

GENERAL SYNOD

HOUSE OF LAITY

Standing Committee

**Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Committee
held at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday 16 February 2017
at Church House, Westminster**

Present: Jamie Harrison (Chair); Elizabeth Paver (Vice Chair); Lorna Ashworth (AC); Sarah Finch (Appts Cttee); Anne Foreman (B. Cttee); Robert Hammond (B. Cttee); Rachel Jepson (Appts Cttee); Mark Russell (AC); Clive Scowen (B. Cttee)

Apologies: Lucy Docherty (Appts Cttee)

Staff: Adrian Iles (Legal Adviser to the House); Nicholas Hills (Secretary)

1. Prayers

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Minutes

2.1. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting on 9 July 2016.

3. Matters arising

3.1. *Minute 5.3*: The Chair had written to David Porter and received a verbal response.

4. Future engagement with *Setting God's People Free*

4.1. The report had been well-received and the debate had been good with a varied selection of speakers offering different insights. It was important, however, that momentum was not lost, that the report was disseminated as widely as possible and pressure put on for bishops' councils and diocesan and deanery synods to discuss the report. It was good to hear that a number of dioceses had offered themselves pilot dioceses, but there were things happening in all dioceses. This needed to be built on and developed.

4.2. Members of Synod had been encouraged to send in the speeches they had not been able to deliver during the debate. These should be sent to Mike Eastwood, Director of Renewal and Reform.

4.3. The Secretary was asked to write to Adrian Greenwood (Southwark), Chair of Diocesan Lay Chairs, to ask him to publicise the report at the forthcoming meeting of the Diocesan Lay Chairs (Elizabeth Paver and Robert Hammond would be present and would also speak to participants about it).

Action: Secretary

4.4. The Chair was asked to write to members of the House and to the Chairs of the other Houses to encourage them to publicise the report in their own

dioceses and encourage a debate on it in deanery and diocesan synods and at bishops' councils.

Action: Chair / Secretary

5. Meeting of the House in July 2017

- 5.1. Members agreed to hold a meeting of the House in conjunction with the July group of sessions. Time and location to be decided.
- 5.2. It was agreed that the agenda should include an introduction to the Crown Nominations Commission and an update on progress on *Setting God's People Free*.
- 5.3. Further advice on how to complete request to speak forms might also be useful, though this need not be tackled as an agenda item.
- 5.4. A number of Appointments Survey forms should be made available at the meeting so that members who had not yet completed them could do so.

Action: Secretary

6. Co-options to the House

- 6.1. Under the provisions of the Church Representation Rules, the House had power to co-opt up to five members to the House. However, actually doing so had not proven a happy experience when it had been attempted in the past.
- 6.2. The Standing Committee agreed that there was no immediate need to consider any co-options to the House, but agreed to consider over the coming weeks whether there was an argument for co-option to the Standing Committee (the Standing Orders of the House provided for two co-options), e.g. in order to make the Committee more representative.

Action: All

7. Any other business

- 7.1. It was suggested that training should be given at the beginning of each group of sessions in the use of the voting cards and handsets.
- 7.2. The Secretary was asked to raise the matter with the Business Committee.

Action: Secretary