



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The fourth general meeting of the Ecclesiastical Law Society as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) will take place at **St Peter's Eaton Square**, Belgravia, London SW1W 0QH on **Saturday 10 June 2023** commencing at **2.05pm** to transact the following business:

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To note the minutes of the third annual general meeting of the CIO on 2nd April 2022.
3. To receive the Trustees' Annual Report.
4. To receive the Society's Statement of Accounts and a report from the Treasurer for 2022.
5. To elect up to two Charity Trustees, each to serve for a period of three years.
6. To receive a written report from the Editor of the *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*.
7. To approve the resolution set out in the Appendix amending the Constitution. For convenience, a version of the Constitution incorporating the proposed amendments is on the website with the papers for today.
8. Any other business which the Chair in her discretion may allow.

NOTES

In order that the AGM can proceed swiftly and efficiently, it will be assumed that members will have read in advance the relevant documentation available [here](#) on the Society's website:

- Minutes of the AGM of the CIO held on 2nd April 2022
- Trustees' Annual Report and Statement of Accounts
- Report from the Editor of the *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*
- Draft constitution with changes proposed at Item 7 incorporated

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION – item 5 above

The following have been nominated to serve as elected Charity Trustees:

The Rev'd Christopher Smith

Proposed by: Stephen Eyre

Seconded by: The Rev'd Paul Benfield

I have been a member of the ELS for many years, and was co-opted onto the committee in 2019, and am now standing for election, hoping to continue supporting the work of the Society, and in particular its work in the field of theological education and clergy training. I am a parish priest (Vicar of Saint Alban's, Holborn), having been ordained in 1995, and have kept an interest in academic law going throughout that time. I am a law graduate, a barrister of Gray's Inn (non-practising!), and a graduate of the Cardiff LLM in Ecclesiastical Law. I am a Church Commissioner, and have held a number of law-related church roles, including having sat on the Clergy Discipline Commission, the Fees Advisory Commission, and the Faculty Office Qualifications Board. I contributed a chapter on the Clergy Discipline Measure to a book edited by Russell Sandberg entitled *Religion and Legal Pluralism*

APPENDIX TO THE NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING 2023

As agreed at the annual meeting in 2022, the Trustees have undertaken a review of the Constitution. Set out below is the text of a resolution that lists all the proposed changes. The Notice of Meeting also draws attention to the availability of a copy of the Constitution with the proposed amendments incorporated. A brief note about each proposed change with explanation where necessary is provided by way of footnotes.

As part of this review, as agreed at the last annual meeting, the Trustees considered changing our way of voting to a version of Single Transferable Vote. The Trustees are grateful to Bishop Colin Buchanan for raising the question and providing a substantial paper in support of the change. They also received a paper setting out a contrary view. Both papers were given careful consideration and the discussion about them was wide ranging. After debate the Trustees agreed, unanimously, that we would not make any changes to our voting procedures and therefore there are no changes to the voting method listed in the changes below.

ITEM 7

It is proposed from the Chair THAT the constitution of the CIO be amended as follows:

In Clause 8 (1)(b) the words "or working group" be deleted¹

In Clause 12(6)(f) after the word "cast" insert, "or in the case of Clause (d)(ii) or (d)(iii) above according to the direction of the chair of the meeting."²

In Clause 13:

In (3)(a)(i) delete "and"³

In (3)(a)(ii) delete "eight" and insert "six"⁴

¹ To enable the President to participate fully in any working group. See also tracked changes.

² For clarification and ease of interpretation

³ Superfluous

⁴ To enable the Trustee body to reduce in size if and when necessary. General experience and some advice indicates that a smaller body of Trustees can be more effective

At the beginning of (b) insert, "The final decision concerning the total number of vacancies for elected Charity Trustees for any period is entirely at the discretion of the Charity Trustees for the time being in post, within the limits given at (a)(ii)"⁵

In Clause 14 (1):

Insert as new sub-clause (b):

"On subsequent occasions the Officers shall retire from office at the end of the third AGM after their election."⁶

Re-letter (b) as (c) and within new sub-clause (c):

Delete "at that and every subsequent third annual general meeting the" and insert a full stop.

Capitalise "V" and insert after "arising" the words, "in the Officer positions"

At the end of the paragraph delete "concerned" and insert, "or other general meeting of the CIO."⁷

In Clause 14(2)(d) in the first line delete "so" and insert after "annual general meeting" the words, "subject to any decisions of the Charity Trustees under Clause 3(b) above"⁸

⁵ The current constitution already allows a variable number of elected trustees, but does not clarify who determines the number of trustees between the prescribed limits. This amendment clarifies and confirms the current practice that that decision belongs to the trustees.

⁶ For clarification and to allow for continuity

⁷ Consequential due to above changes and also for clarification

⁸ Consequential due to above changes