

## RECENT LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

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At the February 1993 Group of Sessions of the General Synod the Pastoral (Amendment) Measure completed its revision stage having been given general approval in November 1992 (see (1993) 3 Ecc LJ 65). The Revision Committee had made a number of amendments noted in their Report which was received by the Synod. Further amendments were tabled at the revision stage in full Synod but were not accepted. The Measure is now with the Steering Committee in respect of final drafting and is due to return to the Synod at the July sessions for final approval.

The Synod also dealt with a new Regulation concerning Vacancy in See Committees which replaces the previous Regulation of 1983. The new Regulation makes a number of changes with regard to the membership and running of such committees. The Regulation was approved in February and will be declared an Act of Synod at the July sessions.

Draft Amending Canon No. 17 also completed its revision stage in February. This Canon makes amendments to the liturgical canons (Canons B1 to B5A) and to a number of other canons which also deal with liturgical matters. It stems from a resolution of the Synod in November 1991 calling for increased flexibility in the liturgical canons within an ordered framework. The amendments would permit a greater flexibility in the use of experimental or seasonal material for such period of time and in such places as the Archbishops may determine after consultation with the House of Bishops. The draft Canon also contains provisions concerning family services and their use in parishes.

With regard to the Women Priests Legislation (see (1993) 3 Ecc LJ 64) the Measures are now being considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament and, to date, the Synod's witnesses have given evidence at four separate meetings of the Committee. At the time of writing no dates for consideration of the legislation by both Houses can be given and this also means that the date for the promulgation of the Canons is still uncertain.