

GENERAL SYNOD

DRAFT BISHOPS AND PRIESTS (CONSECRATION AND ORDINATION OF WOMEN) MEASURE and DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO 33

REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS IN CHARGE

Membership

Chair: The Rt Revd James Langstaff (Bishop of Rochester)

Members: The Revd Paul Benfield (Blackburn)
The Revd Canon Jane Charman (Salisbury)
The Revd Canon Robert Cotton (Guildford)
Dr Philip Giddings (Oxford)
Dr Paula Gooder (Birmingham)
The Ven Christine Hardman (Southwark)
Dr Jamie Harrison (Durham)
Mrs Susie Leafe (Truro)
The Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett (Southwark)
Canon Margaret Swinson (Liverpool)
The Revd Prebendary Rod Thomas (Exeter)
The Rt Revd Martin Warner (Bishop of Chichester)
The Rt Revd Trevor Willmott (Bishop of Dover)
The Revd Canon Dr Dagmar Winter (Newcastle)

1. The draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure ('the draft Measure') and draft Amending Canon No 33 ('the draft Amending Canon) received First Consideration at the November 2013 group of sessions of the General Synod. At its February 2014 group of sessions, the Synod completed the Revision Stage for both the draft Measure and the draft Amending Canon.
2. The draft Measure and the draft Amending Canon were then referred to the dioceses under Article 8 of the Synod's constitution. Diocesan Synods were given until midnight on 22nd May 2014 to consider the motion:

'That this Synod approve the proposals embodied in the draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and in draft Amending Canon No 33.'
3. A majority of Diocesan Synods voted in favour of the motion, and accordingly the draft Measure stood committed to the Steering Committee ('the Committee') under Standing Order 59(a) in respect of its Final Drafting.
4. The Committee has conducted its remaining business by correspondence under Standing Order 59(f). It now returns the draft Measure (GS 1925B) and the draft Amending Canon (GS 1926B) to the Synod for Final Drafting.

5. Under Standing Order 59, at the Final Drafting Stage the Committee may propose ‘Drafting Amendments’ or ‘Special Amendments’ or both. These two categories of amendments are defined in Standing Order 59(g) as follows:
 - “(i) *a Drafting Amendment means an amendment where only the wording of the Measure is altered and not its substance; and*
 - (ii) *a Special Amendment means an amendment considered necessary or desirable by the Steering Committee because the Measure is not sufficiently clear or because some criticism not considered by the Synod or any Revision Committee has been brought to the notice of the Steering Committee.*”
6. The Committee has not identified the need for any Drafting or Special Amendments in respect of the draft Measure.
7. The Committee has agreed the Drafting Amendments in respect of the draft Amending Canon set out in Part 1 of the Annex, and shown in bold type in GS 1926B, which were identified on final scrutiny of the draft Amending Canon as necessary corrections to the text. An explanation of these Drafting Amendments is given in Part 2 of the Annex.
8. The Committee does not propose any Special Amendments in respect of the draft Amending Canon.
9. The Revd Prebendary Rod Thomas and Mrs Susie Leafe requested that it be made explicit in the Committee’s report that whilst (given the limited nature of the amendments that can be proposed at Final Drafting Stage) they did not dissent from the proposals set out above, they were unable to support the draft legislation in its current form.

**On behalf of the Committee
The Rt Revd James Langstaff
Chair**

June 2014

PART 1

DRAFTING AMENDMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE DRAFT AMENDING CANON

Paragraph 2

1. In sub-paragraph (b) for “5” substitute “6; and, accordingly, in paragraph 4, as re-numbered, for “3A” there is substituted “5”, and in paragraph 5, as re-numbered, for “3” there is substituted “4””.
2. In sub-paragraph (c) renumber paragraphs 6 to 9 as 7 to 10.

Paragraph 6

1. In the new Canon C 29 renumber paragraphs (1) to (4) as 1 to 4.
2. In paragraph 2 (as renumbered) of the new Canon C 29 leave out “sub-paragraph (1)” and insert “paragraph 1”.
3. In paragraph 3 (as renumbered) of the new Canon C 29 leave out “sub-paragraph (1)” and insert “paragraph 1”.
4. In paragraph 4 (as renumbered) of the new Canon C 29 leave out “sub-paragraph (2)” and insert “paragraph 2”.

PART 2

EXPLANATION OF THE DRAFTING AMENDMENTS

The Drafting Amendments improve the form and manner in which the draft Amending Canon is expressed. Those made to paragraph 2 adopt a different approach to the re-numbering of the paragraphs of Canon C 4 in its amended form, so as to remove any possible scope for misunderstanding. Those made to paragraph 6 bring the numbering of the new Canon C 29 more closely into line with modern drafting conventions.