

## DIOCESE OF SODOR AND MAN

### MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

#### THE LEGAL BACKGROUND

1. **Mission partnerships** are districts comprising two or more ecclesiastical parishes, which join together to act in community and co-operation. Originally set up as informal groupings in 2010, four mission partnerships were legally established in the north, east, south and west of the Isle of Man, with effect from 1st January 2013.
2. The formal structure of a mission partnership is based on a **mission council**, which consists of —
  - (a) every clerk in Holy Orders beneficed or licensed to officiate in the district;
  - (b) any reader licensed to the district, whose name is on the roll of a parish in the district and who is nominated by the annual parochial church meeting of the parish;
  - (c) one lay representative from each church or chapel in a parish in the district, elected annually by the annual parochial church meeting of the parish.

One of the clergy is appointed by the Bishop to be **team leader** of the mission partnership. A mission council must appoint a secretary, and is to meet at least 4 times a year.

3. Appended to this note are —
  - (a) section 46 of the **Mission and Pastoral Measure (Isle of Man) 2012**, which provides for the establishment of mission partnerships and the constitution and functions of mission councils (page 2);
  - (b) the **Mission Partnership Scheme 2012**, which sets up the four mission partnerships and provides for the appointment and tenure of office of team leaders, the proceedings of mission councils and the number of lay representatives to be elected to them (page 3);
  - (c) extracts from the **Church Representation Rules** dealing with the election of lay representatives to mission councils (page 6).
4. The mission partnerships have taken the place of rural deaneries. Deaneries, deanery synods and the office of rural dean ceased to exist in the Isle of Man on 1st January 2013.

Diocesan Registry  
March 2014

Revised 2020

**46. Mission partnerships and deaneries**

- (1) The Commissioners<sup>1</sup> shall make one or more schemes —
  - (a) establishing districts, each comprising 2 or more parishes, to be known as "mission partnerships";
  - (b) constituting a mission council for each such district;
  - (c) making provision with respect to the officers, meetings and proceedings of mission councils; and
  - (d) making provision for the exercise in each such district of the functions of a rural dean.
- (2) A scheme under subsection (1) shall not have effect unless it is approved by the Diocesan Synod.
- (3) A mission council shall consist of —
  - (a) every clerk in Holy Orders beneficed or licensed to officiate in the district of the council;
  - (b) such, if any, of the readers who are licensed to that district, and whose names are on the roll of the parish, as the annual parochial church meeting of the parish may determine;
  - (c) such number of parochial representatives of the laity as are specified in the scheme by which the district is established.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5), representatives of the laity on a mission council shall —
  - (a) be elected to the council in accordance with the Church Representation Rules; and
  - (b) hold office from the conclusion of the annual meeting at which they were elected until the conclusion of the annual meeting next following their election.
- (5) A casual vacancy in the representatives of the laity elected to a mission council shall be filled in like manner, and for the like term, as a casual vacancy in the representatives of the laity elected to a parochial church council.
- (6) The functions of a mission council shall be —
  - (a) to promote in its district the mission of the Church;
  - (b) to bring together the views of the parishes in the district on common problems;
  - (c) to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems; and
  - (d) to promote community and co-operation among those parishes.
- (7) The office of rural dean is abolished, and the rural deaneries shall cease to exist.

---

<sup>1</sup> ie. the Church Commissioners for the Isle of Man

MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE (ISLE OF MAN) 2012

**MISSION PARTNERSHIPS SCHEME 2012**

*Approved by the Sodor and Man  
Diocesan Synod*

*13th November 2012*

*Coming into operation*

*1st January 2013*

The Church Commissioners for the Isle of Man make this Scheme under section 46 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure (Isle of Man) 2012<sup>2</sup>.

**1. Title**

The title of this Scheme is the Mission Partnerships Scheme 2012.

**2. Commencement**

This Scheme shall come into operation on 1st January 2013.

**3. Establishment of mission partnerships**

- (1) The mission partnerships specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 are hereby established.
- (2) Subject to paragraph (3), each mission partnership shall comprise the parishes specified in relation to it in column 2 of Schedule 1.
- (3) If a pastoral scheme uniting the parishes of Arbory and Castletown and the parishes of Malew and Santan comes into operation, references to the united parishes shall be substituted for the references to those parishes in Schedule 1.<sup>3</sup>

**4. Team leaders**

- (1) The Bishop shall by writing designate a clerk in Holy Orders who is beneficed or licensed to officiate in the mission partnership as the team leader of the mission partnership.
- (2) A team leader shall cease to hold office —
  - (a) if he or she ceases to be beneficed or licensed to officiate in the mission partnership;
  - (b) if he or she gives to the Bishop not less than 2 months' notice of his or her intention to resign as team leader; or
  - (c) if the Bishop gives him or her notice removing him or her from office.
- (3) If a team leader is absent or unable to act, the Bishop may by writing designate another clerk in Holy Orders who is beneficed or licensed to officiate in the mission partnership to act in the place of the team leader for such period as the Bishop may specify, or until the designation is withdrawn.

---

<sup>2</sup> SD 0654/12

<sup>3</sup> The parish of Arbory and Castletown and the parish of Malew and Santan were constituted by the Southern Pastoral Scheme 2012 (SD 708/12) with effect from 1st February 2013.

- (4) The functions of a rural dean under any enactment, Canon or other instrument of a legislative character shall, in relation to a mission partnership, be exercised by the team leader.
- (5) The Bishop shall send to the Diocesan Registrar a copy of —
  - (a) any designation under paragraph (1) or (3), and
  - (b) any notice under paragraph (2)(b) or (c).

**5. Mission councils**

- (1) A mission council is constituted for each mission partnership.
- (2) The number of parochial representatives of the laity on a mission council shall, in respect of each parish in the district of the council, be one for each parish church or chapel of ease in the parish.
- (3) Schedule 2 shall have effect with respect to the officers, meetings and proceedings of a mission council.

SCHEDULE 1

MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

<i>Mission partnership</i>	<i>Parishes</i>
Northern Mission Partnership	Bride, Lezayre and North Ramsey Maughold and South Ramsey The Northern Plain
Western Mission Partnership	Marown, Foxdale and Baldwin The West Coast
Southern Mission Partnership	Arbory* Castletown* Malew* Rushen Santan*
Eastern Mission Partnership	All Saints Douglas Braddan Lonan and Laxey Onchan St George Douglas St Matthew Douglas St Ninian Douglas St Thomas Douglas

\*See article 3(3)

SCHEDULE 2

PROCEEDINGS ETC. OF MISSION COUNCILS

**Secretary**

1. The mission council shall appoint a secretary, who shall hold office during the pleasure of the mission council.

**Meetings**

2. (1) The mission council shall hold not less than 4 ordinary meetings in every year.
- (2) The mission council shall hold additional meetings at any time —
  - (a) at the request of the Bishop or the team leader; or

(b) at the written request of 3 members addressed to the secretary or, if there is no secretary, the team leader.

(3) The time and place of a meeting of the mission council shall be fixed by the team leader, and shall be notified to all members by the secretary.

### **Proceedings**

3. At meetings of the mission council —
  - (a) the team leader, if present, shall preside, and in his or her absence a member of the mission council chosen by the members present shall preside;
  - (b) the quorum necessary for the transaction of business by the mission council shall be half the members of the mission council, and no business shall be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum of members is present;
  - (c) the names of the members present, and the proceedings of the mission council, shall be recorded in writing, and the minutes of the mission council shall be signed at the same or a subsequent meeting of the mission council by the person presiding at the meeting;
  - (d) every question at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting on that question, and in the case of an equality of votes the person presiding at the meeting shall have a second or casting vote;
  - (e) subject to the above, the procedure of the mission council shall be such as the mission council may determine.

### **Committees**

4. (1) The mission council may constitute committees, and may include as members of such committees persons who are not members of the mission council, but at least one member of such a committee must be a member of the mission council.  
(2) The procedure of a committee shall be such as the mission council may determine.

THE COMMON SEAL of the Church  
Commissioners for the Isle of Man was  
hereunto affixed on 18th October  
2012 in the presence of:

L.S.

*Sylvia Lawrinson*

Secretary

---

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Scheme.)*

This Scheme establishes four mission partnerships, and makes provision for team leaders and mission councils.

The constitution of a mission council is set out in section 46(3) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure (Isle of Man) 2012, and provision for the election of lay representatives is made by the Church Representation Rules.

## Church Representation Rules

### *Proceedings and elections*

#### **M6. Business: elections and appointments**

- (1) The annual meeting must, in the manner provided by Rule M9, do the following things in the following order — . . .
  - (c) elect parochial representatives of the laity to the mission council; . . .

#### **M8. Qualifications of persons to be elected**

- (1) A person is qualified for election as a parochial representative of the laity to . . . the mission council under Rule M6(1) . . . (c) if —
  - (a) the person is aged 16 or over,
  - (b) he or she is an actual communicant; and
  - (c) his or her name is entered on the roll of the parish and, unless he or she is aged under 18 at the date of the election, has been so entered for at least the preceding period of six months. . . .
- (3) A person may not be nominated for election under Rule M6 . . . (c) unless —
  - (a) the person has signified his or her consent to serve, or
  - (b) there is in the opinion of the meeting sufficient evidence of his or her willingness to serve; . . .

#### **M9. Conduct of an election**

- (1) This Rule applies in the case of every election which is to take place at the annual meeting.
- (2) A candidate must be nominated, either before the meeting in writing or at the meeting, by two persons each of whom—
  - (a) must be entitled to attend the meeting, and
  - (b) must have his or her name on the roll of a parish.
- (3) If the number of candidates does not exceed the number of seats to be filled, each candidate is declared elected.
- (4) If the number of candidates exceeds the number of seats to be filled, an election must take place in accordance with the following provisions.
- (5) Every lay person whose name is on the roll of the parish is entitled to vote in the election.
- (6) Each person entitled to vote has as many votes as there are seats to be filled, but may not give more than one vote to the same candidate.
- (7) Votes may be given by a show of hands; but if one or more persons object to that, each vote is to be given on a voting paper signed on the back by the voter.
- (8) If there is an equality of votes, the election is decided by the drawing of a lot by the presiding officer.

(9) On a recount of an election or a stage of an election, either on an appeal or at the request of the presiding officer or a candidate, if the original count and the recount are identical at the point when a lot must be drawn, the original lot must be used to decide.

(10) The presiding officer for an election at the annual meeting is the chair of the meeting.