

Ministry Ordinance 2000

Explanatory Statement

Introduction

1. In 1993 the Standing Committee agreed that the bill for the Ministry Ordinance be printed for the Synod so that it is available for the use of members. But it was not promoted "by request of Synod or Standing Committee". The bill is presently at the second reading stage, the second reading having been subsequently referred or deferred at each session of the Synod since 1996.
2. The Bill seeks to deal with 3 issues concerning lay ministry and "hospitality".
3. First, in a significant number of churches in the Diocese, persons who are not authorised by the Archbishop under existing legislation are invited to participate in the conduct of services and to preach. No effective measures have been taken to prevent these practises and it is difficult to see how the existing rules can be policed effectively. The Bill seeks to change the existing rules so as to conform with the present practice, subject to a new power conferred on the Archbishop, the Assistant Bishops and others to direct that particular persons should not participate in this way.
4. Secondly, to allow for lay and diaconal presidency.
5. Thirdly, to allow for women, ordained as priests elsewhere, to officiate in churches within our Diocese.

Operation of the Ordinance

6. By clause 2 of the Bill the amendments apply to all church property, and trusts are varied where there is any inconsistency.

Amendment of the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance 1990

7. Clause 3 of the Bill will replace clause 7 of the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance 1990 which deals with Persons Permitted to Officiate in Churches (see page 170 of the *Acts & Ordinances*).
8. New subclause 7(1) restates the existing rule that a person who holds the office of minister in sole charge of a parochial unit must be a male clergyman.
9. New subclause 7(2) describes the persons who may be invited to celebrate divine service or preach a sermon in a church in a parish as -
 - (a) the Archbishop;

- (b) the Regional Bishop;
- (c) the minister;
- (d) a person licensed or authorised by the Archbishop to assist the minister and who has been approved, generally or specifically, by the parish council; and
- (e) another person (not being a bishop) invited by the minister, subject to clause 7(4).

The invitation may be made by the minister of a parish - see new subclause 7(5).

10. Subclause 7(2) is subject to subclause 7(4) which enables the Archbishop, Assistant Bishop, churchwardens or parish council to limit the authority of a minister to invite a person to celebrate divine service, preach a sermon in church or otherwise assist in the parish.

Amendment of the Deaconesses, Readers and Other Lay Persons Ordinance 1981

11. Clause 4 of the bill effects amendments consequential to the proposed new clause 7 of the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance 1990, and removes text which no longer has any effect.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARK PAYNE
Diocesan Secretary

1 August 2000