

GENERAL SYNOD

Summary of decisions by the House of Bishops and by its delegated committees

April 2021 – June 2021

1. This summary of decisions includes a summary of decisions made by the House and by committees delegated under its Standing Orders to handle business on its behalf.

THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS (HOB)

2. Due to the pandemic, the House of Bishops has increased the frequency of its meetings as from March 2020. All the meetings of the House recorded here were held remotely using Zoom software.
3. All the matters reported were taken in a Committee of the whole House under Standing Order 14.

House of Bishops 20 April 2021

4. The House discussed the report of the Implementation and Dialogue Group's Next Steps group. The House approved the report to go to the General Synod as a Take Note debate in July 2021 ([subject to the agreement of the GS Business Committee.) The House approved the Terms of Reference of the Standing Commission set out in Annexe 2 of the report.
5. The House discussed forthcoming episcopal meetings. The House agreed that a questionnaire should be circulated to the House seeking their views on Zoom episcopal meetings. The House requested that the agenda for the May House should be finalised and circulated as soon as possible.
6. The House discussed the proposals from the Anti-Racism Task Force report regarding the presence of UKME observers at meetings of the House and its sub-committees. The House voted in favour of the following:
 - Selection should be done regionally; regions should take account of their own context and demographics when making these decisions.
 - There should be consultation with UKME groups about these proposals
 - Each sub-committee of the House should have a UKME observer; mode of selection to be decided.
 - That the Standing Orders of the House be amended in order to enable this arrangement;
 - That this arrangement be reviewed after two years.
7. The House agreed to the establishment of a Working Group on the Administration of Holy Communion.

House of Bishops 17 - 18 May 2021

8. The House discussed the launch of the National Clergy Register and agreed to consider an update on the Register at one of its meetings later in the year;
9. The House agreed some proposals for the reform of the Clergy Discipline Measure and agreed an outline approach to a new Clergy Conduct Measure;
10. The House agreed to the formation of a new Working Group under the Living in Love and Faith project;
11. The House discussed the situation in the Holy Land, agreed to support the statement made by the Bishop of Southwark, noted the statement by the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem and commended the prayer to be used in churches;
12. The House discussed mutuality in diocesan finances and endorsed a proposal for a motion on this subject to go on the agenda of the July 2021 General Synod to be moved by the Bishop of Sheffield on behalf of the Archbishops' Council.

THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS STANDING COMMITTEE (HBSC)

House of Bishops Standing Committee 9 June 2021

13. The House agreed some changes to the format, frequency and paperwork of House of Bishops meetings in 2021- 2022.
14. The Standing Committee agreed to discuss the handling of Safeguarding matters at meetings of the House at its next meeting.
15. The Standing Committee agreed the Agenda for the 24th June meeting of the House of Bishops.
16. The Standing Committee agreed to review the work of the Dioceses Commission with its Chair at a meeting in September.

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES (ACRBRC)

Advisory Council for Religious Communities (ACRBRC) 9 December 2020

17. The Council was informed that following the enactment of Canon DA1 by the General Synod in November 2020 and the subsequent approval of the Religious Communities Regulations 2020, all the present recognised and acknowledged communities will have to apply for a declaration under the Canon to be registered as a religious community. The Council will conduct this work of registration. The Council agreed on a procedure for this approval process.
18. The Council agreed to register the Society of the Holy Trinity as an acknowledged community.
19. The Council thanked the Bishop of Manchester who was stepping down as Chair of the Council for all that he had done for the work of the Council and for his support and encouragement for all aspects of religious life.

DEVELOPMENT AND APPOINTMENTS GROUP (DAG)

Development and Appointments Group (DAG) May 6th 2021

20. The role descriptions of Deans will be updated to reflect the Cathedral's Measure. Further consultations will be undertaken with the College of Deans before returning to DAG for approval later this year.
21. A refreshed approach to the Induction process for Diocesan Bishops was agreed.
22. It was agreed that a priority focus this year is increase the number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic clergy applying for ministry in Cathedrals and as Archdeacons. DAG also agreed to ensure that clergy with disabilities exploring senior appointments will be supported through coaching, mentoring and sign-posted to other development opportunities. Discussions on the recommendations of the report form "Lament to Action" will take place in the Autumn.

William Nye
Secretary to The House of Bishops
June 2021