

## **GENERAL SYNOD**

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

**March 2022 – June 2022**

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.
3. All the matters reported were taken in a Committee of the whole House under Standing Order 14.

#### **House of Bishops 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (Zoom meeting)**

4. The Faith and Public Life team gave an update on the situation in Ukraine. The discussion focused on the refugee aspect of the war.
5. The House was updated on financial issues, including inflation and the Clergy Hardship Fund. They noted the fall in parish share and the challenge around increasing this, as well as the need to look at stipends at a future meeting.
6. The House was informed that phase one in the consultation of 'Bishops and their Ministries' was completed which focussed on cultural issues. Phase two will be centred on structural issues. It will start in the autumn, and it was noted that there needs to be clarity on what does and does not fall within the scope.
7. The Secretary General gave an update on the Canterbury CNC Consultation Response. The House voted in favour of reducing the number of representatives on the CNC from the Diocese of Canterbury, as proposed; and in favour of increasing the number of representatives from the Anglican Communion.
8. The Bishop of Worcester informed the House that there had been a consultation undertaken to look at the Clergy Conduct Measure which was being led by Peter Collier and that the final proposal would be presented at the May meeting.
9. The House was updated on the Living in Love and Faith process and agreed proposals for future work.

#### **House of Bishops 9th – 11th May 2022**

10. This was the first physical meeting of the House for 2022, and the House welcomed the UKME/GMH Participant Observers to the House of Bishops meeting.
11. The House was updated on the work of the Governance Review Group, noting

that a Project Board is leading this alongside a General Synod Reference Group. Members were invited to join the Episcopal Reference Group.

12. The House was given an update on Racial Justice, and was informed that the Racial Justice Commission was going to publish its first six-monthly report by July 2022. Two members of staff had been employed by the National Society to work on issues of racial justice and that there had been an indicative sum of £20m allocated for racial justice within the Spending Plans agreed by the Church Commissioners and Archbishops' Council
13. The House was given details of the Church Commissioners' and Archbishops' Council's spending plans for 2023- 2025 ahead of the public announcement.
14. The House was updated on the work that the Independent Safeguarding Board (ISB) was undertaking and they heard from the Survivor Advocate member of their experiences with the ISB thus far, as well as on their role in allowing survivors to be heard and given a clear, safe route to engage.
15. The House received an update on the Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) and the work of the National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG) and was informed that it was intended that the PCR 2 final report should be published in late June.
16. The House was updated by the Bishop of Kensington on the Centre for Cultural Witness, which is an initiative that will strengthen the Church's public witness.
17. The Chief Education Officer told the House about the Government's white paper 'Opportunity for All'. The House noted the direction of travel towards a fully academised system.
18. The House discussed progress towards Net Zero Carbon, including the findings of the Wayfinders Project. Members of the House looked forward to more detail on the allocation methods for the Net Zero funding available as part of the new triennium funding package.
19. The House was updated on the implementation of the Cathedrals Measure 2021 by the Church Commissioners and cathedrals, and what involvement bishops should expect to have. The House was provided with draft revised Visitation Guidance to assist and support bishops who may wish to undertake a Visitation of their cathedral under the 2021 Measure.
20. The House was informed of the progress of hosting Ukrainian people displaced by the war in Ukraine and was given the information of who they should be in contact with should they wish to host a Ukrainian family in their See House.
21. The House was given an update on Theological Education. Guidance and endorsement was sought from the House for the continuing work and were informed of the issues that arose from the Archbishops Council meeting around the same topic.
22. The House was given reflections from the UKME/GMH Participant Observers who attend the House of Bishops for the first time. They reflected that they were made to feel welcome and were encouraged by the passion of the conversations during the meeting.

## **THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS STANDING COMMITTEE (HBSC)**

### **House of Bishops Standing Committee 25<sup>th</sup> April**

23. The Standing Committee agreed the Agendas for the 6<sup>th</sup> June and the 14<sup>th</sup> July meetings of the House of Bishops.
24. The Standing Committee agreed to another joint meeting of the House of Bishops and Diocesan Secretaries, likely to take place before a College of Bishop meeting in the Autumn.
25. The Standing Committee looked at the initial planning of the College of Bishops meetings taking place in the Autumn.

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES (ACRBRC)**

### **Advisory Council for Religious Communities (ACRBRC) 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**

26. Bishop Philip North has been appointed as Chair of the Council and this was his first meeting in that role.
27. A sub group of the Council has been established to provide advice and support for communities seeking recognition or acknowledgement but who do not as yet have sufficient numbers to proceed.
28. 23 communities had provided suitable documents and declarations have been issued in accordance with Canon DA1 and the Religious Communities Regulations 2021.
29. ACRBRC are following a similar procedure for the registration of the acknowledged communities, there are 15 communities that need to apply. The Council intends to give approval for the declarations to be issued at their meeting in November 2022

William Nye  
Secretary to The House of Bishops  
June 2022