Following the 2017 Group of Sessions of the General Synod, the Archbishops committed themselves and the House of Bishops to the creation of a Pastoral Advisory Group alongside the wider Living in Love and Faith project.

**Why is the Church doing this?**

The purpose of the Pastoral Advisory Group is to help the Church model the Archbishop of Canterbury and Yorks’ desire for *radical Christian inclusion founded in scripture, in reason, in tradition, in theology and the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it*. The Church wants to ensure that it offers pastoral care to all people, especially in the context of changing perspectives on gender, identity and sexuality.

**How will it do this?**

The Pastoral Advisory Group will offer advice to Dioceses when they need to address particular circumstances regarding same-sex relationships, gender and sexuality within their dioceses. This will encourage consistent practice across Dioceses that is in line with the Church’s teaching.

The Pastoral Advisory Group will commission *fieldwork* that gathers stories of how churches embody *radical Christian inclusion founded in scripture, in reason, in tradition, in theology and the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it*. They will use the outcomes of this work to produce materials for churches to reflect on their own pastoral practice in relation to LGBTQI+ people.

The group will work closely with the Living in Love and Faith project as it produces teaching and learning resources and will continue to review advice as the work progresses.

**Documents**

- [PAG Terms of Reference](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/bishops/pastoral-advisory-group/purpose) (152.51 KB)