

Motion for Conference

MOTION ON MOTIONS

Explanatory Note

The Bishop believes that the voice of the laity in the Councils and structures of the Church is of paramount importance. The Standing Committee of the Diocesan Conference has agreed the importance of this and wishes to take active steps to allow the laity to actively participate in church governance, policy and debate. It is hoped to reinvigorate the life of the Diocese and its Conference by creating greater opportunities for lay people to be able to make a contribution.

The number of lay people on the Diocesan Conference Standing Committee has been increased, LMAs now have Lay Chairs for their LMA Councils and are examples of how the Diocese is moving towards greater lay participation in decision making and leadership.

The Diocesan Conference (and it's Standing Committee) is the place where future strategy ideas should be generated and serve to inform and advise the Bishop, her senior Staff and the Diocesan Board of Finance as to what the priorities of the people at grassroot level are.

One of the peculiarities of the current constitutional arrangements relating to motions is that they usually have to be brought by individuals as private members motions if not backed by the Standing Committee (Provincial or Diocesan). It is impossible for a Diocesan Conference, LMA or Church Committee to bring something to the floor of the Governing Body in their own right.

Whilst we cannot currently do anything about the Governing Body, although this is an area currently being looked at by the Provincial Standing Committee through a working group, we can make internal modifications to our structures to allow Church Committees and LMA Councils to the floor of the Diocesan Conference.

This motion seeks to do this.