

**GENERAL SYNOD**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

**DRAFT AMENDING CANON No 27**

1. Draft Amending Canon No.27 is introduced in order to make changes to the Canons required to implement proposals contained in the Liturgical Commission's Report on the Common Worship Ordinal ('the Report') (GS 1535). The opportunity is also being taken to make two other amendments considered desirable.
2. The changes to be made are as follows:

**Clause 1**

3. This gives effect to the proposal explained in paragraph 13 of the Report that candidates at the ordination of deacons and priests need not be presented by archdeacons (or their deputies). It accordingly amends the current requirement contained in paragraph 3 of Canon C 3 by giving the bishop power to direct that the candidates be presented by some other person or persons than the archdeacon (or their deputies) or anyone having a customary right to do so. However, an exception to this is made where the ordination is being conducted in accordance with the Ordinal attached to the Book of Common Prayer, in which case the current rule will continue to apply.

**Clause 2**

4. As explained in paragraph 14 of the Report, this amends paragraph 1(3) of Canon C 15 so that it is no longer necessary for a person being consecrated bishop to make the Declaration of Assent "*on the occasion of his consecration publicly and openly in the presence of the archbishop by whom he is to be consecrated and of the congregation there assembled*": instead, it must be taken before the consecration, in the presence of the archbishop by whom the bishop is to be consecrated. This means that the Declaration need no longer be made in the course of the rite of consecration itself.

#### **Clause 4**

5. Now that there are no longer any provosts in the Church of England, the reference to that office in paragraph 2 of Canon C 15 is redundant. This clause accordingly removes it.

#### **Clause 5**

6. Paragraph 3 of Canon C 15 currently provides that a suffragan bishop “*who is to be invested by the archbishop of the province in which he is to serve shall on the occasion of his investiture publicly and openly make the Declaration of Assent in the presence of the congregation there assembled*”. However, there is no formal process of 'investiture' of suffragan bishops, so that the effect of this requirement is unclear. Clause 5(a) accordingly substitutes a new requirement that a suffragan bishop should make the declaration of assent “*on the occasion of the commencement of his public ministry in the diocese*”. In practice, this obligation is likely to be met at a diocesan service of welcome.
7. Clause 5(b) makes a consequential amendment, so that when a suffragan bishop makes the Declaration of Assent in this way, the preface is required to be spoken by the bishop of the diocese rather than the archbishop.

#### **Clause 6**

8. This provides for the changes made by the Canon to come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006, simultaneously with the Common Worship Ordinal.

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