

GUIDANCE FOR HOUSE OF LAITY ELECTIONS

NOTE: Words in square brackets should be omitted by those dioceses in which they are not applicable.

Qualifications of Candidates

1. A candidate must be a lay person who:

- (a) has received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or a Church in communion with it at least three times in the twelve months before the date of the dissolution of the General Synod; (or would have done so but for matters connected with coronavirus);
- (b) either is confirmed (or ready and desirous of being confirmed) or comes within paragraph 1(b) of Canon B 15A (i.e. is a communicant member of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity);
- (c) is aged at least 18 on the date of the dissolution of the General Synod; and
- (d) satisfies one of the following conditions:
 - (i) is on the church electoral roll of a parish in the diocese [or, in the diocese of London, on the roll of a guild church] [or, in the diocese in Europe, on the roll of a chaplaincy] [or, in the case of a cathedral in the diocese, if not a parish church, on the community roll];
 - (ii) [is, in the diocese of London, declared by the dean of Westminster to be a habitual worshipper at Westminster Abbey] or [is, in the diocese of Oxford only, to be declared by the relevant dean to be a habitual worshipper at St George's Chapel, Windsor or Christ Church, Oxford];
 - (iii) is declared by the leader of a mission initiative in the diocese to be part of the worshipping community involved in the initiative.

2. Unlike electors, candidates need not be members of a deanery synod.

3. Candidates must normally be qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on Tuesday 13 July 2021 (the date of the dissolution of the 2015-2021 General Synod). Exceptionally, the deans of Westminster Abbey, St George's Chapel, Windsor or Christ Church, Oxford may declare persons to be habitual worshippers at those places, at any time during the period Monday 14 June – Wednesday 11 August 2021 inclusive.

4. A candidate must not be the holder of a paid office or employment to which one of the following central bodies may make or confirm an appointment:

- the General Synod the Church Commissioners*
- the Convocations the Church of England Pensions Board
- the Corporation of Church House
- the Archbishops' Council.

*(A Church Commissioner in receipt of a salary or other emolument is not so disqualified.)

5. A candidate may not stand for more than one diocese [or electoral area] simultaneously [but may stand for an electoral area other than that in which the candidate is on an electoral roll or, if entered on the community roll of a cathedral that is not a parish church, may stand for an area other than that in which the cathedral is situated].

Qualifications of proposers and seconders

6. Proposers and seconders must be diocesan electors qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on the date of the dissolution, Tuesday 13 July 2021. The diocesan electors are the members of the house of laity of each deanery synod in the diocese, other than the co-opted members and the members of a religious community with representation in the General Synod. [In the diocese in Europe: the diocesan electors are those persons elected to act as such by the

annual meetings of the chaplaincies and the qualifications required of a diocesan elector are the same as for a candidate for election by the diocese to the General Synod under paragraph 1 above].

7. Qualified electors may only be proposers and seconders in the electoral area in which they are entitled to vote, even where the candidate being proposed or seconded is a qualified elector in another area within the same diocese (see paragraph 5 above).]

Any candidate may request the presiding officer to despatch an election address (consisting of not more than one sheet of A4 paper, which may be printed on both sides) from that candidate to every elector in the [diocese] [electoral area]. Election addresses will be sent by the presiding officer to the electors with the voting papers. If any candidate wishes to send an election address, one original copy (suitable for photocopying) must be provided by the candidate at the candidate's own expense. This must either be delivered to the presiding officer at the address above or sent by e-mail to: (insert e-mail address) and received by the presiding officer by _____ 2021 (insert date not less than seven days after close of nominations). The presiding officer is under no obligation to circulate addresses received after the due date or which are not in the pre