

Guidance for Lay Delegates Meeting with their PCC

1. Background

All adult delegates from each parish/missional community are encouraged to meet together with their PCC, to share their impressions of the Lay Conference and insights they have 'brought home' with them. In some parishes, adult delegates will include Deanery Lay Chairs, those allocated extra places for disabled participants, members of the Mothers Union and people who are BAME (black, Asian and minority ethnic).

2. Preparation

- a. Confirm the date of the PCC meeting you will attend to share your experience of the Lay Conference, along with the amount of time allocated to Lay Conference feedback and discussion (at least 40 minutes is recommended).
- b. Meet together with any other adult delegates before the PCC meeting and:
 - i. Share your experiences of the Lay Conference and what each of you identified as 'take home' insights.
 - ii. Discuss the suggested guidance for meeting with the PCC (below)
 - iii. Agree how you will structure your time with the PCC, including who will take the lead at different points.

3. Suggestions for the structure of the meeting with the PCC

a. Scene setting

Begin by giving a general overview of the Lay Conference: how you prepared for it, the content of the day, your overall experience, highlights and how that compared with your expectations.

b. Personal 'take home'

Mention which self-select sessions you attended and offer a flavour of what you personally 'took home' from the Conference. This is an opportunity to convey how God's call to lay people was being heard at the Conference.

c. 'Take home' for your parish/missional community

i. 'Take home' packs

Share any contents of your 'take-home' packs which you think might be of particular interest to your PCC.

ii. The On-line Learning Platform

Aided by the postcards in your 'take-home' packs, explain that the new On-line Learning Platform is a means of providing access to relevant events, courses and resources, for both lay people and clergy. You can reassure them that using it is as easy as ordering from Amazon online. Please invite PCC members to sign up themselves and encourage others to do so too.

iii. **'Take-home' insights for your parish/missional community**

Take it in turns to share insights from the Conference you each think might be of particular relevance to your own parish or missional community. Allow time for questions or discussion. A wide-ranging discussion might be sparked by your insights, so try to make sure the PCC is able to focus on what you think are your most important 'take home' points.

iv. **Themes raised by 'on-line' feedback**

Drawing on the 'on-line' feedback from delegates before and after the Conference, and your own experience at the Conference, here are some possible themes to highlight:

1. Living as a Christian at work

Statistic: 64% of parishes said they would appreciate additional resources for supporting church members in their workplace.

- Is this something to explore further in this parish/missional community?

2. Nurture courses

Statistic: 62% of parishes plan to run Nurture Courses over the next 18 months. 35% said 'maybe' they would do so.

- If your parish is a 'maybe', what would turn 'maybe' into 'yes'?
- Is there potential for involving more lay people in helping run nurture courses in your parish, with appropriate training?

3. Links with schools

Statistic: 65% of parishes have strong or very strong links with schools; but the involvement of lay people in nurturing these links is varied

- Is there potential for lay people to be more active in strengthening links between church and school?

4. Church growth and young people

Statistic: 61% said weekly church attendance is increasing

- Which insights from the Lay Conference could help lay people draw more people of all ages into the life of the church?

5. Training for lay people

Statistic: Areas where training provided outside the parish is most needed for lay people: nurturing discipleship, leading worship, pastoral care, working with children and young people.

- What training would help everyone play their part in this parish?

v. **New 'things to do'**

Mark Russell spoke of doing 'old things' better. He also imagined the difference it could make if every congregation did 'one new thing'.

- What 'one new thing', lay-led and PCC-endorsed, could be started in 6-12 months (with no pressure for attracting big numbers):
 - An act of worship (lay-led), aimed at those on the fringe?
 - An invitation event (lay-led), for non-churchgoers?
 - A support group (lay-led) for workplace challenges?
 - A nurture course (lay-led) for those wanting to dig deeper?
- How can 'new' lay leaders be identified and trained?