

Anglican Communion Provincial Checklist on Women's Ordination

Compiled by Matthew Davies – December 2003

<p>No Women's Ordination</p>	<p>Central Africa Jerusalem & Middle East^[1] Korea Melanesia^[2] Nigeria Pakistan^[3] Papua New Guinea South East Asia Tanzania</p>	<p>^[1] Does not ordain women to the priesthood. In principle, women may be ordained as deacons but there has not yet been an instance where this has happened. There is an agreement in the Province that when a woman priest from elsewhere finds herself living in a parish in the Province, usually accompanying her husband, and is accepted locally, then the Bishop may give her permission to officiate in that particular place.</p> <p>^[2] The 10th General Synod of the Church of Melanesia agreed in 2003 to the amending of the Church's Constitution to allow women to enter into any of the ordained ministry of the Church. The decision was passed without dissent by the General Synod, but this does not mean the Church can proceed with ordination as yet. The amendment must first be approved by the eight Diocesan Synods of the Church before the Constitution can be changed.</p> <p>^[3] Church of Pakistan has not decided positively at the Provincial level. However, the Diocese of Raiwand, without the approval of the Provincial Synod, has ordained two women as deacons.</p>
<p>Diaconate Only</p>	<p>Indian Ocean^[4] Southern Cone Congo^[5]</p>	<p>^[4] Only in one diocese in the Province.</p> <p>^[5] First female Deacon, the Revd Joyce Kima, a member of the Anglican Consultative Council, was ordained on 5 October 2003 in North-Kivu Diocese.</p>
<p>Diaconate, Presbyterate (but not Episcopate)</p>	<p>Australia^[6] Burundi^[7] England^[8] Hong Kong^[9] Kenya Rwanda South India Uganda Wales^[10] West Africa^[11] West Indies^[12]</p>	<p>^[6] Deacons - The General Synod canon authorizing the ordination of women to the office of deacon (called Ordination of Women to the Office of Deacon Canon 1985) has been adopted in 21 of 23 dioceses, the exceptions being the Dioceses of Ballarat and The Murray.</p> <p>Priests - The General Synod canon authorizing the ordination of women to the office of priesthood (called Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992) has been adopted in 18 of 23 dioceses. The Diocese of Armidale has adopted it in a conditional form applying only to chaplains in schools and hospitals. This legislation has not been adopted in the Dioceses of Ballarat, North West Australia, Sydney, The Murray and Wangaratta.</p> <p>Bishops - At present, women cannot be consecrated to the episcopate in the Australian Church. The question of women bishops came before the 1998 General Synod where the following resolution was passed by an overwhelming majority (Resolution 51/98):</p> <p>"General Synod notes the reports of the Doctrine Commission and the Canon Law Commission concerning the consecration of women to the episcopate.</p> <p>Further, General Synod notes the undesirability of appointing a woman bishop until at least the next General Synod after 1998.</p> <p>The Synod, recognizing the significance of this issue for the ongoing unity and mission of the Church commends the matter for further discussion with dioceses across Australia, requests the Standing Committee to prepare a draft bill and a discussion paper on the implications of such a proposal, together with practical ways of addressing those implications, including forms of Alternative Episcopal Oversight, for circulation among the dioceses by December 1999."</p> <p>The matter was discussed again at the 12th General Synod meeting in July 2001. The Synod</p>

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eventually resolved (Resolution 38/01) that:

"this General Synod noting that though the Bill for a Church Law (Further Clarification) Canon 2001 with its accompanying schedule has been approved in principle by 135 votes to 95 votes with 2 abstentions, significant concerns have been raised in debate, requests Standing Committee to:

prepare a report on some of the issues raised in the debate and some of the possible outcomes for consideration by Dioceses, Provincial Synods, Provincial Councils and the Bishops' Conference, seeking their responses by February 2003; and in the light of responses received, prepare amended legislation and accompanying material in consultation with Dioceses, Provincial Synods, Provincial Councils and the Bishops' Conference for the next session of General Synod."

A range of draft papers exploring the issue as requested by the 2001 General Synod have been prepared by the Women in the Episcopate Working Group (see <http://www.anglican.org.au/governance.cfm?SID=22&SSID=59>). These documents are currently under discussion and the matter will be presented for consideration at the 13th meeting of General Synod to be held in October 2004.

^[7] Diocese Buye - 2 priests, Diocese Matana - 4 priests, Diocese Bujumbura - 2 priests, Diocese Gitega - 1 priest who is also Dean of the Cathedral. Bishops are not yet canonically possible.

^[8] Legislation enabling the ordination of women to the presbyterate specifically prohibits the consecration of women to the episcopate. The ministry of men or women, deacons or presbyters, ordained by a woman bishop in other Provinces is not recognised. There is provision of extended episcopal oversight including through the ministry of three specially appointed Provincial Episcopal Visitors who exercise their ministry at the invitation of and on the authority of the diocesan bishop. The Rt Revd Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester, has chaired the working party on the Theology of Women in the Episcopate since it was created in July 2000, and the culmination of its work has resulted in a report being drafted for consideration. This report is expected to be discussed at Synod in 2004 or 2005.

^[9] Has long been ordaining woman as deacons and priests. At present, there are five woman priests serving in the three dioceses of the HKSKH. Has not started discussing the issue of woman bishops. However, according to the Constitutions and Canons, clergy from Anglican Churches, which are in communion with the Anglican Communion (no gender is mentioned) are eligible to be nominated as candidates for the episcopate. From this perspective, the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui could, in principle, have women bishops.

^[10] Extended episcopal oversight is provided for those parishes who are opposed to the ordination of women.

^[11] Provincial Synod gave approval for the ordination of women to the presbyterate by dioceses that were ready for it. At present there is no ordination of women to the presbyterate in 11 of the 13 dioceses.

^[12] Ordination of women to the presbyterate was passed by Provincial Synod, but two dioceses have not voted in favour of the ordination of women either to the diaconate or the presbyterate.

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<p>Diaconate, Presbyterate and Episcopate</p>	<p>Bangladesh^[13] Brazil^[14] Central America Ireland^[15] Japan Mexico^[16] North India^[17] Philippines^[18] Scotland^[19] Southern Africa^[20] Sudan^[21]</p>	<p>^[13] Women bishops are canonically possible, but none are ordained as yet. ^[14] Women bishops are canonically possible, but none are ordained as yet. ^[15] (a) Canon Law (1990) "Men and women alike may be ordained to the holy orders of deacons, of priests, or of bishops, without any distinction or discrimination on grounds of sex..." (b) No women as yet ordained as bishops. (c) No bar to women being appointed as Deans, though none appointed as yet. Some cathedral chapters include women as canons. ^[16] Women bishops are canonically possible, but none are ordained as yet. ^[17] Women bishops are canonically possible, but none are ordained as yet. ^[18] Women bishops are canonically possible, but none are ordained as yet. ^[19] The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) voted to accept women in the episcopate when they met in Edinburgh in 2003. ^[20] Provincial guidelines to provide for conscientious objections to the ministry of women as priests are in place. Similar guidelines in the event of a woman being ordained bishop are being produced. Women bishops are canonically possible, but none are ordained as yet. ^[21] The Episcopal Church of Sudan agreed at its General Synod in February 2000 that women could be ordained deacon, priest or bishop. To date there are deacons and priests in a number of dioceses, though as yet no women bishops.</p>
<p>Women Bishops de facto</p>	<p>Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia^[22] Canada^[23] USA^[24]</p>	<p>^[22] The ordination of women as deacons and priests has been canonically possible for nearly thirty years. One of the Diocesan Bishops is a woman - the Rt Revd Dr Penelope Ann Bansall Jamieson, Bishop of Dunedin. The Reverend Helen Jacobi has just been appointed as Dean of Waiapu. ^[23] In 1973 General Synod voted in favor in principle of ordaining women to the priesthood, referred the question to the church for further study, and then 1975 General Synod agreed to ordain, with a conscience clause to protect those who disagreed. The first women were ordained priest on November 30, 1976 - 6 women, in 4 dioceses. In 1986 General Synod agreed that women could be ordained to the episcopate. ^[24] The enabling canon for the ordination of women to the presbyterate and the episcopate applies to all dioceses. Informal episcopal arrangements can be made to protect the conscience of an individual bishop.</p>
<p>Information pending</p>	<p>Myanmar</p>	