Regional Shared Conversations: Programme

Given the significant changes in our culture in relation to human sexuality, how should the church respond?

Day 1

10.30 Arrival and coffee
11.00 Session 1: Getting started
   Welcome and introductions, overview of the programme, St Michael's Protocol (see attached)
12.10 Session 2: Language and perception exercise
   Create a shared understanding of human perception and language as the shared conversation begins.
13.00 Lunch
14.00 Session 3: Observing our changing world
   Share knowledge and experience of, and insights into, the significant changes of culture in relation to human sexuality.
15.30 Break
16.00 Session 4: Considering approaches to scripture regarding human sexuality
   Engage with essays in ‘Grace and Disagreement’, a resource that accompanies the Shared Conversations.
18.00 Close for dinner (drinks in the bar at 18.30, dinner at 19.00)
20.00 Session 5: Discussion clusters
   Discussion groups; a range of different discussion topics.
21.00 Evening/Night prayer

Day 2

7.30 Morning prayer & breakfast
09.00 Session 6: Reflections on our personal journeys
   In small groups participants share their personal journeys of understanding about issues of human sexuality.
10.50 Break
11.20  Session 7: Understanding what informs and shapes the different positions that people hold
Understand different positions and perspectives on human sexuality held within the Church

13.00  Lunch and extended break

15.00  Session 8: What are the possible consequences of the range of different positions held within the church on human sexuality & possible ways forward?
Informed by the Shared Conversation, identify possible consequences, both positive and negative, and identify ways in which to maximise or minimise the impact of possible consequences.

16.30  Break

17.00  Session 9: Placing this discussion in the context of the wider communion
Invite guest from the partner dioceses to reflect on issues of human sexuality in their contexts.

18.30  Dinner

20.00  Session 10: Discussion clusters (topics to be decided)
Discussion groups on a range of different discussion topics.

21.00  Evening/Night prayer

Day 3

7.30  Morning prayer & breakfast

9.00  Session 11: Is it possible to disagree well? If so, what might disagreement look like?
Recognising the fact of profound disagreement among Christians, how can we find a way together to make the manner of our encounter with each other (on this and all other issues) a missionary gift to a broken world?

10.45  Break

11.15  Session 12: Our church, our communities and our nation
Informed by this Regional Shared Conversation, discussion about further conversations locally, regionally and nationally and for the consequences that will flow from them.

12.30  Lunch

13.30  Session 13: Preparing for the future
Continued discussion about how to take forward conversations locally, regionally and nationally.

15.00  Eucharist

15.40  Close & tea before people head off at 16.00