

Church Ministry Ordinance 1993

Explanatory Statement

Introduction

1. The Standing Committee has agreed that this ordinance be printed for the Synod so that it is available for members. But the ordinance is not being promoted by request of the Standing Committee.
2. The bill seeks to deal with 3 issues concerning lay ministry and “hospitality”.
3. First, in a significant number of churches in the Diocese, persons who are not authorised by the Archbishop under existing legislation are invited to participate in the conduct of services and to preach. No effective measures have been taken to prevent these practises and it is difficult to see how the existing rules can be policed effectively. The bill seeks to change the existing rules so as to conform with the present practice, subject to a new power conferred on the Archbishop, the Assistant Bishop and others to direct that particular persons should not participate in this way.
4. Secondly, to allow for lay presidency.
5. Thirdly, to allow for women, ordained as priests elsewhere, to officiate in churches within our Diocese.

Operation of the Ordinance

6. By clause 2 of the bill the amendments apply to all church property, and trusts are varied where there is any inconsistency.

Amendment of the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance

7. Clause 3 of the bill is to replace clause 7 of the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance 1990 dealing with Persons Permitted to Officiate in Churches (see page 244 of the 6th Handbook) with a new clause 7.
8. The new subclause 7(1) restates the existing rule that a person who holds the office of minister in sole charge of a parish must be a male clergyman.
9. The new subclause 7(2) describes the persons who may be invited to celebrate divine service or preach a sermon in a church, subject to clause 7(4). The invitation may be made by the minister of a parish – see new subclause 7(5).
10. The new subclause 7(4) enables the Archbishop, Assistant Bishop, churchwardens or parish council to limit the authority of a minister to invite a person to celebrate divine service, preach a sermon in church or otherwise assist in the parish.

Amendment of the Deaconesses, Readers and Other Lay Persons Ordinance 1981

11. Clause 4 of the bill effects amendments consequential to the proposed new clause 7 of the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance 1990, and removes text which no longer has any effect.

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