An overview of each of the Committees and Commissions of the General Synod and their current membership.
Appointments Committee

The Appointments Committee is a commission of the General Synod and the Archbishops' Council. It is responsible for making such appointments and/or recommendations on appointments to synodical and other bodies as the Synod or the Archbishops' Council require.

The type of appointments for which they are responsible, include appointments to synodical bodies (such as legislative steering or revision committees), the Standing Orders Committee among others, and the Boards, Councils and Committees of the Archbishops' Council.

They are also responsible for appointing representatives of the Synod on the governing bodies of theological training institutions, governing bodies of mission agencies (Partnership for World Mission), representatives of the Church of England at ecumenical conferences, and at the governing assemblies of other denominations.

Membership

Chair
Ven Pete Spiers (Liverpool)

Elected by the House of Bishops

Vacant

Elected by the House of Clergy
Rev Canon John Dunnett (Chelmsford)
Rev Andrew Mumby (Southwark)
Rev Canon Andy Salmon (Manchester)

Elected by the House of Laity
Mrs Rebecca Chapman (Southwark)
Mrs Lucy Doherty (Portsmouth)
Mrs Sarah Finch (London)

Appointed by the Archbishops' Council
Dr Rachel Jepson (Birmingham)
Ven Luke Miller (London)

Secretary
Jenny Jacobs
020 7898 1363
Business Committee

The Committee is responsible for organising the agenda of the General Synod, enabling it to fulfil its role as a legislative and deliberative body. Many of its policies are available on the Members' Resources page.

Membership

Chair (elected by General Synod)
Canon Robert Hammond (Chelmsford)

Elected by the House of Bishops
The Rt Revd Martin Gorick, Bishop of Dudley

Elected by the House of Clergy
Fr Paul Cartwright (Leeds)
Revd Mark Ireland (Blackburn)
Revd Jody Stowell (London)

Elected by the House of Laity
Mr Clive Scowen (London)
Mrs Michelle Obende (Chelmsford)
Mr Nic Tall (Bath & Wells)

Appointed by the Archbishops' Council
Mrs Alison Coulter (Archbishops' Council)
Revd Timothy Goode (Archbishops' Council)

Secretary
Jenny Jacobs (Acting Clerk to the Synod)
020 7898 1363
Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee was established and is required by law (the Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act 1919) and included the Constitution of the General Synod. Amongst other things, it is responsible for submitting Measures to Parliament for approval once they have received final approval by the General Synod.

Membership

Ex-officio members

The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury (Joint Chair)
The Most Revd and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York (Joint Chair)
Mrs Alison Coulter (Winchester)
Mrs Morag Ellis (Dean of the Arches)
Dr Jamie Harrison (Durham)
The Ven Luke Miller (London)
Mr Andrew Selous (Second Church Estates Commissioner)
The Revd Kate Wharton (Liverpool)

Elected members

The Revd Paul Benfield (Blackburn)
Canon Peter Bruinvels (Guildford)
Mrs Carolyn Graham (Guildford)
Mr Clive Scowen (London)

Secretary

Alexander McGregor
Standing Orders Committee

The Standing Orders Committee keeps under review the procedures and Standing Orders (rules) of the General Synod.

Membership

Chair

The Revd Joyce Jones (Leeds)

Ex-officio members

Mrs Alison Coulter (Winchester)
Dr Jamie Harrison (Durham)
The Ven Luke Miller (London)
The Revd Kate Wharton (Liverpool)

Appointed members

The Revd Amatu Christian-Iwuagwu (London)
Mrs Karen Czapiewski (Gloucester)
The Revd Treena Larkin (Lichfield)
The Revd Susan Lucas (Chelmsford)
Mr Clive Scowen (London)
Mr Geoffrey Tattersall (Manchester)

Secretary

Jenny Jacobs

Clergy Discipline Commission

The Clergy Discipline Commission monitors the exercise of discipline and highlights and encourages best practice.
Crown Nominations Commission

The Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) considers vacancies in diocesan bishoprics in the Provinces of Canterbury and York, and candidates for appointments to them.

At each meeting of the Commission, the Chair is taken by the Archbishop of the Province for the vacancy under consideration.

The Commission identifies two candidates suitable for appointment, whose names are submitted to the Prime Minister by the appropriate Archbishop or, in the case of the Archbishopric of Canterbury or York, by the chair of the Commission.

The names submitted are given in an order of preference decided upon by the Commission and the Prime Minister will submit the first name to Her Majesty The Queen for approval.

In 2016, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York commissioned a theological review of the CNC's work. The review is currently underway and more information is available.

Membership

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby (Archbishop of Canterbury)
The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell (Archbishop of York)

Elected members of the House of Clergy of General Synod

The Reverend Paul Benfield (Blackburn)
The Revd Lis Goddard (London)
The Revd Claire Lording (Worcester)
The Revd Esther Prior (Guildford)
The Revd Jo Stobart (Bath & Wells)

Elected members of the House of Laity of General Synod

Ms Christina Baron (Bath & Wells)
Miss Debbie Buggs (London)
Miss Prudence Dailey (Oxford)
Miss Venessa Pinto (Leicester)
Mr Clive Scowen (London)
Mr Temitope Taiwo (London)

Six members of the Vacancy-in-See Committee of the diocese whose bishopric is to become, or has become, vacant

Ex-officio non-voting members
Dioceses Commission

The Dioceses Commission considers matters such as the reorganisation of diocesan boundaries, the creation and revival of suffragan sees, and the transfer of episcopal functions by diocesan bishops to suffragan and assistant bishops. The Diocese Commission was established in 2008 under Part II of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 and reports to the General Synod.

Membership

Chair
Dame Caroline Spelman

Vice Chair
Vacant

Elected members
The Ven Stewart Fyfe
Canon Robert Hammond
The Revd Neil Patterson
Mr Clive Scowen

Appointed members
The Ven Karen Lund
Mrs Ruth Martin
Mrs Sue Slater
The Rt Revd Paul Williams

Secretary
Ms Jenny Axtell

Faith and Order Commission

The Faith and Order Commission advises the House of Bishops, the General Synod and the Council for Christian Unity on ecclesiological and ecumenical matters and acts as a theological resource for the Church of England as a whole.
Fees Advisory Commission

The Fees Advisory Commission makes recommendations as to certain fees to be paid to ecclesiastical judges, legal officers and others, and embodies those recommendations in Orders which are laid before the General Synod for approval. If approved, the Orders take effect unless annulled by either House of Parliament, and are published as Statutory Instruments.


Membership

Chair

The Venerable Bob Cooper

Members

Mrs Louise Connacher
Mr Carl Fender
Philippa Hopkins KC
Mrs Josile Munro
The Revd Christopher Smith
Ms Anna Spriggs
The Rt Revd David Williams, Bishop of Basingstoke

Administrative Secretary

Suzanne Esson
Legal Advisory Commission

The Legal Advisory Commission gives advice on legal matters of general interest to the Church which are referred to it by the Archbishops' Council and its Divisions, Boards, Councils and Commissions, by the General Synod and its Houses and Commissions, by the Church Commissioners and the Church of England Pensions Board, and by diocesan clerical and lay office holders.

The Commission cannot accept requests for advice from private individuals or secular bodies. In addition, the Commission cannot normally give opinions on contentious matters, but it may be able to do so (depending on the circumstances) if the facts are agreed by all parties to the dispute, all parties join in referring the matter to the Commission for an opinion and it is not (and is not expected to become) the subject-matter of proceedings in the courts.

The opinions of the Commission and its predecessor, the Legal Board, on matters of general interest are published by Church House Publishing under the title Legal Opinions Concerning the Church of England.

Membership

Ex-officio

The Right Worshipful Morag Ellis KC (Dean of the Arches and Auditor)
The Right Worshipful Timothy Briden (Vicar-General of Canterbury)
The Right Worshipful Peter Collier KC (Vicar-General of York)
Mr Darren Oliver (Canterbury Provincial Registrar)
Mrs Louise Connacher (York Provincial Registrar)
The Reverend Alexander McGregor (Chief Legal Adviser to the Archbishop's Council and Official Solicitor to the Church Commissioners)
Mr Christopher Packer (Legislative Counsel to the General Synod)

Appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Church of England

The Worshipful David Pittaway KC - Chair
Ms Araba Taylor
The Worshipful Ruth Arlow
Chancellor David Hodge KC
Mr Stuart Jones
Miss Cordelia Hall
The Rt Revd Julian Henderson
The Ven. Douglas Dettmer, Archdeacon of Totnes
The Revd Paul Benfield
Mr Robert Pearce KC
Legal Aid Commission

The Legal Aid Commission operates under the Church of England (Legal Aid) Measure 1994, and administers the Legal Aid Fund which was originally set up under the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1963 and is continued by the 1994 Measure.

Legal aid under the 1994 Measure may be granted, subject to various conditions, for certain types of proceedings before Ecclesiastical Courts and tribunals; details of eligibility for legal aid and the Commission's procedures, together with an application form for legal aid, are obtainable from the Secretary, on request.

Membership

Chair

His Honour Judge Andrew Rutherford

Members

Mr Carl Fender (Lincoln)
The Revd Canon Geoffrey Harbord (Sheffield)
Mr Aiden Hargreaves-Smith (London)
Mrs Carolyn Johnson (Blackburn)
The Revd Canon Joyce Jones (Leeds)
The Revd Canon Sally Lodge (Oxford)
Mr Neil Logan Green (Canterbury)
The Revd Sam Maginnis
The Rt Revd Alistair Magowan

Secretary

Stephen York
020 7898 1703

stephen.york@churchofengland.org
Liturgical Commission

The Liturgical Commission at present has four primary functions:

- To prepare forms of service at the request of the House of Bishops;
- To advise on the experimental use of forms of service and the development of liturgy;
- To share information and advice on liturgical matters with other Churches both in the Anglican Communion and elsewhere;
- To promote the development and understanding of liturgy and its use in the Church.

All of the Common Worship texts and the Book of Common Prayer can be found under the Prayer and Worship webpages.

Membership

Chair
The Bishop of Exeter

Vice-Chair
The Bishop of Lichfield

Members
Canon Shayne Ardron (Leicester)
The Revd Dr Andrew Atherstone (Oxford)
The Revd Philip Barnes
Ms Kashmir Garton (Worcester)
The Revd Canon Michael Gisbourne
The Revd Johanna Kershaw
Canon Simon Kershaw
The Revd George Lane
The Revd Canon Smitha Prasadam (Europe)
The Revd Prof Jennifer Strawbridge
The Revd Robb Sutherland
Ms Sammi Tooze (York)
The Revd Leah Vasey-Saunders

National Liturgy and Worship Adviser
Dr Matthew Salisbury

Administrative Secretary