

9/94 Future Patterns of Ministry

(A report from a Synod Committee.)

1. The Synod asked the Archbishop respectfully (resolution 9/94) to establish a committee to report to the next session of the Synod on -

- (a) future patterns of ministry (lay, elders, deacons, priests and bishops) especially in relation to -
 - (i) tenure;
 - (ii) indelibility of orders;
 - (iii) licences;
 - (iv) the limitations on the flexibilities available to persons exercising ministry; and
- (b) a coherent policy and programme for future patterns and development of ministry (lay and clerical) in this Diocese with particular comment on -
 - (i) selection and qualification;
 - (ii) recruitment and training;
 - (iii) Terms of office and tenure;
 - (iv) limitations and restrictions on ministry;
 - (v) licences;
 - (vi) terminology of offices and practices.

2. If possible, the report is to indicate what legislation would be needed to implement any changes recommended.

3. The members of the Committee are -

The Rev T.W. Edwards	Mr G. Pritchard
Canon R.C. Forsyth	The Rev M.B. Robinson
The Rev N. Jarrett	Bishop R.G. Smith
The Rev P.D. Jensen	Bishop P.R. Watson
Archdeacon P.F. Perini	Mr Justice P.W. Young

4. The first major challenge has been for so many independent and strong minds to come to useful common ground. The committee is also endeavouring to eliminate issues being dealt with by other bodies, and is now in the process of working through a draft submission which broadly speaking has the following format -

- (a) The problems needing to be addressed.
- (b) The theology of ministry, including -
 - * who are the people of God and what should they be doing?
 - * Biblical ministry.
 - * an examination of the Anglican basis of ministry - the Ordinal and Book of Common Prayer.
- (c) Present Ministry Patterns -
 - * historical development.
 - * sociology.
 - * ordinances.
- (d) What are we going to do about it? What changes are needed?

5. The committee might well seek permission to present a series of issues for discussion in 1996 prior to the production of a final report. Such discussion might well take place in area deaneries for example.

6. The committee seeks leave to continue working and report to Synod in 1996.

For and on behalf of the Committee

RAY SMITH
Chairman

7 August 1995