These regulations are made by the Standing Committee pursuant to Clauses 9(1) (a) and 13 of the Standing Committee Statute 2014 (Statute No.5) and Clause 33 of the Parishes Statute 2009 (Statute No.15).

The Standing Committee makes the following Regulation:

The Standing Committee of the Diocese confirms its approval of an extension of time for any parish to hold its 2020 annual general meeting at any time prior to the 1st day of September 2020.

This Regulation shall cease to have effect at the commencement of the Synod in 2020.

Background:

1. Clause 20 (1) of the Parishes Statute 2009 provides that every Parish must hold an annual general meeting not later than the 30th day of April each year, or in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of Standing Committee, the 31st day of May.

2. In March of 2020, the New Zealand Government passed emergency regulations prohibiting gatherings of people in public places (including churches and halls) on account of the pandemic Covid-19 that was afflicting growing numbers of people in New Zealand.

3. At the time those emergency regulations took effect, most Parishes in the Diocese had not held an annual general meeting (AGM) in 2020.

4. The Diocese recently advised Parishes to consider planning an AGM by 31 May 2020 provided that New Zealand moved to level 2 in time and the requirements of level 2 would enable AGMs to proceed so long as social distancing and contact tracing requirements were observed. However, a number of Parishes have indicated that the age of the people likely to attend their AGM would make it unsafe to hold the AGM under level 2 so it is therefore likely that a number of Parishes won't be able to hold an annual general meeting before the 31st day of May 2020.
5. In the exceptional circumstances that currently exist, it is essential that further time be allowed for the holding of annual general meetings.

These Regulations shall be administered by the Standing Committee.