Private Members' Motions (PMMs) are one of a number of ways that debates can be brought to the attention of the General Synod. Private Members' Motions fall under Special Agenda III. The other Special Agendas include Legislative Business (Special Agenda I), Liturgical Business (Special Agenda II), and Diocesan Synod Motions (Special Agenda IV).

Any member of the General Synod can write and submit a PMM. In order to decide whether a PMM should be put on the General Synod's agenda, the Business Committee requires a minimum of 100 expressions of interest in support for the motion to be debated in the form of signatures. By putting their name to particular motions, members are signalling that they think they should be debated. Information on how Synod members can sign PMMs can be found on the Members' Resources page.

When putting together the agenda for the next meeting of the Synod, the Business Committee considers the number of signatures each motion has received. Generally there is only space for one or two PMMs for debate in each meeting of the General Synod (group of sessions). While the motion with the most signatures is often the one selected, another may be selected if it has attracted considerable support (it might, for example, be more time-critical).

A motion that has been open for signature for three groups of sessions expires if it has not attracted 100 signatures.

Listed below are the current Private Members' Motions. These can be signed electronically by using the webform below, emailing synodpmm@churchofengland.org or via the General Synod app.
Current Private Members' Motions

Bullying by lay officers

*The Ven Mark Ireland* (Blackburn) to move:

‘That this Synod, recognising:

a. that bullying is unacceptable behaviour within the Church of God, whether by clergy or lay people, and where it exists needs to be addressed; and

b. the serious pastoral problems and unfairness that arise while clergy can be subject to penalties for bullying that include prohibition and removal from office but there is no means of disqualifying a churchwarden, PCC member or other lay officer who is guilty of bullying from holding office;

request the Archbishops' Council to bring forward legislative proposals which would enable a churchwarden, PCC member or other lay officer who was found to have conducted him- or her-self in such a manner to be disqualified from holding office.’

117 signatures as at 21 June 2023 *(see list of signatures)*

Clergy pensions

*Revd Dr Ian Paul* (Southwell & Notts) to move:

‘That this Synod request the Archbishops’ Council, the Pensions Board, and the Church Commissioners to work together to find a way to make use of the whole range of assets and resources across the Church to enable the restoration of the clergy pension to its pre-2011 benefit level as soon as possible.’

76 signatures as at 21 June 2023 *(see list of signatures)*

Disinvestment in fossil fuels

*Dr Cathy Rhodes* (Sheffield) to move:

‘That this Synod, recognising our responsibility to care for God’s creation, the urgency of the climate crisis and the International Energy Agency statements that (i) there can be no new fossil fuel developments if the world is to limit global heating to 1.5°C and (ii) investment in renewable energy needs to more than treble by 2030:

a. acknowledge the important work of the Transition Pathway Initiative;

b. note that the Archbishop of Cape Town and over 20 Southern African Anglican bishops have called for the immediate cessation of fossil fuel exploration across Africa, and 500+ UK Church leaders including 49 Church of England bishops have called for no new fossil fuel
developments;

c. therefore call on the National Investing Bodies to:

- disinvest by the end of 2023 from any oil and gas companies that are planning to explore for and/or develop new fossil fuel resources and/or reserves and;

- scale up investment in renewable energy and other climate solutions year-on-year to at least 10% of assets under management by 2030.'

74 signatures as at 21 June 2023 (see list of signatures)

Further use of churchyards

The Revd Andrew Dotchin (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to move:

'That this Synod call on the Archbishops' Council to:

a. consider the position in relation to further burials in churchyards which have been closed by Order in Council; and

b. make representations to Her Majesty's Government on the matter with a view to primary legislation being brought forward (whether by way of Measure or Act of Parliament) to facilitate such burials in appropriate cases.'

13 signatures as at 21 June 2023 (see list of signatures)

Grooming of children

Mr Sam Margrave (Coventry) to move:

'That this Synod believes the sexualisation and grooming of Children on our streets and in the media is abhorrent to the nature of God, contrary to the Christian faith, and that no member of the Church of England, Parish or Cathedral should endorse, support, resource or be associated with any activity that exposes children to sexualisation or grooming.'

7 signatures as at 21 June 2023 (see list of signatures)

Inquiry into allegations of abuse within the Soul Survivor network

The Revd Robert Thompson (London) to move:

'That this Synod, being deeply disquieted at the continued controversies over the actual independence of Safeguarding structures within the Church of England, does not accept that an internal Church inquiry into the allegations of abuse and cover-up within the Soul Survivor network is either sufficient or right in principle.

It accordingly calls upon the Archbishop's Council to commission, on agreed terms of reference with survivors, a report into those allegations.
from an independent King's Counsel without delay.’

112 signatures as at 21 June 2023  (see list of signatures)

LGBTQIA+ and relationship education

Mr Sam Wilson (Chester) to move:

‘That this Synod:

a. recognise the importance of including age-appropriate LGBTQIA+ content in relationship education

b. commend the use of ‘Valuing All God's People' to all Church of England schools in order to help combat anti-LGBTQIA+ bullying

c. thank the teachers and staff who help to create welcoming and inclusive environments for all pupils, especially those who do so with personal sacrifice as LGBTQIA+ role models.’

64 signatures as at 21 June 2023  (see list of signatures)

Reform of Diocesan Working Practices

Professor Roy Faulkner (Leicester) to move:

‘That this Synod request a working group be set up to consider Diocesan reform with a view to reporting back to the next group of sessions with firm proposals for more efficient Diocesan working practices, driven by mission statements.’

21 signatures as at 21 June 2023  (see list of signatures)

Remove divorce impediment to ordination

Revd Mark Bennet (Oxford) to move:

‘That this Synod request that the Archbishops’ Council introduce the necessary legislation to remove the canonical impediment to ordination in respect of a person who has remarried and, the other party to that marriage being alive, has a former spouse still living; or who is married to a person who has been previously married and whose former spouse is still living.’

127 signatures as at 21 June 2023  (see list of signatures)

Request for the Archbishop of Canterbury to resign

Mr Sam Margrave (Coventry) to move:

‘That this Synod call upon The Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, to resign.’

0 signatures as at 21 June 2023

Vocations process and issues in human sexuality
Revd Mae Christie (Southwark) to move:

'That this Synod request that the House of Bishops remove any requirements relating to Issues in Human Sexuality from the Vocations (Shared Discernment) Process.'

127 signatures as at 21 June 2023 (see list of signatures)

Support a debate

By filling in and submitting the following form, Synod members are including his or her name on the list of members who support a debate on the selected PMM.

First name

Last name

Synod number

Email address

Postcode

ZIP/Postal Code

? By ticking this box, you confirm that you are the person listed above.

? By ticking this box, you confirm you are happy to share your data with the Archbishops' Council, Church Commissioners and Church of England Pensions Board. We will not share this data with third parties.

Read our full privacy notice here.

The Archbishops' Council, Church Commissioners and Church of England Pensions Board are the three main operating bodies of the Church of England. The other National Church Institutions can be found on our website.

PMM to be signed - Select - ?
Submit

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