

**GENERAL SYNOD****The *Living in Love and Faith* Project and the Pastoral Advisory Group****Summary**

This paper outlines the purpose of members' engagement with LLF and PAG at the Synod and provides a brief overview of the work of the Pastoral Advisory Group and the Living in Love and Faith project.

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**The Purpose of Pastoral Advisory Group and LLF Engagement at General Synod**

1. The aims of the presentations and panel discussion are:
  - a) to motivate members of General Synod to promote the use of the Pastoral Principles: this will involve viewing a short film and considering contexts in which the Principles can be used;
  - b) to receive an update on the LLF project and clarify the plans for the LLF launch, the Church's engagement with the resources, and the process of discernment, including touching on 'handover' to the next Synod in November 2020;
  - c) to demonstrate the value of deeper engagement with the subject and with each other: this will be through a conversation among a small number of Coordinating Group members who hold different perspectives and have different lived experiences regarding matters of identity, sexuality and marriage;
  - d) to provide an opportunity for Synod members to engage with members of the Coordinating Group in a discussion dynamic.
2. The aims of the LLF Fringe Meetings are
  - a) to give members of General Synod an opportunity to 'test drive' a sample of the LLF online resources: this will involve showing some films, listening to a podcast and engaging in facilitated group work using the study materials.

**Overview: Pastoral Advisory Group**

This group has completed its work, having also produced a film to encourage the use of the Pastoral Principles in local churches and related settings. The episcopal members of the group continue to offer advice to bishops on pastoral issues related to identity, sexuality and marriage. Churches are encouraged to engage with these resources in preparation for their engagement with the Living in Love and Faith resources.

**Overview: Living in Love and Faith**

1. The LLF book
  - a) This collaboratively produced book will be in its 6<sup>th</sup> when the Synod meets in February. Elements of Draft 3 were shared with Synod members in July 2019 and the completed draft was discussed at the College of Bishops in September. Draft 4 was shared with the House of Bishops in December, and Draft 5 at the College of Bishops in January. In March 2020, the House of Bishops will meet to discuss and commend the final draft as it moves into design and publication stages.

b) The production of the book has been an experience of deepening relationships among LLF team members and among bishops, as they have engaged with greater openness and courage with one another. In the process they have been discovering what binds them together as well as learning more deeply about what lies underneath their disagreements. This is the kind of relational learning and friendship-building that we hope the LLF resources will catalyse across the Church of England, and perhaps beyond it.

## 2. LLF digital media

a) Filming of lived experience stories is well underway. Nine films have been made and edited. We plan for a total of approximately 15 in order to ensure there is a good spread of diversity of different kinds. Some of these will be shown at the LLF Fringe Meetings.

b) The first podcast has been produced, which will be used as a trailer, and plans for a series of podcasts are in place.

## 3. LLF Online library

a) A large collection of papers is being edited to provide in-depth insights into identity, sexuality and marriage from different theological perspectives, as well as from the perspectives of different disciplines. An annotated bibliography and a substantial glossary are also being produced. All of these will be available online.

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Living in Love and Faith and the Pastoral Advisory Group

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