**2022 Conference**

**Motion A**

**Motion A – Removal of age restriction for lay members of Conference**

Conference proposes that Article Nine, Lay Elected Members, section (f) of the Constitution of the Monmouth Diocesan Conference shall be removed.

The full section to be considered reads:-

*(f)   Lay membership of the conference shall cease on the member attaining the age of seventy-five.*

The removal of this clause would thereby eliminate the age restriction currently in place for lay membership of Diocesan Conference.

**Explanation**

Following strong feedback to the Standing Committee from multiple ministry areas, the Standing Committee has decided to bring this motion to Conference to decide whether the age restriction be removed to allow lay members of the diocese to continue to serve beyond the age of seventy-five. It has been confirmed that the age restriction for lay members of Diocesan Conference is exclusively held within the Monmouth Diocesan Constitution and is therefore within its power to change.

If the age restriction is removed, this would make Diocesan Conference regulations consistent with the regulations in place for Deanery Conferences in Monmouth Diocese. A removal of the age restriction will impact membership of any diocesan committee which requires membership of Diocesan Conference to serve; such as Standing Committee, Diocesan Board of Finance, and the Board of Nomination.

It is believed the age restriction for Diocesan Conference may have been originally put in place to match the age restrictions which are in place in the Church in Wales Constitution for the Governing Body (Chapter II Regulations – regulation 9.1) and for the Representative Body (Chapter III The Representative Body – Part 3 Qualification for Membership, section 8).

We have consulted with the other Welsh dioceses and can confirm that St Asaph, Swansea & Brecon, Bangor and Llandaff do not have age limits for their elected lay members of Conference. St Davids does currently have the same restriction of 75 years of age.

It should be noted that the age restriction for clergy (membership of Conference ceases at 70 years of age) is held in the Church in Wales Constitution (Chapter IV Diocesan Conference – Part 2 Membership, section 8.2) and is thereby beyond the remit of our Diocesan Conference to alter.

**Proposed by: Revd James Henley on behalf of East Cardiff Ministry Area**

**Seconded by: Robert (Bob) Evans**