**Motion # 5**

**Guidelines for Christian Initiation (Motion # 17 of GSTHW 2016 lying on the table)**

**Mover:** The Right Rev’d TK Pikaahu **Seconder:**

**This General Synod/ te Hīnota Whānui 2016:**

Move into Committee, pursuant to Title C, Canon II, Clause 5, to amend Standing Resolution SRL4.

In Committee:

Adopts the following changes to the Standing Resolution SRL4. Guidelines for Christian Initiation.

1 In Section 1 (b) v) line 3, delete the words ‘in Confirmation’, the clause then reads ‘and to receive, in the Laying on of Hands, the strengthening power …

2 In Section 2, replace the heading with the words ‘Laying on of Hands for Affirmation’.

3 In Section 2 (c) rewording to read ‘The rite of Laying on of Hands is an occasion …

4 In Section 2 (d) substitute with these words “The Bishop shall be the minister for the Laying on of Hands for Affirmation, Renewal and Reception.”

5 In Section 3, para 2, line 4, remove the word ‘Confirmation’ and substitute the word “Affirmation”.

6 In Section 4, C, Renewal of Baptismal Vows, line 3, remove the word ‘Confirmation’ and insert words ‘the Laying on of Hands for Affirmation and Renewal’.

7 In Section 4, D, Reception from another Christian Church, line 4, remove the words ‘Confirmation or reaffirm their faith in an act of Renewal (Sections 2 and 4c, above)’ and insert the words ‘the Laying on of Hands for Reception’.

8 In Section 5, Records, remove the words ‘in Confirmation’ and insert the words ‘for Affirmation, Renewal or Reception’.

*Please see next page for Existing Standing Resolution.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| E | **SRL 4. GUIDELINES FOR CHRISTIAN INITIATION (SR36)** | | |
| The following Guidelines for Christian Initiation are adopted as Guidelines for Christian Initiation (1990) for this Church: | | | |
| 1. | Baptism | | |
|  | Baptism is usually administered in the context of the Eucharist or another service of congregational worship, unless there are special pastoral circumstances. Tangihanga, hura kohatu, weddings and other whānau, hapu or iwi events, significant festivals and other important occasions in the life of the Church, including those where the Bishop may preside, are appropriate times for Baptism. | | |
|  | Adult candidates for Baptism, and the parents or guardians as well as any other godparents of younger candidates are called to participate regularly in the worshipping life of the Church. Education in the faith, sacraments and mission of the church precedes and follows Baptism. | | |
|  | In the case of children: | | |
|  | (a) | At least one parent or guardian will affirm Baptism for the child and may show this by becoming a godparent. Parents or guardians as well as any other godparents undertake to bring up the child as a member of the Body of Christ, participating in the worship, education and community life of the Church. | |
|  | (b) | Parents or guardians as well as any other godparents, receive education for teaching the child: | |
|  |  | i) | The Lord's Prayer and how to pray |
|  |  | ii) | The Creeds and the faith of the church |
|  |  | iii) | The Commandments and how to obey the teaching of Christ |
|  |  | iv) | How to read the Scriptures to discover the Word of God |
|  |  | v) | Parents or guardians as well as any other godparent are also to encourage the child to take his / her place in the eucharistic community, to make a commitment to Christ, and in Confirmation to receive, in the Laying on of Hands, the strengthening power of the Holy Spirit for witness and service. |
| 2. | Laying on of Hands for Confirmation | | |
|  | (a) | Candidates will have been helped to explore and understand the faith of their Baptism, and their calling as disciples. | |
|  | (b) | Candidates will affirm their faith in Christ and be strengthened for ministry as responsible Christians in the world by the Laying on of Hands and prayer. | |
|  | (c) | The rite of Confirmation is an occasion for reaffirmation of Christian faith and commitment to service by the whole congregation. | |
|  | (d) | The Bishop shall be the minister of Confirmation. | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 3. | Eucharist | |
|  | The sacramental means of entry and incorporation into the Body of Christ occurs through Baptism. The Eucharist is the sacramental means by which members of the Body are sustained and nurtured in that community and is the central act of worship in the Christian Church. Baptism confers full membership of the Church, and therefore provides the ground for admission to the holy communion. All may therefore receive communion from the time of their Baptism irrespective of age. | |
|  | Variations in pastoral practice in relation to admission to the communion may be found, but those once admitted (whether at Baptism, or when judged pastorally appropriate by priest and family, or at a special service after more formal instruction, or after receiving Laying on of Hands for Confirmation), are welcome to receive communion in any parish in this Church. | |
|  | A process of education is essential in developing an awareness and understanding of the meaning of the Eucharist. Teaching on the Eucharist should be made widely available. | |
| 4. | Pastoral Rites | |
|  | A. | Thanksgiving for the gift of a child |
|  |  | Encouragement is to be given to the use of this service whether or not the parents and families wish to have the child baptised. "This service provides an opportunity for parents and families to give thanks for the birth or adoption of a child and to offer prayer for family life. It may take place in the home, the hospital, in church, or some other suitable setting as soon as convenient after the birth or adoption of a child". This may be an opportunity to give encouragement in Christian parenting. |
|  | B. | Rites Marking Spiritual Growth |
|  |  | Authorised rites marking stages of growth in spiritual awareness and understanding of faith may take place preceding and / or following education programmes. Parents or guardians as well as any other godparents are encouraged to be involved in the education of the young person. |
|  | C. | Renewal of Baptism Vows |
|  |  | Individuals ready to make a new beginning in Christian faith and ministry may renew their Baptism vows and receive the Laying on of Hands with prayer. The rite of Confirmation and significant festivals are appropriate times for renewal. |
|  | D. | Reception from another Christian Church |
|  |  | Individuals ready to make a new beginning in Christian faith and ministry may renew their Baptism vows and receive the Laying on of Hands with prayer. The rite of Confirmation and significant festivals are appropriate times for renewal. |
| 5. | Records | |
|  | A record of the Baptism and the Laying on of Hands in Confirmation shall be kept by the Church and a copy given to the person. [1990] | |