



## TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

23 July 2021

Dear Member

### **BILL TO AUTHORISE AND REGULATE MINOR VARIATIONS TO AUTHORISED LITURGIES**

#### **Documents**

The following documents are enclosed:

A Bill to Authorise and Regulate Minor Variations to Authorised Liturgies;  
Appendix to the Bill;  
An Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill.

#### **Background**

Since the introduction of the revised Book of Common Prayer in 1984, a number of alternative rites have been incorporated within the Book by legislation passed in the Governing Body. In more recent years, the Bench has commissioned from the Standing Liturgical Advisory Commission a number of pieces of supplemental liturgical material, either by way of seasonal material which could be used to enhance the experience of the use of liturgies from the Book of Common Prayer with the consent of Governing Body, or by way of occasional liturgies for use on specific occasions or in specific contexts by use of their existing *ius liturgicum* (a bishop's right to order liturgical life in their diocese, subject to the law of the Church in Wales).

More recently a question has arisen concerning the extent of variation to the liturgies of the Book of Common Prayer that may be used in connection with such material, and the lawfulness of any such variations, mindful that all clergy promise at their institution or licensing to use only those 'forms of service which are allowed by lawful authority'.

This bill seeks to clarify the canon law surrounding variations within the liturgical life of the Church in Wales by specifying the nature and extent that clergy may authorise or adopt such variations (Clause 1). Clause 2 requires any and all variations to fit certain criteria, while Clauses 4 to 7 give further details of the way in which the canon should be applied in the Church in Wales. Clause 3 permits the Bench of Bishops and the Governing Body to prepare or compile material which may be used by ministers in accordance with Clause 1. Clause 5 places certain limits on the permission given in Clause 1 by excluding matters of explicit doctrinal import, or material within experimental rites.

## Procedure

The Bill will proceed under the Bill Procedure set out in sections 27 to 32 of Chapter II of the Constitution.

The Bill has been presented to the Standing Committee. Having been satisfied that the Bill is 'in order', the Standing Committee is now publishing it by circulating copies in English and Welsh to all members of the Governing Body together with an Explanatory Memorandum.

The Standing Committee has also appointed a Select Committee 'for the purpose of considering and collating any amendments which members of the Governing Body may wish to move to the Bill'. The following have been invited to be members of the Select Committee:

Fr John Connell (Chair)  
The Reverend Dr Jason Bray  
Additional members to be confirmed.

Any member of the Governing Body may move an amendment to the Bill provided that written notice of any such amendment is given to the Secretary of the Governing Body within three months immediately following publication of the Bill. **Any such amendments should be sent to John Richfield by email by 23 October 2021.** [johnrichfield@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:johnrichfield@churchinwales.org.uk) If you do put forward an amendment it would be very helpful for the Select Committee if you provide a brief explanation of the reasons for the proposed change.

Within six months of its appointment the Select Committee must report to the Standing Committee on each proposed amendment and on whether or not the Bill should be deemed "non-controversial". The Select Committee may also make proposals of its own. The Standing Committee must then publish the Select Committee's report to all members of the Governing Body and must set down the Bill for consideration in Committee at the next Governing Body meeting in accordance with Section 29 of Chapter II of the Constitution.

## Timetable

As indicated above the deadline for members of the Governing Body to submit amendments is 23 October 2021. It is intended that the Select Committee will complete its work in time for the Standing Committee to receive its Report in February 2022 so that the Bill can be brought to the Governing Body in April 2022.

If you have any questions about the papers enclosed, please contact John Richfield [johnrichfield@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:johnrichfield@churchinwales.org.uk)

Yours sincerely



**Simon J Lloyd**  
**Lay Secretary to the Governing Body**