

DRAFT DIOCESE OF LINCOLN (DEANERY SYNODS) SCHEME 2023

Explanatory Notes

1. At its meeting on 22nd April 2023 the Lincoln Diocesan Synod was asked to approve a scheme to vary the rules concerning membership of deanery synods in the Diocese. The presenting issue was that a member of the clergy had been appointed as rural dean of the deanery of Haverstoe in that Diocese on the resignation of the previous holder, in addition to being rural dean of Grimsby and Cleethorpes, also in that Diocese. Canon C23 provides that the Rural Dean is to be joint chair of the deanery synod but the Church Representation Rules prevent a person – including the rural dean – from being a member of more than one deanery synod.
2. In order to facilitate the rural dean's co-chairing of the two deanery synods of which he is rural dean, it is proposed to use the provision in Church Representation Rule 22 for the Diocesan Synod to make a scheme to vary the provisions Part 3 of the Rules that relate to the membership of deanery synods so as both –
 - (a) to meet the special circumstances of the diocese or the deaneries, and
 - (b) to secure better representation of clergy or laity or both on the deanery synods.
3. In order to make a scheme under Rule 22, the House of Bishops of the Diocesan Synod must approve it, and it must be passed in both the Houses of Laity and Clergy of that Synod by a two-thirds majority. It must then be laid before General Synod and may be debated if a member of General Synod requires (Rule 25).
4. The Lincoln Diocesan Synod determined to make a scheme which was wider than the presenting issue of a particular rural dean holding appointment in two deaneries only, and which would allow Bishop's Council (or rather the clerical or lay members of the Council depending on whether the direction is for a member of the clergy or laity) to make a direction which allows for a licensed clergy or licensed lay member (as opposed to an elected lay member) to serve on more than one deanery synod. This is subject to the condition that they must have regard to the number of parochial and non-parochial clergy (or licensed lay members as the case may be) in the deanery in which the clerk or licensed lay worker resides and in which they are to serve in addition or substitution for.
5. This would allow Bishop's Council (if the occasion arose) to make further adjustments to allow clerical and licensed lay members of deanery synods to serve on more than one deanery synod if needed and would help avoid coming back to Diocesan Synod and General Synod for those adjustments. Lincoln Diocesan Synod is committed to an endeavour called *Time to Change Together* which has at its heart greater collaboration between churches over parish, benefice and deanery boundaries. As part of this endeavour, deaneries have joined up to form deanery partnerships. The Lincoln Diocesan

Synod was therefore content to approve a scheme which could allow for members of one deanery synod to sit on another deanery synod, subject to the terms of the scheme.

6. The scheme would expressly amend the wording of Rule 17 to delete the prohibition on being a member of more than one deanery synod and to include additional words which would require Bishop's Council to have regard not only to the balance of clergy and laity on the deanery synod where that person is resident but also in the other deanery in which the person is to be additionally appointed.
7. The scheme was unanimously passed in each house of Diocesan Synod and is now laid before General Synod in accordance with Rule 25.

Ian Blaney

Registrar of the Diocese of Lincoln

May 2023