

Summary of Recommendations

It is the Commission's hope that, at the end of the consultation period, these recommendations - perhaps refined by our combined wisdom - may become proposals for the future.

1. The Commission **invites** the five Covenanted Churches to think of themselves as the Church Uniting in Wales.

2. The Commission **recommends**:
 - that the Uniting Church will have nine jurisdictions – the six existing Anglican dioceses plus a Methodist jurisdiction, a Presbyterian jurisdiction and a URC/Covenanting Baptist jurisdiction, each of which will be invited to elect its own bishop;
 - that a description of the bishop's role be drawn up and agreed by all five Covenanted Churches;
 - that the bishop be consecrated into the historic episcopate, i.e. ordained by the laying on of hands by at least three bishops who are themselves part of the historic episcopate;
 - that the bishop will ordain all those who are to become ministers within the bishop's jurisdiction;
 - that the bishop will be a bishop in the Church Uniting in Wales and will share collegiality and full interchangeability with all the other bishops of that Church;
 - that the bishops of all nine jurisdictions in the Church Uniting in Wales consult with each other at least twice a year;
 - that all existing ministers agree to the laying on of hands by at least one Anglican bishop and at least one other bishop representing the other traditions within the Church Uniting in Wales. This would be regarded not as an ordination but as a step forward to full covenanted ministry.

3. Following acceptance of the invitation outlined in 1. above, the Commission **recommends**:
 - that all member jurisdictions will, for the present, continue to operate their existing ecclesiastical polity;
 - that the Gathering of the Church Uniting in Wales be held annually; and
 - that leaders, lawyers and administrators representing all five member Churches be asked to draw up, within a period of five years a Scheme and Constitution for the Uniting Church based on the recommendations in Section 5 of the Report of the Working Group on Church Governance.

4. The Commission **recommends** as good practice the appointment in the Church of England of cathedral canons from other denominations.
5. The Commission **recommends** that its member churches explore together the role of the diaconate to see whether they can reach a common mind on this issue.
6. Within Local Ecumenical Partnerships, the Commission **recommends**:
 - that ministers be encouraged but not required to attend a denominational court other than that of the denomination to which they belong; and
 - that churches entrust the administration of the Partnership to a Sponsoring Body selected from members of the Commission of Covenanted Churches or Cytûn.