

GENERAL SYNOD
HOUSE OF BISHOPS SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

A meeting of the House of Bishops was held at Bishopthorpe Palace on **22 – 23 May 2017**. Those matters reported below were taken in Committee of the whole House, under SO 14.

1. The House agreed to proposals for the creation for a three-year period of **a new Committee of the House** to receive certain items of business delegated to it by the House of Bishops Standing Committee. The House requested the House of Bishops Standing Committee to finalise the Terms of Reference and membership of the sub-committee.
2. The House received a preliminary update on plans for the **September College of Bishops**.
3. The House heard a series of **presentations** from Bishops who are **episcopal representatives of the House** on a number of Boards and Committees, including the Ministry Council, the Business Committee, the Church Commissioners and the Evangelism Task Group.
4. The House received a report on other likely upcoming business at the **July 2014 Group of Sessions**.
5. The House approved a paper from the Archbishops setting out how they will present to Synod the establishment of the proposed **Pastoral Advisory Group** and the plans for the work on the **Teaching Document on Human Sexuality**.
6. The House took note of a paper on the events in the **See of Sheffield** and looked ahead to the publication of the report from the **Independent Reviewer**.
7. The House offered its support and prayers to the **Bishop of Newcastle** following recent events in **Jesmond Parish**.
8. The House approved with some amendments some new **Selection Process Criteria** for candidates for ordination.
9. The House gave its Final Approval to **Bishops' Guidelines on Ordination Training**.
10. The House voted to agree the publication of the document from the Joint Working Group with proposals on **Inter-Changeability of Ministries with the Methodists** with a view to enabling further consultation between the two churches during the remainder of 2017.
11. The House discussed a number of items on **Safeguarding**. They requested that staff do further work on proposed amendments to the **Clergy Discipline Measure**, reporting back to the House on a later stage. They agreed to plans for the extension of the on-going independent **Safeguarding audits** to the Archbishops' Offices and Cathedrals. The House agreed to the recommendations circulated from the **Peter Ball Review**. The House agreed to the publication of the second paper from the Faith and Order Commission on the **Theology of Safeguarding**.
12. The House approved a number of items of **Safeguarding Practice Guidance**, including the following:
 - Key Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders and Bodies

- Responding to, assessing and managing safeguarding concerns or allegations against Church Officers Practice Guidance
- Amendments to Practice Guidance on Responding to, assessing and managing safeguarding concerns or allegations against Church Officers' Practice Guidance.

13. The following items received deemed approval:

- The Lay Ministries Working Group Report
- Independent Reviewer's Annual Report for 2016
- Clergy Discipline Commission 2016 Annual Report

Church House
Westminster SW1P 3AZ
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William Nye
Secretary General