliwig, Pwllheli.
 Mr. JOHN ERNEST GREAVES, Bron Eifion, Criccieth.
 Mr. ROBERT JONES MORRIS, Gwrach Ynys, Talsarnau, Merioneth.
 Mr. ARTHUR IVOR PRYCE, Diocesan Registry, Bangor.
 Mr. HUGH CORBET VINCENT, Bronwydd, Bangor.

(Elected by the Diocesan Conference of the Diocese of Bangor.)

The Ven. CHARLES ALFRED HOWELL GREEN, D.D., ARCHDEACON OF MONMOUTH,
 Jesmond, Stow Park Circus, Newport.
 The Rev. Canon THOMAS JESSE JONES, The Rectory, Gellygaer, Glam.
 The Rev. DAVID THOMAS GRIFFITHS, The Vicarage, Llantrissant.
 The Rev. LLEWELYN MORGAN WILLIAMS, The Rectory, Dowlais.
 The Right Hon. ROBERT GEORGE EARL OF PLYMOUTH, C.B., G.B.E., St. Fagan's
 Castle, Cardiff.
 The Right Hon. HENRY CAMPBELL BARON ABERDARE, Duffryn, Mountain Ash.
 The Hon. Sir JOHN SANKEY, G.B.E., 14, Dean's Yard, Westminster.
 Sir HENRY MATHER JACKSON, Bart., C.B.E., Llantilio Court, Abergavenny.
 Mr. WILFRID HUBERT POYER LEWIS, Diocesan Registry, Cardiff.
 Major-General HENRY HERBERT LEE, C.B.E., The Mount, Dinas Powis, Cardiff.
 Mr. SIDNEY HUTCHINSON BYASS, Llandough Castle, Cowbridge.
 Mr. THOMAS BISHOP RIDLEY WILSON, Methven, Maindee, Newport.

(Elected by the Diocesan Conference of the Diocese of Llandaff.)

The Right Rev. Bishop OWEN THOMAS LLOYD CROSSLEY, D.D., 58, Park Place,
 Cardiff.
 The Rev. Canon DAVID DAVIES, 7, The Green, Llandaff.
 The Rev. Canon JOSEPH LLOYD, The Vicarage, Llanpumpsaint, Carmarthen-
 shire.

The Rev. ALBERT OWEN EVANS, Llanfaethlu Rectory, Valley, Anglesey.
 The Right Hon. Sir LAWRENCE HUGH JENKINS, K.C.I.E., Cilbronnau, Llan-
 goedmore, Cardiganshire.
 The Right Hon. Sir JAMES RICHARD ATKIN, Royal Courts of Justice, London.
 Mrs. ROSE YATES, Cilcen Hall, Mold.
 Mr. EDWARD MARLAY SAMSON, C.B.E., Scotchwell, Haverfordwest.
 Mr. WALTER POWELL NICHOLAS, The Garth, Trealaw, Glam.
 Mr. HENRY PEARCE, Soughton House, Northop, Flints.
 Mr. DANIEL WINTRINGHAM STABLE, Plas Llwynon, Llanbrynmair.
 WINIFRED COUNTESS OF DUNDONALD, Gwrych Castle, Abergele, N.W.

(being the Co-opted Members of the said Body).

And—

The Very Rev. LLEWELYN WYNNE-JONES, DEAN OF ST. ASAPH, The Deanery,
 St. Asaph.
 The Rev. BENJAMIN DAVIES, St. David's Vicarage, Carmarthen.
 The Right Hon. GEORGE HENRY ROBERT CHILD EARL OF JERSEY, Middleton.
 Park, Bicester.
 The Right Hon. EDWARD SHOLTO BARON PENRHYN, Wicken, Stony Stratford.
 Mr. ALFRED HAROLD EDWARDS, 9, Maybury Lodge, Queen's Park, Chester.
 Mr. WYNDHAM DAMER CLARK, Talygain, Pontyclun, Glam.
 Mr. CHARLES HAMILTON EDEN, Glynderwen, Black Pill, Glam.
 Sir HARRY RUDOLF RUDOLF REICHEL, Gartherwen, Bangor.

(being the Nominated Members of the said Body they having been
 nominated by the Diocesan Bishops of the said Church).

Now know all men by these presents that We of our
 especial grace certain knowledge and mere motion by and with
 the advice and consent of our Privy Council do for Us, Our heirs
 and successors Grant constitute declare and appoint that the
 said above-named persons so appointed by the said Bishops Clergy
 and Laity as aforesaid and their successors to be appointed as
 hereinafter mentioned shall forever hereafter be one body corporate
 and politic by the name of the Representative Body of the Church in

Wales or by such other name as the Governing Body may hereafter with the approval of Our Privy Council determine and by such name shall have perpetual succession and a Common Seal with such stamp and inscription to be made and engraved thereon as they shall think proper with power to break alter or renew the said Seal from time to time as they shall think proper and by such name shall and may sue and be sued in all courts whatsoever of Us, Our heirs and successors in all actions suits plaints and demands whatsoever **And we do also hereby** for Ourselves and Our successors **license authorize** and for ever hereafter **enable** the said Representative Body hereby constituted (hereinafter referred to as the Representative Body) to acquire (by purchase or otherwise) receive and hold any lands tenements or hereditaments whatsoever or interests therein (notwithstanding the statutes of Mortmain) and any investments money goods chattels or other personal property which may be transferred or paid to the Representative Body pursuant to the Welsh Church Act 1914 or which may be assured given devised or bequeathed to the Representative Body by any person or persons company or body politic capable of making an assurance gift devise or bequest thereof for the uses or purposes of the Bishops Clergy and Laity of the said Church or upon any special trusts **And we grant and ordain** that the Representative Body shall exercise all the powers and perform all the functions and duties intended by the Welsh Church Act 1914 to be exercised and performed by the Body in the said Act referred to as the Representative Body **And we grant and ordain** that the Representative Body shall hold all property which shall become vested in it (other than property vested in it pursuant to Section 22 of the Welsh Church Act 1914 or upon any special trusts) upon and for such trusts objects and purposes and with and subject to such powers of management investment sale leasing exchange and other powers of dealing therewith or disposing thereof as the said Convention of the said Church held in the month of October 1917 shall have directed or as the Governing Body shall from time to time direct and as shall not be inconsistent with or in violation of the Welsh Church Act 1914 or any other law of this Realm and shall under the direction of the Governing Body hold all property transferred to the Representative Body pursuant to Section 22 of the

Welsh Church Act 1914 or assured given devised or bequeathed to the Representative Body upon any special trusts upon the trusts and with and subject to the powers and provisions affecting the property so transferred or declared or created by or by virtue of such assurance gift devise or bequest And we ordain and declare that the Representative Body shall in all matters be subject to the order and control of the Governing Body And we ordain and declare that the provisions contained in the Schedule hereto shall have effect with respect to the composition of the Representative Body and the qualification election co-option nomination and retirement of the members thereof and the procedure thereof And lastly we do by these presents grant to the Representative Body that these Our Letters Patent and All and singular the matters and things in the same contained shall be good and valid in law according to the true intent and meaning of the same and shall be taken construed and adjudged in the most favourable and beneficial sense and for the best advantage of the Representative Body in all Our Courts and elsewhere by all Judges Justices Officers Ministers and other subjects of Us, Our heirs and successors any omission defect or thing whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding.

SCHEDULE

WORKING DOCUMENT – AS AMENDED BY THE FIRST AND SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTERS AND BY RESOLUTIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CHURCH IN WALES

Text without highlighting as per the original Charter (1919)

Text highlighted in yellow was introduced or amended by the first supplemental charter (1967)

Text highlighted in green was introduced or amended by the second supplemental charter (2015)

Text highlighted in blue has been altered by the Governing Body under the power in paragraph 24 of this Schedule.

1. The Representative Body shall be composed of four classes, namely, the ex-officio, the elected, the co-opted and the nominated members.
2. The ex-officio members shall be the Archbishop of Wales, the Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance of each Diocese and the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Governing Body.
3. The elected members shall be two for each Diocese, elected in the first instance and until otherwise determined, by the respective Diocesan Conferences, one in each case being a lay person and one cleric.
4. The co-opted members shall be limited to two, co-opted by the elected and ex-officio members of the Representative Body without any regard to Dioceses.
5. The nominated members shall be limited to four, nominated by the Diocesan Bishops of the Church in Wales, acting collectively and in consultation with the Standing Committee of the Governing Body, without any regard to Dioceses.
6. Every Clergyman who is in Priest's Orders, and who holds or has held a Dignity, Cathedral Preferment, Benefice or Office within the Church in Wales or a license from a Welsh Diocesan Bishop, shall be qualified to be a member of the Representative Body save that no Cleric in the full-time salaried employment of the Representative Body, a Diocesan Board of Finance or any other such provincial or diocesan body within the Church in Wales shall be eligible to be a member of the Representative Body and no Cleric who has retired or who

has reached his or her seventieth birthday shall be qualified to be a member of the Representative Body.

7. Every Lay communicant of either sex, who is over eighteen years of age, and who either resides or has resided at any time for a period of twelve months in a parish which is, or is determined under the Welsh Church Act 1914 to be, in Wales or Monmouthshire, and who does not belong to any religious body which is not in communion with the Church in Wales, shall be qualified to be a member of the Representative Body save that no salaried employee of the Representative Body, a Diocesan Board of Finance or any other such provincial or diocesan body within the Church in Wales shall be eligible to be a member of the Representative Body and no Lay communicant who has reached his or her seventy fifth birthday shall be qualified to be a member of the Representative Body.

8. Every lay person so elected, nominated, or co-opted, before taking his or her seat, shall sign a declaration in the following form in a register to be kept for that purpose by the Secretary of the Representative Body :—

I, J.S. of _____, do hereby solemnly declare that I am a communicant over eighteen years of age, and qualified to be a member of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales, and that I do not belong to any religious body which is not in communion with the Church in Wales.

9. The members first elected, co-opted, or nominated to the Representative Body shall hold office for a period commencing with the date of their appointment and ending on the day three years after the granting of this Charter.

~~10. On the determination of such period and subsequently as from December 31st of each year, one third of the members elected by each Diocese shall retire in rotation annually, and in their stead an equal number of members shall be elected by each Diocese, provided always that a clergyman shall be elected to succeed a clergyman and a lay person to succeed a lay person.~~

~~11. On the determination of such period and subsequently as from December 31st of each year, one third of the members co-opted by the Representative Body shall retire in rotation annually, and in their stead an equal number of members shall be co-opted by the Representative Body.~~

~~12. The members, whether elected or co-opted, to retire first shall be chosen by ballot of the Representative Body, and those to retire the following year shall similarly be chosen from among those first elected or co-opted, the remaining third retiring the third year.~~

13. All persons elected or co-opted to fill the places of retiring members shall, except as provided in clause 16, hold office for three years.

14. All the members nominated by the Diocesan Bishops shall retire at the end of such period, and the said Bishops shall then and thereafter triennially, acting collectively, nominate an equal number of members to sit for three years.

15. Casual vacancies shall be filled by the Representative Body according to the order in which they are placed on supplemental lists (if any) of clergy and lay persons which may be made for the purpose by the several Diocesan Conferences.
16. The Diocesan Bishops shall fill up a casual vacancy among those members nominated by them **in consultation with the Standing Committee**. All other casual vacancies shall be filled up by the Representative Body, and in the case of casual vacancies among the elected members from the supplemental lists. The member appointed to fill such vacancy shall vacate his or her office at the same time as the person, whose place he or she fills, would have done, provided always that the Representative Body in filling up a vacancy among the elected members shall always appoint a clergyman to succeed a clergyman and a lay person to succeed a lay person and of the same Diocese as was represented by the person in whose place the new member is appointed.
17. Any member of the Representative Body shall on retirement be eligible for membership, if otherwise duly qualified.
18. Any member of the Representative Body may be removed for sufficient reasons by the Governing Body. The Governing Body shall be final judges of what constitutes a sufficient reason within the meaning of this clause.
19. Any member of the Representative Body may resign his or her office by writing under his or her hand, addressed to the Secretary of the Representative Body.
20. The Representative Body shall at its first meeting and thereafter triennially elect from amongst its members a Chairman; in the Chairman's absence the Representative Body shall elect some other member to take his place.
21. The Representative Body shall have power to declare how many members present shall form a quorum, and to make rules for the regulation of its procedure.
22. The Representative Body shall have power to appoint committees of the members, and to make rules and regulations for the powers of and the procedure to be followed by any committee, provided that all acts and decisions of any committee, unless previously specifically authorised, must be ratified and confirmed by the Representative Body to become valid.
23. **The Representative Body shall execute documents by affixing its common seal thereto in the presence of the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary of the Representative Body or the Legal Assistant to the Secretary of the Representative Body and one member of the Representative Body. The Representative Body shall provide for the safe custody of the Common Seal, which shall only be used by the authority of the Representative Body.**
24. The Representative Body shall be subject to such alterations in the numbers of its members, or in the rules and regulations laid down for their qualification, election, or retirement, or in

its powers and duties shall from time to time be adopted by the Governing Body, provided always that such rules, regulations and alterations thereof do not conflict with its statutory authority, powers and duties.

25. In this Schedule the expression “Diocesan Bishops” means the persons who for the time being shall exercise and discharge the episcopal functions of Diocesan Bishops of the Church in Wales and the expression ‘Diocese’ means any district for the time being under the spiritual governance of any such Bishop.

26. The Representative Body may by resolution of the Members amend, add, or revoke any of the provisions of this Our Charter provided that no such amendment, addition or revocation shall be effective unless and until it shall have been submitted to and allowed by Us, Our heirs or successors in Council and this Our Charter shall then continue to operate as if it had been granted containing such amendments and additions.