

GUIDE TO SUBMITTING A MOTION TO DIOCESAN SYNOD

“A Deanery Synod may, on a motion moved by a member of the Diocesan Synod who represents that Deanery, bring before the Diocesan Synod any question of general church interest or affecting the Deanery or any Parish within the Deanery.”

(Diocesan Synod Standing Order 103)

How can I bring a proposition or motion to Synod?

The Business Committee, consisting of the Chairs of the Houses and the Diocesan Bishop, has the responsibility for preparing the agenda of the Diocesan Synod and for considering - in detail - the way in which all resolutions are worded.

Ways that members of Diocesan Synod can have an item of business included on the agenda include:

- a) Raise the issue at your Deanery Synod; if your fellow members agree, then a deanery motion can be submitted for discussion at a meeting of the full Diocesan Synod. Ultimately, the Diocesan Synod has the ability to pass such a motion to General Synod for discussion at a national level.
 - Please contact the Diocesan Secretary as soon as possible for advice on preparing and wording the motion to ensure it does not contradict Standing Orders, overrule existing legislation, or other technical issues. It is good practice for Deanery Synods to authorise their Standing Committee to agree the final wording of any motion to ensure minor amendments can be properly approved before the matter is taken to Diocesan Synod.

- b) Submit a question in advance. These questions need to be submitted 7 days in advance and you may know them as “Questions under standing orders”. Although questions are not formal propositions, they can bring important matters to the attention of Synod. Any member may ask a question of any officer or office holder of the Synod, provided that the question is relevant to their duties and does not request an opinion. Advance notice helps research and consideration to be given to the question. Once a question has been submitted the questioner is then entitled to ask up to two supplementary question on the same subject at the meeting. This rule gives all members of Synod a considerable ability to raise issues on matters that they are concerned about. For example, members could canvas their Deanery Synod in advance of the Diocesan Synod meeting to see if any colleagues have issues they would like raised on their behalf.

Guidelines for Deanery Motions to Diocesan Synod

Deanery Synods are asked to bear the following guidelines in mind when considering proposing a motion to Diocesan Synod:

Wording

Examine carefully the way in which the motion is framed and check that it says what your deanery synod or the parish really means it to say. It will often be helpful to ask for the wording to be checked at an early stage by the Diocesan team as the Registrar will, in any case, be asked to consider the motion from a legal perspective before it is included on the agenda of Diocesan Synod.

Establish the facts

Ensure that you have accurate information about the background of the motion. Often it will prove helpful to have checked the information on which the motion is based with the relevant diocesan staff and/or the chair of the council or committee responsible for the policy or practice in question.

Timing

Consider the timing of the motion in relation to the synodical cycle and its work. The agenda for Diocesan Synod is finalised about a month before its meeting. Please contact the diocesan team for further information on the schedule. In addition, any resolutions which may involve financial consequences are required to have had the input of the Diocesan Board of Finance before they are put to Diocesan Synod, for which at least 35 days' notice is required under Standing Order 111. It is also important to establish that the matter has not already been voted on by Diocesan Synod within the preceding twelve months. *"No motion or amendment to the same effect as, or dependent on, one which has been rejected within the preceding twelve months and no motion to rescind a resolution passed within the same period shall be proposed without leave by the standing committee."* (Standing order 42)

Implications

In presenting the motion, note the consequences, financial and practical, for all others concerned. The Business Committee will want to have a motion which is unambiguous, founded on firm factual foundations, and where there is evidence that all of the consequences of passing the resolution have been considered by the proposer.

Proposer

Give some thought to which Diocesan Synod member from the deanery in question will propose the motion. Please be aware that having given initial consideration to the motion, the Business Committee may wish to engage (or nominate a member or officer to engage) in further discussions with the Deanery Synod representative before a motion is placed on the Diocesan Synod agenda.

Advice and Support

Please get in touch using the contact details below with any further questions.

Colin Harbidge, *Diocesan Secretary and Chief Operating Officer*
colin.harbidge@winchester.anglican.org / 01962 737305

Cathy Laird, *Operations and Governance Manager*
cathy.laird@winchester.anglican.org / 01962 737307

Diocesan Registrar
registry@battbroadbent.co.uk / 01722 432390