

LAW OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CLARIFICATION CANON 1992

Canon 18, 1992¹

A canon to clarify the operation of certain law of the Church of England applicable to and in force in the several dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Whereas this Synod desires -

- (a) to maintain the unity in diversity of this Church;
- (b) to acknowledge that there are differences of conviction about the ordination of women to the office of priest; and
- (c) to clarify the extent to which certain law of the Church of England is applicable to and in force in certain dioceses of this Church.

The General Synod therefore prescribes as follows:

Title

1. This canon may be cited as the "Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992".

Interpretation

2. In this canon -

"**diocese**" means a diocese of the Anglican Church of Australia;

"**ordinance**" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 74 of the Constitution.

The effect of certain English law in a diocese

3. (1) Upon the adoption by ordinance of this canon by a diocese -
 - (a) any law of the Church of England that, immediately before such adoption:
 - (i) was applicable to and in force in the diocese whether by virtue of a provision of the Constitution or otherwise; and
 - (ii) prevented the ordination of a woman to the office of priest;

¹ This canon was passed provisionally as Canon P1, 1992.

ceases, to the extent only that it prevented the ordination of a woman to the office of priest, to be applicable to or in force in that diocese; and

(b) a bishop when ordaining a person to the office of priest in a diocese, shall comply with any other conditions or restrictions with respect to ordination to the office of priest as are for the time being imposed by the law of this Church applicable to and in force in the diocese.

(2) In a diocese which does not adopt this canon nothing contained in this section shall affect the continued operation of any law of the Church of England applicable to and in force in that diocese which prevents the ordination of a woman to the office of priest.

Interpretation of "law of the Church of England"

4. In section 3 a reference to a law of the Church of England shall be read as including a reference to a rule relating to discipline, a principle, a practice or a tradition of the Church of England.

Removal of doubt

5. For the removal of any doubt:

(1) it is hereby declared that, subject to section 3(1)(b), the bishop of a diocese which adopts this canon may ordain any person to the office of priest; and

(2) nothing contained in this canon shall authorise the bishop of a diocese which does not adopt this canon to ordain a woman to the office of priest.

Canon affects dioceses

6. This canon affects the order and good government of the Church within a diocese and shall not come into force in a diocese unless and until the diocese, by ordinance, adopts it.
