

GENERAL SYNOD

House of Bishops – Summary of Decisions

1. A meeting of the House of Bishops was held at the Park Inn Hotel in York on 12-13 December 2011. Those matters reported at paragraphs 2-13 below were taken in a Committee of the House of Bishops constituted under SO 14.
2. The House discussed a **draft statement from the House** to accompany a report from the **Women in the Episcopate: Code of Practice Working Group**, together with the legislative stages yet to come. The House considered a number of detailed suggestions regarding the content of the draft statement, as well as comments regarding the issue of women in the episcopate generally.
3. The House invited the Archbishops, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to finalise the text of the statement in the light of the discussion. It also agreed to the publication of the Working Group's report and illustrative code.
4. The House was **briefed on ongoing work in relation to the recent riots**.
5. The House discussed the impact **of the Occupy Movement** on the work of a number of cathedrals.
6. The House received a **presentation on recent events in the Anglican Communion** worldwide.
7. The House agreed proposals from the Ministry Council, which had also been considered by the Ministry Council for a **single suite of validated awards**, subject to exceptions, which would be considered against published, tightly drawn criteria.
8. The House considered issues arising from **the recent Transformations conference** on women's ministry.
9. The House discussed **Turning Up the Volume** a report regarding a strategy for increasing the number of Black and Minority Ethnic ("BME") clergy in senior appointments. The House endorsed the vision set out in the report and agreed the appointment of a bishop as a Diversity Champion and the formation of a Task Group to promote an increase in the proportion of BME candidates in senior appointments.
10. The House considered a joint Methodist/Church of England **report on the ecclesiology of Fresh Expressions**. The House welcomed the report and agreed that it should be shared with the Synod, perhaps as a resource for a wider debate about the Fresh Expressions movement.
11. The House considered **business that was likely to come before the General Synod in February 2012**.

12. The House agreed that the next Miscellaneous Provisions Measure should contain **an amendment to the Overseas Clergy Measure 1967** to create an enabling power for the Archbishops to grant general permissions for visiting clergy to officiate in Church of England churches in certain circumstances, rather than, as the law currently required for authorisations to be granted case by case irrespective of the nature or duration of the visit.
13. The House discussed issues concerning the **sharing of information when clergy move between dioceses** and asked for further work to be done.
14. The House received a report from the Joint Chair of the Joint Implementation Commission on **recent developments in the Methodist Church**, in particular the Methodist Secretary General's report to the Methodist Conference and a report entitled *The Fruitful Field*.

Church House, SW1P 3AZ
12 January 2011

Ross Gillson
(Administrative Secretary)