

# Informal Consultations on draft proposals



LIVING  
IN LOVE  
& FAITH





# COMMITMENTS FOR TODAY'S MEETING

- holding each other before God in prayer
- praying for the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit
- avoiding interrupting each other, instead acknowledging what others say before moving on to have our say
- keeping confidential anything personal that is shared
- taking care about how we speak about others who are not in the room
- learning together how we can live more fully in the way of Christ



# BACKGROUND INFO FOR QUESTIONS

- When a question refers to ‘**church**’, please answer on behalf of your church, parish, chaplaincy, or group of churches, whichever is most appropriate to your situation.
- The questions aim to get **feedback** on the **principle and workability** of the draft proposals. If you are unable or unwilling to answer a particular question or respond to a particular statement, you may choose to **skip** it.
- Feedback gathered via Mentimeter is anonymous. Individuals or specific churches cannot be named, and it is not possible to connect individual respondents to specific answers. High level, aggregated, data will be drawn together and reported by Diocese. There is no personal detail or data stored.



# PRAYER FOR TODAY'S MEETING

---

Eternal God,  
the light of the minds that  
know you,  
the joy of the hearts that love  
you,  
and the strength of the wills  
that serve you:  
grant us so to know you,  
that we may truly love you,

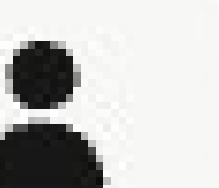
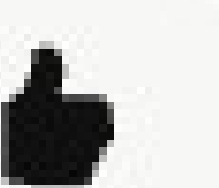
so to love you  
that we may truly serve you,  
Whose service is perfect  
freedom;  
through Jesus Christ, our  
Lord.  
Amen

after Augustine of Hippo (340)



# Informal Diocesan Consultations - Feedback on LLF draft proposals

Follow the link in the QR code, or go to Menti.com and fill in the code displayed at the top





## Table Conversations 1

Take a moment to think about how you feel about this conversation tonight?

Think of how you might share this with people on your table (if you want to)

When invited, listen to how people on your table are feeling.



## Word cloud starter

2. Describe in max 3 words how you feel about today's conversation on LLF





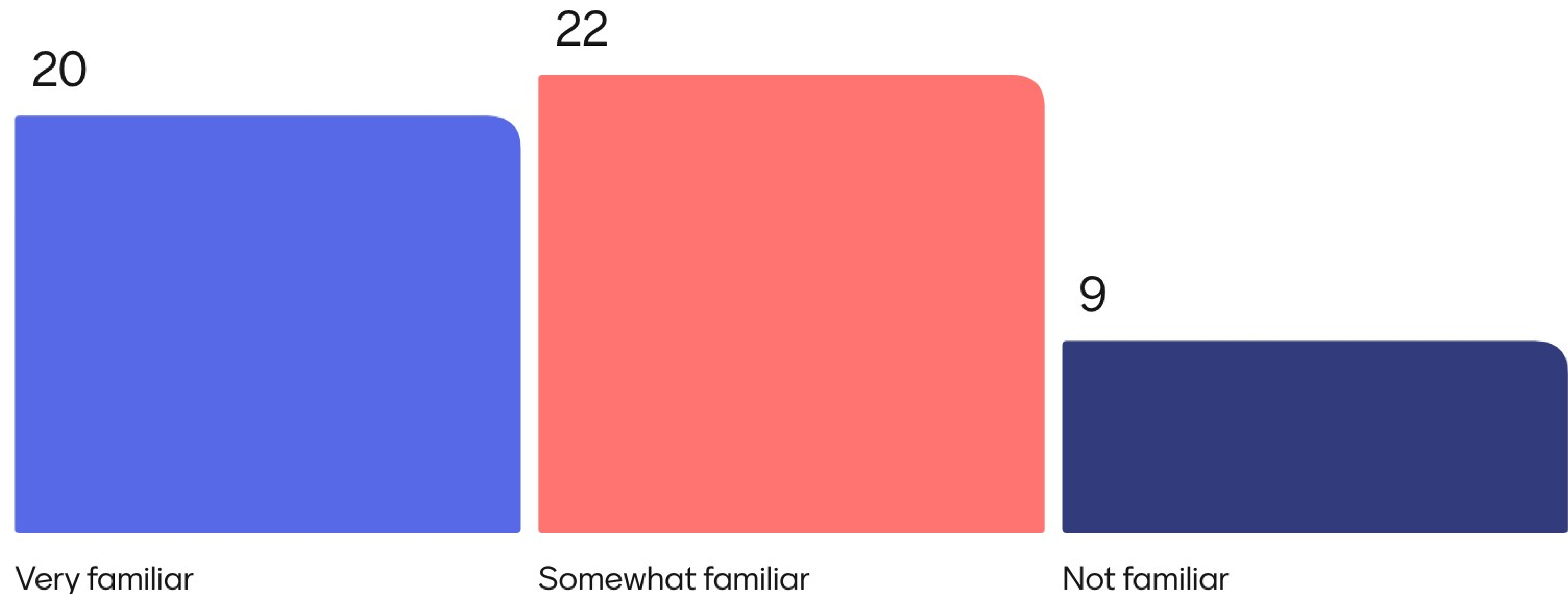
## Table Conversations 1

There will now be a series of questions about your general awareness of LLF and about whether your church has discussed, or used, the PLF.

After answers have been collated you will be invited to discuss the feedback on your tables. The purpose is listening and learning about each other's experiences

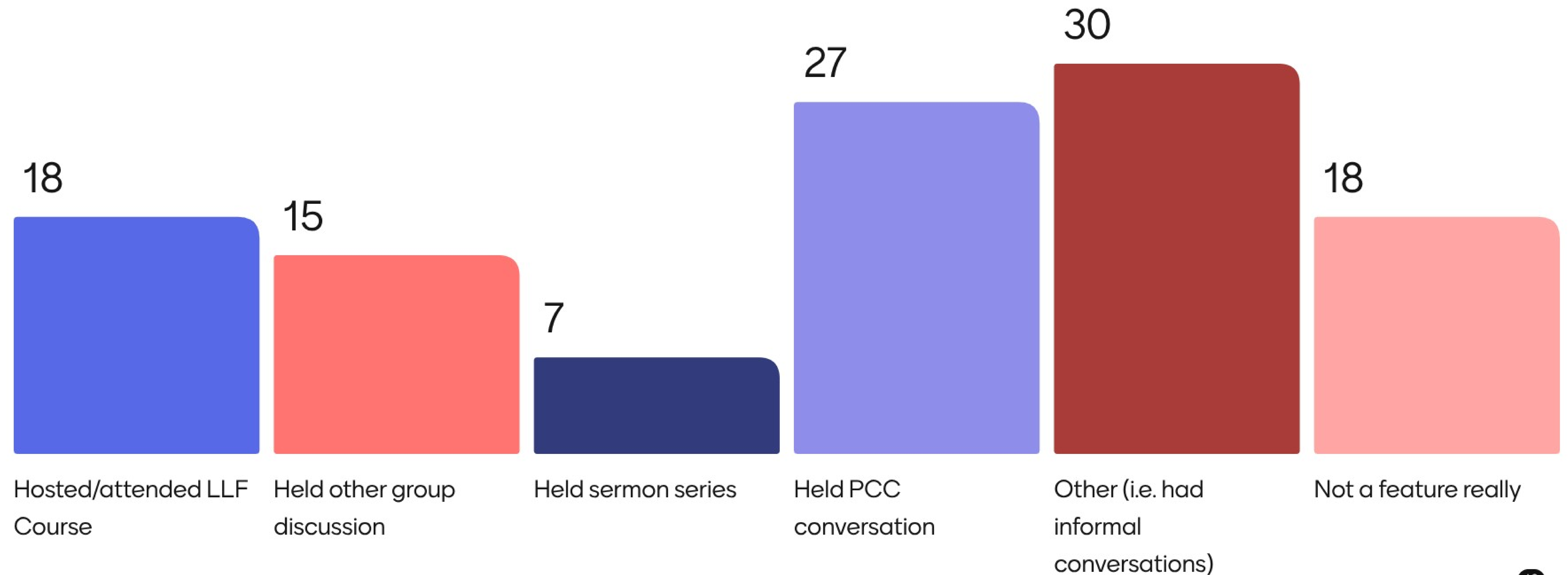


# 1. How familiar are you with the LLF process to date?



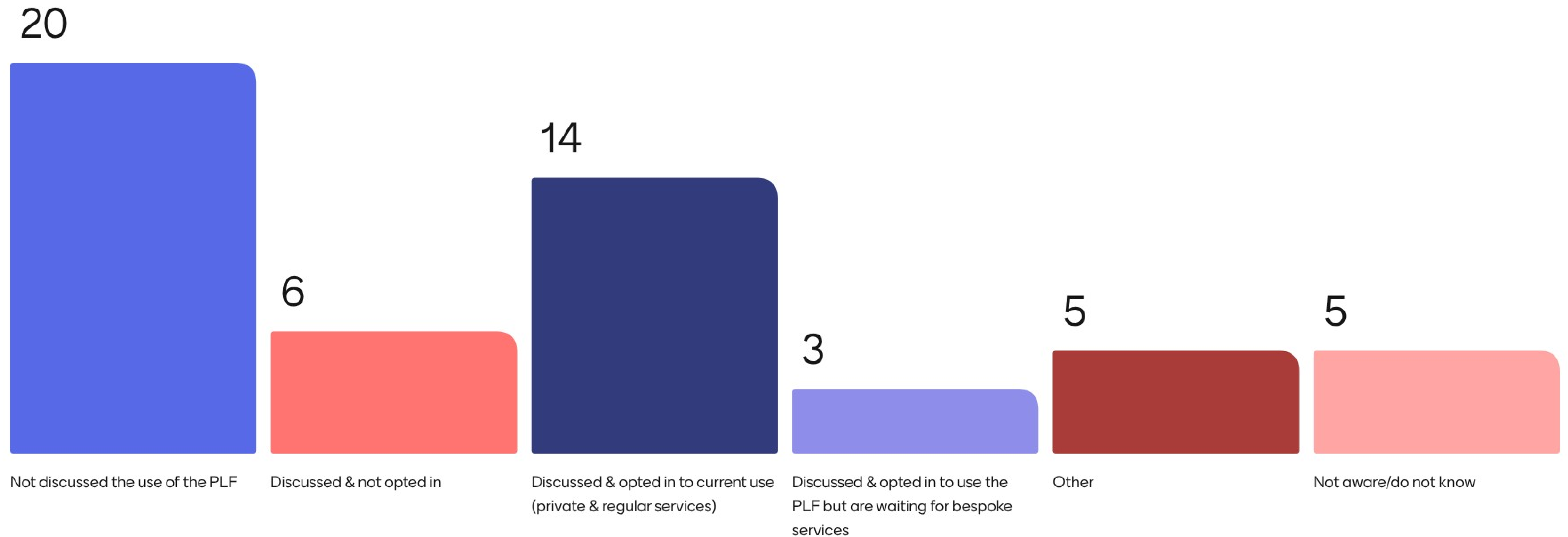


### 3. How does LLF feature in the life of your church? (choose all that apply)





## 4. Use of the Prayers of Love and Faith in your church:





# PROPOSAL ELEMENTS: ALL IN DRAFT

Pastoral reassurance  
through a form of  
delegated episcopal  
ministry

PLF opt-in under Canon B5  
private use: regular worship:  
bespoke services

Clarity on timeline and  
process for consideration  
of removing restrictions  
clergy in SSM

Three-year period of  
discernment monitoring and  
reflecting on use of the PLF and  
take up of pastoral reassurance



# GUIDANCE AVAILABLE FOR USE OF PLF

## Draft guidance for the PLF, including in 'bespoke' services:

- seeking discernment & navigating disagreement
- guidance for use of the PLF
- registration and consultation process

## Draft Code of Practice on Pastoral Reassurance including:

- possible arrangements for delegated episcopal ministry
- consequential arrangements
- implementation

## Existing materials from the LLF suite, including:

- *Braver & Safer*
- LLF Course
- Pastoral Principles



# HOW TO DECIDE TO OPT-IN TO THE USE OF PLF?

## HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY - MORE DETAIL IN DRAFT GUIDANCE



A minister may decide to consider using the Prayers (in bespoke services). This can be prompted by pastoral need or an active request.

Minister & PCC have conversation about the use of the Prayers, consulting the wider church community if desired.

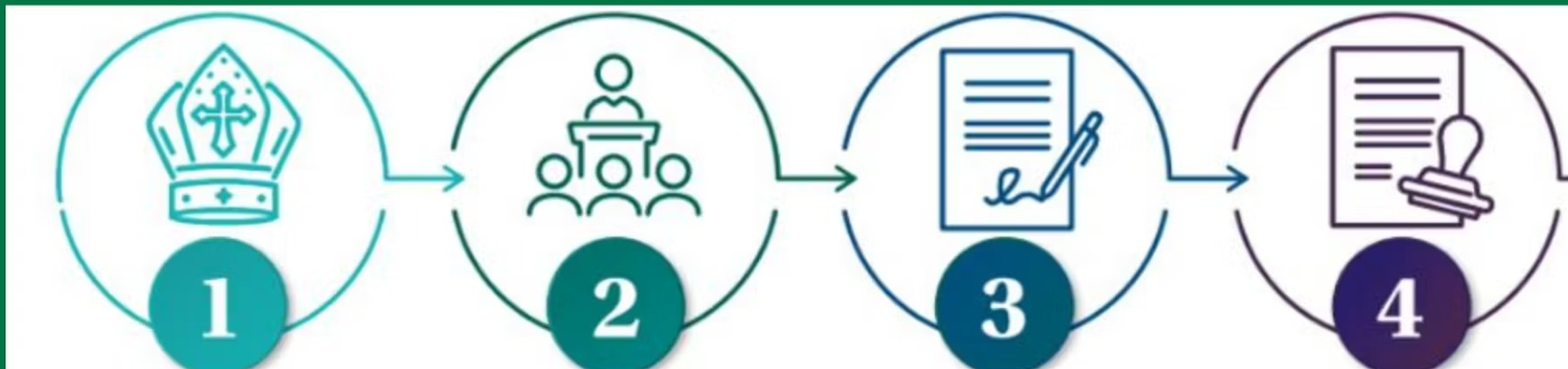
Depending on the outcome of the conversation, a minister can decide to go ahead with bespoke use of the Prayers and registers this with the Diocesan Bishop.

Optional: The church adds a 'PLF' tag to its account on AChurchNearYou.com. Alternatively, the minister does not opt-in to the use of the Prayers and no further action is needed.



# REQUESTING PASTORAL REASSURANCE

## HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY - DETAILS IN DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE



A PCC may request Pastoral Reassurance. The PCC should first speak to their diocesan bishop to understand different perspectives, ministerial needs, and concerns.

A PCC may request PR based on the bishop's action taken or statements made, not on what a bishop is alleged to think. If a PCC wishes to proceed after step 1, they can make a decision by simple majority, following consultation with the wider worshipping community.

A PCC may then write to their diocesan bishop requesting Pastoral Reassurance, detailing their grounds for the request. The diocesan bishop responds within four to six weeks.

Pastoral Reassurance may be granted and the PCC's request may be made public alongside the bishop's agreement.



# FAQ ON THE DRAFT PROPOSALS



## **Why are the proposals in draft?**

The proposals are being developed over the course of 2025. The House of Bishops aim to discuss and revise the draft proposals so that they will come to General Synod for debate and decision in February 2026. A wide range of views will be gathered via informal consultations for consideration by the College and House of Bishops to help refine the final proposals.

## **What about theological advice?**

The theological advice to date has been made public by the Faith and Order Commission and Episcopal Reference Group in various updates to General Synod. They can be found on the LLF website as well, together with the draft) proposals and background info.

## **Is there more detail available on the proposals?**

The draft Code of Practice and draft Guidance on the Prayers of Love & Faith are available in full on the LLF website. They were published as General Synod paper in Feb 2025. The leaflets aim to give an update in as simple language as possible.





## Table Conversations 2

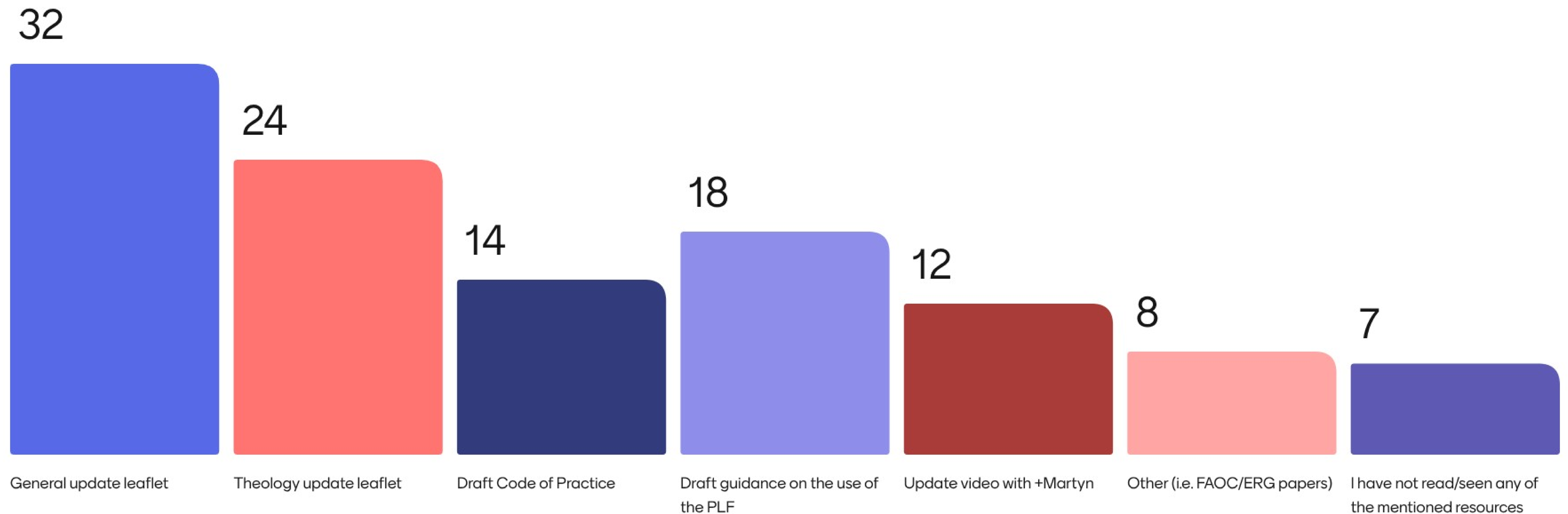
---



What do you find hardest in the current tensions and disagreements over LLF and what do you think is positive in where we are?

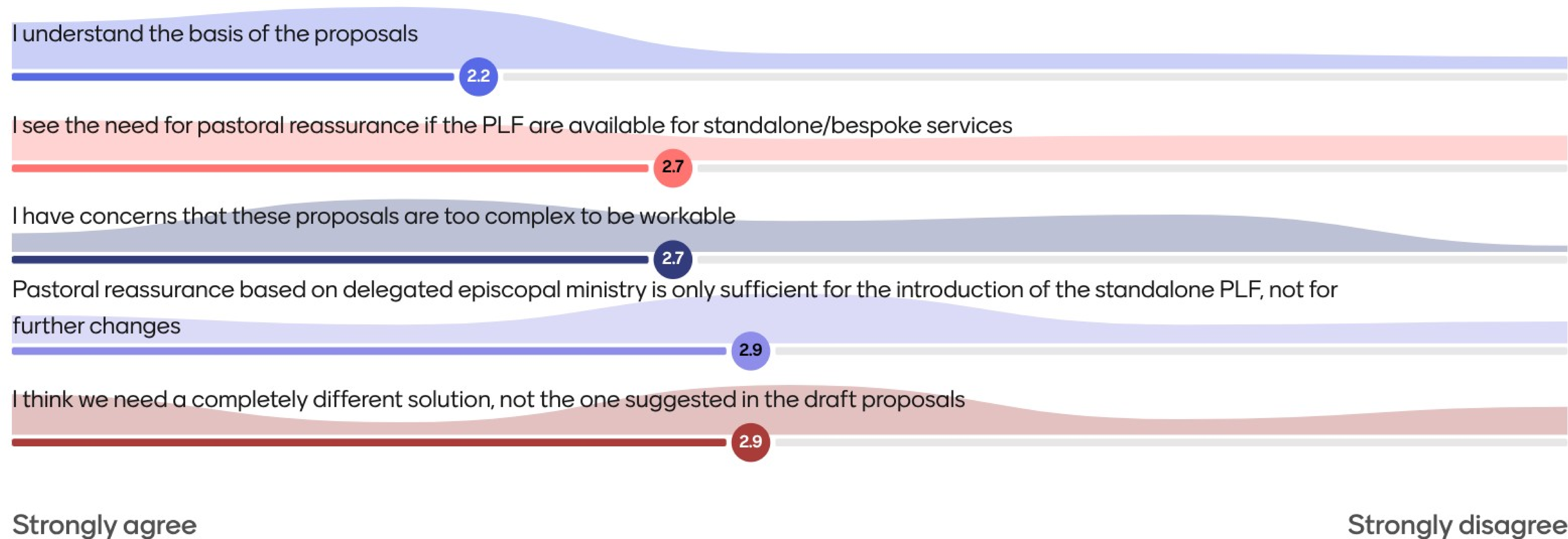


5. Which of the available resources on the draft proposals have you read (or seen, in case of the video) ahead of today's meeting?





6. Please give your opinion on the following statements about the proposals.  
On a scale from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree);





## 7. What further guidance, if any, on the use of the PLF and Pastoral Reassurance, would be helpful and in which area(s)?

Understandable, short, clear explanation

Clear and simple communication via diocesan mailing

Don't know

None

Really, affirming people like me want prayers ghat actually celebrate same sex relationships not just 'friendship'

How should I bring this to Deanery Synod?

Specific detail about how PR and DEM will work for Clergy that require it, especially given that there is no current agreement in the HOB.

What Pastoral guidance is and will look like



## 7. What further guidance, if any, on the use of the PLF and Pastoral Reassurance, would be helpful and in which area(s)?

Too complicated

I think pastoral reassurance is unworkable. Guidance aimed at people in pews who haven't been engaged throughout the process.

Managing consultation within multi-parish settings

I don't want to see any further.

Real attention given to maintaining the highest degree of communion especially WITHIN the college of bishops. Delegated Episcopal Ministry can only work if the bishops remain in communion.

Clear guidance on Cathedral context and relationship with Bishop and Chapter

Simple guidance leaflets that bear in mind the context of those who have not followed this C of E debate in any way apart from in the press

A summary paper for PCCs would be really helpful. This could include guidance for continuing to work together where different views are held.



## 7. What further guidance, if any, on the use of the PLF and Pastoral Reassurance, would be helpful and in which area(s)?

Guidance on how to implement and facilitate change.

Further guidance to support LGBTQIA+ people within the church who are personally affected by this.

The concept of pastoral reassurance needs review. It does not reflect everything that is needed for differences of opinion to be respected and managed.

Short on line summary for distribution in church if required

Process to introducing PLF in parishes Guidance for individual churches in a single parish context

Short guidance that members of congregation can understand easily

Clearer information particularly with liturgy on how to include PLF

Clearer concise guidance



## 7. What further guidance, if any, on the use of the PLF and Pastoral Reassurance, would be helpful and in which area(s)?

The level of control that will rest with the minister if the majority of the congregation holds a different view to that being imposed and how this will be dealt with.

Clear, concise guidance

Something short and succinct for easy reading by members of the PCC and members of the congregation. I read at home over a cup of tea leaflet following group discussions.

Pastoral reassurance- what about PCCs with multiple churches holding different views

The most problematic issue is how does Pastoral Reassurance work with a multi-parish benefice or a benefice that has one PCC governing multiple churches?

A very short update monthly sent to Incumbents on where this is all at. Something written about priests being chaplains to the whole community

Need to see the ACTUAL DRAFTS -not imprecision in possibilities -cannot decide on current data.

The prayers need to be seen to emerge from Scripture, not just given a shallow justification.



## 7. What further guidance, if any, on the use of the PLF and Pastoral Reassurance, would be helpful and in which area(s)?

Guidance specifically aimed at young people

Probably not much more save ability of a parish to make its own decision

A clearer unders

Not relevant to our congregation

I would rather not see bespoke services being introduced or the allowance of clergy in same sex marriage. If they are introduced, then tensions between clergy and PCCs need to be considered.

See previous answers

Encourage churches to be honest about their stance so people know if it's a safe space - should not be ashamed, but tell the truth. Prevent mental trauma of rejection

None



## 7. What further guidance, if any, on the use of the PLF and Pastoral Reassurance, would be helpful and in which area(s)?

How might we receive pastoral reassurance from a bishop if there is only one bishop in the diocese? If the Bishop's reject any proposed pastoral reassurance will that halt the whole process continue

None

How will PR work in multi-parish benefices where there's disagreement? What are the particular challenges of Canterbury Diocese in view of our place within global communion? Can my Bishop support me?

Help with disseminating the materials and thinking with the wider congregation to keep the momentum going following the original LLF course

clearer guidance for pcc's about how their decision may affect their clergy's views

I would like the whole thing jettisoned. When/ if the scriptures are forced to fit - I find that hard. Nevertheless, I understand the genuine love people have for one another.

An example 'case study' of how it could work in practice, and more on the checks and balances that prevent it from becoming the default for any other area of disagreement in church life.

Examples of possible scenarios that could occur in the future. Examples of experiences in other churches. ie. Church of Wales, Methodist Church



## 7. What further guidance, if any, on the use of the PLF and Pastoral Reassurance, would be helpful and in which area(s)?

We just need to live a faith focused on Christ

It would be good for churches to know nationally on the level of local engagement with the discussions around PLF at PCC and deanery level. Different reassurance hasn't been helpful

Single parish team ministry with no DCCs? Generally, pastoral assurance needs to recognise the strong desire there will be for affiliation to formal national networks - better to manage this up front.

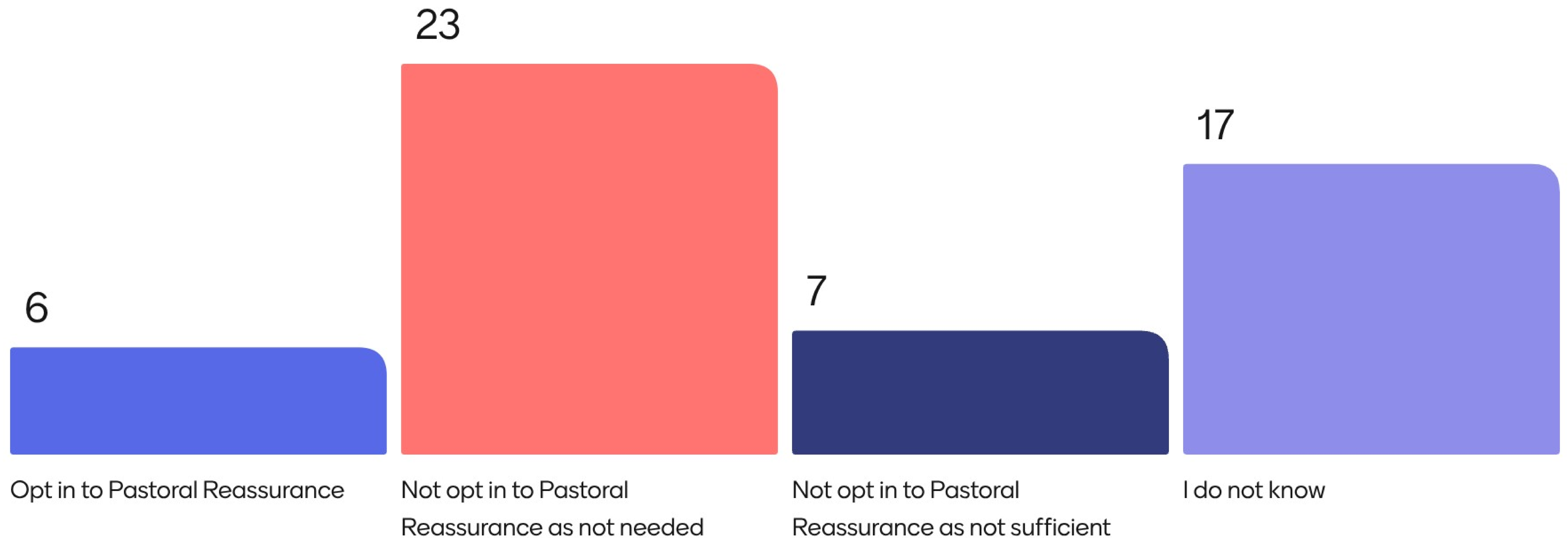
Celebrate the 'goods of marriage' for all, as God creates them.

What you can expect from your bishop

a clear decision on where the CofE sees this potential cause of schism within the anglican communion globally resolved



8. If the bespoke PLF are introduced alongside this form of pastoral reassurance, do you think your church would:





## 9. What other feedback on the draft proposals would you like to share?

None

None

None

Too complicated

Got to be  
understandable to the  
congregation

None

If the reinsurance piece is  
going to be rejected by the  
HoB how can we proceed at  
all?

I haven't read them



## 9. What other feedback on the draft proposals would you like to share?

I think they are good but much of the language used is tortuous!

Do not move forward on PLF implementation.

I will email a more considered response +

Not sure Canon B5 is sufficiently robust to cope with what we might want it to do.

They don't go far enough. We need to be able to marry sane sex couples and to bless same sex couples. PLF is too fuzzy.

Please keep comms on this simple

I'm still not confident I know what pastoral reassurance is, even after the presentation

What has happened to the concept of a priest as Chaplain to the whole community



## 9. What other feedback on the draft proposals would you like to share?

Still concerned about the bypassing of Article 7 (or 8).

Personally, I would like to see an acceptance that the proposed changes cannot be made without a change of Doctrine that requires a larger consensus than presently exists for change.

I the pastoral assurance would be a mistake. We have to be able to disagree well and to have a range of views on this as on so much else within a diocese.

Process demands time for reflection at grass roots level - which we have not yet had!

Theological debate needs to reflect on three fold emphasise on scripture, tradition and reason, plus contextual understanding of scripture in application.

Speed things up, the pain this is causing people is huge. Young people are fired up for God and they love all people for who they are. They are frustrated that the church is so far behind!

Don't feel.pastoral reassurance is a good move, should be sufficient that there's the 'baked in' agreement that clergy may exercise their conscience.

The timing on being given these proposals (late Summer) to (a) turning up (b) informed today has been insufficient. It was better to meet than not meet but let's not rush this next stage of proposals.



## 9. What other feedback on the draft proposals would you like to share?

If is the Christ like way of life

Surprised that the themes of marriage in the theological update did not include - 'Marriage is for the enrichment of society.' This was what came across strongly for me as a recently trained priest.

The complexity of multi-parish benefices

You talk about pastoral reassurance, but what is it? Where is it defined? And how does sit with scripture?

We do not out seem to have any provision for a small parish who does not want a vicar who uses p l f in another church

The voice of the LGBTQ+ community needs to be heard

The question of equal marriage should be addressed and not kicked down the road. We will not be a truly inclusive church until this is addressed.

Summaries available easily for those unable to engage with sheer quantity and depth of materials



## 9. What other feedback on the draft proposals would you like to share?

Having myself moved from being non affirming to affirming I am glad it would be available for some, but wonder whether it will not be deemed sufficient

Canterbury Diocese may appear as a strongly liberal diocese but there are plenty of clergy who hold to the historic teaching of the church who are deeply concerned about the road of travel.

Ultimately, we want those who want to be able to marry same sex couples to be able to while protecting the consciences of those who cant. Just like divorce.

Get there faster please

Very grateful for excellent work being done by FAOC - but time will be needed to reflect on this, and to let that inform shape of proposals brought to Synod - might they look quite different?

The majority felt in our group it's too complicated and lay people don't understand this at all. Simplicity is lost. Not very helpful. Sorry to be negative. Biblical base is lost in this process.

We are a church going through change in many ways - not least of all in terms of structure. Multi parish benefices especially but not exclusi are a single parish, could do with some specific guidance

None



## 9. What other feedback on the draft proposals would you like to share?

The visual presentation of the updates was excellent.

Be wary of false equivalence between Christians whose core intimate relationships are not accepted by church or their vocations sabotaged w those who cant accept development in understanding and faith



# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

---

The feedback submitted will be used by the LLF Team & Programme Board to make any initial changes to the draft proposals for clarity.

A fuller report on the feedback will accompany any further draft proposals as these are considered by the House of Bishops and, if supported by the HoB, by General Synod.

Feedback gathered via Mentimeter is anonymous. Individuals or specific churches cannot be named and it is not possible to connect individual respondents to specific answers. High level, aggregated, data will be drawn together and reported by Diocese.



**Thank you for  
participating in this  
session**



LIVING  
IN LOVE  
& FAITH

