

Administering Confirmation in another church

In the unlikely event of an invitation to administer Confirmation, the recipient should consult the bishop.

Administering Ordination in another church

While Church of England bishops, clergy, lay workers and Readers are free to take part in ordination services in another designated church, they must do nothing which might be construed as conferring orders.

Canon B43.5 states: “A bishop or priest who has accepted an invitation to take part in the ordination or consecration of a minister of a Church to which this Canon applies may not, by the laying on of hands or otherwise, do any act which is a sign of the conferring of Holy Orders, unless that Church is an episcopal Church with which the Church of England has established intercommunion.”

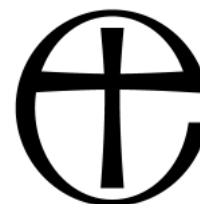
Guidelines for bishops on how they may be appropriately involved in ordinations in other churches have been produced by the Inter Anglican Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations (IASCER). These are available on

<http://www.aco.org/ecumenical/commissions/iascer/ecumguidelines.cfm>

For further advice, contact your Diocesan Ecumenical Officer

For the list of designated churches as at February 2007, visit the CCU web site - see below.

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Council for Christian Unity

2007

Courtesies!

Guidelines for clergy and parish congregations when relating to Christians of other churches

1. Welcoming individual Christians
2. Hospitality to other congregations
3. Inviting ministers to share in worship
- 4. Responding to invitations from elsewhere**
5. Methodists and Moravians - two special relationships

From the Preface to the Declaration of Assent made by every priest
- Canon C15:

“The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church ...”

From Canon A8 Of Schisms:

“... it is the duty of clergy and people to do their utmost not only to avoid occasions of strife but also to seek in penitence and brotherly charity to heal such divisions.”

Courtesies: 4. Responding to invitations

4. Responding to invitations to lead or share in worship in other churches

Attending worship in other churches

Individual participants in the life of the Church of England (in other words, any who think of themselves as ‘members’) are free to attend worship in other Trinitarian churches, including receiving Holy Communion if offered, according to their own conscience.

Church of England bishops, clergy, lay workers and Readers are similarly free to attend as individuals but may need to consider the public impact of their actions.

Leading or sharing in worship in other churches

But *not* including conducting Holy Baptism, celebrating Holy Communion or administering Confirmation or Ordination

Church of England bishops, clergy, lay workers and Readers are free to accept invitations from other designated churches to share in their worship, and to lead non-sacramental worship, provided that the invitation only involves them in the kind of duties they perform in a Church of England church.

Before accepting any invitation they will need:

- The approval of the incumbent of the parish where the service is to take place
- The approval of both the bishop and the PCC in that parish if the invitation is to take part in worship on a regular basis

Leading sacramental worship in other churches

Before clergy or Readers accept an invitation to conduct Holy Baptism in another designated church, they should consult the bishop.

More specifically, if a priest is invited to preside at Holy Communion in a designated church, the bishop will need to be sure there are special circumstances before allowing the priest to accept the invitation.

The advice from the Council for Christian Unity is that the Anglican-Methodist Covenant (in relation to the Methodist Church) and the Fetter Lane Agreement (in relation to the Moravian Church) both provide the ‘special circumstances’ that would justify acceptance.

Both the bishop and the priest need to be satisfied that “*the rite and the elements to be used are not contrary to, nor indicative of any departure from, the doctrine of the Church of England in any essential matter*” (Canon B43.4).