

GENERAL SYNOD

HOUSE OF LAITY

Standing Committee

**Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Committee
held at 13.00 p.m. on Friday 22 February 2019
at Church House**

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

Apologies: Mark Russell (*Archbishops' Council*)

Staff: Adrian Iles (*Legal Adviser to the House*); Jenny Jacobs (*Secretary*)

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

- 1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2018 were approved.
- 1.2 There were no matters arising that were not covered by the agenda.

2. Petition to the Standing Orders re Standing Order 135

- 2.1 The Committee were informed that the amendments to Standing Order 135 relating to Election Appeals will be presented to Synod in July. This will outline the role of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the House of Laity in relation to election appeals.

3. Safeguarding Training available to Lay Readers

- 3.1 A question was raised about whether licences for lay readers were dependent on receiving safeguarding training.
- 3.2 In response, the Legal Adviser to the House confirmed that the relevant canon regarding safeguarding training for licensed readers is Canon E 6.5(1) and (2)
- 3.3 This Canon provides:
 - “5. (1) The bishop of a diocese may not license a person to exercise the office of reader in the diocese unless the bishop is satisfied that the person has undergone suitable training in matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.
 - 5. (2) The bishop of a diocese shall ensure that there are arrangements in place for providing persons licensed to exercise the office of reader in the diocese with suitable training in matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.”.

4. Setting God's People Free (SGPF)

- 4.1 Dr Nick Shepherd, Programme Director of Setting God's People Free was welcomed to the meeting. He provided an update on progress under SGPF. He informed the Committee that at the heart of this work is a change in culture to enable confident disciples and mutuality. He noted that engagement with diocese has been positive.
- 4.2 The Committee noted the update.

5. Any Other Business

- 5.1 The Committee provided advice to the Chair and Vice Chair on an Article 7 matter in the margins of the morning session.
- 5.2 The Committee discussed the timing available to make the decision regarding Article 7 business, and it was noted that the timeframe given to the Committee was not sufficient.
- 5.3 The Committee discussed the Synod so far, and it was felt that there had been some frustration with questions and it was suggested that it might be beneficial to use additional time as an opportunity to answer more questions.
- 5.4 There was a discussion about whether the full House of Laity should meet in July. It was felt that unless there was a specific agenda item that was needed in July, the House should meet in February 2020.
- 5.5 There was no other business and the meeting closed.