

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

REPORT 2021

1. Membership (March 2021)

<i>House of Bishops</i> The Rt Rev David McClay(Chair)	<i>Standing Committee</i> Rev Stephen Farrell
<i>General Synod - Clerical</i> Ven Terence Scott Rev Ruth Jackson Noble Vacant	<i>Pensions Board</i> Ms Judith Peters
<i>General Synod - Lay</i> Mrs Ruth Galbraith Mrs Heather Carson Captain George Newell	<i>The Representative Church Body</i> Ms Hazel Corrigan Ven Leslie Stevenson (to March 2021) Very Rev Nigel Crossey (from March 2021)
<i>Director of Theological Institute</i> Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott	<i>Honorary Secretaries</i> Rev Canon Gillian Wharton
<i>Co-opted</i> Rev Barry Forde Vacant	<i>Central Director of Ordinands</i> Rev Canon David Gillespie

Membership

The Commission is bringing a motion to Synod to fill its vacancies for both clerical and lay members of General Synod. Particular thanks to Ven Terry Scott and Ven Leslie Stevenson: as reported last year, their term of membership had been reached, but both remained on the Commission for a further year, until the vacancies could be filled at Synod. Their fellowship and contributions during 2020 and 2021 are greatly appreciated by the members.

Advent retreat

The fourth Advent retreat, “The Dawn of Hope,” was held online on Zoom on 28th September, with 50 attendees, and received very positive feedback. It was led by Rev Ruth Patterson of Restoration Ministries, who will also lead the 2021 retreat, on 20th November, on Zoom. For enquiries, please contact catherine.smith@rcbdub.org

Nurturing vocations – Vocations Sunday

As reported last year, this day was designed to prompt reflection on the wide and evolving forms of ministry, and to lead people to identify vocations in members of their

Commission on Ministry – Report 2021

congregations, or perhaps in themselves. The Commission's activities this year were necessarily curtailed, but its leaflets and Vocations video continue to receive positive responses. When restrictions allow, the Commission will produce a second Vocations video and other resources on lay ministry, generously assisted by the Church Fabric & Development Fund and the Priorities Fund.

Legislation

As reported last year, the Commission has explored ways in which best practice may be recommended for Boards of Nomination. This work is now brought to the General Synod in the form of three bills – one on the necessity for gender balance on the Board, one to ensure that the diocesan lay nominator cannot serve on the Board of Nomination for the parish in which s/he lives or is an accustomed member (i.e. there must always be a supplemental lay nominator), and one to ensure timely communication to clergy nominated to a parish and those who may have been considered but have not been nominated.

Facilitation Committee recommendations

Some of the Committee's recommendations, approved by the General Synod of 2020, have been referred to the Commission by the Standing Committee, and it is exploring these and will report back to the Standing Committee on its findings.

Future Work

The Commission plans to concentrate in the next twelve months on the following topics:

- Compliance demands on parishes and clergy, and how to ease this stress;
- nurturing vocations;
- complaints, disciplinary procedure, and the resolution of disputes;
- lay ministry and lay spirituality;
- support for non-parochial posts and posts other than incumbencies
- Covid and ministry.

Thanks

The members offer thanks to Dr Catherine Smith for her work as Secretary, and to Mr Eddie Hallissey (HR Manager, Church House) for his reports to the Commission.