

**Armed Forces Chaplaincy (Licensing) Measure and Amending Canon
No. 44 (licensing armed forces chaplaincy) – Steering Committee
3 vacancies, open to Synod members only.**

For the last 150 years, chaplains have ministered within their military setting (often referred to as 'inside the wire') under an Archbishop's license. Where they have wanted to minister 'outside the wire', in a parish setting for instance, they have sought Permission to Officiate from the relevant diocesan bishop in the normal way. A review of this process has determined that military establishments should now be considered part of the diocese and Anglican chaplains therefore require the permission of the diocesan bishop to minister and need to be given PTO by their diocesan bishop. Therefore, any chaplain currently without PTO from the diocese in which they are ministering is not be able to minister in their military setting and is no longer able to function as a military chaplain. This means that all the 160 military chaplains would need to apply for PTO from their diocesan bishop and renew it every three years.

This is a burdensome requirement, particularly when chaplains may minister from more than one base. In order to address this, it is intended to enable the Archbishop of Canterbury to licence the chaplains to the forces (wherever they are based) on a national basis, which will mean that forces chaplains can continue to be licensed in the way that they were before this legal anomaly was discovered. This will be done by amending the [Extra-Parochial Ministry Measure 1967](#) which provides a mechanism for licensing a Minister to exercise his ministry at or for the benefit of an institution without the consent of and without being subject to the control of the Minister of the parish.

The Appointments Committee will be seeking 3 members of the Steering Committee to manage the amendment to the Extra-Parochial Ministry Measure 1967. It is expected that all three legislative stages will take place at the July 2025 group of sessions.

Expressions of interest are sought from any members with interest in this area.