

Canterbury Archdeaconry

1915

AL/1975

	OFFICE
	TREASURER
	ORGANISER
	SECRETARY

Lambeth Palace, S.E.

1st July 1915.

2 JUL 1915

Dear Madam,

I have received your important letter of June 29th intimating the wish of those on whose behalf you speak to place before the Representative Church Council the Petition a copy of which you have enclosed to me. If you will send me the document I will take care that it is duly presented to the Council.

I think it right, however, to point out to you that the subject which is to come before the Representative Church Council next week for consideration is not the general question of the Representation of the Laity, but such part of it only as relates to the constitution and character of Parochial Church Councils. This *part of* *the* subject was postponed last year for consideration at the now forthcoming session. The rest--i.e. the main part--of the scheme for the Representation of the Laity was passed by the Council last year and is not before the Council this year. It is to me a matter of personal satisfaction to recall the fact that the changes which were last year agreed upon as amending the original scheme were to increase the share of women in the organisation of lay representation within the Church.

(a) The rule as now adopted makes no distinction between men and women in regard to the qualification of electors in a parish. The words now are (Rule 4) "Qualified electors in a parish are the following lay members of the Church of England (1) Persons above twenty years of age resident in the parish who etc."

(b) Representatives elected to seats on a Parochial Church Council may be women. The Council has not at present gone further than this. What is before us this year is the Constitution and character of the Parochial Church Council, and the Committee recommends that the Council shall consist of (i) Incumbent; (ii) Licensed Curates, Churchwardens, and certain others; (iii) Such number of lay representatives, one-third of whom may be women, as the annual Parochial Church Meeting in the first instance decides; (iv) Co-opted members, one-third of whom may be women, etc.

These are the facts, and you will therefore see that it is only in a very indirect or limited degree that your Petition relates to the matters which will actually be in discussion next week.

I am greatly interested in what you tell me in your letter with regard to the work done by or in connexion with the Church League for Women's Suffrage in promoting Intercession and in other ways.

I am

Yours very truly,

*Rendall Penton*

Miss L. Corben.