

Shrewsbury Diocese J&P Commission

Commission Papers

- Commission Requirements
- Commission Meetings: Timing, Frequency, Location & Content
- Work Undertaken at Commission Meetings and Core Group Meetings

These Papers were considered and confirmed at the Justice & Peace Commission Meeting on 12 June, 2008.

Shrewsbury Diocese Justice & Peace Commission Attributes & Requirements

Preamble

The Commission was set up in the early 1980s by Bishop Gray to promote the theology, spirituality and practice of justice and peace throughout the diocese.

Commission members are appointed by the Bishop, usually on the recommendation of the sitting Commission. Most members will be practising Catholics, but the Commission has benefited from the membership of fellow Christians. The appointment is for a term of four years, but may be extended.

The Commission meets four times a year around the diocese. The day-to-day business is undertaken by a full-time Justice and Peace Co-ordinator who meets with a core group once a month. The core group consists of officers and any other commission member who may wish to attend, with the Coordinator in attendance. Minutes of core group meetings and the Justice and Peace Co-ordinator's report are sent to every member of the Commission.

Attributes and Requirements of Commission Members

- Resident or active in the Diocese
- Normally a practising Catholic but may be an active member of another denomination
- Knowledge and understanding of justice & peace issues
- Commitment to and experience of working for justice and peace
- Awareness of the scriptural tradition of peace and social justice
- Awareness of the Catholic Church's Social Teaching
- Commitment to serve on the Commission for at least four years
- Willingness to attend at least three meetings of the Commission per year if possible
- Willingness to contribute to discussions at Commission meetings
- Willingness to assist in implementing Commission decisions
- Willingness to participate and assist in Commission activities
- Willingness to contribute to the development of the Commission's work.

It is expected that, outside Commission meetings, each Commission member will feed back to the office information about justice and peace activities in which they have been involved and where they feel this information should be disseminated to a wider audience.

Shrewsbury Diocese J&P Commission Meetings

The following decisions were made at the Commission meeting held on 26 September, 2007:

Timing and frequency of meetings.

There should be four meetings a year, two of which should be Saturday meetings and two evening meetings. The Saturday meetings should be in the Autumn and Winter, allowing time to deal with the formulation of the Three Year Plan or the more detailed exploration of a specific issue or topic. The evening meetings would be in the Spring and Summer.

Location.

It would be difficult to find a venue convenient for every member but St. Anne's, Nantwich, was considered to be the most reasonably central for the diocese. This should be retained for evening meetings with other locations being chosen for the Saturday meetings.

Content.

The evening meetings should have a business like agenda whilst the Saturday meetings would cover more general and on going matters. The June meeting would also be the annual business meeting to consider the annual accounts, to set the budget and to hold elections for the officer positions. (secretary, treasurer, vice chair)

Shrewsbury Diocese Justice & Peace Commission
Work Undertaken at Commission Meetings and Core Group Meetings

At a meeting of the Commission held on 26th September 2007, a report was considered which set out what is considered at Commission and the Core Group meetings respectively as follows:

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Significant policy direction and decision
Formulation and adoption of Three Year Plan
Receipt of reports on the work of the Core Group
Formal approval of annual budget
Receipt of annual accounts
Annual election of officers (except Chairman who is appointed by the Bishop)
Discussion of current issues
Allocation of individual responsibilities

CORE GROUP MEETINGS

Supervision of work of Coordinator
Authorisation of expenditure
Implementation of Three Year Plan
Arranging for action on decisions made at Commission meetings
Planning scope of study days and events
Receiving reports from officers/members on work
Considering significant correspondence
Overseeing production of MouthPeace and QuickNews
Overseeing content of Website

During consideration of the report, a member referred to (decisions of) the Commission as being the 'public voice' and queries were raised concerning the quorum for decisions to be made at Core Group and Commission meetings and the composition of the Core Group. It was agreed 'that these matters should be considered further by the Core Group for report back at the next Commission meeting'.

At the Commission meeting held on 26th January 2008, the following recommendations of the Core Group were agreed:

- The composition of the Core Group be the officers of the Commission together with any other members of the Commission who wish to attend, with the Co-ordinator in attendance.
- The basic functions of the Core Group are to serve the Commission and to act as a Management Group for the Co-ordinator.
- The quorum for policy decisions at Commission meetings be a minimum of one more than half the current Commission members.