



William Nye
Secretary General

January 2022

Sent by email

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

See of Canterbury: Membership of the Crown Nominations Commission Consultation

I am writing to seek your views on a possible change to the process for discerning who may in future be called to hold the office of Archbishop of Canterbury (ABC). The Archbishop of Canterbury is a figure and leader with a myriad of different roles within the Church of England, English society more widely, the Anglican Communion and among Christian leaders globally. For the Church of England, the ABC is the senior most bishop and diocesan bishop for the Diocese of Canterbury; for society more widely the ABC is the leader of the Church of England and the voice of the Church; for the Anglican Communion the ABC is *primus inter pares* among the Primates of the Anglican Communion, one of the instruments of Communion and a focus for unity. As mentioned, the Archbishop is the diocesan bishop of the See of Canterbury in the Church of England and as such his appointment is discerned, just as other English diocesan bishops, by the Crown Nominations Commission process. It is the process about which I write to you today.

I am writing on behalf of the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England as part of a consultation on proposed changes to the membership of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) for the See of Canterbury. This proposal comes from a motion from the Canterbury Diocesan Synod which asked the Archbishops' Council to consider changes to the membership of the Canterbury CNC in order to decrease the representation from the Diocese of Canterbury. The background purpose of the change is to enable the representation of the Anglican Communion to be increased. In a Communion that is at least 75% from the Global South, at the last Canterbury CNC the entire Communion was represented by the Archbishop of Wales.


Like all bishops in the Church of England, which has a close historic link with the State, the Archbishop is formally appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, on the advice of the Prime Minister. As I am sure you know, in the case of diocesan bishops, the Prime Minister is advised by a body called the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC), which recommends candidates to the Prime Minister following a process of discernment. The CNC for Canterbury is based on the normal structure of a CNC for a diocesan bishop in the Church of England, but with some small differences. As this document goes on, there will be more explanation if you require it, and indeed a glossary which you may find useful.

The proposal you will find within this document seeks to resolve the concern expressed by the Diocese of Canterbury that the representation from the diocese is too large given the weight of other responsibilities held by the Archbishop of Canterbury; it is offered as a possible solution to this concern following consideration and analysis by colleagues, the Archbishops' Council and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Consultation on this proposal is therefore key in ensuring that, as far as possible, the work we have done to bring this proposal about, has understood the complexity of the issue and that any changes made have a positive impact on the nomination process for future Archbishops of Canterbury. We will very much value your responses.

I hope you will find the attached consultation document to be self-explanatory and easy to follow. This document is being sent to a wide variety of key partners and is necessarily detailed. I recognise that some of you will have a very good grounding in this issue, while others may not. I suspect too that, for many readers, there will be some elements of this document which will be familiar, and some about which you may not have a depth of knowledge to draw on, since it covers a variety of areas of the Church of England and its processes – processes which may be new to some readers. Because of this, we have tried to include as much background information as possible, as well a glossary in an annex. That does, I am afraid, result in a relatively long document. But I hope that spelling out the details may be helpful for some readers. I also hope that those of you who do not require the level of detail we have provided will be patient with us, and skim those sections which explain the component parts in more detail.

In some circumstances, I have asked colleagues with whom you already have a working relationship to send this document on to you. He or she will be glad to help with any questions you have, but please do not hesitate to be in touch with me, or my Private Secretary, Elise Sandham, as we run this consultation on behalf of the Archbishops' Council. The consultation email address is canterburycnc.consultation@churchofengland.org

Archbishops' Council members and I are grateful to you for reading, considering and responding to this proposal and look forward to hearing from you in due course. The consultation period is open from January until **31st March 2022**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Nye". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "William" and "Nye" being capitalized and prominent.

William Nye LVO
Secretary General, Archbishops' Council

See of Canterbury: Membership of the Crown Nominations Commission

Consultation Document

Introduction and Key Information

1. The Archbishop of Canterbury (ABC or the Archbishop) is a figure and leader with a myriad of different roles within the Church of England, English society more widely, the Anglican Communion and among Christian leaders globally. For the Church of England, the ABC is the senior most bishop and diocesan bishop for the Diocese of Canterbury; for society more widely the ABC is the leader of the Church of England and the voice of the Church; for the Anglican Communion the ABC is primus inter pares among the Primates of the Anglican Communion, one of the instruments of Communion and a focus for unity. As mentioned, the Archbishop is the diocesan bishop of the See of Canterbury in the Church of England and as such his appointment is discerned, just as other English diocesan bishops, by the Crown Nominations Commission process.
2. Like all bishops in the Church of England, which has a close historic link with the State, the Archbishop is formally appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, on the advice of the Prime Minister in the British Government. In turn, in the case of diocesan bishops, the Prime Minister is advised by a body called the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC), which recommends candidates to the Prime Minister and to The Queen following a process of discernment. The CNC for Canterbury is based on the normal structure of a CNC for a diocesan bishop in the Church of England, but with some small differences.
3. The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England has considered changes to the membership of the Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission following a request from the Diocese of Canterbury in 2015. This paper follows work and discussion from the Council members and staff to put forward a proposal for consultation on what changes could be made to allow for more representation on the Crown Nominations Commission from the Anglican Communion.
4. This consultation is being run by William Nye, Secretary General of the Archbishops' Council, and Elise Sandham, Private Secretary to William Nye, on behalf of members of the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. If you would like to be in touch to discuss this consultation in advance of, or as well as, submitting a formal response as outlined at the end of this document, please be in touch with Elise Sandham, via the consultation email address on canterburycnc.consultation@churchofengland.org
5. The mechanism for responding to this consultation is detailed in paragraphs 30 and 31. Please note that there is a response form which can be filled out for your convenience and returned to the email address above. This consultation will close on **31st March 2022**. Responses received after this date are not guaranteed to form part of the feedback to the Archbishops' Council before it makes its final decision on next steps.

Overview

6. This consultation document comprises the following sections:
 - a. Some background and context;
 - b. An explanation of the presenting issue;
 - c. Analysis, including theological and ecclesiological considerations;
 - d. A proposal for changes;
 - e. An explanation of the process and timetable; and,
 - f. Responding to the consultation.
7. Please note that section (f) on responding to the consultation contains within it questions to answer and submit by the end of the consultation. This section is also available in a word document which can be easily completed and returned to the consultation email address.
8. Annex A (page 13 of this document) provides a glossary and some helpful information for you to draw upon as and when you need it. An * indicates something on which there is an explanation, definition or further information in the annex. The * is only next to the term at its first use.
9. A note on Data Protection. This consultation will require the collection of some limited personal data. As such we have provided a Privacy Notice in Annex B (page 22 of this document) which sets out how your data will be collected and processed. In order for us to process the data provided, it will be assumed that you consent to your details and opinions being used in this exercise when responding to the consultation.

William Nye
Secretary General, The Archbishops' Council
January 2022

See of Canterbury: Membership of the Crown Nominations Commission

Consultation Document

Background and Context

1. As already noted, the Archbishop of Canterbury* is the senior bishop in the Church of England*, and is also *primus inter pares* among the Primates* of the 42 Provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion*. Like all bishops in the Church of England, which has a close historic link with the State, the Archbishop is formally appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, on the advice of the Prime Minister in the British Government. In turn, in the case of diocesan bishops, the Prime Minister is advised by a body called the Crown Nominations Commission* (CNC), which recommends candidates to the Prime Minister following a period of discernment. The CNC for Canterbury is based on the normal structure of a CNC for a diocesan bishop* in the Church of England, but with some small differences.
2. In 2015 the Canterbury Diocesan Synod* invited the Archbishops' Council* to put forward proposals to change the composition of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) for the See of Canterbury*; and to extend the role of the CNC to include nominations to the See of Dover*. The context for this motion was reflection in the Diocese of Canterbury about the need to rebalance the composition of the Crown Nominations Commission to give more weight to a very significant part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's job which concerns his leadership of the Anglican Communion.
3. The Archbishops' Council addressed this issue in September 2018 following the conclusion of Professor Oliver O'Donovan's theological review* into the workings of the Crown Nominations Commission. The Council discussed the presenting issue and proposed that further consideration of this matter should be undertaken before being brought back to a future meeting. It was suggested that this should be brought back after the Lambeth Conference* scheduled for 2020. But the Conference was postponed until 2022.
4. With the encouragement of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, the Archbishops' Council considered this again in September 2021 and drew up a proposal on which to consult a number of key partners.

Explanation of the Presenting Issue

5. In 2015 the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Canterbury* passed the following motion*:

“That this Synod (the Canterbury Diocesan Synod) requests the Archbishops' Council to bring to the General Synod the necessary changes to its Standing Orders* and the Vacancy in See Committee* Regulation to:*

- *Extend the functions of the Crown Nominations Commission so that its duty to consider any vacancy in a diocesan bishopric include the See of Dover. The See of Canterbury will always need to be voting with the majority who choose the new Bishop of Dover;*

- *Reduce the number of members elected by the Vacancy in See Committee to the Commission when it is to consider a vacancy in the See of Canterbury from six to three”*

6. The current composition of the Canterbury CNC is:
 - a. six central members elected by the General Synod (as usual);
 - b. six Canterbury members (elected by and from its vacancy in see committee – as usual in other dioceses);
 - c. two bishops (including the Archbishop of York if he or she is not a candidate for the see and wishes to be a member);
 - d. one person appointed by the Prime Minister to chair the Commission (who must be an actual communicant lay member of the Church of England); and,
 - e. one member of the Primates Meeting of the Anglican Communion (elected by the Joint Standing Committee of the Primates Meeting and the Anglican Consultative Council).

The latter two positions (d and e) are specific to the CNC for the See of Canterbury. The other fourteen members (a-c) are (allowing for the special role of the Archbishop of York) essentially the same as in CNCs for other sees.

7. There are also three non-voting members. The Prime Minister’s and Archbishops’ Secretaries for Appointments* attend as usual. For Canterbury the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion* also joins the CNC but does not vote.
8. Thus, the voting membership of the CNC for Canterbury comprises:
 - a. nine representatives of the national interests of the Church of England;
 - b. six representatives of the diocese of Canterbury; and,
 - c. one representative for the Anglican Communion.
(In 2012 the representative for the Anglican Communion was the Primate of Wales, Archbishop Barry Morgan.)

This is a total of **16 voting members**.

9. The proposal from Canterbury is to reduce its diocesan representation from six to three. It does not offer any view on what the representation of the Anglican Communion should be.

Analysis

10. Why might we make any change to the composition to the Canterbury CNC?
Answers to this question touch on the practical, political and theological.
11. Practically, the role of the Archbishop of Canterbury entails a number of overlapping and related functions: **Primate of All England***, with the common perception both nationally and in the Church that he or she is the leader of the Church of England, which entails a leadership role in civil society in England as a whole; the **diocesan bishop for Canterbury**, albeit assisted by the Bishop of Dover; and also a **Focus of Unity*** and an **Instrument of Communion*** for the **Anglican Communion**.
12. The role profile drawn up by the Canterbury CNC in 2012 suggested that 20% of the job would relate to Anglican Communion responsibilities. Archbishop Justin considers this to be an underestimate and suggests that 25% may be

more accurate, plus time for pastoral care and support. He also suggests that only about 5% of his time is spent on diocesan work.

13. It is important to recognise that many of the national church responsibilities of the Archbishop are also closely bound in with Communion responsibilities, as is his public voice. Current issues of global concern – the environmental crisis, migration, health-related matters (HIV, Covid etc) – call for a Communion-wide response and engagement, which is demanding in terms of time and resources. The Communion-wide brief of the Archbishop can help facilitate learning from churches whose life is vibrant and growing.
14. This dynamic enhances the role of the worldwide Communion and its significance for the Church of England. These considerations alone suggest that the balance of representatives on the CNC does not reflect the current nature of the role.
15. Secondly, there is a socio-political background to be taken into consideration. The Church of England's role within the Anglican Communion is rooted in England's colonial history. These roots are neither monolithic nor simple, but nevertheless, as nations and peoples across the world seek to find better ways of relating internationally than the inherited and often unbalanced patterns still shaping our lives, the Church of England and the Communion cannot escape asking why a British cleric should always be *primus inter pares*.
16. It is not within the gift of the Church of England to change this unilaterally, nor should it be. This is a question for the Communion as a whole to consider, consultatively and collaboratively. What the Church of England can offer however is self-awareness of its own biases, and an attempt to make its own processes more inclusive and fairer. It may only be a small step, and a first step, but changing the composition of the CNC recognises the immense importance of the Communion, and seeks to work with them as partners by listening more carefully and inviting them into the discernment process. Doing so is part of a process of continuous conversion and reform in our common life, to come closer to express the reality of equality and dignity before God.
17. Finally, but most importantly, there is an ecclesiological* aspect to this decision, closely interwoven with the practical and socio-political. The Church is called to be one, holy, catholic and apostolic. The call to be one is perhaps one of the most difficult calls the Church faces: how to embody the radical breaking down of barriers that Jesus modelled in his ministry – barriers of race, culture, prejudice, and many other aspects of identity. The call to be one is a call to treat every human being as made in the image of God, through our structures as well as relationships. The inequality of our present arrangements speaks neither of oneness, nor of holiness. The call of the Church to do justly asks that we consider how we start to disentangle the complex threads of our historic inheritance and find new ways of being.
18. Human life and the life of the church are inevitably marked by realism and compromise; the big picture is, perhaps, too big for us to address, and we have to start somewhere, even if we are unsure where. Starting with the composition of the CNC is something that the Church of England can humbly and tentatively offer.

19. It is important, however, to be realistic about what this step involves. Increasing the number of representatives might be a useful step for some, while for others it may not seem radical enough. There may be some readers who might be attracted to more radical solutions, suggesting significant change to the current CNC process which has been developed by the Church of England and reflects its procedures and values. It is important to keep in mind, however, that the See of Canterbury is still a part of the Church of England which has worked hard in developing, with the State and the Crown, this process for all its CNCs. A form of the CNC process is still required, to meet the needs of the Church of England and of the State.
20. To begin to address the questions facing the Communion is, in the end, about the conversion of more than structures, but of the hearts of all involved, and of their practice of relationships through the Church to which we all belong.

A Proposal for Changes to Membership of the Canterbury CNC

21. The Archbishops' Council would like to propose the following changed composition of the Crown Nominations Commission for the See of Canterbury:
- a. **9** representatives of the **national interests of the Church of England**;
 - b. **3** representatives of the **diocese of Canterbury**; and,
 - c. **5** representatives for the **Anglican Communion**.
22. This decreases the diocese of Canterbury representation to 3 members, and increases the Anglican Communion by 4 members. **This would increase the overall number of voting CNC members to 17.**
23. You will note that, the proposal does not just decrease the Canterbury Diocesan representation by 3, and therefore increase the Anglican Communion representation by 3. **This proposal suggests increasing the Anglican Communion representation by 4.** This comes from a suggestion that, in increasing the Anglican Communion representation, there is scope for more diversity in the Anglican Communion members of the CNC.
24. This proposal therefore includes some specific suggestions for the Anglican Communion representations, as follows:
- a. There are 5 representatives from the Anglican Communion **based on the regions* of the Anglican Communion** other than the four provinces of the British Isles.
 - b. There is representation from **primates, other clergy and laity** from across the Communion.
25. If, following consultation, these specifications were part of the final proposal and agreed on by Synod, they would form part of its Standing Orders. However, the relevant Anglican Communion body would run the process for gathering nominations and choosing representatives from the Anglican Communion in accordance with whatever rules were stipulated in the Standing Orders.
26. This proposal does not consider the representatives from the national interests of the Church of England since this was not within the suggestion of the Diocese of Canterbury. The Archbishops' Council does not wish to propose any changes to this representation and therefore it is not in scope for this consultation. Nor

are we proposing any change to the CNC process as a whole; this has been subject to extensive revision in recent years, following the theological review led by Professor Oliver O'Donovan. The General Synod has recently approved certain changes to the process of electing members to the CNC, in the light of that review.

An Explanation of the Process and Timetable

27. In the next section, there will be an opportunity to respond to this consultation. As already noted, the consultation period will run until 31st March 2022, and will consult a wider variety of partners both within the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. This is a public consultation and open to anyone to respond. There are, however, key partners who will receive this consultation directly and who are being asked to respond. They are:

Crown Nominations Process:

- a. Buckingham Palace;
- b. Prime Minister's Office; and,
- c. Central CNC members*.

Church of England:

- d. General Synod members; and,
- e. College of Bishops.

Diocese of Canterbury:

- f. Diocese of Canterbury Archbishop's Council; and,
- g. Diocese of Canterbury Diocesan Synod.

Anglican Communion:

- h. Primates of the Anglican Communion; and,
- i. Anglican Consultative Council Standing Committee*.

28. At the end of the formal consultation period, William Nye and Elise Sandham will collate the responses and put together a report for the Archbishops' Council. At its meeting in May 2022, the Archbishops' Council will consider the feedback from the consultation and decide on a final proposal to take to the General Synod for a change to the Standing Orders.

29. If a final proposal is agreed by the Council, the General Synod will be asked to debate and vote on this in July 2022. If the General Synod approves the changes, they will be made to the Standing Orders and come into effect for the next Canterbury CNC. If the General Synod does not approve the changes, the Council will need to consider why this was so and what are the next steps for any changes to the membership of the Canterbury CNC. There is also a further possibility that the Synod could amend the proposal and make different changes from those envisaged here, e.g. by adopting a different number of Anglican Communion representatives from the number proposed.

Responding to the Consultation

30. The Archbishops' Council welcomes your responses to the proposal outlined in paragraphs 21 – 24. In order to help us with the collation and analysis of responses, **please could we ask you to respond to the consultation by completing the consultation response form enclosed with this document**

and returning it to canterburycnc.consultation@churchofengland.org by not later than 31st March. The questions are also outlined here for your information. You will also be asked to sign a consent form at the end of the response form to ensure we have your explicit consent to process the data you have provided.

31. Consultation response questions:

- a. What is your name, title and role?

- b. On whose behalf are you responding to this consultation?
(e.g. yourself/a committee etc)
Please particularly specify if you are responding on behalf of one of the key partners outlined in paragraph 25.

- c. Do you agree that the Diocese of Canterbury representation should be reduced from 6 to 3 members?
Please answer: Yes/No/Undecided
 - i. If yes, please explain why.
 - ii. If not, please explain why.
 - iii. If not, do you have an alternative suggestion?
 - iv. If undecided, please explain why.

- d. Do you agree that the Anglican Communion representation should increase by 4 members to total 5 representatives on the CNC?
Please answer: Yes/No/Undecided
 - i. If yes, please explain why.
 - ii. If not, please explain why.
 - iii. If not, do you have an alternative suggestion?
 - iv. If undecided, please explain why.

- e. If you agree that there should be 5 Anglican Communion representatives, do you agree that they should be based on the Anglican Communion regions other than the four provinces of the British Isles?
Please answer: Yes/No/Undecided/Not Applicable
 - i. If yes, please explain why.
 - ii. If not, please explain why.
 - iii. If not, do you have an alternative suggestion?
 - iv. If undecided, please explain why.

- f. If you do not agree that there should be 5 Anglican Communion representatives but that there should be more than one Anglican Communion representative, do you agree that they should come from different regions of the Anglican Communion?
Please answer: Yes/No/Undecided/Not Applicable
 - i. If yes, please explain why.
 - ii. If not, please explain why.
 - iii. If not, do you have an alternative suggestion.

iv. If undecided, please explain why.

g. Do you agree that the Anglican Communion representatives should be a combination of primates, clergy and laity?

Please answer: Yes/No/Undecided

i. If yes, please explain why.

ii. If not, please explain why.

iii. If not, do you have an alternative suggestion?

iv. If undecided, please explain why.

h. Do you have any further comments you wish to add?

32. Finally, on behalf of the Archbishops' Council, thank you for taking the time to read and consider this proposal, and for responding to the questions above.

William Nye
Secretary General, Archbishops' Council
January 2022

Annexes continue on the next page.

Annex A: Glossary and Helpful Information

Anglican Communion

The Anglican Communion is one of the world's largest Christian communities. It has tens of millions of members in more than 165 countries around the globe. Anglicanism is one of the traditions or expressions of Christian faith.

The Communion is organised into a series of provinces and extra-provincial areas. The provinces are subdivided into dioceses, and the dioceses into parishes. There are 42 provinces and five extra-provincial areas. Some provinces are national, others are regional. All are in communion – or a reciprocal relationship – with the See of Canterbury and recognise the Archbishop of Canterbury as the Communion's spiritual head.

But there is no central authority in the Anglican Communion. All of the provinces are autonomous and free to make their own decisions in their own ways – guided by recommendations from the four Instruments: the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference, the Primates' Meeting and the Anglican Consultative Council.

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/what-is-the-anglican-communion.aspx>

Regions of the Anglican Communion, other than the British Isles

Americas

- The Episcopal Church (including former E-P: *Cuba*)
- Anglican Church of Canada
- Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil
- Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America
- La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico
- Anglican Church of South America
- Iglesia Anglicana de Chile
- The Church in the Province of the West Indies

Middle East and Asia

- The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East
- Church of Bangladesh
- Church of North India (United)
- Church of South India (United)
- Church of Pakistan (United)
- Extra-Provincial: *Ceylon*

Africa

- Episcopal/ Anglican Province of Alexandria
- Anglican Church of Kenya
- Church of the Province of Uganda
- Church of Nigeria
- Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
- Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
- Church of the Province of West Africa
- Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

- Church of the Province of Central Africa
- Province de L'Eglise Anglicane au Rwanda
- Anglican Church of Southern Africa
- Anglican Church of Tanzania
- Anglican Church of Burundi
- Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean
- Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola (IAMA)

Oceania

- Anglican Church of Australia
- Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia
- Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea
- Anglican Church of Melanesia,
- The Episcopal Church in the Philippines
- Church of the Province of South East Asia
- Church of the Province of Myanmar
- Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui
- Anglican Church of Korea
- Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Japan)

Europe

- Church of England
- Church in Wales
- Scottish Episcopal Church
- Church of Ireland
- Extra-Provinceals: (Spain, Portugal, Bermuda, Falkland Islands)

Anglican Consultative Council (ACC)

The role of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) is to facilitate the co-operative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, exchange information between the provinces and churches, and help to co-ordinate common action. It advises on the organisation and structures of the Communion, and seeks to develop common policies with respect to the world mission of the Church, including ecumenical matters.

The ACC has byelaws and a constitution and through its networks and programmes seeks to serve the needs of member churches. There is a chair, vice-chair and standing committee elected by the members. The current chair is the Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong of Hong Kong. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the President the ACC.

The ACC can be seen as the most representative body of gathered Anglicans among the Instruments of Communion. It includes members of the laity, archbishops, bishops, priests, and deacons. Provinces send two or three representatives and select them in different ways. There are also up to six members invited by the Standing Committee in order to achieve balanced representation and to assist the work of the Council in achieving its Object and the Trustee-members can appoint two young people (the specifics are in the ACC constitution).

Meetings are held around the world approximately every three years. The most recent (ACC-17) was in Hong Kong in April and May 2019.

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/instruments-of-communion/acc.aspx>

Archbishops' Appointments' Secretary

See Crown Nominations Commission.

Archbishops' Council

The Archbishops' Council is a charity, set up in law to co-ordinate, promote, aid and further the work and mission of the Church of England. It does this by providing national support to the Church in dioceses and locally, working closely with the House of Bishops (of the General Synod) and other bodies of the Church of England.

The Council's, and its staff's, work largely falls under seven types of activity:

- Legislate, regulate and deregulate matters (directly or through General Synod)
- Distribute money
- Provide national services to dioceses, parishes, cathedrals, schools etc.
- Provide consultancy services
- Campaign and engage publicly
- Enable the Church to govern itself
- Engage people directly, especially through digital means

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/archbishops-council>

Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Focus for Unity for the three other Instruments of Communion of the Anglican Communion, and is therefore a unique focus for Anglican unity. He calls the once-a-decade Lambeth Conference, chairs the meeting of Primates, and is President of the Anglican Consultative Council.

The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby was enthroned on 21 March 2013.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has many roles, including:

- Leader of the Anglican Communion
 - The Archbishops of Canterbury are seen by the Anglican Communion of churches as their spiritual leader. The Archbishop is 'primus inter pares', first among equals, of the other Primates of the various provinces. The Anglican Communion includes all 42 provinces in communion with the See of Canterbury.
- Primate of All England

- The Archbishop has this title in recognition of his lead ecclesiastical role in England. The Church of England has 13,000 parishes. He is regarded as the nation's senior Christian and spiritual voice.
- Metropolitan for the Southern Province of the Church of England
 - The Archbishop of Canterbury has what is known as metropolitan authority (a supervisory authority for defined purposes) in relation to all bishops and clergy in the 30 dioceses in southern England. The Archbishop of York has the same authority in relation to the 14 dioceses in northern England.
- Diocesan Bishop of Canterbury
 - Since 597, the Archbishop's See has been at Canterbury. His diocese in East Kent has a population of 825,000 people and comprises 270 parishes in an area of nearly 1,000 square miles.
- Ecumenical and Interfaith role
 - The Archbishop of Canterbury takes the lead in respect of Anglican relationships with other Christian churches in the United Kingdom and abroad.
 - Similarly, the Archbishop of Canterbury leads in respect of Anglican relationships with other faiths.

Archbishop of York

Together with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York is a leading spokesperson on behalf of the Church of England.

The Archbishop of York is one of the Presidents of the General Synod and of the Archbishop's Council. The Archbishop of York is also Chair and President of numerous Church bodies. The role of the Archbishop of York is varied. The Archbishop of York is a Primate of England and Archbishop of the Province of York, leading the twelve dioceses in the northern province of the Church of England.

The current Archbishop of York is the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell. He was enthroned on 18th October 2020.

<https://www.archbishopofyork.org/>

Church of England

The Church of England is the established church in England. The Church is led by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and 106 other bishops. They provide guidance and direction to the churches across the country and make decisions on the Church in society.

The dioceses of the Church of England are organised in two provinces, the Province of Canterbury (with the Archbishop of Canterbury as Metropolitan) and the Province of York (with the Archbishop of York as Metropolitan). Each of our 42 dioceses is overseen by a diocesan bishop. Most are supported by other

(suffragan or area) bishops. Each of the diocesan bishops along with their leadership teams are responsible for the care of parishes and clergy across each province. All diocesan bishops are members of the House of Bishops, along with a small number other elected bishops. The House of Bishops is one of the three houses of the General Synod. The General Synod is an assembly of bishops, clergy and laity, which meets at least twice a year to debate and decide the Church's laws and discuss matters of public interest.

Our two archbishops and 24 other diocesan bishops sit in the House of Lords, making a major contribution to Parliament's work. They are known as Lords Spiritual.

Her Majesty the Queen is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. The Queen appoints archbishops, bishops and deans of cathedrals on the advice of the Prime Minister.

There are seven national administrative bodies that work together to support the mission and ministries of the Church. These are called National Church Institutions (NCIs). Each has a role to play in helping the day-to-day work of churches across England. They serve as the Church's central office, managing finance, education, communications, and more, to keep the Church of England growing. They work with parishes, dioceses (regional offices), schools, other ministries and our partners at a national and international level.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance>

Crown Nominations Commission

The Crown Nominations Commission is the body which recommends candidates to the Prime Minister and to The Queen as the next bishop of a vacant see.

The current Central Members of the Commission started their service in September 2017. Each CNC consists of the Presidents ex-officio of General Synod; three members elected by and from the House of Clergy of General Synod; three members elected by and from the House of Laity of General Synod; and six members elected by the Vacancy in See Committee of the diocese in which, in addition to these fourteen voting members, there are two non-voting members – the Prime Minister's Secretary for Appointments ex officio; and the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments ex-officio. The full membership of the CNC has a broad reach across the Church.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/CNC%20General%20Synod%20Amendments%20to%20Standing%20Orders%20136-141%20July%202019.pdf>

Diocesan Bishop

Bishop with oversight of a diocese.

Diocesan Synod

Consultation Document: Canterbury CNC

The Diocesan Synod is the body of representatives of the clergy and lay people in a diocese, which meets together with the bishops, archdeacons and other senior post holders in the diocese to discuss matters of concern, and to make provision for those things that require some form of action or statement. The Synod may from time to time express its opinion on matters of religious or public interest. The Synod also has a role in representing the views of the diocese to the General Synod and wider national Church, particularly when asked to do so by the General Synod or Archbishops' Council.

The Diocesan Synod is made up of three Houses – that is, three sets of members: the bishops, the other clerical members, and the laity (i.e. the non-clerical members). These are referred to as the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy, and the House of Laity. When it is appropriate to do so these Houses meet separately, for instance, when a matter before the Diocesan Synod affects the clergy and laity in different ways. However, normally the Diocesan Synod meets together as a whole.

Diocesan Synod Motion

Diocesan Synod Motions (DSMs) are motions passed by Diocesan Synods that have been referred to the General Synod. Once a DSM has been referred to the General Synod it will not come off the Agenda until it is either debated or withdrawn by the proposing diocese.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/diocesan-synod-motions>

Diocese of Canterbury

Canterbury Diocese is the oldest diocese in the Church of England and comprises 206 parishes organised in 100 legal benefices. There are 15 deaneries or areas within the diocese.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Diocesan Bishop and is assisted by the Bishop of Dover, also known as the Bishop in Canterbury. The current Bishop of Dover is Rose Hudson-Wilkin.

Ecclesiological

Ecclesiology is the study of the Church, the origins of Christianity, its relationship to Jesus, its role in salvation, its polity, its discipline, its eschatology, and its leadership.

Focus of Unity

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Focus for Unity for the three other Instruments of Communion (see also *Instrument of Communion* below) of the Anglican Communion, and is therefore a unique focus for Anglican unity. The Archbishop calls the once-a-decade Lambeth Conference, chairs the meeting of Primates, and

is President of the Anglican Consultative Council.

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/instruments-of-communion/archbishop-of-canterbury.aspx>

General Synod

The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It came into being in 1970 under the Synodical Government Measure 1969, replacing an earlier body known as the Church Assembly.

The General Synod considers and approves legislation affecting the whole of the Church of England, formulates new forms of worship, debates matters of national and international importance, and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level.

There are 483 members of the General Synod arranged into three House: Bishops, Clergy and Laity.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/about-general-synod>

Instrument of Communion

The Anglican Communion is served by four "Instruments of Communion": the Archbishop of Canterbury; the Lambeth Conference; Primates' Meeting; and, the Anglican Consultative Council.

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/instruments-of-communion.aspx>

Lambeth Conference

The Lambeth Conference takes place approximately every ten years. The first was held in 1867. Bishops from around the Anglican Communion are invited to attend by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The next Lambeth Conference is in Canterbury from 27 July to 8 August 2022. Its theme is "God's Church for God's World: walking, listening and witnessing together". The event is organised and run by the Lambeth Conference Company assisted by staff from Lambeth Palace and the Anglican Communion Office. A Design Group assists in organising the programme. The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion serves as conference secretary.

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/instruments-of-communion/lambeth-conference.aspx>

Primate

The Primates of the Anglican Communion are the chief Archbishops, Presiding Bishops, Moderators and chief pastors of the 42 provinces. Their churches are autonomous yet inter-dependent in their relationships with each other. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Primate of All England, and is recognised as the

primus inter pares, the first among equals, of the college of primates, and attendance at a Primates' Meeting is by invitation from him.

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/instruments-of-communion/primates-meeting/what-is-a-primate.aspx>

Prime Minister's Appointments' Secretary

See Crown Nominations Commission.

Professor O'Donovan's Theological Review

Discerning in Obedience: A theological review of the Crown Nominations Commission was written and published by Professor Oliver O'Donovan in the autumn of 2017, having been commissioned by the Archbishops in 2016. It's Terms of Reference were as follows:

- To provide the members of the Commission (central and diocesan) with a theological framework within which to discharge their responsibilities as they nominate bishops;
- To enable the Commission to understand the nomination of diocesan bishops within the context of the wider church of God, in particular: the national responsibilities; the role of the Church of England within the Anglican Communion; and the wider Church catholic;
- To enable the Commission to understand the nomination of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York within the same context;
- To articulate any particular responsibilities of the Archbishops in relation to shaping the nature of the episcopate and the leadership of the Church; and,
- To draw out the merits and disadvantages of the different ways of choosing bishops within the Anglican Communion.

The report can be found [here](#).

Standing Orders

The Standing Orders lay out the rules under which the General Synod regulates its proceedings. The latest version is available [here](#).

Some topics covered in the Standing Orders include general procedures at a group of sessions, motions and amendments, other procedures and customs, measures and canons, legislative reform orders, liturgical business, financial business, questions, elections, and the Crown Nominations Commission. The Standing Orders Committee regularly reviews the Standing Orders.

See of Canterbury

See Diocese of Canterbury.

See of Dover

See Diocese of Canterbury.

Vacancy in See Committee

A Vacancy in See Committee is required to be in existence at all times in every diocese. The Committee only meets when there is a vacancy in the See i.e. there is no diocesan bishop in post. The Committee holds at least two meetings, the first of which is held as soon as practicable after the vacancy has been announced. At its second meeting the Committee discusses the needs of the Diocese. It then prepares a statement setting out those needs and sends it to the Crown Nominations Commission of the General Synod, together with such factual information about the Diocese and its organisation as the Commission may have requested.

The Committee elects by ballot from amongst its members persons to be members of the Crown Nominations Commission. Such election is normally taken as the final business of the second meeting of the Committee, and is conducted by the method of the single transferable vote in accordance with the Regulations of the General Synod currently in force. Not less than half of the members elected must be lay members of the Committee.

End of Annex A.

Annex B: Privacy Notice

This privacy notice is provided by the Archbishops' Council to explain what to expect when we collect and process your personal information in accordance with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

Data controller

The data controllers is:

- The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England
Church House
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3AZ

1. Why we collect and use your personal data:

Personal information is collected for the following purposes:

- i) To contact you to invite you to participate in the consultation. We may contact you directly, or you may receive the invitation from a group coordinator of the stakeholder group of which you are part.
- ii) To gather your response to the questions and analyse them to produce a report for the **Archbishops' Council**. The final proposal to the General Synod (Proposed for July 2022) will as far as possible seek to keep specific responses anonymised.

2. The categories of personal data we collect:

The information we process for these purposes may include:

- Title, name, role/job title and contact details (such as email address)
- Personal Opinion – this will be used only in the analysis stage of producing the report for the **Archbishops' Council**

We also process “special categories” of information that may include:

- Religion, spiritual or philosophical beliefs

We are not seeking to collect special category data. However, if you are an office holder your religious belief data is collected by default e.g. any titles you might hold due to your role or position with the Church of England. Where you include special category data as part of your response, we will only use this data where it significantly informs our analysis.

3. The lawful basis for using your information:

We collect and use personal data under the following lawful bases:

Personal data

- **Consent (UK GDPR Article 6(1)(a))**

Special category data (see Section 2 above)

- **Explicit Consent (UK GDPR Article 9(2)(a))**

4. Who we collect from or share your information with:

We collect your information from:

- You the data subject.
- We have obtained your contact details from Church of England records, or you may have been forwarded the consultation email by the group coordinator of the stakeholder group of which you are part. We have used your email address to make initial contact with you to invite you to participate in this consultation.

Your data will only be seen and analysed by the staff supporting the consultation and the **Archbishops' Council**. It will form the basis of a report to the **Archbishops' Council**.

The final proposal taken to the General Synod in July 2022 will not contain any personal data. Where it mentions responses to the consultation, data will be anonymised. It will be shared with the Anglican Communion, as well as published as part of the General Synod papers.

5. Your data will not be transferred outside the UK

Any personal data once received will only be stored and processed within the UK.

6. How long do we keep your information?

We will keep your responses for the period of 12 months following the end of the consultation period in order to ensure that data is accurate and complete, and to respond to any queries you raise about the use of that data.

The report to the **Archbishops' Council** and the proposal will be retained permanently and archived in accordance with the NCIs archiving procedures.

7. Your rights:

You have the following rights regarding your personal data:

- The right to be informed about any data we hold about you;
- The right to request a copy of your personal data which we hold about you;
- The right to request that we correct any personal data if it is found to be inaccurate or out of date;
- The right to request your personal data is erased where it is no longer necessary for us to retain such data;
- The right, where there is a dispute in relation to the accuracy or processing of your personal data, to request a restriction is placed on further processing.

To exercise these rights, please contact the Data Protection Team using the contact information provided below. The NCIs Individual Rights Policy is available on request.

8. Complaints or concerns:

If you have any queries regarding this processing activity, please contact Elise Sandham elise.sandham@churchofengland.org

If you have any concerns or queries about how your personal data is handled by the consultation, please contact the Data Protection Officer at:

gdpr@churchofengland.org

or online at: [National Church Institutions data protection | The Church of England](#) or Tel: 020 7898 1114.

You have the right to make a complaint at any time to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) online at:

[Your personal information concerns | ICO](#), or by phone on 0303 123 1113 (local rate).

End of Annex B.