

## GENERAL SYNOD

### House of Bishops: Summary of Decisions

#### Meeting of the College of Bishops, 11 – 14 September 2017

1. The College of Bishops of the Church of England met at St Hugh's College Oxford from 11 – 14 September 2017.
2. The theme of the meeting was "**Telling the Gospel of Salvation in Every Place**". The College meeting included a number of BAME clergy participants.
3. Following the meeting, the Archbishops agreed to the establishment of three bishops' working groups on **Vision, Church Planting and BAME inclusion**.

#### Meeting of the House of Bishops, 11 – 12 December 2017

4. The House of Bishops received reports from the **working groups on Church Planting and BAME inclusion** and agreed to the actions outlined.
5. The House received **updates** on the decisions of the Archbishops' Council, Church Commissioners and newly-established House of Bishops Delegation Committee (HBDC).
6. The House received a **presentation on Safeguarding matters** from Dame Moira Gibb, author of the Peter Ball Review and Sir Roger Singleton, former Chairman of the Independent Safeguarding Authority. The House then discussed these presentations in small groups.
7. In discussion on 12 December, the House agreed to establish an **Episcopal Working Group on Cultural Change** to review a range of issues, including the possibility of introducing supervision for Bishops. They agreed to continue their discussions on Safeguarding at the House's future meetings.
8. The House heard a presentation from Professor Oliver O'Donovan on his **Independent Review of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC)**.
9. The House agreed to the recommendations of the report of the Independent Reviewer including the formation of a balanced group to look at implementation of the five guiding principles, and the commissioning of a lessons learned review on the handling of events around the See of Sheffield, to be carried out by the Secretary General.
10. The House agreed to reiterate its **public support for the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests (GS Misc 1076)** issued by the House in 2014, and for the five guiding principles contained within that declaration.
11. The House discussed the paper from the Joint Covenant Advocacy Group on the **Anglican-Methodist Covenant** and agreed that it should go forward to the February 2018 General Synod for consideration.
12. The House agreed by deemed procedure to **delegate powers to two Committees of the House**, namely the **Developments and Appointments Group (DAG)** and the **Advisory Council for Relations between Bishops and Religious Communities (ACBRC)**

## **Bishops' Regional Meetings, 22 January 2018**

13. The College of Bishops met in regional groups on this date to consider the **themes emerging from the Working Groups on Vision and BAME inclusion** and to reflect on the decisions on Safeguarding emerging from the December House meeting.

Church House,  
Westminster, SW1P 3AZ  
January 2018

William Nye LVO  
Secretary to the House of Bishops