

GENERAL SYNOD

HOUSE OF LAITY

Standing Committee

**Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Committee
held at 1.15 p.m. on Friday 9 February 2018
at Church House, Westminster (Room 6)**

Present: Jamie Harrison (*Chair*); Elizabeth Paver (*Vice Chair*); Lucy Docherty (*Appointments Committee*); Adrian Greenwood (*Archbishops' Council*); Sarah Finch (*Appointments Committee*); Anne Foreman (*Business Committee*); Robert Hammond (*Business Committee*); Rachel Jepson (*Appointments Committee*); Clive Scowen (*Business Committee*)

Apologies: Mark Russell (*Archbishops' Council*)

Staff: Adrian Iles (*Legal Adviser to the House*); Andrew Brown (*Secretary*)

1. Prayers

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Minutes

2.1. The minutes from the previous two meetings were approved as accurate records of the meetings on 8 July 2017 and 7 September 2017.

3. Matters arising

3.1. The Chair welcomed Adrian Greenwood to his first meeting, following the resignation of Lorna Ashworth.

4. Update on *Setting God's People Free*

4.1. The Chair welcomed Dr Nick Shepherd (Programme Director, *Setting God's People Free* (SGPF)). The work of SGPF was to see the enabling of all God's people and ascertain what the Church of England can do to help people in fulfilling their calling.

4.2. Nick provided an update to the Standing Committee on the work which had already been undertaken and that which was planned for the next twelve months. Within this work, there were three main streams:

- **Discipleship Learning Communities** (what did it mean to Set God's People Free in their dioceses?)
- **Discipleship in Practice** (how is this work resourced?)
- **Theological enrichment** (what are the fundamental shifts needed?)

4.3. Around half of the dioceses have signed up to one of the Discipleship Learning Communities and within each, those attending hold a range of roles within the diocese. It was noted that some dioceses have ambitious plans already in

place whilst others are using the learning communities to figure this out. One of the strengths of learning communities was to enable a sharing of ideas.

5. CNC appeal

- 5.1. The Standing Committee reviewed their role in nominating a deputy to replace Elizabeth Paver under Standing Order 135(6), in appointing a panel to hear the appeal.
- 5.2. The appeals panel consisted of Mr Geoffrey Tattersall (Manchester), Mrs Julie Dziegiel (Oxford) and Mr Martin Kingston (Gloucester).
- 5.3. The Committee were content with the process taken thus far and the Chair informed members that the appeal would now be held in March.

6. Meeting of the House of Laity in July 2018

- 6.1. The House of Laity had two successful meetings during the quinquennium. It was agreed therefore not to hold a meeting of the House during the July 2018 group of sessions.
- 6.2. The Standing Committee noted that there were several new members of the House since the start of the quinquennium and were keen to hold an informal drinks reception one evening to highlight both the membership and role of the Standing Committee.

Action: Secretary to book a room on the Saturday evening.

7. Any other business

- 7.1. A brief discussion was had regarding communication to the House more generally. The idea of a semi regular newsletter was not felt worthwhile. Rather key decisions made by the Standing Committee would be communicated in a timely way.
- 7.2. The Standing Committee will next meet over breakfast on Saturday 7th July 2018.