

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2009 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 6.15 P.M.
ON SUNDAY 12TH JULY 2009

WELCOME

Members of the working party which produced the report *Opening the Doors*, sitting in the public gallery, were welcomed by Synod.

22 The motion

‘That this Synod, in the light of renewed interest in the challenges facing people with learning disabilities in society, commend to dioceses and parishes the guidelines contained in *Opening the Doors* (GS 1725) on best practice for the inclusion of people with learning disabilities in the life and work of the Church.’

was carried.

REVIEW OF CONSTITUTIONS (GS 1737)

23 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- (a) welcome the further report of the Constitutions Review Group (GS 1737);
- (b) endorse the recommendations set out in Annex 1 of the report; and
- (c) invite the Archbishops’ Council and the Standing Orders Committee to take the steps necessary to give effect to those recommendations.’

was moved.

33 The amendment (Item 33 Order Paper IV) was carried.

34 The amendment (Item 34 Order Paper IV) fell.

23 The motion (as amended by Item 33)

‘That this Synod

- (a) decline to endorse the proposals set out in GS1737;
and
- (b) request the Archbishops' Council, after consultation with the boards and councils concerned, to produce revised proposals which:
 - (i) provide for the participation of elected Synod members in deliberation and policy-formation as well as in scrutiny and accountability; and
 - (ii) reflect the individual remits and sets of stakeholders of each area of activity.’

was carried.

**SPECIAL AGENDA IV
DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS:
EPISCOPAL AND SENIOR CHURCH APPOINTMENTS (GS 1733
A and B)**

24 The motion

‘That this Synod request the Archbishops’ Council to formulate proposals for reductions in the numbers of episcopal and senior clergy posts, taking into account reductions for the number of stipendiary clergy since 1979; and submit a report with recommendations to the General Synod within three years.’

was moved.

35 The amendment (Item 35 Order Paper IV) was carried.

36 The amendment (Item 36 Order Paper IV) was carried.

24 The motion (as amended by Items 35 and 36)

‘That this Synod, welcoming

- (a) the recent establishment of the new Dioceses Commission;

- (b) the decision of the House of Bishops to decouple, from January 2011, national support for episcopal ministry from actual episcopal numbers; and
- (c) the intention of the Archbishops' Council later this year to begin consideration of future policy on the number of bishops and dioceses,

invite the Archbishops' Council to prepare for the new Synod in November 2010 a progress report on the delivery of changes to the present pattern of dioceses and of episcopal deployment and request the Faith and Order Advisory Group (or its successor body) to present to this Synod early in the next quinquennium a report:

- (i) bringing together existing material in the Church of England and the Anglican Communion relating to the exercise of senior leadership in the Church; and
- (ii) setting out biblical and theological perspectives to inform the Church's developing patterns of senior leadership.

was carried

The Chair adjourned the sitting at 6.10pm.