

Wednesday 15 February 2017

4.45 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

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**ORDER PAPER IV**

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**MARRIAGE AND SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS AFTER  
THE SHARED CONVERSATIONS: A REPORT FROM  
THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS (GS 2055)**

*The Bishop of Norwich* to move:

- 14** That the Synod do take note of this report.

**If Item 14 is carried:**

*Mr Anthony Archer (St Albans)* to move as a following motion:

- 24** That this Synod request the House of Bishops to bring for debate by July 2018 a set of forward looking proposals on same-sex relationships (such proposals to be developed by a broadly-based group representing the diversity of views on Synod and in the wider Church) that will command confidence by:
- (a) affirming the positive contribution that LGBTI Christians make in the life of the Church; and
  - (b) reflecting the differing interpretations of scripture, as demonstrated by the Shared Conversations.

*The Revd Prebendary Simon Cawdell (Hereford)* to move as an amendment to Item 24:

- 25** At the end *insert* as a new paragraph—
- “(-) recognising that at the present time there is insufficient consensus within the Synod to provide for a change in the Church of England’s doctrine of marriage or the authorisation or commendation of forms of service relating to same sex relationships”.

**If Item 14 is carried and whether or not Item 24 is carried:**

*Mr Ed Shaw (Bristol)* to move as a following motion:

**26**

That this Synod:

- (a) endorse the view expressed by the House of Bishops in GS 2055 that gay, lesbian and same sex attracted people should be better welcomed and supported in our churches as people who are loved by God and made in His image;
  - (b) affirm in its entirety the biblical understanding of the Anglican Communion, expressed in Resolution 1.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference;
  - (c) welcome the intention expressed by the House of Bishops in GS 2055:
    - (i) to maintain the established doctrine and teaching of the Church of England that marriage is the permanent and lifelong union of one man with one woman, and that sex is exclusively for marriage;
    - (ii) to develop new teaching documents that enable all to experience relational flourishing in accordance with biblical teaching; and
    - (iii) not to authorise or commend liturgies or prayers for the blessing of same-sex unions;
  - (d) request the House of Bishops to ensure that the clergy's "generous freedom for pastoral practice" is not permitted to give the appearance of blessing relationships which are inconsistent with the established doctrine and teaching of the Church of England.
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