

TO PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT OF LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIPS

Promulgated on 7 April 2005

WHEREAS the Local Ecumenical Projects Canon 1991 made provision for the establishment of local ecumenical projects (now known as local ecumenical partnerships), and ecumenical relations in Wales have already benefited from a number of such partnerships in which the Church in Wales has participated under due authority.

AND WHEREAS the Church in Wales has entered into a covenant with other Churches to work and pray for union in Wales, by which it has recognised the members of all such Churches as members of Christ in virtue of their common baptism and common calling to participate in the ministry of the whole Church.

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to continue to establish and support local ecumenical partnerships under licence of the diocesan bishop to promote greater unity among all Christians in Wales.

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED as follows:-

1.

(1) It shall be lawful for a diocesan bishop of the Church in Wales to authorise by written declaration the establishment of a local ecumenical partnership in a parish or parishes or in part or parts thereof within his diocese, after reaching agreement with the appropriate authorities of each participating Church holding the Trinitarian Faith and administering the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

Provided that the diocesan bishop shall have received the written approval of:

- (a) the Bench of Bishops of the Church in Wales;
- (b) the Diocesan Conference of the diocese in which the partnership is to be established;
- (c) the Parochial Church Council or Councils of the parish or parishes in which the partnership is to be established; and
- (d) the incumbent or incumbents of the parish or parishes in which the partnership is to be established.

(2) Any such local ecumenical partnership shall have a written constitution or covenant approved by the diocesan bishop.

2.

It shall be lawful for a diocesan bishop of the Church in Wales after consultation with the appropriate authorities of each participating Church to authorise the following to officiate within a local ecumenical partnership:

- (i) clerics, licensed lay ministers and other members of the Church in Wales in accordance with section 6 hereof;
- (ii) ministers or other baptized members of the participating Churches in accordance with section 8 hereof.

3.

After consultation with the appropriate authorities of each participating Church, the Bench of Bishops of the Church in Wales may, from time to time, make regulations relating to the administration of a local ecumenical partnership.

4.

The diocesan bishop shall, in collaboration with the appropriate authorities of each participating Church, conduct periodic reviews of each local ecumenical partnership.

5.

The involvement of the Church in Wales in a local ecumenical partnership established as herein enacted may be ended at any time by the decision of the diocesan bishop, after consultation with the appropriate authorities of each participating Church, which decision shall be communicated to each and every person authorised to officiate within the partnership and to each and every person or body whose consent was required for its being established.

6.

It shall be lawful within a local ecumenical partnership for a cleric, licensed lay minister or other member of the Church in Wales authorised pursuant to the provisions of section 2(i) hereof to officiate at or perform any duty assigned to him or her in an ecumenical service or a service of another participating denomination.

Provided that:

- (a) the duty is or is similar to a duty which he or she is authorised to perform within the Church in Wales; and
- (b) in the case of a service of Holy Communion, the form of service to be used shall be an authorised rite of any participating Church or of the Commission of the Covenanted Churches; and

- (c) in the case of an invitation to take part in the ordination or consecration of a minister of another Church, or to preside at the Holy Communion other than in accordance with proviso (b) hereof, he or she has received the approval of the bishop of the diocese.

7.

A cleric, licensed lay minister or any member of the Church in Wales authorised pursuant to the provisions of section 2(i) hereof may attend, speak and vote at meetings of the participating Church or Churches concerned.

8.

It shall be lawful within a local ecumenical partnership for a minister or other baptised member of a participating Church authorised pursuant to the provisions of section 2(ii) hereof to perform all or any of the following duties:

- (i) to lead Morning or Evening Prayer or other non-sacramental service;
- (ii) to read the Holy Scriptures at any service;
- (iii) to preach at any service;
- (iv) to read the Litany, to lead the intercessions at the Holy Communion and to lead prayers at other services;
- (v) to conduct a service of Holy Baptism;
- (vi) to assist at a service of Matrimony, save for the solemnization of the marriage;
- (vii) to conduct a funeral service;
- (viii) to assist in the distribution of the elements at the Holy Communion;
- (ix) to preside at a service of the Holy Communion according to the form or forms of service authorised by the Commission of the Covenanted Churches or of any of the participating Churches;
- (x) to administer Communion of the Sick.

Provided that:

- (a) the aforesaid person is authorised to perform a similar duty in his or her own church;
- (b) the celebrations of the Holy Communion shall be presided over by an ordained minister of the Word and Sacraments;
- (c) notice of the holding of any service of Holy Communion shall, so far as practicable, be given on the Sunday immediately preceding, with an indication of the form of service to be used and the denomination to which the minister who is to preside belongs;
- (d) the bishop shall ensure that a service of Holy Communion according to a rite of the Church in Wales shall be celebrated on Christmas Day, Easter Day, Ascension Day and Pentecost within the parish or parishes concerned where this is requested by communicants within the partnership;

- (e) the authority or authorities of the aforesaid person's own Church shall have consented to his or her being permitted so to officiate;
- (f) the aforesaid person shall have agreed to be bound by the constitution or covenant of the local ecumenical partnership concerned, as approved by the diocesan bishop.

9.

(1) The Bench of Bishops of the Church in Wales may, from time to time, make regulations relating to the administration of a parish or parishes in which a minister or other baptised member of a Church is authorised to officiate pursuant to the provisions of section 2(ii) hereof, where such parish or parishes is or are part of a local ecumenical partnership, providing for:

- (a) his or her right to attend, speak and vote at meetings of the Vestry, Parochial Church Council, Deanery Conference, Deanery Chapter and other such bodies;
- (b) the nomination of the churchwarden to be appointed by the incumbent in accordance with section 17 of Chapter VI of the Constitution;
- (c) duties of residence within the parsonage and the maintenance thereof;
- (d) the application of the rules and regulations relating to burials and burial grounds within the parish;
- (e) such other matters relating to parochial administration as the Bench of Bishops may, from time to time, deem to be expedient.

(2) Regulations made in accordance with sub-section 1 hereof shall be valid only when approved by the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, but sections 36, 37 and 43 of Chapter II of the Constitution shall not apply to the procedure for such approval.

10.

Authorisation given in accordance with section 2 hereof may be revoked in writing by the diocesan bishop at any time.

11.

(1) After consultation with the incumbent or incumbents and Parochial Church Council or Councils of the parish or parishes of a local ecumenical partnership, and with the appropriate authorities of each other participating Church, a diocesan bishop may recognise a local meeting of the Religious Society of Friends or a local gathering of the Salvation Army as associate members of that partnership.

(2) Within a local ecumenical partnership where recognition has been given under this section, a member in good standing of the Religious Society of Friends or of the Salvation Army may perform within that partnership any or all of the duties specified in section 8 hereof, with the exception of sub-paragraphs (v), (viii), (ix) and (x), provided that:

- (a) in the case of a member of the Salvation Army, he or she is authorised to perform the same or a similar duty in the Salvation Army;
- (b) in the case of the duties specified in sub-paragraphs (vi) and (viii) of section 8 the persons concerned have requested the incumbent to give the invitation;
- (c) the authority or authorities of the Religious Society of Friends or the Salvation Army, as the case may be, have consented to his or her being permitted so to officiate; and
- (d) he or she shall have agreed to be bound by the constitution or covenant of the local ecumenical partnership concerned, as approved by the diocesan bishop.

12.

(1) Where a cleric, licensed lay minister or other member of the Church in Wales has been appointed by a diocesan bishop by licence to an extra-parochial office within the ministry of the Church in Wales, it shall be lawful for the diocesan bishop, after reaching agreement with the appropriate authorities of each participating Church by written declaration, to authorise within the diocese the establishment of a local ecumenical partnership including such extra-parochial ministry.

(2) Paragraphs (a) and (b) of the proviso to section 1(1) hereof, and sections 2 to 10 hereof with the exception of sub-sections (b), (c), (d) and (e) of section 9 hereof, shall apply in relation to local ecumenical partnerships authorised by virtue of this section.

13.

Nothing contained in this Canon shall be taken to affect or be deemed to affect

- (i) the declaration of canonical obedience made by a cleric of the Church in Wales;
- (ii) the declaration made and subscribed by a cleric of the Church in Wales in accordance with section 66 of Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church in Wales;
- (iii) the faith, discipline, articles, doctrinal statements, rites, ceremonies or formularies of the Church in Wales.

14.

The Canon to Permit the Establishment of Local Ecumenical Projects 1991 is hereby repealed.

15.

In this Canon the expression “incumbent” includes:

- (i) in relation to a vacant parish (and where paragraph (b) below does not apply) the Area Dean, and
- (ii) in relation to a vacant parish the incumbency of which has been suspended, the priest-in-charge appointed by the diocesan bishop.

16.

This Canon may be cited as the Local Ecumenical Partnerships Canon 2005.