



GOVERNING BODY MEETING

4 & 5 September 2024

QUESTION TIME

1. **The Reverend Geraint John (diocese of Llandaff)**

In April 2022, the Bench of Bishops welcomed the Welsh Government's announcement that it is committed to banning conversion therapy "in all its forms". In July 2024 the King's speech affirmed the UK government's commitment to the same. However, it is unclear whether anything has been done within the Church in Wales between April 2022 and now to ensure that conversion therapy is not taking place in our church communities, potentially causing trauma and harm.

Would the Bench of Bishops support a more robust course of action to protect LGBTQI+ people across the province by leading the way and banning conversion therapy (in all its forms) within the Church in Wales ahead of any government legislation, and commit to:

- i) Properly defining conversion therapy in a Christian context (which would include the concept of "praying the gay away" under the guise of "healing ministry");
- ii) Affirming that gender dysphoria and same-sex attractions are not sinful and therefore do not require "healing". Instead, pastoral care and support to help individuals embrace their LGBTQI+ identity and to live authentically and openly as themselves is more appropriate;
- iii) Informing Welsh Government that the Church in Wales does not require any religious exceptions in the upcoming civil legislation; and
- iv) In recognition of the documented harm conversion therapy causes, holding to account – and potential taking disciplinary action against – those participating in conversion therapy (in all its forms) across the province.

2. The Venerable Andy Grimwood (diocese of St Asaph)

Could the Representative Body provide the Governing Body with a table showing the total overall cost per annum to the RB of all posts remunerated above the level of £60K for each year between 2014 and the present, together with such commentary as the Chair of the RB wishes to offer?

3. Elizabeth Crawford (diocese of Monmouth)

What is the timetable for updating the Constitution of the Church in Wales to ensure its fitness for purpose?

4. Dr Heather Payne (diocese of Llandaff)

In view of the Lambeth Call for Faith and Science made in 2022, and the Lambeth Phase 3 worldwide communications during July to September, please could Bishop Mary as our Lead Bishop for Science and Faith give an update on activities planned to take this work forward across the Province?