

## Resourcing Ministerial Education

### Executive summary

1. The Archbishops Council has agreed that a review of Resourcing Ministerial Education, due to take place at the end of a three year transition period, should be widened in scope to consider the nature of ministerial formation, the role of Theological Education Institutions in the formation of the whole people of God, and the sustainability of the sector. An integrated approach will address these areas, seeking a transparent and financially robust and sustainable model of funding ministerial education for the future.
- 

## Resourcing Ministerial Education

### Review of Theological Education and Funding

#### *Introduction*

2. Resourcing Ministerial Education (RME) was introduced as a strand of Renewal and Reform in 2017 and, under the terms by which it was established is due for review by July 2019: *'the Ministry Council will undertake a thorough review of all elements of the financial mechanism based on the system and its review in the preceding three years. This will also take a more strategic perspective and focus on the extent to which the changed financial arrangements have supported the growth and development of the ministerial education sector and met the RME objectives.'*
3. This RME review is, necessarily, a nuanced interweaving of three conversations, in order that it might enable the Church of England to form candidates for mission and ministry.

It must, thus, be:

- grounded in reliable theological reflection on the nature of ministry and mission which faithfully 'proclaims afresh in every generation' and the task of formation for such ministry
  - engaged with the ecclesial implications of a national system of training for public ministry
  - financially robust and sustainable.
4. Reflecting on the first iteration of the RME process, the Ministry Council has observed that these conversations were separated, and therefore proposes an integrated approach through one review group comprising members who bring expertise in one or more strand of the conversation.

#### **Review Aims**

The tasks of the review are 4-fold:

- a. To delineate a vision for theological education and its provision for the Church of England, founded on the House of Bishops vision for the church's ministry, to be agreed and adopted by the House of Bishops. The vision for theological education will focus on the formation of ordained and licensed lay ministers, and support for their continuing formation and training. The shape of the provision will enhance collaboration, innovation and sustainability in the sector.
- b. To collate and review the experience and impact of the current funding model, assessing: the extent to which the RME objectives agreed by Synod in Feb 2016 have been met. These were to
- Increase the number of ordinands, especially younger ordinands.
  - Provide greater transparency between training decisions and financial outcomes.
  - Operate with simplicity and certainty, whilst ensuring fairness to dioceses, ordinands and TEIs.
  - Maintain mutual support across the dioceses.
  - Avoid transitional turbulence during the early years of implementation.
  - Support the mixed economy of Theological Education Institutions.
- c. To assess the extent to which the methodology for fund distribution (for example, age bands and most numerous pathway) has served the RME objectives. Consider the consequence of the RME model for diocesan cashflow outcomes and of any imbalance in surpluses and deficits, and in the level and distribution of maintenance payments. It will also consider the sources of funding for all forms of training, including the Vote 1 budget, diocesan and local funding.
- d. To propose modifications that would better work towards the House of Bishops' vision for ministry and theological education.

In the nature of the review, different elements will be addressed in stages, with regular consultation with the Archbishops Council, and recommendations made over a period reaching completion by July 2021.

Church House  
Westminster SW1P 3AZ

June 2019

Rt Rev'd Martin Seeley  
Chair, Ministry Council