

Worcester Diocesan Association of Readers

CONSTITUTION

DRAFT AMENDMENT

Amended by the Readers' Board, November 2016

1. Purpose

The Association exists to promote and support all aspects of Licensed Lay (Reader) Ministry in the Diocese of Worcester.

2. Membership

Members of the Association shall comprise

- a) all Readers licensed by the Bishop;
- b) all Readers who hold the Bishop's Permission to Officiate;
- c) all Officers of the Association;
- d) all Officers of the Readers' Board;
- e) all other members of the Readers' Board appointed by the Bishop.

3. Officers

The Officers of the Association shall comprise

- a) the Bishop of Worcester, who shall be President;
- b) the Chair, who shall normally be the Warden of Readers, but otherwise as appointed by the Bishop;
- c) the Vice-Chair, who shall be elected annually by the Readers' Board from amongst its members at the first meeting of the Board after the Association's Annual Meeting;
- d) the Warden of Readers, who shall be appointed by the Bishop;
- e) the Archdeaconry Wardens, who shall be appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Warden;
- f) the Registrar, who shall be a Reader appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Warden;
- g) the Secretary, who shall be elected by the Association at the Annual Meeting;
- h) the Treasurer, who shall be elected by the Association at the Annual Meeting;
- i) the Archdeaconry Secretaries, who shall be elected by the Association at the Annual Meeting;
- j) the Director of Reader Training, who shall be appointed by the Bishop;
- k) the Co-ordinator of Continuing Ministerial Development, who shall be elected by the Association at the Annual Meeting;
- l) the Director of Ministry and Discipleship or other person with overall responsibility for ministerial formation, support and development in the diocese, as designated by the Bishop.

4. The Readers' Board

The Board is the executive body of the Association. It is accountable to the Association and, through the Warden of Readers and Director of Reader Training, to the Ministry and Discipleship team as the place where responsibility for supporting ministry across the diocese is located.

a) Membership

The Board shall consist of the Officers of the Association, together with

- i. eight Readers, four from each Archdeaconry, elected at the Annual Meeting, each serving for four years; the representatives of each Archdeaconry shall retire in rotation and shall be ineligible for immediate re-election, except that this shall not apply to a member who is elected to fill a vacancy occurring in the middle of a term of membership;
- ii. up to four members co-opted by the Board;

- iii. such further members as the Bishop may appoint.

b) Role

By supporting the relevant diocesan officers and bodies, the role of the Readers' Board is to:

- i. monitor and advise on the selection and initial training of candidates for the office of Reader;
- ii. provide a programme of continuing ministerial development and a process for regular ministry review, and to encourage Readers to participate in it;
- iii. contribute to the development of vocations, particularly to Reader ministry;
- iv. support Readers in all aspects of their role and ministry;
- v. provide a forum for considering the ministry needs of church and society;
- vi. through the Director of Ministry and Discipleship, participate in drawing up and managing that element of the Diocesan Board of Finance's budget which supports Reader ministry;
- vii. ensure that role descriptions are provided for officers of the Association and advise on the content of them as appropriate.

c) Meetings

The Board shall meet not less than three times a year, in addition to the Annual Meeting.

7. The Annual Meeting

The Association shall hold an Annual Meeting each year at which elections shall take place and reports be received from

- i. the Warden of Readers
- ii. the Registrar of Readers
- iii. the Treasurer
- iv. the Director of Reader Training
- v. the Co-ordinator for Continuing Ministerial Development
- vi. other officers and representatives as requested by the Readers' Board.

The Readers' Board may also call a Special General Meeting of the Association if circumstances require.

8. The Central Readers' Council

The Association shall be represented at meetings of the Central Readers' Council of the Church of England according to the rules established by the Council. Such representatives shall be appointed by the Readers' Board.