

GENERAL SYNOD

AMENDING CANON No. 33

(Of the consecration of bishops, Of the quality of such as are to be ordained deacons or priests, Of women deacons, Of women priests, Of ministers exercising their ministry, Of admission and institution, Of the House of Bishops’ Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests)

1. Canon C 2 (Of the consecration of bishops) is amended as follows –
 - (a) The following paragraph is inserted at the beginning –

“1. A man or a woman may be consecrated to the office of bishop.”;
 - (b) Paragraphs 1 to 5 are re-numbered 2 to 6; and
 - (c) For paragraph 6, as re-numbered, there is substituted the following paragraph –

“6. In the forms of service contained in *The Book of Common Prayer* or in the Ordinal words importing the masculine gender in relation to bishops are construed as including the feminine.”.
2. Canon C 4 (Of the quality of such as are to be ordained deacons or priests) is amended as follows –
 - (a) The following paragraph is inserted at the beginning –

“1. A man or a woman may be ordained to the office of priest or deacon.”;
 - (b) Paragraphs 1 to 4 are re-numbered 2 to **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”;**
 - (c) At the end there are added the following paragraphs –

“7. A deaconess who is licensed or holds a bishop’s permission to officiate, and in either case satisfies the requirements of this Canon as to the persons to be ordained as deacons, may apply to a bishop for his or her consent to her ordination as a deacon for service in the diocese of that bishop, and the bishop may give that consent notwithstanding –

 - (a) that she has not after applying to be so ordained been further examined concerning her knowledge of Holy Scripture or of the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Church of England, or
 - (b) that she has not exhibited to the bishop any certificate or other document which is required to be so exhibited under Canon C 6.

8. Where a bishop is ordaining a woman according to the Order for the Making of Deacons in the Ordinal attached to *The Book of Common Prayer* it is lawful for the bishop to use the variations to that service set out in the schedule to this Canon.
9. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York may jointly authorise forms of service for deaconesses to be ordained deacon, being forms of service which in both words and order are in their opinion reverent and seemly and are neither contrary to, nor indicative of any departure from, the doctrine of the Church of England in any essential matter.
10. In the forms of service contained in *The Book of Common Prayer* or the Ordinal words importing the masculine gender in relation to priests or deacons are construed as including the feminine.

The Schedule

1. For the prescribed Epistle, namely either 1 Timothy 3.8-13 or Acts 6.2-7, there may be substituted either Isaiah 6.1-8 or Romans 12.1-12 or such other lections as may from time to time be duly authorised.
2. For the prescribed Gospel, namely Luke 12.35-38, there may be substituted Mark 10.35-45 or such other lection as may from time to time be duly authorised.”.
3. Canons C 4A (Of women deacons) and C 4B (Of women priests) are revoked.
4. In Canon C 8.2(a) (Of ministers exercising their ministry) all the words after the word “officiates” are omitted.
5. In Canon C 10 (Of admission and institution) paragraph 2A is omitted.
6. After Canon C 28 there is inserted the following Canon –

“Canon C 29 (Of the House of Bishops’ Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests)

1. The House of Bishops shall be under a duty to make Regulations prescribing a procedure for the resolution of disputes arising from the arrangements for which the House of Bishops’ declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests makes provision.
2. The House of Bishops may, by Regulations, amend any Regulations made under **paragraph 1**.
3. Any Regulations made under **paragraph 1** shall be laid before the General Synod.

4. Any Regulations made under **paragraph 2** must be approved by a majority of two-thirds of each House of the General Synod present and voting.”.