

## WOMEN IN THE EPISCOPATE – GENERAL SYNOD MOTIONS

**11 July 2005**

‘That this Synod

- (a) consider that the process for removing the legal obstacles to the ordination of women to the episcopate should now be set in train;
- (b) invite the House of Bishops, in consultation with the Archbishops’ Council, to complete by January 2006, and report to the Synod, the assessment which it is making of the various options for achieving the removal of the legal obstacles to the ordination of women to the episcopate and ask that it give specific attention to the issues of canonical obedience and the universal validity of orders throughout the Church of England as it would affect clergy and laity who cannot accept the ordination of women to the episcopate on theological grounds; and
- (c) instruct the Business Committee to make sufficient time available in the February 2006 group of sessions for the Synod to debate the report, and in the light of the outcome to determine on what basis it wants the necessary legislation prepared and establish the necessary drafting group.’

was carried after a division by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	AYES	NOES
Bishops	41	6
Clergy	167	46
Laity	159	75

**9 February 2006**

‘That this Synod

- (a) welcome the assessment made in GS 1605 of the options for removing the legal obstacles to the ordination of women to the episcopate;
- (b) consider that an approach along the lines of “transferred episcopal arrangements”, expressed in a Measure with an associated code of practice, merits further exploration as a basis for proceeding in a way that will maintain the highest possible degree of communion in the Church of England;

- (c) invite the House of Bishops, as part of its on-going work on the underlying issues raised by the Rochester report, to produce for the July group of sessions a statement of the theological, ecumenical and canonical implications of such an approach;
- (d) instruct the Business Committee to make sufficient time available at the July group of sessions for Synod to determine, in the light of advice from the House of Bishops, the next steps, including a possible timetable for legislation; and
- (e) invite all members of Synod to reflect prayerfully and consult widely on the serious decisions now facing the Church’.

This motion was passed in an unamended form by 348 votes to 1.

### **8 July 2006**

‘That this Synod welcome and affirm the view of the majority of the House of Bishops that admitting women to the episcopate in the Church of England is consonant with the faith of the Church as the Church of England has received it and would be a proper development in proclaiming afresh in this generation the grace and truth of Christ.’

This motion was carried after a division by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	AYES	NOES
Bishops	31	9
Clergy	134	42
Laity	123	68

### **10 July 2006**

‘That this Synod, endorsing Resolution III.2 of the Lambeth Conference 1998 “that those who dissent from, as well as those who assent to the ordination of women to the priesthood and episcopate are both loyal Anglicans” and believing that the implications of admitting women to the episcopate will best be discerned by continuing to explore in detail the practical and legislative arrangements:

- (a) invite dioceses, deaneries and parishes to continue serious debate and reflection on the theological, practical, ecumenical and missiological aspects of the issue;
- (b) invite the Archbishops’ Council, in consultation with the Standing Committee of the House of Bishops and the Appointments Committee, to secure the early appointment of a legislative drafting group, which will aim to include a significant representation of women in the spirit

of Resolution 13/31 of the Anglican Consultative Council passed in July 2005, charged with:

- (i) preparing the draft measure and amending canon necessary to remove the legal obstacles to the consecration of women to the office of bishop;
  - (ii) preparing a draft of possible additional legal provision consistent with Canon A4 to establish arrangements that would seek to maintain the highest possible degree of communion with those conscientiously unable to receive the ministry of women bishops;
  - (iii) submitting the results of its work to the House of Bishops for consideration and submission to Synod; and
- (c) instruct the Business Committee to make time available, before first consideration of the draft legislation, for the Synod to consider, in the light of any views expressed by the House of Bishops, the arrangements proposed in the drafting group's report.'

The motion was put and carried by a show of hands in its amended form

- The amendment from Prebendary David Houlding - inserting '*endorsing Resolution III.2 of the Lambeth Conference 1998 "that those who dissent from, as well as those who assent to the ordination of women to the priesthood and episcopate are both loyal Anglicans"*' and' in the opening paragraph - was carried after a count of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

AYES	209
NOES	166

- The amendment from Canon Cynthia Dowdle – inserting '*which will aim to include a significant representation of women in the spirit of Resolution 13/31 of the Anglican Consultative Council passed in July 2005*' in para (b) - was carried by a show of hands;
- The amendment from Canon Jane Sinclair calling for the insertion of the words '*consistent with Canon A4*' in para (b) (ii) was carried after a division by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	AYES	NOES
Bishops	27	11
Clergy	118	67
Laity	103	93

