

General Synod Election Address: Adeyinka Olushonde

Short Question: Why do I want to stand for general synod?

Short Answer: Because I love God, love His people and want to serve...

Now for the long version!!! 😊

I personally did not benefit from having been brought up in a Christian household but I found faith as an adult after a lot of soul-searching (and a rather dramatic turnaround in my life!!!). Ever since, serving God and serving His people – whether they are currently professing a Christian faith or not – has been an extremely important part of my life.



I have a long history of community engagement within my professional life (spanning nearly 25 years), having worked in a number of community development and advocacy roles. While based in Liverpool, I have been privileged to have worked around the world in community and arts-based contexts, engaging with people from many different nations, communities and backgrounds.

I also have experience of serving as a trustee on a number of charitable boards in the UK and have also been involved in numerous strategic consultation and decision-making groups at local and regional authority levels.

In terms of my qualifications and mental capacity, I have BA in community arts and this has often helped me to think creatively over the years. I have an MA in Christian Leadership, and this can often help me to see the 'bigger picture' during discussions (guiding me in my attempts to authentically serve God in my words and deeds). I am also an Ordinand, in my second year of a Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology - with a focus on 'offence and reconciliation'. My vocation and current level of study speaks to my deep desire to engage with a range of perspectives, to speak truth in love and to work find paths that bring honour to God and bring people into knowledge of Him.

In my personal life I have had what could be termed a 'broad church' experience – including Pentecostal, Evangelical and more traditional Anglican settings – having found life and spiritual nourishment in a range of contexts. I have also been privileged enough to lead community outreach and bible study groups, building relationships and supporting those with a fledgeling faith to grow in strength and confidence.

I have found it an important part of my life's journey and witness to serve in a range of contexts, and am privileged to have been able to do so by preaching, leading worship and supporting various outreach-based ministries (including youth work, a gospel choir, homeless work and parent-and-toddler groups).

I now have what I believe to be a strong faith, matured through a diverse experience of life, work, relationships and religious practise – and I am constantly seeking ways to grow and learn and serve in in God's kingdom.

So, I now wish to stand for general synod in order to further serve the Church of England at this important time in her history. We have been through so much over the past few years and I believe there is a real need for thoughtful servants to approach the matters before us with faithful and loving hearts.

I would humbly put myself forward to serve in this way, committing to help discern God's will for the Church of England and how she should continue to love and serve in the years to come.

Blessings,
Adeyinka