

GUIDANCE FOR HOUSE OF LAITY ELECTIONS

Qualifications of Candidates

1. A candidate must be a lay person who:

(a) To be elected to the House of Laity, a person must have received Communion according to the use of the Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, at least three times in the twelve months up to 12th July (or would have done so but for matters connected with coronavirus); be at least 18 years old on 12th July; and must have their name on the parish roll in the diocese, on the roll of guild church in the diocese of London, on the roll of a chaplaincy in the diocese in Europe, or on the community role of a cathedral church of the diocese;

(b) either is confirmed (or ready and desirous of being confirmed) or comes within paragraph 1(b) of Canon B 15A (i.e. is a communicant member of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity);

(c) is aged at least 18 on the date of the dissolution of the General Synod; and

(d) satisfies one of the following conditions:

(i) is on the church electoral roll of a parish in the diocese;

(ii) is declared by the leader of a mission initiative in the diocese to be part of the worshipping community involved in the initiative.

2. Unlike electors, candidates need not be members of a deanery synod.

3. Candidates must normally be qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on Tuesday 13 July 2021 (the date of the dissolution of the 2015-2021 General Synod). Exceptionally, the deans of Westminster Abbey, St George's Chapel, Windsor or Christ Church, Oxford may declare persons to be habitual worshippers at those places, at any time during the period Monday 14 June – Wednesday 11 August 2021 inclusive.

4. A candidate must not be the holder of a paid office or employment to which one of the following central bodies may make or confirm an appointment:

the General Synod the Church Commissioners*

the Convocations the Church of England Pensions Board

the Corporation of Church House

the Archbishops' Council.

*(A Church Commissioner in receipt of a salary or other emolument is not so disqualified.)

5. A candidate may not stand for more than one diocese simultaneously.

Qualifications of proposers and seconders

6. Proposers and seconders must be diocesan electors qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on the date of the dissolution, Tuesday 13 July 2021. The diocesan electors are the members of the house of laity of each deanery synod in the diocese, other than the co-opted members and the members of a religious community with representation in the General Synod.

7. Qualified electors may only be proposers and seconders in the electoral area in which they are entitled to vote, even where the candidate being proposed or seconded is a qualified elector in another area within the same diocese (see paragraph 5 above).

FOR: PROCTORIAL AND HOUSE OF LAITY ELECTIONS

Any candidate may request the presiding officer to despatch an election address (consisting of not more than one sheet of A4 paper, which may be printed on both sides) from that candidate to every elector in the diocese. Election addresses will be sent by the presiding officer to the electors with the voting papers. If any candidate wishes to send an election address, one original copy (suitable for photocopying) must be provided by the candidate at the candidate's own expense. This must either be delivered to the presiding officer at the address above or sent by e-mail to: jnex@cofe-worcester.org.uk and received by the presiding officer by 15th September 2021. The presiding officer is under no obligation to circulate addresses received after the due date or which are not in the prescribed form.

Diocesan Policy on travelling expenses, subsistence and loss of earnings of General Synod members:

The Diocesan Synod makes travelling and subsistence allowances at actual cost to members of the General Synod at the rate of up to £31.00 per day (lunch, dinner and incidentals) and £139.00 overnight (including breakfast) (Inner London rate for 2018/19) for every period of 24 hours of absence, plus second class return rail and bus fares.

Allowances will be available with regard to loss of earnings due to attendance at the General Synod within the rates set from time to time by the Archbishops' Council. (For 2018/19 the actual loss of up to £175.00 per day and subject to a certificate from the member's employer (or in the case of the self-employed, from the member personally) in support of the application.)