

**DRAFT DIOCESES, PASTORAL AND MISSION MEASURE
DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO. 27**

House of Bishops' Code of Practice on Mission Initiatives and Bishops' Mission Orders - Draft Preliminary Outline of Proposed Contents

1. Part V of the draft Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure (GS 1597A) gives the bishop power to make a Bishop's Mission Order to endorse and make provision for certain types of mission initiatives, and goes on to deal in detail with various aspects of such orders and the initiatives to which they relate. Some related provisions appear in draft Amending Canon No. 27 (GS 1598A).
2. Clause 51 of the draft Measure provides for the House of Bishops, subject to approval by the General Synod, to draw up and issue guidance in a Code of Practice as to the exercise of the functions conferred by Part V. The Steering and Revision Committees recognised that the initial work on the Code would necessarily go hand-in-hand with the Revision Committee's task of revising the draft legislation, and agreed that when the legislation came back to the Synod for its Revision Stage, Synod members should have before them an indication in general terms of what it was envisaged that the Code would cover.
3. The attached draft "skeleton" or "outline" has therefore been produced for that purpose by the process explained in Appendix IV to the Revision Committee Report (GS 1597Y-1599Y). **The Revision and Steering Committees wish to stress that it is both preliminary and provisional, and that it is being provided to Synod members for information only, in order to assist them at the Revision Stage by indicating the two Committees' current thinking on the contents of the Code.**
4. The final Code will be a matter for the House of Bishops, and cannot be finalised unless and until the draft Measure becomes law. However, work on the Code will continue after the Revision Stage, with the object of providing the Synod with a fuller draft at the Final Approval stage. Any comments and suggestions will therefore be welcome as a contribution to that work, and Synod members who wish to make these are invited to send them, by **Monday 24th July 2006**, to Miss Andrea Mulkeen, the secretary of the sub-committee working on the draft Code, at the Pastoral Division, Church Commissioners, 1 Millbank, London SW1P 3JZ or by e-mail to andrea.mulkeen@c-of-e.org.uk.

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DRAFT DIOCESES, PASTORAL AND MISSION MEASURE AND RELATED LEGISLATION

House of Bishops' Code of Practice on Mission Initiatives and Bishops' Mission Orders – Draft Preliminary Outline of Proposed Contents (provided for information only, as a provisional guide to the Revision and Steering Committees' current thinking)

INTRODUCTION

1. Purpose and status of Code of Practice

A Code of the House of Bishops to be laid before and approved by the General Synod.

Bishops, mission initiative leaders, Visitors and Diocesan Pastoral Committees will all be under a duty to have regard to the Code.

2. Supporting the “mixed economy” church

Setting out the theological, missiological, ecumenical and ecclesiological context and linking to *Mission Shaped Church*.

PART 1: SETTING THE SCENE

1.1 Outlining other available options for parochial and non-parochial legal structures

Brief references to information available elsewhere on existing options for innovative mission models (such as conventional districts, extra-parochial places, chaplaincy models). To assist consideration of whether any of these alternatives, or a Bishop's Mission Order, is appropriate in any particular circumstances.

1.2 Where a Bishop's Mission Order fits in

This section will outline the purpose and possibilities of a Bishop's Mission Order.

Purpose is to endorse the initiative, regulate it and where necessary make lawful acts that would not otherwise be lawful.

To indicate that not all mission initiatives will need authorisation by a Bishop's Mission Order, for example, activities within and by a single parish or benefice.

Applies to /Intended for situations or fresh expressions where the Bishop is satisfied that the initiative would be likely, through fostering or developing a form of Christian community, to promote or further the mission of the Church.

PART 2: GETTING STARTED

Outlining the procedures leading up to the Bishop considering whether to make a Bishop's Mission Order.

2.1 How and from whom a proposal for a Mission Order might originate

Person or group of persons proposing or wishing to carry out initiative; other person or body exercising ecclesiastical functions in diocese; or Bishop himself (either on own initiative or as a result of suggestions, comments etc from elsewhere).

2.2 Differing types of initiatives: territorial/network etc

May be existing project or new initiative.
"Territorial" or "non-territorial" (but must in all cases identify geographical area covered).
Initiative may cross diocesan boundaries.

2.3 Roles of the Bishop and the diocesan pastoral committee

To include preliminary informal discussions, early meeting with those promoting initiative, and initial process of discernment to ascertain whether a Bishop's Mission Order might be way forward. Will cover trajectory of development and ongoing development. Guidance on initial scoping and possible outcomes.

Possible involvement of Bishop's Officer for Fresh Expressions, Diocesan Missioner etc in this process.

Resourcing and priorities. Preliminary "landscaping" by Bishop in consultation with others to set up framework appropriate to diocese. Bishop's central role and responsibilities, matters to address and relevant considerations.

Delegation of functions.

Role of members of Bishop's/diocesan staff.

Role of Diocesan Pastoral Committee, membership and possible delegation to committee and relevant considerations.

2.4 Procedure Flowchart(s) for making an order

Setting out the statutory procedures required.

2.5 Ecumenical etc considerations (including impact of ecumenical Canons)

To include informal consultations and possible co-operative provisions.

2.6 Consultation

Extent and nature of consultation will depend in part on type of initiative and area over which it is intended to extend.

Will outline factors to be taken into account by Bishop when considering persons or groups of persons appearing to have significant interest in or likely to be significantly affected by order. Also to cover bodies which, depending on the circumstances, might represent the interests of any such person or group.

2.7 Involvement of Patrons, PCCs etc

PART 3: PREPARATION AND CONTENT OF INITIAL BISHOP'S MISSION ORDER/SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUMENT/LICENCE

To include proforma/skeleton documents (eg letters for consultation, standard BMOs, Supplementary Instruments)

3.1 What an order is intended to do/cover

An initiative which would be likely, through fostering or developing a form of Christian community, to promote or further the mission of the Church of England or some aspect of it.

3.2 Purpose of Order

To endorse the initiative.

If and so far as necessary, to allow for things to be done for the purpose of the initiative which would not otherwise be lawful.

To make clear the object, nature and scope of the initiative, and to provide for its leadership and responsibility to the Bishop for its conduct.

To provide for how it is to operate.

To ensure adequate nurture, support, oversight and provision.

To make provision for relationships with others within the Church, and with other Churches, institutions and religious organisations.

To provide for review.

3.3 The Order

How to set about framing the terms of the Order. (To include "skeleton" Orders and Supplementary Instruments). If more than one diocese involved, needs to be agreed by all Bishops.

Will identify name, objectives etc; area to be covered (in terms of parishes/benefices or deanery(ies) or any other dioceses(s)); people involved; leaders and their roles; Visitor and review arrangements; and incumbent(s) and any other people involved; worship. Also to cover - if needed - ecumenical relationships and other cooperation provisions; and authority for minister to exercise his/her ministry in a place without consent of person having cure of souls.

3.4 Matters that may be dealt with in Order or Supplementary Instrument

Matters such as governance and finance and other aspects referred to in Part 5 below.

3.5 Licensing of leader(s)/ minister(s)

Not confined to leader(s) but deals with any person officiating in any place (in sense used in Canons).

Mission Order covers initiative as a whole, and an individual minister will need separate authority to minister in connection with it. To include licensing of lay workers (within terms of Canon law) as well as ordained ministers. (No need to license “ordinary” lay person working for mission initiative.)

Will refer to guidelines for identification, training and deployment of ordained pioneer ministers (and proposed guidelines for lay pioneer ministers).

PART 4: MINISTRY AND WORSHIP

Will tie in with Part 3 above but to deal specifically with provisions for ministry, worship, and nurture of Christian community. Will cover regulation of worship, Dominical sacraments, initiation generally and concept of membership.

PART 5: GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

5.1 Selection and appointment of leader(s)

Will link again to guidelines for pioneer ministers. Leadership in terms of persons and leadership models.

5.2 Role of the Visitor and ‘growing the initiative’.

Outlining dual role of support for and oversight of the initiative on behalf of the Bishop. May be supplementary to ongoing work of mission accompaniment.

Complaints procedure.

Training and networks for Visitors.

5.3 Governance, finance and property

To including charitable status; stipends and housing for leaders; health and safety issues (including care of vulnerable people); use of alms; and arrangements in the event of termination of the initiative.

5.4 Links with parishes

To include relationship with incumbent where exercising ministry in particular place, cure of souls, exercise of sacraments, registers, possible use of church buildings.

5.5 Relationships with other parts of the Church and representation

To deal with stage at which issues of synodical representation might be addressed and relevant considerations.

Consideration of whether and when a mission initiative might be expected to make any financial contribution to wider Church.

PART 6: REVIEWS

To include procedural flowcharts on statutory requirements for review process.

6.1 Timing and process for formal reviews

During and at end of initial Bishop's Mission Order.

6.2 Identifying and considering options for the future

6.3 Where an order is to be renewed

6.4 Revoking or amending an order

APPENDICES

Specimen/skeleton model(s) of:-
Bishop's Mission Order
Supplementary Instrument

Specimen proforma consultation letter(s)

Bibliography