



House of Lords
House of Commons
Ecclesiastical Committee

Ecumenical Relations Measure

**Church of England
(Miscellaneous Provisions)
Measure**

Church Property Measure

**Church of England Pensions
Measure**

237th Report

*Ordered by the House of Lords to be
printed on 28 November 2018*

*Ordered by the House of Commons
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by authority of the House of Lords and
the House of Commons

Ecclesiastical Committee

The Ecclesiastical Committee is a statutory Committee appointed under the Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act 1919.

It comprises thirty members, fifteen of whom are Members of the House of Commons, appointed by the Speaker, and fifteen of whom are members of the House of Lords, appointed by the Lord Speaker. The quorum is twelve.

Appointments to the Committee are generally made early in a Parliament. Unless the Speaker of the Lord Speaker decide otherwise, members appointed by them remain on the Committee for the life of the Parliament.

While its powers are those laid down by the Act, the procedures it has adopted are those of a Joint Select Committee.

Current membership

HOUSE OF LORDS

[Baroness Berridge](#)

[Baroness Butler-Sloss](#)

[The Earl of Cork and Orrery](#)

[Lord Cormack](#)

[Lord Elton](#)

[Lord Faulkner of Worcester](#)

[Lord Glenarthur](#)

[Baroness Harris of Richmond](#)

[Baroness Howarth of Breckland](#)

[Lord Judd](#)

[Lord Lexden](#)

[Lord Lisvane](#)

[Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall](#)

[Lord Plant of Highfield](#)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

[Sir Peter Bottomley MP](#)

[Mr Ben Bradshaw MP](#)

[Fiona Bruce MP](#)

[Frank Field MP](#)

[Kevin Foster MP](#)

[Sir Roger Gale MP](#)

[Helen Goodman MP](#)

[Mr Dominic Grieve MP](#)

[Mr David Lammy MP](#)

[Rachael Maskell MP](#)

[Jonathan Reynolds MP](#)

[Gavin Robinson MP](#)

[Dame Caroline Spelman MP](#)

[Sir Desmond Swayne MP](#)

Remit

The Ecclesiastical Committee examines draft Measures presented to it by the Legislative Committee of the General Synod of the Church of England. It reports to Parliament on whether or not it considers the measures to be expedient.

It generally asks members of the General Synod to assist it in its deliberations. In some circumstances a conference of the Ecclesiastical Committee and the Legislative Committee may be convened.

The Church of England Measure on which the Committee has reported is presented to both Houses in its final form at the same time as the Committee makes its report.

Before the Measure becomes law, both Houses must approve motions that the Measure should be presented to the Sovereign for Royal Assent in the form that it was laid before Parliament.

Once both Houses have passed the necessary approval motions, the Measure is presented for Royal Assent and becomes law.

Publications

The reports and proceedings of the Committee are published by Order of both Houses. All publications of the Committee are on the Internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/ecclesiastical-committee>

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary of the Ecclesiastical Committee, Legislation Office, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 3103, and the email address is eccttee@parliament.uk

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237th Report of the Ecclesiastical Committee

1. The Ecclesiastical Committee has met and considered the four Measures set out below. In each case, the Measure was submitted to the Ecclesiastical Committee by the Legislative Committee of the General Synod, along with a Comments and Explanations document. The text of the Measures, and their accompanying Comments and Explanations, are published online on the Committee's web pages.¹

Ecumenical Relations Measure

2. In the accompanying Comments and Explanations, the Legislative Committee explain that the Ecumenical Relations Measure makes amendments to the Church of England (Ecumenical Relations) Measure 1988 ("the 1988 Measure"), under which the Church of England is able to participate in ecumenical activity with other Christian churches. The amendments include amendments that extend the General Synod's existing powers to make provision by Canon for the participation of members of others churches in the services of the Church of England; and, amendments that empower the bishop of a diocese to designate a church as one to which the 1988 Measure applies, thereby enabling that church to be treated as an ecumenical partner in the diocese even though it has not been so designated by the archbishops for the Church of England as a whole.

3. The Committee discussed the Measure with representatives of the General Synod. The transcript of the Committee's proceedings is published online on the Committee's web pages.²

View of the Committee

4. The Committee is of the opinion that the Ecumenical Relations Measure is expedient.

Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure

5. In the accompanying Comments and Explanations, the Legislative Committee explain that the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure makes provision for a range of matters concerning the Church of England, including a power for the Church Commissioners to make grants to the Archbishops' Council and other provision relating to the conduct of funerals, clergy terms of service, decisions of appeal courts, and other miscellaneous matters.

6. The Committee discussed the Measure with representatives of the General Synod. The transcript of the Committee's proceedings is published online on the Committee's web pages.³

1 [Ecclesiastical Committee](#)

2 [QQ 1–5](#)

3 [QQ 6–12](#)

View of the Committee

7. The Committee is of the opinion that the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure is expedient.

Church Property Measure

8. In the accompanying Comments and Explanations, the Legislative Committee explain that the Church Property Measure consolidates, with “corrections and minor improvements”,⁴ a number of enactments relating to dealings with parsonage houses, dealings with and the management of glebe land and the acquisition of new land for church purposes.

9. The Committee discussed the Measure with representatives of the General Synod. The transcript of the Committee’s proceedings is published online on the Committee’s web pages.⁵

View of the Committee

10. The Committee is of the opinion that the Church Property Measure is expedient.

Church of England Pensions Measure

11. In the accompanying Comments and Explanations, the Legislative Committee explain that the Church of England Pensions Measure is also a consolidation measure. It consolidates, with “corrections and minor improvements”, a number of enactments concerned with pensions for the clergy, church workers and church administrators, and their surviving spouses, civil partners and dependents.⁶

12. The Committee discussed the Measure with representatives of the General Synod. The transcript of the Committee’s proceedings is published online on the Committee’s web pages.

View of the Committee

13. The Committee is of the opinion that the Church of England Pensions Measure is expedient.

4 In relation to the consolidation of enactments, the standing orders of the General Synod define “correction and minor improvement” as an amendment the sole affect of which is (a) to resolve an ambiguity; (b) to remove a doubt; (c) to bring an obsolete provision into conformity with modern practice; (d) to remove an unnecessary provision or an anomaly not of substantial importance; (e) to improve the form or manner in which the law is stated; (f) to bring a provision into conformity with the existing law; (g) to make transitional, transitory or saving provision which is necessary in consequence of an amendment within any of paragraphs (a) to (f).

5 [QQ 13–14](#)

6 [QQ 15](#)

Minutes of Proceedings

Wednesday 24 October 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Ecclesiastical Committee held on Wednesday 24 October 2018 at 1 pm in Committee Room 2, House of Lords.

Present:

Baroness Berridge	Sir Peter Bottomley MP
Baroness Butler-Sloss	Mr Ben Bradshaw MP
The Earl of Cork and Orrery	Kevin Foster MP
Lord Elton	Helen Goodman MP
Lord Faulkner of Worcester	Mr Dominic Grieve QC MP
Baroness Harris of Richmond	Rachael Maskell MP
Lord Judd	Dame Caroline Spelman MP
Lord Lexden	Sir Desmond Swayne MP
Lord Lisvane	
Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall	

Mr James Cooper, Counsel to the Chairman of Committees, in attendance.

Declaration of Interests

Members of the Committee declared the following interests:

Sir Peter Bottomley

Parliamentary Warden of St Margaret's, Westminster
Chairman of the trustees of Dr Busby's main trust
Wife is a retired lay canon of Guildford

Baroness Butler-Sloss

Member, Council of Reference of the Westminster Abbey Institute
Former Chairman of St Paul's Advisory Council

The Earl of Cork and Orrery

Trustee, Chichester Cathedral Restoration and Development Trust
Trustee, Chichester Cathedral Millennium Endowment Trust
Chairman, Society for the Advancement of the Christian Faith
Ex-member of the Chichester Cathedral Council

Lord Elton

Retired lay minister in the diocese of Oxford
Daughter is an assistant curate in Guildford

Helen Goodman MP

In respect of the Church of England Pensions Measure:

Father is in receipt of a Church of England spouse's pension

Dominic Grieve QC MP

Member, Council of Reference of the Westminster Abbey Institute

Wife is a churchwarden

Sister-in-law is a member of the Anglican clergy

Baroness Harris of Richmond

High Steward of Ripon Cathedral

Nephew is a vicar on the Isle of Man

Lord Judd

Former member and chair of the Oxford Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility

Lord Lisvane

In respect of the Ecumenical Relations Measure, the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure and the Church Property Measure:

Married to a Church of England priest who is also Chairman of the Hereford Diocesan Board of Finance

In respect of the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure and the Church Property Measure:

Churchwarden of St Leonard's, Blakemere, Herefordshire

For the consideration of all the measures below, the following representatives of the General Synod assisted the Committee:

Mr William Nye, Secretary General of the Archbishops' Council and the General Synod

The Reverend Alexander McGregor, Deputy Legal Adviser to the General Synod

Ecumenical Relations Measure

The Committee considered the Measure, with the assistance of the following representatives of the General Synod:

The Reverend Dr Callan Slipper, National Ecumenical Officer

Mr Stephen Slack, Chief Legal Adviser to the General Synod

Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure

The Committee considered the Measure, with the assistance of the following representatives of the General Synod:

Ms Josile Munro, Member of the House of Laity, General Synod

Mr Andrew Brown, Secretary, Church Commissioners

Mr Stephen Slack, Chief Legal Adviser to the General Synod

Church Property Measure

The Committee considered the Measure, with the assistance of the following representatives of the General Synod:

The Rt Worshipful Timothy Briden, Vicar General, Province of Canterbury

Mr Peter Wagon, Church Commissioners (Pastoral and Closed Churches Division)

Church of England Pensions Measure

The Committee considered the Measure, with the assistance of the following representatives of the General Synod:

The Rt Worshipful Timothy Briden, Vicar General, Province of Canterbury

Dr Jonathan Spencer, Chair, Church of England Pensions Board

Mr Lee Marshall, Chief of Staff, Church of England Pensions Board

Deliberation

The Committee deliberated.

It was moved that the Ecumenical Relations Measure be deemed expedient.

The motion was agreed to.

It was moved that the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure be deemed expedient.

The motion was agreed to.

It was moved that the Church Property Measure be deemed expedient.

The motion was agreed to.

It was moved that the Church of England Pensions Measure be deemed expedient.

The motion was agreed to.

The Committee adjourned.