

THE STATUS OF CLERGY ORDINANCE 2002

An Ordinance Relating to the Status of Clergy in the Diocese

THE SYNOD HEREBY DETERMINES:

Title

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the “Status of Clergy Ordinance 2002”.

Interpretation

2. In this Ordinance “clergy” means parish priests, priests-in-charge, assistant parish clergy whether in training or not, chaplains to hospitals and correctional institutions, any assistant bishop and archdeacons in their capacity as such, and includes any other ordained person who is licensed by the bishop, in respect of functions and activities performed as an ordained person, other than functions and activities falling within the scope of a contract of employment (if any) to which the person is a party.

Statement relating to ministry

3. The statement in the schedule as to the status and function of clergy in the diocese is adopted.

Effect of Synod prescriptions

4. The provisions of any Ordinance or resolution of the Synod as to the benefits to be afforded by the Church to clergy are binding on the conscience of members of this Church and afford and create no legal rights whatsoever.

Obligations of ministers

5. The obligations to be performed by clergy are binding in conscience and afford no legal rights and are not enforceable as contractual obligations.

Savings

6. Nothing contained in this Ordinance affects or prevents the removal or suspension from office of any member of clergy in accordance with any Ordinance of the Synod.

THE SCHEDULE

A member of the clergy is someone ordained into holy orders in the church of God, according to the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons as found in the Book of Common Prayer and other lawfully authorised prayer books. Having made the Assents and taken the Oaths required by the Canons of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia and the Constitution of the Diocese of Adelaide, the member of the clergy is licensed by the Bishop to perform ministry within the Diocese, in accordance with the terms of the licence, under the oversight of the Bishop, and as permitted by his or her orders.

A member of the clergy is an office holder, called by God to the office and work of a bishop, priest or deacon in God's Church. As such he or she depends on and surrenders to the Holy Spirit and the Grace of God to live a life of holiness, clothed with humility, constant in prayer, diligent in the study of the Scriptures, reflecting with God's people on their meaning, so that his or her ministry and life is shaped by Christ.

The exact functions and obligations of the member of the clergy will vary, depending on the particular ministry to which he or she is called and licensed and whether he or she is a bishop, priest or deacon. However, in broad terms, the function and obligation of a member of the clergy is

1. to be a messenger and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ,
2. to seek the lost,
3. to announce God's justice,
4. to warn and greet those in error,
5. to take part in the life and councils of the Church together with the Bishop and other ministers,
6. to be a pastor after the pattern of Christ the great Shepherd, who has laid down his life for the sheep,
7. to be a teacher taught by the Lord in wisdom and holiness,
8. to lead the people of God as a servant of Christ,
9. to love and serve the people with whom the minister works, caring alike for young and old, rich and poor, weak and strong and
10. to be an example of godly living, demonstrating in daily life the grace and power of Christ and the fruits of the Spirit.

In accordance with the terms of the Bishop's licence, the member of the clergy is to encourage and build up the Church which is Christ's spouse and body, purchased at the cost of his own life, by

1. preaching the Word of God,
2. leading God's people in prayer,
3. declaring God's forgiveness and blessing,
4. faithfully administering, with reverence and care, such of the sacraments of God's grace as his or her orders permit and
5. empowering and challenging lay members of the Church in their mission in the world.

The member of the clergy enjoys a special relationship with the Bishop and with other members of the Church. Those relationships are founded in the doctrine and traditions of the Church, which are in turn based firmly on the revelation of God to the world through Jesus Christ. Some of the detail of those relationships is in turn reflected in the Ordinances of the Synod. The member of the clergy is not engaged in a contractual relationship with or as an employee of the Church or of any organ of it in order to perform this ministry.

It is an obligation of the whole Church and every member of it

1. to support, uphold and empower a member of the clergy in this ministry,
2. to share in this ministry, and
3. to provide for members of the clergy such stipend, allowances and other privileges as may be determined from time to time by the Synod.

Passed 26th May 2002.