

Changes to Code of Canons and Digest of Resolutions, passed at General Synod 2017

The changes to the Code of Canons which were passed at Second Reading at General Synod 2017 were the following:

- Canon 22 (Of Divine Worship and Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church): alteration to section 2 and 3 of the Canon the effect of which is to require that changes to authorised liturgies or the adoption of new liturgies be subject for their approval to a two-year process of readings at General Synod, similar to the process applicable to canonical change.
- Canon 31 (Of the Solemnisation of Holy Matrimony): the deletion of the former sections 1 and 2 and the insertion of a new section 1, the effect of which is to remove from the Canon any doctrinal statement about marriage and to provide that clergy who wish to solemnise marriages between persons of the same sex must first be nominated for that purpose to the Registrar General for Scotland. A resolution is also added at the end of the Canon indicating that it is the Diocesan Bishop who makes any such nominations.
- Canon 63 (Of the Office of Lay Representative): the addition to section 3 of the Canon of reference to the Alternate Lay Representative, the effect of which is that the Alternate Lay Representative, as well as the Lay Representative, becomes a member of the vestry *ex officio* (unless the congregational constitution provides otherwise).

The index has been updated accordingly.

The only change to the Digest of Resolutions is to replace section 6.8 to allow the Administration Board, on the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, to adopt policies, procedures, guidance etc in relation to clergy personnel matters, subject to their being ratified by General Synod before implementation. This replaces the former section 6.8 which was narrower in its scope. The index has also been updated accordingly.

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