



Thames North Synod

19th November 2016

Paper

E

Shared Synod Panels for the Section O Disciplinary Process

At a gathering in July which included folk from East Midlands, West Midlands, Eastern South Western and Wales Synods, the question arose of having a Shared Synod Panel. The concept was welcomed as helpful, particularly as it is sometimes difficult to find panel members from within the synod who do not know either the individual concerned nor the situation. Following that meeting all synod moderators were contacted to canvas their views. The result was that the “northerly” moderators all commented that they were already doing several things in cooperation and if they were to add this, they would do it as a group. The moderators of Southern, Thames North and Wessex Synods all indicated they would like to participate.

Current rules permit a maximum of six (and a minimum of three) synods to share a panel. So a shared panel of eight synods is not possible. The Moderators’ Meeting suggested a split of two groups of four synods, following the current grouping for Moderators’ Cell Groups, and the resolutions have been prepared on that basis. Thames North would therefore be in a group with East Midlands, Eastern and Southern Synods.

Resolution 5

The Synod of Thames North meeting in plenary session on the 19th day of November 2016, resolves as follows:

1. To join with East Midlands, Eastern, and Southern Synods (the Sharing Synods) in constituting a Shared Synod Panel in accordance with Paragraph B.2.2 of the Ministerial Disciplinary Process, which said Panel shall come into being when all the Sharing Synods have passed this enabling resolution and at a date to be agreed by the Sharing Synods (“the formation date”), at which date the Shared Synod Panel shall come into existence.
2. In conjunction with the other Sharing Synods and no later than the formation date, to appoint persons onto the Shared Synod Panel in compliance with Paragraph B.2.2.1 and one person (who may be a Panel member) to act as Co-ordinator in compliance with Paragraph B.2.2.3.
3. To continue to maintain its separate Synod Panel until the formation date, following which it shall cease to exist.

See over for text of relevant sections of the Section O process.

From Section O of the URC Manual

B. Appointment and role of Mandated Group

B.2.2.1 It shall be open to three, four, five or six Synods (“the Sharing Synods”) to join together to appoint, maintain and share a panel (“the Shared Synod Panel”) of persons who are in current membership of a local church within the province or nation of any of the Sharing Synods and, in considering persons for appointment, regard shall be had for achieving as wide a geographical representation as possible within the provinces or nations of the Sharing Synods. The purposes of the Shared Synod Panel are to enable the following appointments to be made from that Panel when a disciplinary case arises, that is to say, (i) the appointment of two persons in accordance with Paragraph B.3 to act as members of the Mandated Group in that case and (ii) the appointment of one person in accordance with Paragraph AA.1.5.2(ii) to act as one of the Synod Appointees during the Caution Stage if initiated. The same persons shall not act as Synod Appointees and members of a Mandated Group in the same case.

B.2.2.2 In order to adopt the procedure set out in Paragraph B.2.2.1, each of the Sharing Synods shall pass an enabling resolution in the form set out in Appendix 1.

B.2.2.3 Every group of Sharing Synods shall appoint a Co-ordinator (who may also be a Panel member) who shall co-ordinate and administer their Shared Synod Panel, keep up-to-date records thereof and carry out the duties ascribed to that person under this Disciplinary Process.