

## Discussion Starters for Lay Conference Delegates and their 'Lead Priests'

Adult parish delegates are requested to meet together with their 'lead priest' before attending the Lay Conference. This is to help delegates reflect together on their parish context before taking part in the Conference and feeding back afterwards to their PCC. Questions are provided as discussion starters, but conversation is likely to range more widely.

A note should be made of responses to all the 'multiple choice' questions, so answers can be fed back online afterwards by one of the delegates. An easy-to-use 'survey monkey' will be available for this on [www.leeds.anglican.org/lay-conference/survey](http://www.leeds.anglican.org/lay-conference/survey) from 25 April 2018.

These online responses will be used to help inform the Lay Conference and assist follow-up afterwards. To encourage a spirit of openness, data will not be traceable to individual parishes, but will simply be grouped by episcopal area.

Where applicable, please score answers between 1 and 6, where 1 is 'very little' and 6 is 'a great deal'.

If there is no 'lead priest' (e.g. due to a vacancy), some questions will need to be adapted.

- 1.** As 'lead priest', what is your vision for lay involvement in the life of this local church and for equipping lay people for living day-to-day as Christians?
- 2.** As 'lead priest', is there something you'd really like to do in your parish but can't, to involve or resource lay people? What is holding you back?
- 3.** How confident do you think most lay members of your church are in talking about their faith in everyday life? *Please score between 1 and 6*

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

4. Which aspects of weekly worship in your parish most helpfully support and challenge adult Christian living for the rest of the week?

Are there aspects of weekly worship in your parish which intentionally support children and young people? Yes /No

If yes, please give examples: 1.  
2.

Would additional resources for supporting church members in their workplaces be appreciated? Yes /No

5. When did the last nurture\* course take place in your church/parish?  
*\*A course designed to deepen understanding of the Christian faith (e.g. Pilgrim, Alpha)*

Are there any plans to run one over the next two years? Yes /No /Maybe

6. To what extent is your parish a 'mixed economy' of inherited patterns of church and 'fresh expressions' of church?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

How engaged are lay people in pioneering new forms of church engagement for your local community?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

Would your parish appreciate additional support for 'lay pioneering'? Yes /No /Maybe

7. How strong are your church links with local schools?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

How active are lay church members in nurturing these links?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

8. To what extent do clergy and lay people work together in initiating and shaping priorities in your church/parish?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

Looking at your congregation today, how confident are you that influential and active lay people will be contributing to the life of your church in 10 years' time?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

9. Is weekly attendance at your church increasing? A lot /A bit /No /Not sure

If yes, how are lay church members contributing to this?

Is it helped by *Leading your Church into Growth* A lot /A bit /No / Not sure

10. What sort of training do you see as most beneficial for encouraging discipleship and lay ministry in your parish?

Which areas of training areas could most usefully be offered outside the parish, to supplement parish-based training? *Please list up to three*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Practical Questions

- Which delegate will feed back the answers to the above questions online?
- Will they require assistance? Who might be able to provide this?
- How do delegates intend to travel to the Lay Conference? What scope is there for car sharing?
- Which PCC meeting will delegates feedback to afterwards? Has at least 40 minutes been allocated on the PCC agenda for this?