

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2023 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7 PM
ON FRIDAY 7 JULY 2023

WORSHIP

The Chaplain to the Synod, the Revd Dylan Turner, led the Synod in an act of worship.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOMES

1 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK introduced the following new members:

- The Rt Revd Joanne Grenfell, Bishop of Stepney, Suffragan Bishops (who had replaced the Rt Revd John Perumbalath)
- The Rt Revd Julie Conalty, Bishop of Birkenhead, Suffragan Bishops (who had replaced the Rt Revd Helen-Ann Hartley)
- The Rt Revd Stephen Race, Suffragan Bishops (who had replaced the Rt Revd Philip North)
- The Very Revd Chris Dalliston, Deans (who had replaced the Very Revd Andrew Nunn)
- Mrs Christiana Olomolaiye, Diocese of Bristol (who had replaced Miss Abigail Scott)
- The Revd Simon Drew, Diocese of Chester (who had replaced the Revd Dr Rob Munroe)
- Mr Peter Kelsey, Diocese of Derby (who had replaced Mrs Sian Kellogg)
- Mr Nathan Obokoh, Diocese of Leicester (who had replaced Miss Venessa Pinto)
- Dr Rosemary Gomes, Diocese of London (who had replaced Dr Liz Brutus)
- The Ven Jonathan Chaffey, Diocese of Oxford (who had replaced the Revd Tim Norwood)
- The Ven Sally Gaze, Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, (who had replaced the Revd Leslie Siu)

- Sister Beverley CSF, Religious Communities (who had replaced Sister Anita Cook CSC)

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK welcomed bishops attending this group of sessions under Standing Order 123 in place of the diocesan bishop:

- The Bishop of Aston, the Rt Revd Anne Hollinghurst, for the Diocese of Birmingham
- The Bishop of Grimsby, the Rt Revd David Court, for the Diocese of Lincoln
- The Bishop of Brixworth, the Rt Revd John Holbrook, for the Diocese of Peterborough
- The Bishop of Southampton, the Rt Revd Debbie Sellin, for the Diocese of Winchester.

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK welcomed the following Anglican Communion representatives and other ecumenical guests:

- The Most Reverend Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith, Primate of the Church of the Province of West Africa and Bishop of Asante-Mampong
- The Right Reverend Daniel Gutiérrez, Bishop of Pennsylvania and President of Compass Rose Society
- The Right Revd Anthony Poggo, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion
- The Very Reverend Dr Sarah Rowland Jones, Church of Wales
- The Right Reverend Erik Eckerdahl, Bishop of Visby
- The Rt Revd Ralf Meister, Bishop of Hanover

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

- 2 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK gave a Presidential Address.

ADDRESS BY AN ECUMENICAL REPRESENTATIVE

- 3 The Rt Revd Erik Eckerdahl, Bishop of Visby (Church of Sweden) addressed the Synod under Standing Order 121.

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2297)

4 The motion

‘That the Synod do take note of this Report.’

was carried.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

Mr Sam Margrave (Coventry) presented a petition to the Synod in accordance with Standing Order 43.

SPECIAL AGENDA III: PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTION CHURCH OF ENGLAND YOUTH SYNOD (GS 2298A and GS 2298B)

5 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- (a) acknowledge the national strategy to 'grow younger and more diverse'
- (b) take note of the report 'Rooted in the Church' (2016) which observes that young adults feel a sense of belonging if they i) are included within the whole church family, ii) are treated as equal members of the church, iii) are supported by leaders who act as bridges or mentors, and iv) are given a safe space to ask questions;
- (c) re-affirm the importance of having young adults directly involved in decision-making and strategy;
- (d) recognise the valuable contributions made by members of the Church of England Youth Council (CEYC);

and therefore call on the Archbishops' Council to:

- (e) establish the Church of England Youth Synod (CEYS) or similar, to replace the recently disbanded Church of England Youth Council (CEYC), as a meeting of young Anglicans between the ages of 18 and 25 who meet prior to each meeting of General Synod to discuss and debate the motions of General Synod;

- (f) invite each Diocesan Synod to nominate two young adults as members of both their local Diocesan Synod and the Church of England Youth Synod;
- (g) arrange for the co-option of 5 young adults elected by the Youth Synod as members of General Synod with the right to speak and vote;
- (h) appoint a part-time post with responsibility for democratic engagement with young people;
- (i) ensure that a sufficient budget is made available to support the work of the Youth Synod; and
- (j) ensure that the Youth Synod has representation on the Archbishops' Council by co-opting a member of the Youth Synod as a member of Archbishops' Council.'

was moved.

52A The amendment (Order Paper I, item 52) was carried.

52B The amendment

'leave out paragraph (g) and insert:

“() appoint three young adults to attend General Synod in accordance with Standing Orders”.’

was carried after a vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR 164

AGAINST 130

20 recorded abstentions were recorded.

53 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.

The Registrar addressed the Synod under SO 147(b) and advised that, in the light of SO 25 (reconsideration), the amendment at item 54 should be read as replacing everything in the main motion from “and therefore call”

to the end, except for the paragraph substituted by item 52B (i.e. paragraph (m)).

54 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.

55 The amendment (Order Paper I) fell.

5 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod:

- (a) acknowledge the national strategy to 'grow younger and more diverse'
- (b) take note of the report 'Rooted in the Church' (2016) which observes that young adults feel a sense of belonging if they i) are included within the whole church family, ii) are treated as equal members of the church, iii) are supported by leaders who act as bridges or mentors, and iv) are given a safe space to ask questions;
- (c) re-affirm the importance of having young adults directly involved in decision-making and strategy;
- (d) recognise the valuable contributions made by members of the Church of England Youth Council (CEYC);
- (e) request the Business Committee to bring a report to Synod with recommendations that increase the voice and representation of young people within Synodical bodies and through Synod elections and detailing how the above has progressed enabling children and young people's opinions and concerns to be heard;
- (f) recognise the role played by children and young people in the development of the Church of England Vision and Strategy;
- (g) values the work being undertaken through the Growing Faith Foundation to listen to the voices of children, young people and young adults;

and therefore call on each diocese to work alongside Children, Youth and Family advisors and practitioners to develop ways of ensuring that children, youth and young adult voices are heard within their decision making processes; and actively involve them in decision making;

- (h) request the Business Committee to bring forward proposals, including legislation if necessary that:

- (i) seek to enable greater numbers of young adults be elected to General Synod;
 - (ii) enable the voices of children, youth and young adults be heard within the debates of General Synod
- (i) encourage each General Synod member to work with Children, youth and Family advisors and practitioners to listen to the voice of children, youth and young adults in their preparation for each meeting of General Synod.
- (j) request the Archbishops' Council to:
 - (i) ensure that all policies seek to ensure that they contribute to fulfilling the vision of being a younger and more diverse church;
 - (ii) develop ways whereby the voices of children, youth and young adults are fed into their discussions and decision making processes;
- (k) call on the Archbishops' Council to establish a regular Church of England National Young Adults Gathering (name to be determined) which will enable young Anglicans between the ages of 18 and 25 to:
 - (i) meet together for worship, prayer and fellowship,
 - (ii) engage with and discuss issues identified as being important by young adults themselves, and
 - (iii) relate to decision-making structures including Dioceses, General Synod and Archbishops Council;
- (l) request to the Archbishops' Council that funding be found from within the budget for a first such national gathering whilst exploring provision of longer term funding;
- (m) call on the Archbishops' Council to appoint three young adults to attend General Synod in accordance with Standing Orders

was carried.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I:
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

LEGAL OFFICERS (ANNUAL FEES) ORDER 2023 (GS 2299)

500 The motion

‘That the Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2023 be approved.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2023 would be laid before both Houses of Parliament pursuant to the Statutory Instruments Act 1946.

VARIATION

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a), the order of business was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod so that it would proceed immediately to Item 6 (Appointment of a Member of the Archbishops’ Council (GS 2301)).

**APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE ARCHBISHOPS’ COUNCIL
(GS 2301)**

6 The motion

‘That the appointment of Mr Carl Hughes as member of the Archbishops’ Council and Chair of the Finance Committee be approved.’

was carried.

QUESTIONS

7 Supplementary questions in respect of questions 1 to 59 as set out in the Questions Notice Paper were answered.

DEEMED BUSINESS

SPECIAL AGENDA I – LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

ECCLESIASTICAL JUDGES, LEGAL OFFICERS AND OTHERS (FEES) ORDER 2023 (GS 2300)

The Order under section 86 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 was deemed approved, no member having given notice of their wish for this item to be debated or notice of any proposed amendment.

SCHEME OF VARIATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF DEANERY SYNODS (GS 2317)

The Scheme made by the Lincoln Diocesan Synod under rule 22 of the Church Representation Rules was deemed approved, no member having given notice of their wish for this item to be debated.

DRAFT SCHEME AMENDING THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE CONSTITUTION (GS 2318)

The Draft Scheme laid before the Synod was deemed approved, no member having given notice of their wish for this item to be debated.