

## ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO THE OFFICE OF DEACON CANON 1985

### Canon 18, 1985

**A canon to provide for the ordination of women to the office of deacon and for other purposes.**

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

1. The bishop of a diocese may ordain a woman to the office of deacon.
2. The bishop of a diocese may grant to any woman who has been ordained in Australia or elsewhere to the office of deacon a licence to perform the duties of a deacon in that diocese.
3. Notwithstanding any other law of the Church a woman may be admitted to the office of deacon in this Church in accordance with the form appropriate to that office set out in the Ordinal included in the Book of Common Prayer or in the Ordinal included in the Australian Prayer Book or in accordance with any other form appropriate to that office and approved for use in this Church, the language of any such form being adapted for the purpose so far as may be necessary for the admission of a woman to that office.
4. Nothing in section 1 or section 2 or section 3 shall limit any power or authority possessed by the bishop of a diocese prior to the making of this canon.
5. The provisions of this canon affect 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.
6. This canon may be cited as "Ordination of Women to the Office of Deacon Canon 1985."

-----