

General Synod Archives



Acts of General Synod Referred to House of Bishops for Action and Information: Act. No. 58 - Ordinal

<http://archives.anglican.ca/en/permalink/official7431>

Date: 1977 November 2 - 4

Source: House of Bishops. Minutes

Record Type: Resolution

Mover: Bishop Goodman

Seconder: Archbishop Crabb

Prologue: "That this General Synod direct the Doctrine and Worship Committee, in consultation with the House of Bishops, to prepare an Ordinal for alternate use, study and comment in the Anglican Church of Canada, and to bring it to General Synod for discussion and appropriate action in 1980."

Text: "That the Nominating Committee be asked to make nominations to comply with this Act of Synod." CARRIED



Acts of General Synod Referred to House of Bishops for Action and Information: Act. No. 72 - Commitment and Commissioning

<http://archives.anglican.ca/en/permalink/official7432>

Date: 1977 November 2 - 4

Source: House of Bishops. Minutes

Record Type: Resolution

Mover: Archbishop Crabb

Seconder: Bishop Hollis

Prologue: "That the service entitled 'Commitment and Commissioning' be referred back to the Doctrine and Worship Committee for further study and work and after consultation with the House of Bishops be published for experimental use where authorized by the Bishop."

Text: "That the three members of this House who are members of the Committee on Doctrine and Worship provide liaison between the Doctrine and Worship Committee and this House concerning Act. No. 72." CARRIED



Canons on Discipline - Canon XVII - Episcopal Jurisdiction Respecting the Clergy

<http://archives.anglican.ca/en/permalink/official6906>

Date: 1982 February 8-12

Source: House of Bishops Minutes

Record Type: Resolution

Mover: Archbishop Crabb

Seconder: Archbishop Hambidge

Text: In response to the letter from the General Secretary, this House approves the proposal that would make provision for the transfer of clergy employed at the National Office to the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Primate. CARRIED 10-2-82

Notes: It was agreed that the Committee on Organization be asked to study the many factors involved, recognizing that there must be a clear line of accountability. It was agreed, also, that the Organization Committee be asked to study the matter of transference of Diocesan titles.

Concern was raised regarding the House of Bishops' List. The Primate reported that the Rev. R. Johns is working on this and that he is to report to the Organization Committee and the House of Bishops.

The General Secretary noted that retired Bishops are, by Canon, now accountable to the Bishop in whose Diocese they reside.

Subjects: Anglican Church of Canada. General Synod. Constitution. Canon XVII
Anglican Church of Canada - Clergy - Licensing
House of Bishops' List
Retired bishops - Anglican Church of Canada



Continuing Education

<http://archives.anglican.ca/en/permalink/official6861>

Date: 1981 May 4-8

Source: House of Bishops. Minutes

Record Type: Resolution

Mover: Archbishop Crabb

Seconder: Bishop Stiff

Prologue: Bishop Hollis reported that the subject of Bishops Continuing Education Seminars at the next meeting will deal with biological issues, rational suicide, etc. It was his opinion that four or five sessions would be necessary.

Text: That Wednesday and Thursday mornings and afternoons be set aside for Continuing Education. CARRIED

Notes: Moved by Bishop Short, seconded by Archbishop Crabb, That Wednesday evening be scheduled at the next meeting as a free evening. CARRIED

Subjects: Anglican Church of Canada. House of Bishops
Continuing education - Anglican Church of Canada
Suicide - Religious aspects - Anglican Church of Canada
Bioethics - Religious aspects - Anglican Church of Canada



Deployment of Ordained Women

<http://archives.anglican.ca/en/permalink/official6917>

Date: 1980 October 27-31

Source: House of Bishops. Minutes

Record Type: Resolution

Mover: Bishop Read

Seconder: Archbishop Crabb

Text: That the House ask Bishop Lawrence and Bishop Hatfield to bring the concerns of the House of Bishops on the deployment of ordained women to the Committee on Ministry, assemble facts and data available, and report back to the House at the May, 1981 meeting. CARRIED

Subjects: Ordination of women - Anglican Church of Canada
Women clergy - Anglican Church of Canada



Minutes of the Meeting of August, 1977

<http://archives.anglican.ca/en/permalink/official7424>

Date: 1977 November 2 - 4
Source: House of Bishops. Minutes
Record Type: Resolution
Mover: Archbishop Crabb
Seconder: Bishop Sperry
Text: "That the Minutes of the meeting of August, 1977, with one correction, be accepted as circulated." CARRIED



Minutes of the Meeting of November, 1977

<http://archives.anglican.ca/en/permalink/official7388>

Date: 1978 January 30 - February 3
Source: House of Bishops. Minutes
Record Type: Resolution
Mover: Bishop Nock
Seconder: Archbishop Crabb
Text: "That the Minutes, with a minor correction, be accepted as circulated." CARRIED
Subjects: Anglican Church of Canada. House of Bishops - Minutes



National Women's Conference 1982

<http://archives.anglican.ca/en/permalink/official6914>

Date: 1982 February 8-12
Source: House of Bishops. Minutes
Record Type: Resolution
Mover: Bishop Bothwell
Seconder: Archbishop Crabb
Text: That the House extends an invitation to the leaders of the Conference after they have prepared their report, to attend a meeting of the House to discuss the findings and resolutions from the Conference. CARRIED 18-2-82
Subjects: National Women's Conference (1982)
Women in the Anglican Church of Canada



Ordinal - Alternative Form

<http://archives.anglican.ca/en/permalink/official6949>

Date: 1980 October 27-31

Source: House of Bishops. Minutes

Record Type: Resolution

Mover: Bishop Read

Seconder: Archbishop Crabb

Prologue: Dr. E.R. Fairweather and the Very Rev. J. Fricker were introduced by Bishop G. Parke-Taylor.

Dr. Fairweather spoke at some length regarding his paper, "The Ordination Prayer." After considerable discussion, it was [moved and seconded].

Text: That this House of Bishops no longer insists on the inclusion of the option for Consecration in the Ordinal expressed in its Memorial to General Synod.

Moved by Bishop Goodman, seconded by Bishop Payne,
That this Motion be tabled. DEFEATED

The original Motion was CARRIED.

Subjects: Ordinals (Liturgical books) - Anglican Church of Canada



Report of the Task Force on Human Sexuality

<http://archives.anglican.ca/en/permalink/official7410>

Date: 1978 January 30 - February 3

Source: House of Bishops. Minutes

Record Type: Resolution

Mover: Archbishop Crabb

Seconder: Bishop Frame

Prologue: The Primate indicated that he will write to Roy Bonisteel of the "Man Alive" program, expressing concern regarding some of the emphases of the program "The Gay Christian."

Text: "That we receive the report." CARRIED

Notes: "A Statement by the Anglican Bishops of Canada" was circulated by Bishop Garnsworthy, and the Rev. Richard Berryman presented a proposed press release. The House agreed to function as a Committee of the whole for purposes of discussion.

A suggestion was made by Bishop Clarke and Archbishop Somerville that the statement conclude with the words "heterosexual marriages" at the end of the last paragraph.

Bishop Hollis and Bishop Snowden proposed this addition to the final paragraph: "and we cannot authorize our clergy to bless homosexual unions". This met with the approval of the House.

Bishop Hollis and Bishop Snowden suggested a further addition to the final paragraph as follows: "nor can we permit our church buildings to be used for that purpose". The House did not concur. The amended document is as follows:

"Questions of human sexuality are a matter of great concern to the Church of our day. Prominent amongst these concerns is the attitude of the Church towards homosexual persons. While homosexuality is a very complex and involved issue, nevertheless, in response to specific questions directed to the Anglican Church of Canada, we have decided that a statement is needed at this time.

We believe as Christians that homosexual persons as children of God, have a full and equal claim, with all other persons, upon the love, acceptance, concern and pastoral care of the Church. The gospel of Jesus Christ compels Christians to guard against all forms of human injustice and to affirm that all persons are brothers and sisters for whom Christ died. We affirm that homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection under the law with all other Canadian citizens.

It is clear from Holy Scripture that only the sexual union of male and female can find expression within the covenant of Holy Matrimony. In the heart of biblical teaching about creation we discover insights into the nature and purpose of sexuality. Rooted in God's creative purpose is the fulfillment and completion of male and female in each other, together with the procreative function of sexuality. Thus the Church confines its nuptial blessing to heterosexual marriages, and we cannot authorize our Clergy to bless homosexual unions. We are aware that some homosexuals develop for themselves relationships of mutual support, help and comfort, about which the Church must show an appropriate concern. Such relationships, though, must not be confused with Holy Matrimony, and the Church must do nothing which appears to support any such suggestion."

An announcement was made that the Rev. Richard Berryman, in revising a statement which he had prepared, will indicate that there will be on-going study of this subject by the Bishops.

Discussion then centred around two matters:

1. The preparation of a Study Document for general use throughout the Church;
2. Provision for continuing study of this matter on the part of the House of Bishops.

It was agreed that the Agenda Committee be instructed to provide for further consideration of the subject at a future meeting.

Archbishop Somerville and Archbishop Watton proposed that we recommend to the National Executive Council that a Study Guide be prepared. The House concurred.

A proposal was made that Bishops Hatfield, Parke-Taylor and Hill be a Committee of the House to provide both background material and co-operative assistance to the National Executive Council in this matter.

It was agreed to have included in the press release the fact that plans are being made for the preparation of study material.

Press Release - The Primate's Commission on Human Sexuality (Incorporating "A Statement by the Anglican Bishops of Canada") [pp. 44-48]

The Press Release was placed before the House. The release was carefully scrutinized and some minor changes in wording were made. The following addition was proposed by Bishops Valentine and Goodings:

"We are aware that some homosexuals develop for themselves relationships of mutual support, help and comfort about which the church must show and appropriate concern. Such relationships, though, must not be confused with Holy Matrimony and the Church must do nothing which

appears to support any such suggestion."

In its original form it contained the words "need and" between "homosexuals" and "develop" in the first line. With this change, the addition received the approval of the House, and the statement as amended was approved. It is as follows:

"Open discussion and debate, often highly emotional, on the life and rights of homosexual persons in society, have become commonplace and divisive in recent years.

The members of the House of Bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada, as chief pastors of the Church are obligated to exercise faithful witness to that office, and at the same time, to wrestle with the human and pastoral problems which homosexuality presents to the Church at all levels as it attempts to minister to all people. Realizing the complexity of this area of human relationships and the wide divergence of both popular and informed opinion, the Bishops, in the summer of 1976, asked for help and advice in facing the problems raised by homosexuality in contemporary society. They commissioned a Task Force of eleven persons, from a variety of backgrounds, to present an advisory report to them to assist in their deliberations.

The Task Force presented the first draft of its report in 1977 and was asked to do further work in some areas and report back to the meeting of the Bishops early in 1978. The House of Bishops has been meeting this past week in Mississauga and has received the second draft of the report. The lengthy draft is still considered confidential as it was prepared as an advisory paper to the Bishops, not a position paper for the whole Church. The Bishops have committed themselves to continuing study of this vital issue and specifically of the report's 15 recommendations. They will continue their deliberations at future meetings of the House. They have asked that a study paper be prepared in the near future for study and discussion at all levels of the Church, and by other interested groups. In the meantime, the Bishops have issued the following specific statement:

Questions of human sexuality are a matter of great concern to the Church of our day. Prominent amongst these concerns is the attitude of the Church towards homosexual persons. While homosexuality is a very complex and involved issue, nevertheless, in response to specific questions directed to the Anglican Church of Canada, we have decided that a statement is needed at this time.

It is clear from Holy Scripture that only the sexual union of male and female can find expression within the covenant of Holy Matrimony.

In the heart of biblical teaching about creation we discover insights into the nature and purpose of sexuality. Rooted in God's creative purpose is the fulfillment and completion of male and female in each other, together with the procreative function of sexuality. Thus the Church confines its nuptial blessing to heterosexual marriages, and we cannot authorize our Clergy to bless homosexual unions. We are aware that some homosexuals develop for themselves relationships of mutual support, help and comfort, about which the Church must show an appropriate concern. Such relationships, though, must not be confused with Holy Matrimony, and the Church must do nothing which appears to support any such suggestion."

On the suggestion of Archbishop Davis and Bishop Short, it was agreed that the Rev. Richard Berryman should be the contact person for press purposes.

Subjects: Television broadcasting - Religious aspects - Anglican Church of Canada
Man Alive (Television program)
Bonisteel, Roy, 1930-2013
Homosexuality - Religious aspects - Anglican Church of Canada
Homosexuality - Religious aspects - Christianity
Same sex unions - Religious aspects - Anglican Church of Canada
Sex - Religious aspects - Anglican Church of Canada
Marriage - Religious aspects - Anglican Church of Canada
Anglican Church of Canada. House of Bishops. Task Force on Human Sexuality
Berryman, Richard (Richard James), 1932-2014