

S5.5 CHURCH LAW COMMITTEE

NAME

S5.5.1 The name of the Committee is the "Church Law Committee", a committee serving the Synod of Western Australia and its Presbyteries, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee".

MEMBERSHIP

S5.5.2 The Committee will be appointed by the Synod at each ordinary meeting and will consist of:

- (a) a Convener;
- (b) the General Secretary;
- (c) the Secretary of each Presbytery in the Synod or their nominee; and
- (d) up to five other persons.

S5.5.3 The Committee may co-opt up to two further members to ensure balanced representation or to provide the Committee with knowledge, abilities or experience not otherwise available to the Committee.

PURPOSE

S5.5.4 The purpose of the Committee is to develop and maintain the Church's law for the Church in Western Australia. The aim of such law is to confess God's will for the life of the Church. The Church keeps its law under constant review so that its life may be increasingly directed to the service of God and humanity, and its worship to a true and faithful setting forth of, and response to, the Gospel of Christ. (*Basis of Union*, para 17)

RESPONSIBILITIES

S5.5.5 The responsibilities of the Committee are:

- (a) to maintain and make available for use the By-Laws of the Synod of Western Australia, and the Rules of the Presbytery(ies) in the Synod;
- (b) to prepare and recommend for enactment such new By-Laws or Rules or amendments to By-Laws or Rules as required by:
 - i. resolution of the Synod, or Synod Standing Committee
 - ii. resolution of the Presbytery(ies), or Presbytery Standing Committees;
 - iii. request of any Synod or Presbytery body, agency or instrumentality;
 - iv. resolution of the Assembly or in consequence of any decision of the Assembly to amend the Constitution or Regulations; and
 - v. the needs of the Church's life and mission; and
- (c) to advise officers, Synod and Presbytery bodies and agencies, and congregations on the operation and interpretation of Church law and on preparing proposals for new By-Laws or the amendment of By-Laws and Rules.

MEETINGS AND REPORTING

S5.5.6 The Committee will:

- (a) meet at least four times each year; and
- (b) report to the Synod and Presbytery(ies) at each meeting and Synod Standing Committee and Presbytery Standing Committees as requested or when necessary.