

GENERAL SYNOD

Women in the episcopate- guide to the papers

1. In view of the significance of the material that it has produced and the fact that it is distributed across several documents the Steering Committee thought that Synod members might find it helpful to have a very short note on how they fit together.
2. The **Steering Committee's report** is at **GS 1924** and is the natural place to start. It gives an overview of the Committee's work and of the package of proposals that it is recommending. It also explains the motion that the Steering Committee is bringing to the Synod in November and what the process would be thereafter.
3. Drafts of two elements of the package - the House of Bishops' Declaration and the Regulations establishing a disputes resolution procedure - are set out at Annexes A and B of the report. In addition there is some background material on the disputes resolution procedure at Annex C. The drafts of the Declaration and the Regulations are, at this stage, proposals to the House of Bishops, which will consider them in more detail in December and then bring them, together with a motion for debate, to the Synod in February.
4. The other two elements of the package are the **draft Measure** and **Amending Canon**. These can be found at **GS 1925 and 1926** respectively, together with an **Explanatory Memorandum** from the Legal Office at **GS 1925-6X**.
5. These two items of legislation are being brought for first consideration in November. The Steering Committee, with the consent of the Business Committee, is proposing that they be committed for revision in full Synod. This would enable all four elements of the package to be considered at the same group of sessions in February.

William Fittall

23 October 2013

Secretary General