



**Informal consultations on draft proposals**

## Contents

Introduction .....	3
How is the development of the proposals being overseen?.....	3
Why are these conversations being held?.....	4
Who is being asked to offer feedback? .....	4
What feedback is being sought? .....	4
How will this feedback be used?.....	4
When is this feedback needed? .....	5
What support is there in facilitating these conversations?.....	5
Outline Programme .....	6
Resources material .....	6
Timing outline.....	7
FAQ & Practical information.....	10



## Introduction

This guidance is aimed at those leading or facilitating the informal consultations on the LLF draft proposals at diocesan synods. For a more general update on the work to date, please see [www.churchofengland.org/llf](http://www.churchofengland.org/llf).

Following the Synod motion in July 2024, the LLF team, Working Groups and the Episcopal Reference Group (ERG) of the Faith and Order Commission (FAOC) have been working on two parallel areas of work with the following aims:

**Allowing the House of Bishops and the General Synod to vote on a complete package comprising both proposals for ‘bespoke’ (standalone) Prayers of Love and Faith, and appropriate pastoral reassurance, with clarity on the theological underpinning of these proposals.**

**Allowing the House of Bishops to agree a timetable for consideration of the question of clergy entering same-sex civil marriages. Any decision on such a timetable will be informed by work being undertaken by the ERG on any doctrinal issues this question raises. Any decision on a timetable would also likely need to be discussed at a General Synod, congruent with what it outlines.**

Over the coming six months diocesan synods and other bodies are invited to discuss and provide feedback on a set of draft proposals as these are developed more fully. This feedback, from informal consultations, will be used to develop and refine this work as it is brought before the House of Bishops and the General Synod for formal consideration. The earliest point where such a package of draft proposals might be brought to the General Synod is February 2026.

## How is the development of the proposals overseen?

The LLF Programme Board is responsible for overseeing the development of the LLF Next Steps proposals. The LLF Programme Team will receive and assess feedback from each consultation and use this to make any immediate changes that help with the clarity and detail of the proposal. Changes will be noted in a log to indicate how initial feedback has been used. A summary of key themes on broader questions will be provided to the LLF Programme Board so it can consider any specific recommendations to the House of Bishops. A final report on consultations and feedback will accompany the draft proposals as they are formally considered by the House of Bishops and the General Synod.



## Why are these conversations being held?

- The first and foremost aim is to enable good conversations and shared understanding of the hopes and concerns people have in the context of their diocese.
- Secondly, the LLF Programme Board is looking for direct feedback on the principles and workability of the draft proposals to help shape the overall proposal, accompanying guidance, and planning of implementation

## Who is being asked to offer feedback?

- We are inviting dioceses to host informal consultations with their diocesan synods. Some dioceses also seek input from deanery synods or hold a more open discussion in a day conference. The feedback will be sought from individual diocesan synod members with the expectation that this will also enable diocesan synods to hold constructive conversations around the challenges faced in navigating disagreements around LLF.
- We are also asking various networks and church bodies to offer their reflections on the approach and workability of proposals.

## What feedback is being sought?

- How well-informed people are on the LLF journey to date?
- What levels of conversations have happened or are happening in parishes and other expressions of church?
- What do people think in general about the proposals – do they help and what challenges remain?
- How can the proposals be better expressed or explained?
- What questions are there that the ongoing work need to help answer?
- What other issue and ideas are there that it might be helpful to consider?

## How will this feedback be used?

- The first use of feedback is in how this enables good conversations and understanding of the context for each diocese.
- Feedback is being sought on both the principles and workability of the proposals. This will be used to help shape the overall proposal, the scope of supporting resources – such as pastoral guidance and the planning the implementation of this next phase.
- Feedback used by the LLF team will be anonymous (i.e. not citing individuals and naming any specific churches) but will be identifiable to the diocese that hosted the conversation.

- The feedback will be used by the LLF Team to make any initial changes for clarity. A fuller report on themes and recommended responses will accompany any further draft proposals as these are considered by the House of Bishops and, if supported, by General Synod.



### When is this feedback needed?

- The development of the proposal is an iterative process, so feedback is welcome at any point from March to September 2025. If this timeline is not feasible for a particular diocesan synod, please let the team know via [llf@churchofengland.org](mailto:llf@churchofengland.org), as a final round of feedback could be incorporated till the end of November.
- [A set of resources](#) is now available to accompany these conversations. A further update will follow in the Summer of 2025.
- The LLF team is aiming to offer the House of Bishops a complete package of draft proposals by October 2025. This will enable due consideration of whether this can be brought to the General Synod at its next sessions.

### What support is there in facilitating these conversations?

- The LLF team are hosting webinars for those involved in facilitating these discussions and key participants such as clergy/lay chairs in April and May.
- Two information webinars for synod members will be held on 11 June, one at 11am, and one at 7pm.
- Table conversations should not need facilitation. There will be notes and resources for people to use if a ‘table facilitator’ is nominated. We hope that dioceses have access to people who could resource this. If helpful, those taking this role could join one of the webinars above.



## Outline Programme

If at all possible, reserve 90 minutes for this conversation at a Diocesan Synod. Ask members to read/view the resources in advance.

## Resources material

- Pre-event preparation
  - Conversation commitments – headline statements to encourage good conversations
  - Braver and safer: a resource pack developed in the LLF process to shape and guide conversations about the issues that LLF raises. Helpful for all participants to read, but most useful for facilitators/conveyors of conversations.
- Resources pack
  - Introductory Videos
    - High level overview of the LLF process: an overview of the proposal with reflections from working group members and brief input on the importance of ongoing theological work.
    - Considerations on the draft proposals: Working group members reflections on the current proposals for introducing the PLF and accompanying pastoral reassurance.
  - [Next Steps Update Leaflet](#) (Spring 2025 version which will be updated in the Summer of 2025)
    - A short summary of the LLF journey to date and the proposal for the introduction of standalone/bespoke services and pastoral reassurance. This also outlines the additional work that is being undertaken to bring this proposal to maturity for consideration by the House of Bishops and the General Synod
  - [Theological resources update](#) and links
    - A high-level accessibly written update on the theological reflection material helpful in considering the proposal. Including work undertaken in the initial phase of LLF, recently published work by the Faith and Order Commission and an indication of the areas that ongoing work aims to cover.
- Conversation Resources
  - Outline Programme (60 min & 90 min)
  - Slides summarising draft proposals (principles & proposal)
    - For use in the Synod sessions to support the table conversions
  - Online capture links, using the digital tool ‘Mentimeter’ or offline feedback forms.

Facilitators/Containers should feel free to add resources that they have found helpful or used previously in their contexts and to adapt the outline programme to their circumstances.

## Timing outline

Time	Item	Who	Resources	Mentimeter/ table questions	Notes
5m	Welcome and opening prayer	Diocesan Bishop/Chair of meeting			Groups preassigned to tables to mix participants, to include Diocesan staff or facilitators if thought helpful on each table  Participants need to be able to view the screen for video and slides
<b>Introduction</b>		Facilitator for session			<b>Aim: Help people ‘land’ well into what can be tricky conversations.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gain a general sense of how people are coming to this conversation.</li> <li>Learn how to use Mentimeter (if used)</li> <li>Commit to hold conversations well.</li> </ul>
5/10	Scene setter questions	Facilitator for session	Mentimeter table sheets (with QR codes)	Scene setter questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How familiar are you with the LLF process to date?</li> <li>Type three words to describe your feelings about participating in this conversation today?</li> </ol>	Acts as an introduction to Mentimeter platform and/or table ice breaker, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mentimeter will put answers up on screen.</li> <li><i>If Mentimeter not being used. Can indicate familiarity by show of hands. Share words on paper and put on that table to view.</i></li> </ul>
5			Programme: Commitments		Commitment and prayer available on printable programme or on slides.

			and opening prayer		
<b>Conversations 1</b>		Facilitator for session			<p>Aim: Conversations about how well areas of LLF have or haven't been discussed at a local level.</p> <p><i>If this section is skipped. Participants can give this information after the session. The video can then be used to introduce the next set of discussions on the PLF and PR.</i></p>
<b>5m</b>	Video & intro to task		Video link		Intro: Conversations about how well areas of LLF have or haven't been discussed at a local level. Feedback questions are helpful in learning what guidance needs to be developed.
<b>10m</b>	Feedback/ conversations		Slides	<p>Factual questions on familiarity with LLF:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What types of discussions have taken place in you church/congregation?</li> <li>2. Where will further guidance be most helpful?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentimeter will put answers up on screen. These will be a preset poll that populates as answers are given</li> <li>• Guidance is open text box or a limited 'most important' poll</li> <li>• <i>If Mentimeter not being used – people can be invited to discuss the different ways LLF might have been discussed in their local parish.</i></li> </ul> <p>Risk: opening old wounds, going over the same topic again and again.</p>



<b>Conversations 2</b>		Facilitator for session			Aim: Gather feedback on general shape of the proposal and open comments on what needs to be considered. <i>The video can be used to introduce these discussions. The questions slides include summaries of the proposal.</i>
<b>10m</b>	Feedback/ conversations			Slides asking for factual feedback on the proposal: 1. Proposal – how well do you understand what is being proposed? 2. PLF use – care here but something about use or non-use – opt in principle 3. Would you use Pastoral Reassurance in your parish? 4. Confidence scale on current proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentimeter will put answers up on screen. These will be a preset poll that populates as answers are given.</li> <li>• <i>If Mentimeter not being used. Selection of options can be discussed on table and feedback from a selection of tables sought.</i></li> </ul> <p>Risk: could show strong reactions in the room. May benefit from diocesan follow up on context.</p>
<b>10m</b>	Optional Dio input	Diocesan senior team		Cover what diocese may want to share	
<b>5m</b>	Final feedback	Facilitator for session		Final slide asking for anything else/free comment question	Can also reiterate how feedback will be used by LLF team (see FAQ)
<b>5m</b>	Closing prayer / quiet reflection		In booklet		

## FAQ & Practical information

1. *What is the deadline for submitting feedback?*

If possible, it would be most helpful to receive your feedback and comments by **22 September 2025**, as this allows the feedback to be part of the update to the House of Bishops meeting in early October. However, if you are unable to schedule a conversation on LLF with your Diocesan Synod, there is the later option of **1 December 2025**.

2. *How can we best submit feedback?*

If at all possible, submitting feedback digitally is the best way, as it makes it more efficient to process the answers and comments. You can do this via Mentimeter on the day and afterwards. However, if you prefer using a hardcopy to collect feedback, this is fine too. In that case, the preferred way of submitting this is by scanning it using Adobe Scan or similar (a free app available for Android and Apple), then send the PDF to [llf@churchofengland.org](mailto:llf@churchofengland.org).

3. *If we prefer using paper forms, how do we share our feedback?*

The preferred way of submitting feedback on hard copy is by scanning it using Adobe Scan (a free app available for Android and Apple), then send the PDF to [llf@churchofengland.org](mailto:llf@churchofengland.org). If this is not possible, please do send them via post to Church House, FAO LLF Team, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3AZ.

4. *How do we use Mentimeter?*

A set of information sheets for Menti will be made available on the website shortly. A general introduction to LLF presentations to follow.

5. *Is feedback anonymous?*

Feedback used by the LLF team will be anonymous (i.e. not citing individuals and naming any specific churches) but will be identifiable to the diocese that hosted the conversation.

6. *Can we receive hard copies of the update leaflets?*

We regret we are unable to send out hard copies of the update leaflets. However, you can download a version that is ready to print (select double sided, A4 and it will print as an A5 booklet).