

A Statement of Needs and Theological Conviction

Forward in Faith recommends the following wording for the Resolution:

[For the sake of the unity of our Parish,]
This PCC requests, on the grounds of theological conviction set out in the statement appended to this Resolution, that arrangements be made for it in accordance with the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests.*

The statement to be appended to the Resolution asks that sacramental and pastoral ministry in the parish be exercised

- ✘ by male bishops at whose consecration a male bishop presided, and who stand in the historic, apostolic succession of bishops so ordained, and
- ✘ by male priests ordained by such bishops

and that episcopal sacramental and pastoral ministry in the parish be entrusted to a bishop with whom we can be in full communion.

** For inclusion where there is a significant diversity of views within the congregation and the PCC.*

It's worth remembering that...

- ✘ A Resolution can be passed by the PCC even if the parish priest does not support it.
- ✘ If there is a female priest in the benefice, this does not prevent a PCC from passing a Resolution.
- ✘ A Resolution should be 'reviewed' when there is a vacancy, but there is no requirement to vote on it again.
- ✘ There is no provision permitting the Archdeacon or Rural Dean to chair a normal PCC meeting. It is illegal for him or her to do so.
- ✘ A PCC is not required to permit an Archdeacon or Rural Dean to attend a normal PCC meeting. If the Archdeacon or Rural Dean is to be present, the Society Bishop's Representative should also be invited.

For the name of your Bishop's Representative, see www.sswsh.com/dioceses

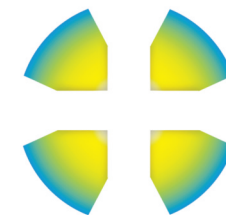
Forward in Faith

2A The Cloisters, Gordon Square
London WC1H 0AG
FiF.UK@forwardinfaith.com
+44 (0)20 7388 3588
www.forwardinfaith.com

Passing a Resolution under the House of Bishops' Declaration

A Resolution under the House of Bishops' Declaration will

- ✘ commit your parish to sharing in Christ's mission in your diocese
- ✘ ensure that the episcopal and priestly ministry in the parish can be received by all
- ✘ maintain the unity of the parish
- ✘ seek sacramental and pastoral ministry from a bishop with whom you are in full communion
- ✘ contribute to sustaining breadth and diversity in the Church of England and in your diocese
- ✘ enable the parish to flourish within the Church of England.



FORWARDINFAITH

Seeking to renew the Church in the historic faith

An Invitation to Flourish

In its *Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests* the House of Bishops has invited catholics and evangelicals alike to flourish within the Church of England's life and structures.

The Resolution that PCCs are invited to pass is not a means of distancing the parish from the Church of England, but a response to the invitation to flourish within it.

Ideally, a resolution should be passed before a woman is appointed as a bishop in the diocese, so that this cannot be viewed as a response to the appointment of a particular individual.

Responsibility for parish decision-making rests with the PCC. If the PCC invites the wider church community to submit views, it must still take its own decision. It cannot simply decide to proceed according to the majority opinion among those who express a view.

If two-thirds of the PCC members attend, a simple majority is required.
(If fewer attend, a majority of the total membership of the PCC is needed.)

Theological Conviction

A Resolution must be founded on theological conviction about Holy Order.

- ✘ Considerations such as the personality or theological stance of the diocesan bishop, social conservatism, or diocesan policies – for example, relating to pastoral reorganization, parish share, or clergy deployment are not relevant.
- ✘ Nor are considerations that arise from secular thinking about equality and social liberalism.

There is no need for all of those who vote for the Resolution to hold the theological conviction personally. It is not an opinion poll as to whether PCC members are for or against ordaining women.

Rather, PCC members should consider what ministry will promote the unity of the parish, given the theological convictions of other members of the congregation.

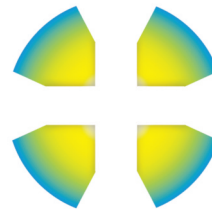
A Vote for Unity and Inclusion

If a significant number of worshippers are unable, for theological reasons, to receive the ministry of women as bishops or priests, a Resolution will unite the parish, making it one in which all can worship with integrity.

Sustaining Diversity

The House of Bishops' Declaration enshrines 'the Church of England's wider commitment to sustaining diversity'.

- ✘ Is your parish one of the few parishes (or even the only parish) in the deanery or even the diocese that is likely to pass a Resolution?
- ✘ Will passing the Resolution contribute to 'sustaining diversity' in the diocese?
- ✘ Will rejecting the Resolution reduce the diversity of church life that the Church of England can offer to the local community?



FORWARDINFAITH