

Following the [debate and vote at General Synod in July 2017 on Welcoming Transgender People](#), the House of Bishops has prayerfully considered whether a new nationally commended service might be prepared to mark a gender transition.

The Bishops are inviting clergy to use the existing rite *Affirmation of Baptismal Faith*. New guidance is also being prepared on the use of the service.

[The paper discussing the decision is now available.](#)

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham James, said: "The Church of England welcomes transgender people and wholeheartedly wishes for them to be included in the life of the Church.

"On the matter of whether a new service is needed, the House of Bishops has decided that the current service that is used to affirm baptism can be adapted.

"Clergy always have the discretion to compose and say prayers with people as they see fit."

The service can be found [here](#), under the full heading: 'Affirmation of Baptismal Faith within a Celebration of Holy Communion'.

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