

## General Synod

### Information for Potential Candidates

#### Meetings of the General Synod, Committees and Commissions

1. The frequency and length of meetings of the full General Synod follow a regular pattern of two or three meetings in a calendar year.
2. Meetings are held in February, July and November (if required). The February meeting and any which take place in November are non-residential and take place at Church House, Westminster (London SW1). The July meeting is residential and takes place at the University of York.
3. The weeks during which the meetings are held each year are fixed in advance by a Synod resolution passed no later than the July meeting of the previous year. The Business Committee of the General Synod then informs Synod members in the agenda paper for each meeting of the precise dates (within the pre-arranged weeks) on which the Synod will meet.
4. The normal pattern of February meetings in London spans up to six days, ending on a Saturday (though it is most unlikely that the meetings would begin as early as the Monday). The sitting hours on each are usually from 9.30am to 1pm and from 2.30pm to 7pm. The Business Committee have agreed that in 2023 the meeting dates will include a weekend.
5. In York, residential meetings are usually held over a weekend from Friday evening to not later than lunchtime on Tuesday. The Synod does not transact business on Sunday morning during a weekend residential meeting. Instead, by invitation of the Dean and Chapter, members are able to attend a Sung Eucharist in York Minster.
6. The dates already agreed for meetings of the Synod in 2021-2025 are as follows:

<b>2021</b>	
London	15 – 17 November
<b>2022</b>	
London	7 – 11 February
York	8 – 12 July
London	14 – 16 November (if required)
<b>2023</b>	
London	6 – 14 February
York	7 – 11 July
London	13 – 15 November (if required)

7. Members are not required to record their attendance at any full day meeting and do not have to comply with any convention or Standing Order requiring them to attend any minimum number of meetings. It rests with each individual to do the best they can in the light of other commitments and particular concerns in each Synod agenda. The Business Committee try to help members by ensuring that particular items of business begin at published times.

8. Any member of the Synod may be invited by the Appointments Committee to serve on a number of permanent or temporary bodies. Members are entirely free to refuse such invitations. Individual members' preferences are taken into account when fixing dates of committee meetings, and every effort is made by the Appointments Committee to share out the committee work fairly among members who are qualified to deal with the tasks to be undertaken.
9. It may be helpful to explain that the practice of the Synod is to call all its sittings in Full Synod on one day a "session", and any number of sessions of consecutive days a "group of sessions". This is only a matter of terminology and has no bearing on the frequency or length of sessions.