

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2024 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7 P.M.
ON SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2024

WORSHIP

The Synod was led in an act of worship by a group of members from the Diocese of Durham.

RACIAL JUSTICE: FURTHERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ‘FROM LAMENT TO ACTION’

13 The motion,

‘That this Synod:

- a) commend the practical and positive outcomes in From Lament To Action but recognising the need to further embed racial justice in the life and practice of our Church, request that the national Church ensures crucial resources remain available including appropriate governance arrangement and funding, recommend that Dioceses give priority to the collection, monitoring and measuring of relevant data, and encourage parishes and deaneries to develop local action plans to address issues of racial injustice.

- b) note that the Archbishops’ Commission for Racial Justice shall complete its mandated three-year term in November 2024 and request the Archbishops’ Council ensure effective structures exist for monitoring actions and outcomes on racial justice, including a possible review and strengthening of the role of the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns, and that the Synod Group Sessions in February 2025 review the progress made by Dioceses, the NCIs and other related institutions in implementing the recommendations in From Lament To Action.’

was carried following a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR 364

AGAINST 0

2 abstentions were recorded.

SPECIAL AGENDA III:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

BULLYING BY LAY OFFICERS (GS 2339A AND GS 2339B)

14 The motion

‘That this Synod, recognising:

- a) that bullying is unacceptable behaviour within the Church of God, whether by clergy or lay people, and where it exists needs to be addressed; and
- b) the serious pastoral problems and unfairness that arise while clergy can be subject to penalties for bullying that include prohibition and removal from office but there is no means of disqualifying a churchwarden, PCC member or other lay officer who is guilty of bullying from holding office;
- c) request the Archbishops’ Council to bring forward legislative proposals which would enable a churchwarden, PCC member or other lay officer who was found to have conducted him- or her-self in such a manner to be disqualified from holding office.’

was carried following a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	273
AGAINST	15

22 abstentions were recorded.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS (GS 2340)

26 The motion (Order Paper IV) was carried.

48 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was lost.

49 The amendment (Order Paper IV) fell.

50 The amendment (Order Paper IV) fell.

51 The amendment (Order Paper IV) fell.

52 The amendment (Order Paper IV) fell.

53 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was moved.

54 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was carried.

53 The amendment (Order Paper IV as amended by Item 54) was carried.

55 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was carried.

- 56 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was moved.
- 57 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was carried.
- 56 The amendment (Order Paper IV as amended by Item 57) was carried.

ARCHBISHOPS' COMMISSION ON FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS (GS 2321)

15 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- a) welcome the Archbishops’ Commission on Families and Households’ Report, “Love Matters”;
- b) commend the Report and the Recommendations for consideration in dioceses, deaneries and parishes;
- c) encourage the Archbishops’ Council to develop practical responses in line with the vision and priorities to be a ‘younger, more diverse; mixed ecology and missionary discipleship church’ believing that the recommendations in “Love Matters” will aid the implementation of this vision; and
- d) urge HM Government to implement the recommendations made to Government, and look forward to receiving a full Government response to all the recommendations.’

was moved.

58 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was lost after a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST
Bishops	8	8
Clergy	61	81
Laity	74	84

1 abstention was recorded in the House of Bishops, 5 in the House of Clergy and 8 in the House of Laity.

ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE

Under Standing Order 15(7)(a) the Chair adjourned the debate at 7 p.m.

EVENING WORSHIP

The Synod was led in an act of worship by a group of members from the Diocese of Chester.