



THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

DIOCESAN SYNOD

BISHOP'S MISSION ORDERS REPRESENTATION

Bishop Jonathan to move that:

“this Synod welcomes this Scheme to give Bishop Mission Orders representation on deanery synods and

- a) asks the Bishop and others to implement this scheme and
- b) that the enclosed three BMOs are noted for deanery synod representation.”

Introduction

1. Under the revised Church Representation Rules 2020¹ there were some changes to how a BMO is to be represented in the synodical government of the Church. The Diocese of Southwark is delighted with this, as Fresh Expressions of Church are an important part of Southwark Vision and we are fully supportive of enabling deanery synod representation.

Background

2. Some key principles laid out in the legislation are:
 - a) Where a Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) is in force, a diocesan synod must, at the direction of the bishop or bishops who made the order, make a scheme to provide for the representation on a deanery synod of such of the persons to whom the order relates as are specified in or under the scheme.
 - b) In giving a direction and making a scheme, the bishop(s) and synod must have regard to:
 - i. the need for appropriate governance of the initiative
 - ii. the need to make due provision for the representation of the worshipping community involved in the mission initiative.
3. We have developed a principles-based general statement to help guide the Diocese using these new representation rules in respect to BMOs in order to enable deanery synod representation. A key basis in seeking to do this is whether the BMO has become established and has governance structures similar to a parish.

Diocese of Southwark proposed scheme for the Representation of BMOs

Qualifying BMOs

1. A mission initiative qualifies for representation on a Deanery Synod pursuant to this general scheme if:

¹ Particularly sections 22-24 of the Church Representation Rules 2020

- a. it is authorised to operate in one or more deaneries in the Diocese of Southwark;
- b. it is overseen by a body of persons including laypersons (a **Council**), whether or not its day-to-day management is transacted by a board of trustees or standing committee;
- c. its practice is to pledge towards the Parish Support Fund;
- d. it is not operated by an existing church the ministers and laypersons of which are already represented on a Deanery Synod;
- e. it is not authorised across more than one diocese.

2. Such a mission initiative is called a “**Qualifying BMO**” in this general scheme.

Relevant Deanery Synod

3. The Deanery Synod on which a Qualifying BMO will receive representation shall be:
- a) if the Qualifying BMO is authorised in only one Deanery, the Deanery Synod of that Deanery; or
 - b) if the BMO is authorised in more than one Deanery, a Deanery Synod of one of those Deaneries as nominated by the Bishop of the diocese.
4. That Deanery Synod is called the “**Relevant Deanery Synod**” in this general scheme

Lay Representation for Qualifying BMOs

5. A Qualifying BMO shall be entitled to lay representation on its Relevant Deanery Synod².
6. The number of lay representatives for a Qualifying BMO shall be as follows:
- a. where the laypersons on the Council of the Qualifying BMO are elected by the laypersons associated with the Qualifying BMO, the Qualifying BMO shall be treated as if it were a parish in that Deanery for the purpose of calculating the number of lay representatives;
 - b. where the laypersons on the Council of the Qualifying BMO are appointed in some other way, the Qualifying BMO shall be entitled to one lay representative.
7. Subject to any provision made in the bishop’s mission order for the Qualifying BMO, the Qualifying BMO shall choose its lay representatives in accordance with its rules.

Ordained Representation for Qualifying BMOs

8. The leader of a Qualifying BMO shall be part of the house of clergy of its Relevant Deanery Synod if:
- a. the leader is ordained;
 - b. the leader is authorised to minister in the Diocese of Southwark (whether by benefice, licence or PTO); and

² Under sections 36 & 50 of the Church Representation Rules 2020 all lay people on the mission roll of a BMO are already eligible to stand for Diocesan and General Synods.

- c. the leader is not a member of any other Deanery Synod (whether or not within the Diocese of Southwark).
9. Paragraph 8 does not affect any right of the leader to membership of the Relevant Deanery Synod which he or she may have otherwise than under that paragraph.
 10. Other clergy associated with a Qualifying BMO shall be represented in accordance with normal practice (that is to say, licensed clergy are automatically part of Deanery Synod and those operating under a PTO may be elected).

Process

11. The Visitor of the mission initiative (normally the Archdeacon) and the Dean of Fresh Expressions will together consider when a mission initiative requires deanery representation pursuant to this general scheme. If they believe that this may be the case they will consult with the mission initiative and others, including the Diocesan Secretary, Area Dean and Deanery Lay Chair and make a recommendation to the Bishop.
12. Upon receiving such a recommendation the Bishop may, if satisfied that the mission initiative is a Qualifying BMO:
 - a. confirm that a Qualifying BMO is to receive the representation set out in this general scheme; or
 - b. remit the matter to the Diocesan Synod for individual consideration.
13. The Secretariat will inform the relevant Deanery Leadership Team (specifically to include Area Dean, and Lay Chair and Deanery Secretary) of any changes and to notify Diocesan synod.
14. Nothing in this general scheme prevents the Diocesan Synod from:
 - a. making other provision for mission initiatives (including initiatives which are not Qualifying BMOs);
 - b. modifying or rescinding this general scheme in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Examples

We have a number of BMOs that have come into existence and so the following are some examples of how it might be envisaged that their representation works in practice.

Those we might offer full representation

- a) **Grace Church, Dulwich.** They have an elected Council who are their decision-making body akin to other PCCs. As they operate similarly to parishes, they should have full lay Deanery Synod representation in line with other parishes.
- b) **St Peter's, Vauxhall.** Their minister is licensed and they have an elected council and have full use of the buildings

Those who we might offer representation - Limited

- a) **Grace Church, Greenwich.** They have appointed trustees (who then appoint further trustees). The two members of clergy have a licence and are represented. We should recommend one lay representative.

Those who we might not offer representation

- a) **Springfield BMO (Roundshaw).** This BMO was granted to give the existing Springfield Church the right to operate in Roundshaw. They are already represented by the existing Church.
- b) **Ackroydon Community Church** - This is a similar situation to Springfield. They currently receive a grant from us but otherwise funded by St Michael's, Southfields and so are represented there.

The key principle here is that neither have become separate churches; finances, safeguarding etc all go through the mother church. In other cases, they may be too small to have a charity status or have only just come into being and there is a need to their becoming established.

Conclusion

It is exciting to be able to include innovative worshipping communities within our representative structures once they are playing their full part in diocesan life and structures as well as having developed their local worshipping community.

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a) asks the Bishop and others to implement this scheme and

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DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK
Representation of Grace Church, Dulwich Mission Initiative
on the South Lambeth Deanery Synod
within the Archdeaconry of Lambeth

WHEREAS

- (1) The Bishop of Southwark has made a Bishop's Mission Order on 1 July 2019 under Part 7 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 to provide for the Grace Church, Dulwich Mission Initiative (Hereafter Mission Initiative).
- (2) The Mission Initiative is a Qualifying BMO under the Diocesan Synod Representation of BMOs Scheme March 2021

THEREFORE

- (1) As a Qualifying BMO and the laypersons on the Council of the Qualifying BMO are elected by the laypersons associated with the Qualifying BMO, the Qualifying BMO shall be treated as if it were a parish in that Deanery for the purpose of calculating the number of lay representatives (and, for this purpose, its Mission Initiative Roll shall be treated as if it were the electoral roll of such a parish):
- (2) The Mission Initiative shall elect its Deanery Synod representatives via its AGM and they shall be members of the Mission Initiative Council during their term on Deanery Synod.
- (3) The Mission Initiative shall be able to elect their Deanery Synod representatives upon the date of the session that the Bishop notifies the Diocesan Synod
- (4) The Mission Initiative shall be represented on the Deanery Synod of South Lambeth within the Archdeaconry of Lambeth
- (5) Clergy shall be represented in the normal way

DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK
Representation of Grace Church Greenwich Mission Initiative
on the Charlton Deanery Synod
within the Archdeaconry of Lewisham and Greenwich

WHEREAS

- (1) The Bishop of Southwark has made a Bishop's Mission Order on 1 February 2019 under Part 7 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 to provide for the Grace Church, Greenwich Mission Initiative (Hereafter Mission Initiative).
- (2) The Mission Initiative is a Qualifying BMO under the Diocesan Synod Representation of BMOs Scheme March 2021

THEREFORE

- (1) As a Qualifying BMO and the laypersons on the Council of the Qualifying BMO are appointed then the Qualifying BMO shall be entitled to one lay representative.
- (2) The Mission Initiative shall appoint its Deanery Synod representative according to its rules.
- (3) The Mission Initiative shall be able to appoint their Deanery Synod representative upon the date of the session that the Bishop notifies the Diocesan Synod.
- (4) The Mission Initiative shall be represented on the Deanery Synod of Charlton within the Archdeaconry of Lewisham and Greenwich.
- (5) Clergy shall be represented in the normal way.

DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK
Representation of St Peter's, Vauxhall Mission Initiative
on the North Lambeth Deanery Synod
within the Archdeaconry of Lambeth

WHEREAS

- (1) The Bishop of Southwark has made a Bishop's Mission Order on 18 March 2020 under Part 7 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 to provide for St Peter's Vauxhall Mission Initiative (Hereafter Mission Initiative).
- (2) The Mission Initiative is a Qualifying BMO under the Diocesan Synod Representation of BMOs Scheme March 2021

THEREFORE

- (1) As a Qualifying BMO and the laypersons on the Council of the Qualifying BMO are elected by the laypersons associated with the Qualifying BMO, the Qualifying BMO shall be treated as if it were a parish in that Deanery for the purpose of calculating the number of lay representatives (and, for this purpose, its Mission Initiative Roll shall be treated as if it were the electoral roll of such a parish):
- (2) The Mission Initiative shall elect its Deanery Synod representatives via its AGM and they shall be members of the Mission Initiative Council during their term on Deanery Synod.
- (3) The Mission Initiative shall be able to elect their Deanery Synod representatives upon the date of the session that the Bishop notifies the Diocesan Synod
- (4) The Mission Initiative shall be represented on the Deanery Synod of North Lambeth within the Archdeaconry of Lambeth
- (5) Clergy shall be represented in the normal way