



Newcastle Diocesan Synod

19th September 2015

**A meeting of the Newcastle Diocesan Synod will be held on
Saturday 19th September 2015 at
the Cathedral Church of St Nicholas,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1DF
from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**
(Registration and refreshments available from 9:30 am)

AGENDA

Eucharist

Celebrated by the President of the Synod, the Assistant Bishop of Newcastle

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Election of Vice Presidents

Separate meetings of the House of Clergy and the House of Laity

For this item of business the members of the House of Clergy will remain in the Cathedral and the members of the House of Laity will move to the Lantern Room. Under Standing Order 5 each House is required to elect a chair.

A member wishing to stand for election must have a proposer *and* a seconder. A Member who wishes to stand for election should notify the Diocesan Secretary before the meeting commences.

The separate meetings will be chaired as follows:
The Ven Geoff Miller will chair the House of Clergy; and
Mrs Carol Barclay will chair the House of Laity.

Members of the House of Clergy will then move to the Lantern Room to join members of the House of Laity and the meeting of the Diocesan Synod will continue. The newly elected Vice Presidents will chair the meeting.

3. Apologies for absence

4. Minutes (Paper DS15 07)

To approve:

the Minute of a meeting held on 16th May 2015



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5. Matters Arising

6. Notices

a) Promulgation of Amending Canon No.35

This item relates to business enacted by the General Synod at its July 2015 group of sessions. The Amending Canon must be formally proclaimed at this meeting of the Diocesan Synod.

b) Act of Convocation

Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy

This item relates to business approved by the Convocations of York and Canterbury prior to the July 2015 sessions of the General Synod. The Act of Convocation must be formally proclaimed at this meeting of the Diocesan Synod.

7. Questions

8. General Synod Report: July 2015

9. Overview of Board and Committee Functions including election process

(Papers DS15 08 DS15 09)

10. Any Other Business

11. Presidential Reflections

The Rt Revd Frank White

12. Close

The meeting will be followed by a Hustings Event for the forthcoming General Synod Elections to enable electors to engage with candidates standing for election. The House of Laity Husting will be held in the Lantern Room. The House of Clergy Husting will be held in the Cathedral.

Dates of next Diocesan Synod meetings in 2015

6th October: (Finance Synod to help to shape the Budget) at *St John's Church, St John's Terrace, North Shields NE29 6HS* at 18:00 to 20:00

28th November: (Formal Synod) at the *Northumberland Church of England Academy, Ashington* at 10:00 through to 13:00



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EXPLANATORY NOTES

BY THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE

Ecumenical Observers

By invitation of the President, observers representing the Methodist, Roman Catholic and United Reformed Churches and the Salvation Army can attend the meetings of the Synod. They also have the permission of the Chairman to address the Synod, but they have no right to move any motion or amendment or to vote.

Standing Orders

The current Standing Orders were circulated to members in November 2011 and are available to members on request.

In view of the infrequency with which reference is made to Standing Orders, the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee has advised the Chairman of the Synod that it would be appropriate for the proceedings of the Synod to be interrupted and for the Orders to be checked before a ruling is given.

Members' attention is drawn to the fact that the lectern is provided for the benefit of speakers named on the agenda. Members of the Synod who are called to speak during a debate are asked to do so from the microphones in the body of the meeting.

Length of Speeches

The Chairman has authority to limit the duration of speeches at his discretion. Following the advice of the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee, he will normally allow an opening speaker 15 minutes and will limit other speeches to 10 minutes.

The time limit for a proposer to respond to a debate is ten minutes. The Standing Committee's advice is that there is no procedural need, nor one of etiquette, to respond to all speakers or points.

Synod Papers

The explanatory papers circulated with Synod agenda are primarily designed to give members the factual background to motions. Argument of the case is the responsibility of the proposer at the meeting itself.

It is the Synod's policy also to offer to members who wish to submit motions and amendments arising from the agenda the facility of circulating explanatory



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papers. In response to a request that this arrangement be clarified, the Standing Committee has determined that:

- (i) It is expected that such papers will also be designed primarily to set out the factual background rather than the argument.
- (ii) It is expected that they will have been prepared by member(s) concerned, rather than be publications prepared by other individuals or organisations.
- (iii) Sets of addressed envelopes can be made available to Synod members who wish to circulate papers which do not fall into either of these categories.

Motions and Amendments

The formal notice which is issued to members (and to Area Deans, Lay Chairmen and Secretaries of Deanery Synods) six weeks before each meeting invites them to submit new business for the agenda. Under Standing Orders (no.26) this should be sent in writing to the Secretary and must reach him not later than 35 days before the meeting is held. Members may submit motions and amendments arising from the agenda up to 7 days before the meeting and, on important matters of policy, arrangements can be made as outlined above for explanatory papers to be circulated so that members can study them before the debate.

A motion or amendment can only be moved during a meeting without notice if the Chairman gives permission and the text must be handed to the Secretary before it is moved. Members who have in mind the possibility of proposing an amendment during the meeting are asked whenever possible to give prior notice to the Chairman and to the proposer of the motion concerned.

Question

Under Standing Orders (no.69) a question may be asked of the Secretary, the Registrar or the Chairman of any body constituted by the Synod on which it is represented. For this meeting, these should be sent to the Diocesan Secretary no later than two days prior to the meeting.

Closing Date

The closing date for motions and amendments arising from the Agenda of this meeting of Synod is **17th September 2015**.

The dates of the next meetings are Tuesday 6th October at 18:00 (Finance Synod) and Saturday 28th November 2015 (formal Synod).