



Newcastle Diocesan Synod

19th September 2015

A meeting of the Newcastle Diocesan Synod was held on Saturday 19th September 2015 at the Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1DF from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

A Eucharist was Celebrated by the President of the Synod, the Assistant Bishop of Newcastle

1. Election of Vice Presidents

The House of Clergy and the House of Laity held separate meetings to elect a Vice President from each House.

The meeting of the House of Clergy was chaired by the Ven Geoff Miller and the House elected the Revd Canon John Sinclair to serve as Vice President (*Proposed by the Revd Allan Marks and Seconded by the Revd Canon Dr Dagmar Winter*).

The meeting of the House of Laity was chaired by Mrs Carol Barclay and the House elected Canon Carol Wolstenholme to serve as Vice President (*Proposed by Canon Roger Styring and Seconded by Canon Simon Harper*)

Canon Wolstenholme took the Chair

3. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the new triennium. The Secretary had received 40 apologies.

4. Minutes (Paper DS15 07)

The Minutes of a meeting held on 16th May 2015 were approved and signed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Notices

a) Promulgation of Amending Canon No.35

The Amending Canon No.35 was promulgated.

b) Act of Convocation

Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy

The Act of Convocation was proclaimed.



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7. Questions

Mr John Ayerst (*Norham*) asked:

Does the Diocese have any reliable statistics as to how many of the candidates for selection and training for non-stipendiary ministry and the office of Reader are from people with disabilities and is there sufficient extra training and support for those who are otherwise qualified and experienced for those important forms of ministry?

The Chair invited the Revd Canon Ian Flintoft, Diocesan Director of Ordinands to reply. In response Canon Flintoft explained that there were no firm statistics, locally or nationally. However, Canon Flintoft assured the Synod that candidates were asked at an early stage to self-identify any disabilities to enable effective support to be put in place.

The Revd Canon John Sinclair took the Chair

8. General Synod Report: July 2015

The Revd Canon Dr Dagmar Winter provided a review of the July session of the General Synod which had been held in York.

9. Overview of Board and Committee Functions including election process (Papers DS15 08 DS15 09)

The Ven Geoff Miller introduced the overview of the Boards and Committee structures and election process. Members then received short reports from the Chairs and members of the various Boards and Committees.

The Secretary confirmed that the nomination period for candidates to be nominated for election and reminded members that forms were available on the Diocesan Website.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business

11. Presidential Reflections

Within his Presidential Reflections the Bishop reported that the Diocese had been working with ecumenical partners to bring together a collaborative response to the refugee crisis and that information was available on the Diocesan Website and within the next edition of LINK. Reminding members that the Church of England was one part of the Anglican Communion the Bishop invited members to pray for the meeting of the 38 Primates, called by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to be held in January 2016. In closing, members were warmly encouraged to consider standing as candidates for the various Boards and Committees.

12. Close

The meeting closed with the Grace.