

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2023 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 6.15 PM
MONDAY 10 JULY

ADDRESS BY AN ECUMENICAL REPRESENTATIVE

- 3 The Rt Revd Daniel Gutiérrez, Bishop of Pennsylvania (The Episcopal Church) addressed the Synod under Standing Order 120A(1).

VARIATION OF BUSINESS

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a), the order of business was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod so that the debate on item 507A would now be resumed. Item 501 (Electronic Register Book of Services Form and Conditions GS 2291) would be taken following Item 508.

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

FACULTY JURISDICTION (AMENDMENT) RULES 2023 (GS 2310)

RESUMED DEBATE

507A The motion (Order Paper VI) was carried.

513 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

514 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

507B The motion

‘That the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2023 as amended be approved.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2023 would be laid before both Houses of Parliament pursuant to the Statutory Instruments Act 1946.

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

CLERGY CONDUCT MEASURE (GS 2311)

508 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled “Clergy Conduct Measure” be considered for revision in committee.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the Clergy Conduct Measure stood automatically committed to a Revision Committee and that notice of amendments must be submitted to the Clerk to the Synod not later than 5 pm on Friday 8th September.

THE ELECTRONIC REGISTER BOOK OF SERVICES FORM AND CONDITIONS 2023 (GS 2291)

INSTRUMENT FOR APPROVAL

501 The motion

‘That the Electronic Register Book of Services Form and Conditions 2023 be approved.’

was carried.

ELECTIONS REVIEW GROUP: REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2312)

26 The motion

‘That the Synod receive the Report and agree the recommendations contained in the Annex to GS 2312.’

was carried.

71 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was lost.

78 The amendment (Notice Paper XII) lapsed.

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES (AMENDMENT) RESOLUTION (GS 2313)

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL

509A The motion

‘That the Church Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution 2023 be considered.’

was carried.

515 The amendment (Order Paper VII) lapsed.

516 The amendment (Order Paper VII) lapsed.

509B The motion

‘That the Church Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution 2023 be approved.’

was carried following a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
BISHOPS	18	0
CLERGY	115	2
LAITY	137	5

No abstentions were recorded in the House of Bishops; 2 were recorded in the House of Clergy; and 2 in the House of Laity.

EXTENSION OF SITTING

Under Standing Order 15(6) the sitting was extended by the Chair, with the consent of the Synod, by fifteen minutes.

REVITALISING THE PARISH FOR MISSION (GS 2314)

27 The motion

‘That this Synod

- a) welcome the emphasis in the Church of England’s Vision and Strategy for the 2020s on the revitalisation of the parish for mission as one of the six ‘bold outcomes’;

- b) affirm the parish system as a central component of the mixed ecology as we seek to offer a living and contextually-appropriate expression of church for every person in England, and a vital means of fulfilling our calling to become younger and more diverse;
- c) note the research presented in ‘From Anecdote to Evidence’ as well as other recent research which contributes to our understanding of the factors supporting church growth and vitality;
- d) welcome the Church’s commitment to sustaining overall numbers of parish clergy and increasing the numbers of ordinands, as well as increasing emphasis on lay ministry and the expansion of Licenced Lay Ministers in many dioceses; and
- e) encourage each parish and diocese to support a process of local missional discernment (Mission Action Planning) to enable greater effectiveness in parochial mission.’

was moved.

72 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was carried.

73 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was carried.

74 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was lost.

75 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was carried.

76 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was carried.

77 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was lost.

27 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod

- a) welcome the emphasis in the Church of England’s Vision and Strategy for the 2020s on the revitalisation of the parish for mission as one of the six ‘bold outcomes’;
- b) affirm the parish system as the central component of the mixed ecology as we seek to offer a living and contextually-appropriate expression of church for every person in England, and a vital means of fulfilling our calling to become younger and more diverse;

- c) note the research presented in 'From Anecdote to Evidence' as well as other recent research which contributes to our understanding of the factors supporting church growth and vitality;
- d) request the Archbishops' Council bring a report collating the research that has already been in place to a future group of sessions so that the Synod might have greater confidence that church growth and revitalisation alongside other mixed ecologies of church are taking place in line with our six bold outcomes, enabling local churches to develop and implement local mission plans;
- e) welcome the Church's commitment to increasing the numbers of ordinands, as well as increasing emphasis on lay ministry and the expansion of Licenced Lay Ministers in many dioceses;
- f) encourage dioceses to work in new and creative ways to increase lay and ordained vocations;
- g) encourage each parish and diocese to support a process of local missional discernment (Mission Action Planning) to enable greater effectiveness in parochial mission and put a plan in place to meet the discerned missional outcomes to be reviewed annually.

was carried.

EVENING WORSHIP

Jake Madin & St Michael le Belfrey Music led the Synod in an act of worship.