

26/99 Training of Clergy

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

Introduction

1. In 1999, the Synod resolved as follows (Resolution 26/99) -
“Synod, noting the reference in the Archbishop’s Presidential Address to the training of clergy post-ordination, requests that the Standing Committee -
 - (a) appoint a committee to review the training and equipping of clergy from ordination to retirement; and
 - (b) report to the next session of the Synod.”.

Appointment of committee

2. The Standing Committee appointed a committee comprising Mr Rodney Dredge, Archdeacon Trevor Edwards and Mr Roderick West to enquire into this matter.
3. The committee met on several occasions and consulted a number of clergy, professionals in the field, educators and management executives.

Report of committee

4. The committee subsequently reported to the Standing Committee that -
 - (a) the question of the training of clergy is a very big and important subject and full and proper treatment was beyond the capacity of the committee,
 - (b) views on the professional development of clergy vary from believing that what we do now is sufficient to believing that annual mandatory accreditation is essential, and
 - (c) at first glance there are no models for clergy professional development that are appropriate for our Diocese.
5. The committee also reported that in the course of its deliberations, 5 key principles emerged -
 - (a) Should ongoing professional development be of a voluntary nature or should it be mandatory? Should a licence include a requirement for regular professional development?
 - (b) Should provision of professional development services be internal or external to the Diocese? That is, should an external education institution be contracted to develop and provide services or should that work be undertaken by an existing (or a new) Diocesan agency?

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- (c) Should an appraisal process be introduced across the Diocese as a whole? If so, what impact should an appraisal have on continuity of a licence?
- (d) Should a Diocesan professional development program apply only to clergy - or should it embrace licenced laypersons as well?
- (e) What role, if any, should mentoring play in professional development?

Appointment of a further committee

6. The committee recommended that a new committee be formed to review the subject for report to Synod in 2002. We are still considering this recommendation.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARK PAYNE
Secretary

1 August 2000