

GS 2374

Agenda

February Group of Sessions 2025

**GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2025
AT CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER
TIMES OF SITTINGS**

Monday 10 February	2.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Tuesday 11 February	9.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday 12 February	10.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Thursday 13 February	9.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Friday 14 February	9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

SERVICES

Monday 10 February	
2.30 p.m.	Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall
7.00 p.m.	Closing Worship in the Assembly Hall
Tuesday 11 February	
9.00 a.m.	Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall
1.10 p.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel
7.00 p.m.	Closing Worship in the Assembly Hall
Wednesday 12 February	
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion in the Assembly Hall
1.10 p.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel
7.00 p.m.	Closing Worship in the Assembly Hall
Thursday 13 February	
9.00 a.m.	Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall
1.10 p.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel

7.00 p.m.

Closing Worship in the Assembly Hall

Friday 14 February

9.00 a.m.

Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall

1.00 p.m.

Holy Communion in the Chapel

GENERAL NOTES
NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND QUESTIONS

1. Save where a special note is included in the Agenda, the following rules apply under the Standing Orders of the General Synod to notice of motions and amendments other than procedural motions:

NEW BUSINESS

2. The period of notice of new business **has expired**, save for urgent or other specially important business included by the direction of the Presidents.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS ARISING OUT OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

3. Notice of motions and amendments arising out of business on the Agenda (other than amendments to legislative business and to proposed amendments to Standing Orders) must be delivered to the Clerk as follows (SOs 10-13 and 27):

Business appointed for the first day of the group of sessions (Monday 10 February)

5.30 p.m. on Friday 7 February.

Business appointed for the remaining days of the group of sessions

Business appointed for a *morning* sitting:

10.00 a.m. the day before.

Business appointed for an *afternoon* sitting:

4.00 p.m. the day before.

4. Under Standing Orders 10 and 27, such notice must be accompanied by evidence of support from two or more members of the Synod in addition to the member giving the notice. (This provision does *not* apply to amendments to legislative business or to proposed amendments to Standing Orders.)
5. Notice of amendments to legislative business or to proposed amendments to Standing Orders must be given in accordance with the notes accompanying the relevant item in the Agenda.
6. An amendment of which due notice has not been given may only be moved by permission of the Chair (SO 26(4)(a)).
7. The email address in respect of amendments and motions arising out of business on the Agenda is: amendments@churchofengland.org.

QUESTIONS

8. In exercise of its power under SO 12 the Business Committee has determined that notice of Questions under Standing Orders 112-113 must be delivered **not later than 12.00 noon on Tuesday 28 January 2025.**

NOTICE

9. Notice must be given to the Clerk to the Synod in writing signed by the member or by e-mail, from an address notified to the Clerk, to the relevant one of the email addresses below. The postal address is Church House, Great Smith St, London SW1P 3AZ. The e-mail addresses are:

in respect of questions:

questions@churchofengland.org

in respect of amendments and motions arising out of business on the Agenda:

amendments@churchofengland.org

in respect of submissions to Revision Committees:

revisioncommittee@churchofengland.org

ORDER OF BUSINESS

10. Business set out in the Agenda will be taken on the day and at the times shown. If business set down for a particular day is completed before the next timed business is due to be called, the opportunity will be taken to complete any business already partly considered at this group of sessions.

CONTINGENCY BUSINESS

11. If there is no uncompleted business and a gap appears in the Agenda during this group of sessions, contingency business will be taken as follows:

SPECIAL AGENDA IV:

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTION

ADD CONFIRMATION NUMBERS TO STATISTICS FOR MISSION (GS 2371A AND GS 2371B)

A member of Canterbury Diocese to move:

‘That this Synod:

- (a) request that the number of candidates presented for confirmation should be recorded, so they could be used by parishes, deaneries or dioceses as one of their measures if they so desired; and
- (b) support the recording of confirmations, alongside baptisms, weddings and funerals in the annual Statistics for Mission online return.’

The deadline for amendments to this item of business is 10.00 a.m. on Monday 10 February (SO 27(5))

CONTACT

12. Please address queries or other matters not covered in these notes to the Clerk to the Synod as follows:

clerk@churchofengland.org.

MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY

2.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

WORSHIP

1 INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOMES

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

- 2** *The Archbishop of York* will give a Presidential Address.
-

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2375)

Canon Robert Hammond (Chelmsford) (Chair of the Business Committee) to move:

- 3** 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'
-

4 QUESTIONS

Note: *The Business Committee has determined in exercise of its power under SO 12 that notice of any question must be delivered **not later than 12.00 p.m. on Tuesday 28 January 2025.***

Not later than 5.20 p.m.

MAKIN REPORT (GS 2376)

The Bishop of Stepney to move:

- 5** 'That this Synod, repenting of the failures of safeguarding in the Church of England detailed in the Makin report, ask those in leadership roles across the Church of England to redouble work to implement best safeguarding practice in line with national policies and guidance, and note the further and forthcoming reforms set out in GS 2376.'
-

7.00 p.m. Evening Worship

TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2025

9.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.

OPENING WORSHIP

AFFIRMING THE RACIAL JUSTICE AGENDA: AN UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS ON 'FROM LAMENT TO ACTION' (GS 2377)

6 Presentation under SO 107.

The Bishop of Dover move:

7 'That this Synod:

- (a) noting that the Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice has completed its mandated three-year term to monitor the implementation of the recommendation in *From Lament To Action* and that the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC) is to be replaced, commend the members of the ACRJ for their exemplary service to the Church, and those dedicated members of CMEAC, past and present;
 - (b) recognise the positive outcomes to date on the implementation of the recommendations in *From Lament To Action* but affirm the need for further effort in order to embed racial justice in the life and practice of the Church;
 - (c) recommend that the national Church gives full consideration to the ACRJ's Appeal, Key Findings and Recommendations; ensuring crucial resources remain available including an effective governance framework comprising a Racial Justice Board, Panel, and Lead Bishop; that funding for the next triennium and the staffing be made available at the national and diocesan levels;
 - (d) recommend that Dioceses share good practices and give priority to the collection and measuring of relevant data; and that deaneries and parishes are encouraged to participate in the racial justice programmes;
 - (e) request that the NCIs through the Racial Justice Unit, undertake the necessary evaluations, including of *From Lament To Action*, so that General Synod by 2027 can review the further progress made by Dioceses, the NCIs, TEIs and other related institutions and stakeholders on *From Lament To Action*.'
-

Not later than 10.45 a.m.

FUTURE OF CHURCH SAFEGUARDING (GS 2378)

8 Presentation under SO 107.

The Bishop of Stepney to move:

9 'That this Synod:

- (a) thank all those involved in Church safeguarding, particularly the victims and survivors who give so generously of their wisdom and experience, often at great personal cost, and parish safeguarding officers who make sure that safeguarding is a priority in every level and all those who support them in dioceses;
 - (b) affirm its commitment to greater independence in safeguarding in the Church of England;
 - (c) thank the Response Group for its work for greater independence in safeguarding in the Church of England, endorse model 4 as the direction of travel, and request the lead bishop to engage with the relevant bodies with a view to implementation.'
-

TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2025

2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

FUTURE OF CHURCH SAFEGUARDING (GS 2378)

- 9 cont.** *Debate continued from Tuesday morning sitting.
See Order Paper II for the details of the motion and amendments.*
-

REPORT OF THE CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION (GS 2379)

The Archbishop of York to move:

- 10** 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'
-

DIOCESAN FINANCES REVIEW UPDATE (GS 2380)

- 11** Presentation under SO 107.

Note: *the Business Committee has determined under SO 107(3) that this presentation should include an opportunity for questions.*

SPORTS AND WELLBEING MINISTRY (GS 2381)

- 12** Presentation under SO 107.

The Bishop of Derby to move:

- 13** 'That this Synod recognise the missional potential for churches of sport and wellbeing through its ability to transform the lives of people and communities.'
-

SPECIAL AGENDA I:

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The following items (full details of which are contained in Special Agenda I – see pages 17-22) will be taken:

- 511** Safeguarding (Clergy Risk Assessment) Regulations 2025 **(GS 2369)**
- For Approval
-

Evening Worship

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2025

10.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.

A service of Holy Communion will be celebrated in the Assembly Hall at 9.00 a.m

ADDRESS BY ECUMENICAL GUEST

- 14 Presentation under SO 120.
-

SPECIAL AGENDA III: PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTIONS

STRATEGY FOR WORKING CLASS MINISTRY (GS 2382A AND GS 2382B)

The Revd Alex Frost (Blackburn) to move:

- 15 'That this Synod welcome work that has already been done to encourage the ministry of people from working class backgrounds, and request the Ministry Development Board to go further in developing a national strategy for the encouragement, development and support of vocations, lay and ordained, of people from working class backgrounds and report back to Synod to debate that strategy within 12 months.'
-

APPOINTMENT OF ONE MEMBER OF THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL (GS 2383)

The Archbishop of York to move:

- 16 *Details of the motion to be moved under this item will be given in a Notice Paper.*

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2025

2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I:
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

- 500-** Draft Clergy Conduct Measure (**GS 2311B**)
501 - *Final Drafting and Final Approval*
- 505** Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2025 (**GS 2384**)
- For Approval

*If 25 members have given notice to the Clerk by **5.30 pm on 29 January 2025** that they wish the Safeguarding Code of Practice (Managing Allegations and Reporting Allegations) (**GS 2372**), and/or the Safeguarding Code of Practice (Religious Communities and Acknowledged Communities) (**GS 2373**) to be debated, they will be taken during this sitting.*

The Order Paper will contain details of any business to be taken.

7.00 p.m. Evening Worship

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025

9.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.

OPENING WORSHIP

‘GROWING YOUNGER AND MORE DIVERSE’ - HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE VOICES OF YOUNG ADULTS (18-25) (GS 2385)

Mr Kenson Li (Co-opted member) to move:

17 ‘That this Synod:

- (a) welcome the voice of young adults (aged 18-25) as part of the church of today and commit to intentionally hearing and responding to their voices on a range of items of business in each subsequent group of sessions, employing a range of presentational activities, including surveys, reports, live presentations and videos
- (b) invite the formation of a group of up to 200 young adults drawn from across all dioceses to support the leadership development, faith journey and advocacy of young adults
- (c) request at least three and up to five young adults as representatives of this group at each session of Synod under Standing Order 122.1 recognising this group to be the successor to the Church of England Youth Council
- (d) welcome the work being done across the whole church to become ‘younger and more diverse’ ensuring young adults are at the centre of this mission, through implementing a development and advocacy programme for young adults in each diocese to feed into Synod business, and encourage more young adults to consider standing for election in subsequent quinquennia.’

Not later than 10.15 a.m.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH: UPDATE ON PROPOSALS (GS 2386)

18 Presentation under SO 107.

Note: *the Business Committee has determined under SO 107(3) that this presentation should include an opportunity for questions.*

Not later than 11.15 a.m.

**65TH REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO
THE CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION (GS 2387)**

Notes:

- 1. The Standing Orders Committee has reported on the proposed amendment in its 65th Report (GS 2387)*
- 2. The motions for the amendment of the Standing Orders contained in the Order Paper will be moved.*

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025

2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I:
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

- 502** National Church Governance Measure (**GS 2360A**)
- Revision Stage
- 506** Church Representation Rules (**GS 2388**)
- For Approval
- 507** House of Bishops Election Rules (**GS 2389**)
- For Approval
- 508** House of Clergy Election Rules (**GS 2390**)
- For Approval
- 509** House of Laity Election Rules (**GS 2391**)
- For Approval
- 510** Single Transferable Vote Regulations (**GS 2392**)
- For Approval

**THY KINGDOM COME – RENEWING THE CALL TO PRAYER &
EVANGELISM (GS 2393)**

- 19** Presentation under SO 107.

The Bishop of Blackburn to move:

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

7.00 p.m. Evening Worship

FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

OPENING WORSHIP

SPECIAL AGENDA I:

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

- 503** Mission and Pastoral Measure (**GS 2394**)
- First Consideration
- 504** Mission and Pastoral Regulations (**GS 2395**)
- First Consideration
-

SPECIAL AGENDA IV:

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTION

REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS (GS 2396A AND GS 2396B)

The Bishop of Bath and Wells to move

- 21** 'That this Synod
- a) call upon the Church Commissioners and Archbishops' Council to undertake everything necessary to effect a redistribution of financial resources directly to Diocesan Stipend Funds to reflect the value of contributions made by Diocesan Boards of Finance to the Church of England Funded Pension Scheme since it was established by the settlement of 1997 (£2.6 billion)
 - b) call upon Diocesan Boards of Finance to manage the funds redistributed as a result of the above to support parish ministry in the ways discerned locally to be most effective in enabling growth and sustaining the Church of England's commitment to be a Christian presence in every community.'

FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

1.45 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I:
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

- 512** Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2025 (**GS 2397**)
- For Approval
- 513** Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2025
- Proclamation as an Act of Synod
-

PATTERN OF FUTURE DATES 2027 – 2029 (GS 2398)

The Revd Canon Paul Cartwright (Leeds) to move:

- 22** 'That this Synod meet within the following dates in 2027 – 2029:

2027

Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February

Friday 9 July to Tuesday 13 July

Monday 15 November to Wednesday 17 November (if required)

2028

Monday 14 February to Tuesday 22 February

Friday 7 July to Tuesday 11 July

Monday 20 November to Wednesday 22 November (if required)

2029

Monday 19 February to Tuesday 27 February

Friday 6 July to Tuesday 10 July

Monday 19 November to Wednesday 21 November (if required).'

Not later than 3.40 p.m.

- 23** **FAREWELLS**
-

Not later than 4.00 p.m.

- 24** **PROROGATION**
-

SPECIAL AGENDA I – LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

CLERGY CONDUCT MEASURE (GS 2311B)

**Draft Measure for Final Drafting and Final Approval
(Revision Stage at the July 2024 group of sessions)
Report by the Steering Committee (GS 2311Z)**

Final Drafting Stage

The Chair of the Steering Committee (The Revd Kate Wharton) (Liverpool) to move:

500 'That the Synod do take note of this Report'

Note: *If item 500 is carried, any special amendments will be moved (SO 61(8)).*

Final Approval Stage

The Chair of the Steering Committee (The Revd Kate Wharton) (Liverpool) to move:

501 'That the Measure entitled "Clergy Conduct Measure" be finally approved.'

NATIONAL CHURCH GOVERNANCE MEASURE (GS 2360A)

**Draft Measure for Revision Stage
(First Consideration at the July 2024 group of sessions)
Report by the Revision Committee (GS 2360Y)**

The Chair of the Revision Committee (Mr Stephen Hogg) (Leeds) to move:

502 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'

Notes:

- 1. In the debate on item 502, it will not be in order to debate any matter which is the subject of an amendment to the draft Measure which appears on a Notice Paper for this group of sessions (SO 57(6)).*
- 2. When the debate is concluded on item 502, the Synod will proceed to consider the draft Measure clause by clause, first considering any amendments of which due notice has been given (SO 58(1) and (2)).*
- 3. Any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment under SO 59(1) to the draft Measure must do so in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Friday 7 February 2025**. Members' attention is drawn to Standing Order 59(3).*

SPECIAL AGENDA I – LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE (GS 2394)

Draft Measure for First Consideration

MISSION AND PASTORAL REGULATIONS (GS 2395)

Regulations proposed to be made under the Draft Mission and Pastoral Measure for First Consideration

The Chair of the Steering Committee (The Ven Fiona Gibson) (Hereford) to move:

- 503** 'That the Measure entitled "Mission and Pastoral Measure" be considered for revision in committee.'

Note:

*If item 503 is carried, any member who wishes to submit proposals for amendment to the revision committee must send them in writing to the Clerk to the Synod so as to reach her **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 18 March 2025.***

The Chair of the Steering Committee (The Ven Fiona Gibson) (Hereford) to move:

- 504** 'That the Regulations entitled "Mission and Pastoral Regulations" be considered for revision in committee.'

Note:

*The Business Committee has determined under Standing Order 70(1)(d) that the provisions in the Standing Orders that relate to a Measure, other than SO 37(4)(c) (vote on Final Approval to be taken on a counted vote by Houses), are to apply to the Regulations. Accordingly if item 504 is carried, any member may submit proposals for amendment of the Regulations to the revision committee. Any such proposals must be sent in writing to the Clerk to the Synod so as to reach her **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 18 March 2025.***

LEGAL OFFICERS (ANNUAL FEES) ORDER 2025 (GS 2384)

Order made under section 86 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018

A member of the Fees Advisory Committee to move:

- 505** 'That the "Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2025" be approved.'

Notes:

- 1. The Fees Advisory Commission has laid the Order (GS 2384) before the General Synod for approval under section 86 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018.*
- 2. Amendments to the Order are not permissible.*

SPECIAL AGENDA I – LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES (AMENDMENT) RESOLUTION 2025 (GS 2388)

Resolution of the General Synod under section 7 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969 for approval

A member of the Business Committee to move:

- 506** 'That the "Church Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution 2025" be approved.

Notes:

- 1. The Business Committee has determined in accordance with Standing Order 70(1) that the Resolution shall be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 72.*
- 2. Amendments to the Resolution are permissible. Any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment must do so in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday 11 February 2025.***
- 3. To be passed, the Resolution requires a majority in each House of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting.*

HOUSE OF BISHOPS ELECTION RULES 2025 (GS 2389)

Rules for Approval

A member of the Business Committee to move:

- 507** 'That the "House of Bishops Election Rules 2025" be approved.'

Notes:

- 1. The Business Committee has determined in accordance with Standing Order 70(1) that the Rules shall be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 72.*
- 2. Amendments to the Rules are permissible. Any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment must do so in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday 11 February 2025.***

HOUSE OF CLERGY ELECTION RULES 2025 (GS 2390)

Rules for Approval

A member of the Business Committee to move:

- 508** 'That the "House of Clergy Election Rules 2025" be approved.'

Notes:

- 1. The Business Committee has determined in accordance with Standing Order 70(1) that the Rules shall be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 72.*
- 2. Amendments to the Rules are permissible. Any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment must do so in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday 11 February 2025.***

SPECIAL AGENDA I – LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

HOUSE OF LAITY ELECTION RULES 2025 (GS 2391)

Rules for Approval

A member of the Business Committee to move:

509 'That the "House of Laity Election Rules 2025" be approved.'

Notes:

- 1. The Business Committee has determined in accordance with Standing Order 70(1) that the Rules shall be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 72.*
- 2. Amendments to the Rules are permissible. Any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment must do so in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday 11 February 2025.***

SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE RULES 2025 (GS 2392)

Rules for Approval

A member of the Business Committee to move:

510 'That the "Single Transferable Vote Rules 2025" be approved.'

Notes:

- 1. The Business Committee has determined in accordance with Standing Order 70(1) that the Rules shall be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 72.*
- 2. Amendments to the Rules are permissible. Any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment must do so in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday 11 February 2025.***

THE SAFEGUARDING (CLERGY RISK ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2024 (GS 2369)

Regulations under Canon C30

The Bishop of Stepney to move:

511 'That the "Safeguarding (Clergy Risk Assessment) Regulations 2025" be approved.'

Notes:

- 1. The House of Bishops has made the Regulations (GS 2369) and laid them before the General Synod under paragraph 3(3) of Canon C30.*
- 2. Amendments to the Regulations are not permissible.*

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEES (AMENDMENT) REGULATION (GS 2397)

Regulation for Approval.

The Archbishop of York to move:

- 512** 'That the "Vacancy in See Committees (Amendment) Regulation 2025" be approved.'

Notes:

1. *The Business Committee has determined in accordance with Standing Order 70(1) that the Regulations shall be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 72.*
2. *Amendments to the draft Regulation are permissible. Any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment must do so in accordance with SO 13 not later than **4 p.m. on Wednesday 12 February 2025.***

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEES REGULATION

Affirmation and proclamation as an Act of Synod

The Archbishop of York to move:

- 513** 'That the "Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2025" be solemnly affirmed and proclaimed an Act of Synod.'

SAFEGUARDING CODE OF PRACTICE: MANAGING ALLEGATIONS AND REPORTING ALLEGATIONS (GS 2372)

Code of Practice under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Notes:

1. *The House of Bishops have laid the Codes of Practice (GS 2372) before the General Synod for approval under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.*
2. *These Codes will be treated as having been approved by the Synod under section 6C of that Measure unless 25 members give notice in writing to the Clerk **by no later than 5.30 p.m. on 29 January 2025** that they wish the Codes to be debated.*
3. *The Business Committee has determined in accordance with Standing Order 70(1) that should such notice have been given, the Codes are to be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 72.*
4. *Amendments to the Codes are not permissible.*

**SAFEGUARDING CODE OF PRACTICE: RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES AND
ACKNOWLEDGED COMMUNITIES (GS 2373)**

**Codes of Practice under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy
Discipline Measure 2016.**

Notes:

1. *The House of Bishops have laid the Codes of Practice (GS 2393) before the General Synod for approval under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.*
2. *The Codes will be treated as having been approved by the Synod under section 6C of that Measure unless 25 members give notice in writing to the Clerk **by no later than 5.30 p.m. on 29 January 2025** that they wish the Codes to be debated.*
3. *The Business Committee has determined in accordance with Standing Order 70(1) that should such notice have been given, the Codes are to be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 72.*
4. *Amendments to the Code are not permissible.*

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTIONS

Note: This is the current order which includes signatures received by 20 January 2025.

VOCATIONS PROCESS AND ISSUES IN HUMAN SEXUALITY

The 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.’

146 signatures

June 2022

REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF PAULA VENNELLS

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

‘That this Synod, in the light of the central role of Paula Vennells in the Post Office Horizon scandal, and the comment by the Archbishop of Canterbury that ‘Paula Vennells has shaped my thinking over the years’, request that a full review be undertaken of the influence of Paula Vennells on the culture, decisions, appointments, and strategies of the House of Bishops and the wider Church.’

29 signatures

May 2024

WITHDRAWAL OF VALUING ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Mrs Rebecca Hunt (Portsmouth) to move:

‘That this Synod:

Recognising widespread criticism and concerns raised at the content and use of *Valuing All God’s Children* and following the publication of the Cass Review:

- a. Oppose the use of *Valuing All God’s Children* by Church of England schools to justify inappropriate relationships and sex education and harmful pastoral practice towards gender questioning children.
- b. Regret the use of *Valuing All God’s Children* against Christians in court to undermine the Church of England’s teaching on marriage.
- c. Lament the lack of leadership from the Church of England in not speaking into our schools and culture about issues of identity.
- d. Call for the immediate withdrawal of *Valuing All God’s Children* and an apology from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the National Society for the harm it has caused.’

30 signatures

May 2024

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTIONS

STRATEGY FOR WORKING CLASS MINISTRY

The Revd Alex Frost (Blackburn) to move:

‘That this Synod welcome work that has already been done to encourage the ministry of people from working class backgrounds, and request the Ministry Development Board to go further in developing a national strategy for the encouragement, development and support of vocations, lay and ordained, of people from working class backgrounds and report back to Synod to debate that strategy within 12 months.’

150 signatures

June 2024

SUPPORT FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND THOSE IN CARE

Mrs Billy-Jo O’Leary (Rochester) to move:

‘That this Synod, recognising the enormous challenges facing looked after children and those in care;

- a) call upon the House of Bishops to appoint a lead Bishop with a specific brief recognising the enormous challenges facing Looked after children and care experienced young adults, to ensure their voice is heard; and
- b) request dioceses take proportionate action to support these children and young people and the communities who care for them.’

21 signatures

November 2024

GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS

Dr Ros Clarke (Lichfield) to move:

‘That this Synod request that the House of Bishops urgently submit itself to an independent culture and governance review in order to restore trust and ensure that it is acting in an appropriate manner.’

51 signatures

January 2025

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

KAIROS PALESTINE

... to move on behalf of the Carlisle Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod:

- (a) endorse the “Cry for Hope” expressed by Palestinian Christians and the ‘Global Kairos for Justice’ coalition (GKfJ);
- (b) request that the Faith and Order Commission produce a report which analyses and refutes any theological justifications, for example, those promoted by some Christian Zionists, for the oppression of Palestinians
- (c) instruct the Ethical Investment Advisory Group to provide guidance to the National Investing Bodies (NIBs) and Dioceses that will enable them to screen their investments and thereby make decisions regarding engagement with, and divestment from, companies which profit from the occupation.’

October 2021

[The Sheffield Diocesan Synod passed a motion in identical terms.]

SAFER RECRUITMENT FOR PCCS AND SYNODS

... to move on behalf of Lichfield Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod request that the Archbishops Council:

- (a) review current legislative provision dealing with disqualification from holding office on a PCC or synod constituted under the Church Representation Rules;
- (b) consult the National Safeguarding Team on appropriate safeguarding measures;
- (c) bring forward proposals to amend the Church Representation Rules and other relevant legislation to allow checks to be made as to the eligibility of individuals to hold office on a PCC or synod; and
- (d) bring forward legislation to provide a robust and effective means for preventing those who are disqualified on safeguarding or other grounds from being elected to, or holding, office.’

April 2022

ADD CONFIRMATION NUMBERS TO STATISTICS FOR MISSION

... to move on behalf of the Diocese of Canterbury:

‘That this Synod:

- (a) request that the number of candidates presented for confirmation should be recorded, so they could be used by parishes, deaneries or dioceses as one of their measures if they so desired; and

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- (b) support the recording of confirmations, alongside baptisms, weddings and funerals in the annual Statistics for Mission online return.

September 2023

REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

... to move on behalf of the Hereford Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod

- a) call upon the Church Commissioners and Archbishops’ Council to undertake everything necessary to effect a redistribution of financial resources directly to Diocesan Stipend Funds to reflect the value of contributions made by Diocesan Boards of Finance to the Church of England Funded Pension Scheme since it was established by the settlement of 1997 (£2.6 billion)
- b) call upon Diocesan Boards of Finance to manage the funds redistributed as a result of the above to support parish ministry in the ways discerned locally to be most effective in enabling growth and sustaining the Church of England’s commitment to be a Christian presence in every community.’

May 2024

[The Gloucester Diocesan Synod, Coventry Diocesan Synod, Bath & Wells Diocesan Synod, Blackburn Diocesan Synod, Chichester Diocesan Synod and Lincoln Diocesan Synod passed a motion in identical terms.]

A MORE JUST SETTLEMENT FOR DIOCESAN FINANCES

... to move on behalf of the Diocesan Synod of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich:

‘That this Synod, mindful of the vital role of parochial clergy in the mission of Church and the current general inadequacy of Diocesan Stipendiary Funds to meet the associated costs especially considering pressures on parish share -

- a) acknowledge that the Church Commissioners have made a remarkable turnaround since the once in a generation financial settlement of 1997 that shifted future pension liability to Diocesan Boards of Finance, enabling the Church Commissioners to grow their assets from £3bn to over £10bn, while diocesan funds declined significantly;
- b) endorse the ongoing financial review to bring about a more sustainable and just new settlement for the next generation; one that will ensure the Church continues to be able to afford the presence of priests in communities across the land;
- c) call for the Church Commissioners together with the Archbishops’ Council to investigate how best to achieve this, including such options as the Church Commissioners;
 - taking back responsibility for clergy pensions;
 - funding a substantial proportion of clergy stipends;
 - ringfencing or transferring £2bn - £3bn in investments to Dioceses.’

July 2024

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

ZERO HOUR CAMPAIGN FOR CLIMATE AND NATURE BILL

... to move on behalf of the Diocesan Synod of Oxford:

'That this Synod, aware of the important aims of the Climate and Nature Bill, the only proposed legislation before the UK Parliament which ensures a comprehensive and joined up approach to the climate and nature emergency, whose aims are broadly to:

- make sure that the UK cuts its emissions fairly and fully to stand the best chance of keeping 1.5 degrees alive
- make sure that the UK takes significant steps to reverse the destruction of nature by 2030
- involve citizens in deciding the fairest way forward;

endorse the "Zero Hour" campaign to promote the Climate and Nature Bill.'

November 2024

FAILURE TO APPOINT DIOCESAN BISHOPS

... to move on behalf of the Diocesan Synod of Coventry:

'That this Synod

- a) recognise the great disappointment caused whenever an appointment is not made for a diocesan bishop,
- b) recognise in industry and national charitable organisations, that senior director roles are sometimes not filled after the first round of interviews, and that in many parishes several rounds of interview are required before a successful appointment,
- c) recognise the disappointment that must be felt in Carlisle and Ely, which after a failure to appoint a Bishop will each have to wait roughly a year before another set of interviews,
- d) request the Crown Nominations Commission to draft new proposals that enable more rapid return to shortlisting and interviews whenever an initial CNC process has concluded with no appointment, such proposals should limit delay for any further rounds of interviews to be no longer than six months.'

December 2024