

GENERAL SYNOD
HOUSE OF BISHOPS
SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

A meeting of the House of Bishops was held in the Great Hall, Bishopthorpe on 23 – 24 May 2016. Those matters reported below were taken in Committee of the whole House, under SO 14.

1. The House discussed a paper from the theological Reference Group of the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership on the Church of England's **Vision for Education**. The House heard a presentation from Professor David Ford, Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge who is a member of the Reference Group. The House endorsed the vision set out in the paper and agreed to commend it to General Synod.
2. The House received a presentation from the Bishop of Winchester on **Students and Evangelism**. The House agreed to the establishment of a Task Group to look at how the Church of England can do more to work with students in the Higher Education sector.
3. The House received an update on the plans for the **Shared Conversations** at General Synod.
4. The House discussed a number of **Safeguarding** Matters.
5. Firstly, the House discussed two papers from the Faith and Order Commission on the **Theology of Safeguarding**. The House agreed that the first paper on 'The Gospel, Sexual Abuse and the Church: A Resource for the Local Church' should be released by the Faith and Order Commission with the endorsement of the House of Bishops. The House agreed that the second paper on 'Forgiveness and Reconciliation in the Aftermath of Abuse' should be released as a consultation document for further input.
6. The Bishop of Crediton, Sarah Mullally presented the recommendations of the **Elliott Review**, an independent report on the lessons learned from the handling of a particular case of sexual abuse committed by two senior figures in the Church of England. The Bishop received the report at the request of the survivor. The House accepted the recommendations, which included improved training, particularly for senior staff, around receiving disclosures; working to ensure financial advice is never at the expense of a pastoral response; and a commitment to revise and strengthen safeguarding structures.
7. The House also agreed National Safeguarding Guidance on **Safer Recruitment**.
8. The House received an update from the **Turning Up the Volume Group** on initiatives to increase the number of BAME clergy in senior roles. The House agreed to revisit this matter at a future meeting.
9. The House received a presentation from the Bishop of Chelmsford on the discussions on Intentional Discipleship at the 2016 **Anglican Communion Council**.
10. The House discussed progress on the workstreams on **Renewal and Reform** and agreed a draft **Vision and Narrative** for its work.
11. The House agreed the following items for the July 2016 General Synod:

- Paper from the Faith and Order Commission on ‘**Diversity, Difference and Serious Disagreement in the Life of the Church**’
 - Paper from the Development and Appointments Group on **Discerning and Nurturing Senior Leaders**
 - Proposals for amendments to **Canon B8 (Vesture) and Canon B38 (Burial of the Dead)**
12. The House agreed to the publication of a paper on **Welfare Reform**.
 13. The House agreed to a future **Joint Meeting** between the House of Bishops and the Archbishops’ Council to discuss common areas of interest.
 14. The House agreed changes to its **Standing Orders** to give six female Suffragan Bishops rights of attendance at the House, in addition to the female members of the House, replacing the arrangements for the Regional Representatives. These new arrangements will come into effect from 1st December 2016.
 15. The House agreed the following items of **Deemed Business**:
 - Report of the Independent Reviewer
 - Proposals for the Joint Anglican-Roman Catholic Bishops’ meeting
 - Appointment of one member of the Cathedrals’ Fabric Commission
 - Report of the Clergy Discipline Commission

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June 2016

William Nye
Secretary General