

**GENERAL SYNOD**

**DRAFT STIPENDS (CESSATION OF SPECIAL PAYMENTS)  
MEASURE**

**REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE  
IN RESPECT OF FINAL DRAFTING**

**MEMBERS:**

Mr Bryan Sandford (York) (in the Chair)  
Mr Timothy Allen (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich)  
Ms Susan Cooper (London)  
The Revd Canon Frank Dexter (Newcastle)  
The Archdeacon of Sheffield (the Ven Richard Blackburn)  
Mr David Webster (Rochester)

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1. The draft Stipends (Cessation of Special Payments) Measure (“the Measure”) was given First Consideration by the General Synod at the July 2003 Group of Sessions, following which it stood committed to a Revision Committee.
2. The Revision Committee returned the Measure to the General Synod in time for the Revision Stage in full Synod to be taken at the February 2004 Group of Sessions. The Measure then stood committed to the Steering Committee under SO 59(a) in respect of its final drafting.
3. The Steering Committee conducted its business by correspondence in accordance with SO 59(f).
4. The types of amendments which the Steering Committee may propose at Final Drafting fall into two categories:-
  - (a) Drafting Amendments, where only the wording of the Measure is altered and not its substance; and

- (b) Special Amendments, which the Steering Committee considers necessary or desirable because the Measure is not sufficiently clear or because some criticism not considered by the Synod or any Revision Committee has been brought to the Steering Committee's notice.
5. The Steering Committee has agreed one Drafting Amendment, which is explained below and is set out in the version of the Measure (GS 1505B) which accompanies this report. The Committee does not intend to propose any Special Amendments.

## **Drafting Amendment**

### **Clause 1**

6. The Steering Committee has agreed the following amendment to clause 1:
- In subsection (3) add at the end “either in the same benefice or in any new benefice created by the union of that benefice and one or more other benefices”.
7. The background to this is that section 1 of the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976 provides for the payment of “guaranteed annuities” to the incumbents of certain benefices. If, after section 1 comes into force, a benefice concerned ceases to exist, the annuity in respect of it also ceases to be payable, except in a case where that benefice and one or more other benefices are united to form a new benefice, in which case section 1(3) and (4) make provision for the continuance of the guaranteed annuity and for the payments to be made to the incumbent of the new benefice.
8. Under clause 1 of the Measure, guaranteed annuities will cease to be payable (except where an annual personal grant is also payable to the incumbent under section 2 of the 1976 Measure). However, this is subject to the right of a member of the clergy who holds office as the incumbent of one of the benefices concerned on the date when clause 1 comes into force to give notice to the Church Commissioners that he or she wishes the guaranteed annuity payable to him or her to continue. Unless the incumbent subsequently notifies the Church Commissioners to the contrary, the guaranteed annuity will then continue to be payable

to that incumbent as long as he or she remains in office, and will then cease.

9. If the incumbent gives such a notice, all the provisions of section 1 of the 1976 Measure will continue to apply to the annuity for so long as it continues to be payable to him or her. This includes the provisions in section 1(3) and (4) regarding any union of benefices, and the Drafting Amendment set out above is intended purely to avoid any possible doubt on that point.

On behalf of the Steering Committee

Bryan Sandford

10th June 2004