

## **GENERAL SYNOD**

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

**July – October 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. All the matters reported were taken in a Committee of the whole House under Standing Order 14.

#### **House of Bishops 26 July 2021**

3. The House met remotely by Zoom on this date.
4. The House considered the recent decision on the marriage of same-sex couples taken at the Methodist Conference and the implications of this decision for Anglican-Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs). The House agreed to consider a paper on this topic from the Episcopal Reference Group (ERG) at their October meeting. The House agreed to refer the development of any guidance to the Archbishops' Council.
5. The House received an update from the National Safeguarding Team on the embedding of the Safeguarding Casework Management Database in the dioceses and agreed to endorse the next steps set out in the paper.

#### **House of Bishops 19 – 20 October 2021**

6. The House met in person at the Park Inn, York.
7. The House heard a presentation from the National Safeguarding Team (NST) on the new House of Bishops Safeguarding Guidance on Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults. The House noted its thanks to the National Safeguarding Steering Group and the National Safeguarding Team for their work and affirmed the need for clear guidance on spiritual abuse. It was agreed that the paper should come back to the House in December with the NSSG further addressing points raised and bringing a full implementation plan.
8. The Bishop of Lichfield gave an update on behalf of the working group concerning Holy Communion and the Reception of the Elements. The House agreed that there should be further discussion of this issue, while confirming that it did not wish to propose a change to canon law in this area.
9. The House endorsed proposals for the review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure and encouraged the Church Commissioners to sponsor legislation through the Synod.

10. The House then considered a paper from the Episcopal Reference Group of the Faith and Order Commission on the implications for Local Ecumenical Partnerships of decisions on marriage by other denominations. The House agreed to further work to be done on this.
11. The House endorsed proposals from the Ministry Council on Resourcing Ministerial Formation.
12. The House agreed to review the document on Lessons Learned from the Leeds Reorganisation Scheme at a future meeting.

William Nye  
Secretary to The House of Bishops  
October 2021