

Dr. Mrs. Chisom Favor Eliakim-Ikechukwu

General Synod Election Address.

Candidates Name: Dr Mrs. Chisom Eliakim-Ikechukwu

Vocation: Medical Doctor - General Practitioner – Serving as a salary GP at Weoley Park Surgery, Birmingham.

Involvements at Parish, Deanery and Diocesan levels of voluntary services:

- Lay Reader, Benefice of Lozells and Newtown
- Lay Readers Coordinator – Handsworth and Central Deanery
- Synod Member Handsworth and Central Deanery.
- Synod Member Birmingham Diocesan Synod.
- Member Birmingham Diocesan Council.
- Coordinator, women of Grace Fellowship, Benefice of Lozells and Newtown.
- Commissioned Pathway for Youth Minister.

I desire to serve as a member of the Church of England General Synod. I hereby seek to be elected to this office in the forthcoming general elections. I believe I have helpful contributions I could bring to the general synod as follows:

My experience as a Medical Doctor in the health care sector gives me the opportunity to make meaningful and practical inputs at initiating or contributing towards health and wellbeing discussions at the synod.

As a Church we could get absorbed with spiritual and social issues that we neglect the psychological as well as deep emotional needs of the people we serve. The Lord would wish that we be healed and made whole. Wholeness includes the general wellbeing of an individual in the first instance and the church as a whole. This wellbeing includes spirit, soul and body. A healing of that nature would require attention properly given to individual's response to needs and challenges around them.

I believe our discussion on inclusion should embrace all forms of inclusiveness. I happen to have had some training in Neurodevelopmental disorders with special interest in Autism Spectrum Disorder ASD. People of this disposition are distributed in all spheres of society struggling to fit into already stereotyped systems without being given an opportunity to function at their pace and best. It is time we include and accommodate everyone in our discussions at the synod. If

elected I could help with some information based on my training and practice along this line.

I am also a commissioned Pathway for Youth minister. With my training along this line, I support intergenerational inclusiveness. With the growing population of youths in our church, our discussion along encouraging this demography should be intentional and authentic. I am happy to bring quite an experience into this discussion at the synod if elected.

Before my relocation with family to the United Kingdom, I served as a Lecturer and the head of the department of Human Anatomy in the University of Calabar, Nigeria. My experiences as a Snr Lecturer and Head of Department equipped me with collaborative skills of leadership. Since my engagement with leadership roles here at my workplace and in the Church of England this skill has been quite helpful. I am happy to bring this skill and other strengths into my service as a member of the general synod if elected.

Moreover, my experience as a member of an ethnic minority group encourages me to support and speak up for people who are underrepresented. With this experience I shall make meaningful suggestions and bring informed ideas into discussions at the synod that would represent a wider interest in the Church of England.

I strongly stand in support of the Church of England in her missional, ministerial and environmental calling especially in the 21st century. I intend to make meaningful contributions at the synod towards discussions along this line if elected.

As I look forward to serving at the General Synod with sincerity, humility, integrity and commitment, I seek your support to secure this opportunity in the forthcoming synod elections. God bless.

Chisom.