



To: the Archbishop of Canterbury-Elect, the Archbishop of York  
the members of the LLF Programme Board

12<sup>th</sup> December, 2025

Dear Archbishop, Archbishop-Elect, Bishops and Board Members,

As Directors of the Alliance, we write first and foremost to assure you – and all those attending the House of Bishops meeting next week – of our prayers as the House prayerfully considers the conclusion of the LLF process and the most fitting way forward for the Church of England.

As you are aware from our constructive meeting with Archbishop Stephen, Bishop Steven and Bishop Pete at Lambeth Palace on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025, we are grateful for the decision made by the House in October 2025 to commit to formal synodical and legislative processes when considering whether to introduce bespoke services of blessing and to allow clergy to enter into same-sex marriages.

We are mindful that many who had been hoping for further changes remain dismayed by that decision, are feeling deeply hurt and let down, and are communicating this in a variety of ways. We can only imagine the pressure that this will be placing on you, and we pray for you as you meet to confirm the decisions that were made in October, recognising Archbishop Stephen's words that "these are the right decisions following further legal and theological advice".

As a result of the October update from the House of Bishops, we were glad to be able to pivot the Alliance Campaign, as we made clear to you when we met. However, we do also want to express one concern that we have with the potential way forward. Two Alliance Directors were at the Leicester Residential on 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025, where the possibility of a new "Dialogue Group" was first discussed – a possibility which was also raised with us at Lambeth Palace on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

While we are committed to further dialogue, some of what has been said seems to indicate that this group is being seen as a steering group with a mandate to bring to General Synod a timeline for the legislative process to explore same-sex marriage for clergy. We would have serious concerns if what was agreed in October now appeared to show a clearer pathway towards same-sex marriage for clergy than is helpful or possible for the Church at this time. Indeed, if such a steering group was introduced as the agreed way forward, we would have no option but to return to our original Alliance Campaign.

We want to thank you again for your corporate action as the House in October, and we pray that your meeting as a House next week will continue to be unified on this matter. We pray too that you will each have a rich and fruitful Christmas season, as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour and Lord; and that this will be followed by time for refreshment as we enter 2026. We look forward to further meetings in the year ahead – and to playing a positive and constructive role in all that lies before us.

With our grateful thanks and every blessing

Sarah Jackson (Chair)

Ade Adebajo

John Dunnett

Adam Gaunt

Paul Langham

Vaughan Roberts

Jago Wynne

The Directors of the Alliance