

## Oxford Diocesan Synod

### Changes to the Constitution for the Council for Partnership in World Mission

#### Background

The Council for Partnership in World Mission (PWM) wish to revise their Constitution to take into account significant changes over the past two decades that have affected the way we and others participate in world mission.

Many of these related to Board membership. For example, when the Constitution was drafted, mission agencies tended to have paid local representatives in the Diocese. In the old Constitution, it was specified that the representatives would form the "Mission Agencies Representatives Group" (MARG) and would choose three of their number to be agency members of PWM Council. While there are people representing the agencies, who are happy to serve on PWM Council, the mission agencies no longer have paid staff representatives for particular dioceses, and MARG has ceased to exist. It is therefore appropriate to omit the reference to MARG and to change the criteria for membership.

On the other hand, when the constitution was written, there was only one diocesan link, and it was not felt necessary to specify that the link chairs should be ex officio on the Council. There are now three links, and the link relationships account for a significant proportion of the Board's work. It is therefore felt important to specify the place of the link chairs.

It is proposed that the number of co-opted members should be flexible and that the Treasurer be elected from within Council (thus formalising the status quo).

It is also proposed to:

- standardise the name used to "Council for Partnership in World Mission". Two names for the Council were used in the original document.
- add to the aims a commitment to prayer - and to encouraging prayer - for world mission
- note that the definition of mission incorporates - but is not limited to - the Five Marks of

Mission

- add some items to the Council's responsibilities (Items 2,3 and 4) - previously they were simply to prepare a budget, meet three times annually, and report to Synod. It has been felt appropriate to include something about the Council's responsibilities vis a vis the links, and to note that it is a working Council,
- rephrase a few items

A copy of the original constitution is attached for purposes of comparison, together with the revised constitution.

Synod is asked to approve the changes to the constitution of the Council for the Partnership of World Mission as set out below.

December 2017 Draft: Amended Constitution of the Partnership in World Mission

## **Oxford Diocesan Council for Partnership in World Mission**

### **Constitution**

#### **Name of the Council**

There shall be a Council of the Diocese of Oxford accountable to the Diocesan Synod called the 'Council for Partnership in World Mission'.

#### **Aims**

The aims of this council shall be as follows:-

1. To encourage all members of the Diocese of Oxford to:

- a) Recognize
- b) Use to the fullest potential
- c) Develop
- d) Seek to increase

opportunities to join with other Christians, Churches, and institutions within and outside of Great Britain in seeking to serve Christ through partnerships in world mission.

2. To commit to prayer for world mission and to encourage others in the same.

3. Actively to promote Partnership in World Mission as a living reality

- a) Within the Diocese as a whole and for every individual within it.
- b) With overseas links which the Council develops

In promoting mission partnerships the Council will work to a definition of mission which incorporates the Anglican Consultative Council's Five Marks of Mission: :

- i) To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- ii) To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- iii) To respond to human need by loving service
- iv) To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- v) To strive to safeguard the integrity of all creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

#### **Membership**

All members shall be appointed or elected as soon as possible after the election of a new Synod and shall serve until the appointment or election of their successors.

Membership shall consist of:

1. A chairperson – appointed by the Bishop of Oxford, if possible from among the Bishop's senior staff
2. A secretary – appointed by the Bishop of Oxford
3. Nine members – elected by the Diocesan Synod from among its membership in such a way as to ensure that each Archdeaconry is represented
4. Three members – representing the recognized Anglican Mission Agencies and Associate

- Agencies working in the Diocese, with at least two to be from the Anglican Mission Agencies
5. Additional members – may be co-opted by the Council to fulfil its mission objectives
  6. A Treasurer – elected from within members of the Council with responsibility to the Secretary of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance
  7. Diocesan link and group chairs ex officio

## **Responsibilities**

1. To meet as a Council at least three times a year
2. To hear reports from and offer oversight of the link committees
3. To appoint a sub-group to take business forward in between Council meetings
4. To work in conjunction with the PWM Officer to commission or undertake activities as is appropriate for the furtherance of world mission
5. To prepare an annual budget for approval of the Diocesan Synod
6. To report annually to the Diocesan Synod

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## **OXFORD DIOCESAN COUNCIL FOR PARTNERSHIP IN WORLD MISSION**

### Constitution

There shall be a Council of the Diocese of Oxford accountable to the Diocesan Synod called the Council for Partnership in World Mission with the following aims:-

To encourage the members of the Diocese of Oxford to recognise, use to the full, develop and increase opportunities for partnership in mission which exist between them and Christians, Churches and institutions outside Britain.

To promote partnership in World Mission as a living reality within the Diocese as a whole and for every individual within it.

In promoting such partnerships the Council will follow the Anglican Consultative Council in accepting the following definition of Mission:-

- (a) to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom;
- (b) to teach, baptize and nurture new believers;
- (c) to respond to human need by loving service;
- (d) to seek to transform unjust structures of society;
- (e) to strive to safeguard the integrity of all creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

### **Membership.**

- (1) A Chairman appointed by the Bishop of Oxford if at all possible from his senior staff.
- (2) A secretary appointed by the Bishop of Oxford.
- (3) Nine members elected by the Diocesan Synod from among its membership in such a way as to ensure that each Archdeaconry is represented.