

## Guidelines for promoting Deanery Synod Motions to Diocesan Synod

*“A Deanery Synod may, on a motion moved by a member of the Diocesan Synod who represents that Deanery, bring before the Diocesan Synod any question of general church interest or affecting the Deanery or any Parish within the Deanery.”* (Diocesan Synod Standing Order 103).

It follows that from time to a deanery synod puts forward a motion that it wishes to be debated at the Diocesan Synod. The Bishop's Council and Standing Committee has the responsibility for preparing the agenda of the Diocesan Synod and for considering - in detail - the way in which all resolutions are worded. The Bishop's Council will want to have a motion which is unambiguous, founded on firm factual foundations, and where there is evidence that all of the consequences of passing the resolution have been considered by the proposer. In addition, all resolutions which may involve financial consequences are required to have had the input of the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Bishop's Council before they are put to Diocesan Synod, for which at least 35 days' notice is required under Standing Order 112. On other matters it may wish to have the advice of another council or committee before determining how the matter can be put to Synod. This means any such matters must await a meeting of the relevant body.

This may all seem a rather complex and potentially time consuming process. The aim is to ensure that any debate in the Diocesan Synod is fully informed of all the foreseeable consequences of any particular course of action; so that a carefully weighed decision can be taken by members of Diocesan Synod.

## GUIDELINES FOR DEANERY MOTIONS TO DIOCESAN SYNOD

Deanery Synods are asked to bear the following guidelines in mind when considering proposing a motion to Diocesan Synod:

**1. WORDING** - examine carefully the way in which the motion is framed and check that it says what your deanery synod or the parish really means it to say. It will often be helpful to ask for the wording to be checked at an early stage by the Synod Office as the Registrar will in any case be asked to consider the motion from a legal perspective before it is included on the agenda of Diocesan Synod.

**2. ESTABLISH THE FACTS** - ensure that you have accurate information about the background of the motion. Often it will prove helpful to have checked the information on which the motion is based with the relevant diocesan staff and/or the chair of the council or committee responsible for the policy or practice in question.

**3. TIMING** - consider the timing of the motion in relation to the synodical cycle and its work. Meetings of the Bishop's Council, which will give consideration to including the motion on the agenda of Diocesan Synod, take place 8 -12 weeks before Diocesan Synod. The agenda for the Bishop's Council is compiled about a month before its meeting. To find out when the relevant meetings are taking place and what their agenda and paper deadlines are, contact the Synod Office.

**4. CONSEQUENCES** – in presenting the motion, note the consequences, financial and practical, for all others concerned.

**5. PROPOSER:** give some thought to which Diocesan Synod member from the deanery in question will propose the motion

Please be aware that having given initial consideration to the motion, the Bishop's Council may wish to engage (or nominate a member or officer to engage) in further discussions with the Deanery Synod representative before a motion is placed on the Diocesan Synod agenda.

Synod Office

The Old Deanery

The Cloisters

Exeter

EX1 1HS

Tel: 01392 294931

e-mail: [synod@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:synod@exeter.anglican.org)