

Bill No 6

Mover: The Rt Rev'd Peter Carrell / Seconder: Mrs Vivienne Jackson

A Bill to Amend Title G Canon III 'of Marriage' and Title A Canon II 'of Pastors', 2026

Whereas, the General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui in 2000 enacted Statute 605 to amend and revise Title G Canon III, and in 1992 enacted Statute 543 to amend and revise Title A Canon II, by repealing the previous Canon and replacing it in its entirety, and

Whereas, the General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui has periodically revised and updated these Canons, and

Whereas, the House of Bishops has discussed the best practice for authorising one-off and occasional ministries in jurisdictions other than that of a primary licence or authority, and

Whereas, it is desirable to further update these Canons to reflect that best practice.

The General Synod/Te Hīnota Whānui enacts as follows:

1. **Title.** The Title of this Statute is *The Title G Canon III and Title A Canon II Amendment Statute 2026*.
2. **Purpose.** To amend Title G Canon III and Title A Canon II, to clarify authorisation for one-off and occasional ministry in other jurisdictions.
3. **Title G Canon III is amended by:**
 - (a) repealing the current clause 2.2 and replacing it with the wording:
 - 2.2 Any minister conducting a marriage service in a place of worship in which he or she does not ordinarily conduct worship, within the same episcopal unit in which the minister is licensed, shall do so only after consultation with the minister (or, in the absence thereof, churchwardens) responsible for that place of worship.
 - (b) inserting a new clause 2.3:
 - 2.3 Any minister conducting a marriage service in an episcopal unit in which they are not licensed for ministry, shall seek the permission of the bishop for that episcopal unit before agreeing to conduct such service, and as a matter of courtesy, where the marriage service is to be conducted in a place of worship, shall do so only after consultation with the the minister (or, in the absence thereof, churchwardens) responsible for that place of worship.
 - (c) and consequently renumbering following clauses.

4. Title A Canon II is amended by:

(a) Repealing the current clause 2 and replacing it with the wording:

2.1 It is permissible for the licensed minister in charge of any parish, worshipping community, or ministry to allow another licensed minister who is in good standing with that minister's own bishop to officiate within their area of pastoral responsibility for up to one week, providing the visiting minister's own bishop confirms the minister is:

(a) in good standing,

(b) not to the bishop's knowledge subject to investigation for a complaint made against them

without any other authorisation being required.

2.2 It is a matter of requirement that the bishop who has episcopal responsibility for the parish, worshipping community or ministry concerned is informed that such officiation has been arranged.

2.3 If the visiting minister is to officiate for more than one week, it is necessary to have authorisation from the bishop who has episcopal responsibility for the parish, worshipping community, or ministry concerned, such authorisation being subject to the bishop receiving confirmation from the bishop of the visiting minister that the minister is safe to receive.

5. This Statute shall come into force at the conclusion of this 67th Session of the General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui.