

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTIONS 2015

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO THE ELECTORAL AREA COMPRISING THE UNIVERSITIES AND THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

I give notice of the holding of an election to the electoral area comprising the universities and theological education institutions ('the constituency') and invite applications from suitably qualified clergy for inclusion in the register of those entitled to vote and stand for election in the constituency.

The constituency

The constituency is a new one, replacing six previous constituencies for the clergy of certain universities and groups of universities. Its members will be elected by, and from, clergy of universities and 'theological education institutions' whose names are included in a register maintained for the purpose.

The clergy elected to the constituency will become members of the Lower House of the Convocation of the province in which their university or theological education institution is situated, and will accordingly be members of the General Synod's House of Clergy.

The timetable for the election

The **provisional** timetable for the election (which has yet to be confirmed) is as follows:

- Issue of nomination papers – 21st July 2015;
- Closing date for return of nomination papers – 4th September 2015;
- Issue of voting papers – 18th September 2015;
- Closing date for return of voting papers – 9th October 2015;
- Date of the count – 12th, 13th, 14th or 15th October 2015.

The General Synod will meet on 23rd and 24th November 2015, following an induction day on 22nd November 2015.

Full details of the election timetable will be circulated with the nomination papers.

The electorate

The electorate for the constituency will comprise those clergy who, at the date on which nominations forms are sent out to electors (currently expected to be 21st July 2015), are entered in a register of electors ('the register') required to be maintained for the purpose. The register will be publicly available on the Church of England website.

Clergy will only be able to be entered on the register if they meet the first two of the following conditions and, where applicable, the third:

- The first condition is that the person concerned is a priest or deacon of the Church of England who is authorised by a bishop to officiate in a diocese in either province.
- The second condition is that the person concerned —

- (a) is employed to teach and research by a university in one of the provinces or by a college of such a university,
 - (b) is the head or a fellow of a college of such a university, or
 - (c) is employed to teach and research (on at least a half-time basis) by a theological education institution in one of the provinces that is recognised by the House of Bishops as an institution for training candidates for ordination as ministers of the Church of England.
- The third condition is that—
 - (a) where the university in question is Oxford University, the person is a member of Congregation;
 - (b) where the university in question is Cambridge University, the person is a member of the Regent House;
 - (c) where the university in question is Durham University, the person is a member of Convocation.

In elections to the Convocations it is not possible to vote in more than one electoral area. Thus clergy who register to vote in the constituency will not be able to vote in the relevant diocesan proctorial election (though, if they meet certain requirements, they may elect to stand in that election).

Clergy who consider themselves eligible to vote in the constituency **and wish to do so** will need to contact me, requesting to have their names included in the register, declaring that they meet the relevant conditions and explaining how they do so. I am entitled to regard a declaration made by an applicant as accurate unless its inaccuracy is in some respect readily apparent.

Forms on which such an application can be made can be downloaded from the Church of England website at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/synod-elections-2015.aspx>

or obtained from me at the address below. To enable me to prepare nomination forms for despatch to electors, **completed application forms should reach me no later than Monday 20th July 2015.**

If you have any questions about eligibility to vote in the constituency, the election process or the implications of being a member of the General Synod please contact me (at **stephen.slack@churchofengland.org** or on **020 7898 1366**) or my colleague Sion Hughes-Carew (at **sion.hughes-carew@churchofengland.org** or on **020 7898 1371**).

Stephen Slack
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May 2015