

## **EXTENDED AUTHORIZATION FOR WEEKDAY LECTION**

### **REPORT BY THE LITURGICAL COMMISSION**

- 1 The authorization of the Weekday Lectionary was one of the later parts of the Liturgical Business procedures leading to *Common Worship*. Final Approval was given in November 1999 to run until November 2004. It was recognized at the time that Lectionaries, however skilfully devised, only reveal difficulties caused by inappropriate juxtaposition of lessons or significant omission of text when they are, in practice, used over a period of time. In proposing time-limited authorization for the Weekday Lectionary the expectation was that experience of use would lead to a revision to come into use from 2005.
- 2 A good deal of comment arising out of experience of using the Lectionary is already beginning to accumulate and the Liturgical Commission has embarked on an analysis of the existing provision in the light of such comment, even though the provision has not yet been used for one complete year. The extent of the revision needed is already becoming apparent and it is clear that it would be unwise to finalise a revision before experience from a full two years' use is to hand. On that timetable the earliest date at which the Commission could finalise its proposed revision would be in the early months of 2003.
- 3 Under existing Standing Orders the authorization of Weekday Lectionary provision requires the full Liturgical Business procedure and that takes at least three, and possibly four, Groups of Sessions of General Synod. To allow for any revised Lectionary to be printed in almanacs in time for January 2005, Final Approval could not be later than February 2004, and since February Groups of Sessions cannot be relied upon that argues for November 2003. That would require First Consideration in November 2002 and it is clear to the Commission that it could not produce a revised draft in time to meet such a timetable.

- 4 If an authorized provision of Weekday Lectionary is to continue after November 2004 until such time as a revised Lectionary can be authorized, it will be necessary to extend authorization for the existing Weekday Lectionary. Standing Orders (Standing Order 80) provide for the extension of an existing provision over two Groups of Sessions, ending with two-thirds majorities in each House. The Liturgical Commission proposes an extension to 2007 and bring the issue to the attention of General Synod at the earliest possible opportunity so that members can be aware of the processes that are underway and which necessitate an extended authorization for the current provision.
- 5 The proposal to extend to the end of 2007 does not preclude the earlier authorization of a revised Lectionary should that prove possible. It does, however, ensure 'cover' for the maximum period envisaged, particularly if the Liturgical Business procedure for a new Lectionary is not begun until after the elections in 2005.
- 6 The Synod is, accordingly, asked to approve the motion No. 600 in Special Agenda II which will begin the two-stage process for extended authorization of the Weekday Lectionary.

✠ DAVID SARUM  
Chairman

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