

GENERAL SYNOD

Living in Love and Faith Group Work

Summary

This paper describes the group work that is planned in relation to members' engagement with the outcomes of the *Living in Love and Faith* process.

1. Purpose of the group work

The aims of the group work are to offer members of Synod the opportunity

- a) to engage with the *Pastoral Principles* and consider how they might help shape their conversations regarding *Living in Love and Faith*;
- b) to explore and reflect on the draft *Prayers of Love and Faith*;
- c) to feed their reflections back to help bishops shape the *Prayers of Love and Faith* further before they agree to commend them.

2. Practicalities

Participants will be organised into groups of 15 – 20 people. Each group will be facilitated by an external facilitator who has undergone the LLF facilitation training and/or is an experienced facilitator. Each group will include at least one bishop whose role will be to listen to the group's reflections.

Groups will meet in different locations in Church House or nearby buildings.

3. Schedule

Group work will take place on Tuesday afternoon, 7th February from 15.00 to 19.00.

Members will gather in the Assembly Hall for an introductory session before dispersing into their groups. At the end of the afternoon, groups will reconvene in the Assembly Hall for an hour to share their feedback and to have an opportunity to ask questions.

Approximate timings are shown below:

15.00 – 15.30	Plenary introduction in the Assembly Hall
15.30 – 15.50	Move to group locations
15.50 – 16.30	Session 1: <i>Pastoral Principles</i>
16.30 – 16.40	Break
16.40 – 17.40	Session 2: <i>Prayers of Love and Faith</i>
17.40 – 18.00	Move back to Assembly Hall
18.00 – 19.00	Plenary Session for feedback and questions

4. Ground rules

Participants will be invited to commit to the *Living in Love and Faith Commitments* which are as follows:

In our meeting together we commit to ...

- *holding each other before God in prayer;*
- *praying for the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in all our conversations;*
- *learning together from Scripture and from each other;*
- *enabling everyone to speak;*
- *making space for those whose voices have not yet been heard to contribute – but without putting people on the spot if they don't wish to speak;*
- *avoiding interrupting each other, instead acknowledging what others say before moving on to have our say;*
- *keeping confidential anything personal that is shared;*
- *taking care about how we speak about others who are not in the room;*
- *looking out for and being sensitive to people's feelings;*
- *giving each other time to reflect before sharing with others;*
- *taking time out as a group from time to time, offering one another an opportunity to say if there is anything in the discussion they have found difficult but haven't been able to express;*
- *learning together how we can live more fully in the way of Christ.*