



House of Lords
House of Commons
Ecclesiastical Committee

Church Representation and Ministers Measure

238th Report

*Ordered by the House of Lords to be
printed on 21 May 2019*

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to be printed on 21 May 2019*

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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](#)

[Sir Roger Gale MP](#)

[Helen Goodman MP](#)

[Mr Dominic Grieve QC 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>

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238th Report of the Ecclesiastical Committee

1. The Ecclesiastical Committee has met and considered the Measure set out below. 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 Measure, and its accompanying Comments and Explanations document, are published online on the Committee's web pages.¹

Church Representation and Ministers Measure

2. In the accompanying Comments and Explanations, the Legislative Committee explain that the Church Representation and Ministers Measure replaces the Church Representation Rules contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 with a new set of Rules. Although many of the concepts remain familiar (such as church electoral rolls, annual meetings, parochial church councils, deanery synods and diocesan synods), the new Rules are intended to be easier to understand, and various provisions of the current Rules which were thought to be “unnecessary or unduly burdensome” have been removed.

3. There are also some changes of substance. The most significant is provided for in Part 2 (Parish Governance) of the Measure which allows the annual meeting of any parish to make a scheme to amend, supplement or replace the model rules which, by default, apply to each parish. The new Rules also make provision for joint councils in multi-parish benefices and other special cases which, it is expected, will result in a significant reduction in the administrative burdens imposed on clergy and laity.

4. The Measure also makes a minor amendment to the law relating to ordination.

5. 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

6. The Committee is of the opinion that the Church Representation and Ministers Measure is expedient.

¹ [Ecclesiastical Committee](#)

² [QQ 1–8](#)

Minutes of Proceedings

Tuesday 30 April 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Ecclesiastical Committee held on Tuesday 30 April 2019 at 10 am in Committee Room 4A, House of Lords.

Present:

Baroness Berridge	Sir Peter Bottomley MP
Baroness Butler-Sloss (Chairman)	Fiona Bruce MP
The Earl of Cork and Orrery	Sir Roger Gale MP
Lord Elton	Helen Goodman MP
Lord Glenarthur	Mr Dominic Grieve QC MP
Baroness Harris of Richmond	Rachael Maskell MP
Lord Judd	Gavin Robinson MP
Lord Lexden	Dame Caroline Spelman MP

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 MP

Parliamentary Warden of St Margaret's, Westminster

Fiona Bruce MP

Lay Canon, Chester Cathedral

Baroness Butler-Sloss

Member, Council of Reference of the Westminster Abbey Institute

The Earl of Cork and Orrery

Trustee, Chichester Cathedral

Lord Elton

Daughter is an assistant curate in Guildford

Mr Dominic Grieve QC MP

Member, Council of Reference of the Westminster Abbey Institute

Wife is a churchwarden and a member of a deanery synod

Sister-in-law is an assistant curate

Baroness Harris of Richmond

High Steward of Ripon Cathedral

Nephew is a vicar on the Isle of Man

Church Representation and Ministers Measure

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

The Venerable Dr Jane Steen, Archdeacon of Southwark and Chair of the Steering Committee for the Measure

Professor Joyce Hill, Chair of the Revision Committee for the Measure

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

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

The Reverend Alexander McGregor, Chief Legal Adviser

Deliberation

The Committee deliberated.

It was moved that the Church Representation and Ministers Measure be deemed expedient.

The motion was agreed to.

The Committee adjourned.