

Standing Commission on House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests

Aim

1. It is recognised that there has been a clear and unequivocal decision made through General Synod that all three orders of ministry be open to all, both women and men. Alongside that clear decision, the Church of England also declared that those who could not in theological conscience accept the ministry of women as priests and bishops continue to have an honoured place within the life of the church.
2. This body will support dioceses with the monitoring of the implementation of the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests. The work of this body will be based upon careful engagement with people who embody a range of experiences and viewpoints within the Church of England.

Responsibilities

- To receive and disseminate good practice in relation to the implementation of the House of Bishops Declaration at all levels within the Church.
- To consider how effectively the Declaration, including the Five Guiding Principles, is being promoted throughout the Church.
- To receive and comment on reports published by the Independent Reviewer.
- To provide an annual report to the House of Bishops.
- This body is not policy making body.

Way of working

3. This body will report to the House of Bishops and will be chaired by a bishop and will have representatives from the House of Clergy and House of Laity.
4. There will be no more than 16 members appointed by the Archbishops following consultation with the House of Bishops, Prolocutors and Chair and Vice-Chair of the House of Laity.
5. The body will be responsible for setting their own framework for delivering on their responsibilities except for the requirement to meet at least once a year to prepare the report to the House of Bishops.
6. It is important that those with differing theological positions are included on this body and members will be expected to model good practice in mutual flourishing and to manage differences in a mutually respectful way.

Time scale

7. Members will be appointed initially to serve on the body until the end of the 2023.
To be reviewed in due course.