

Name: Temitope Taiwo
Address: Hackney Church House,
1 Prodigal Square, London, E8 1FX
Email: Temitope@saint.church
Proposed by: Peter Ottino
Seconded by: Cathy Butcher



Dear friends and electors,

I am asking for your consideration and support to represent you in the House of Laity at General Synod. I have pondered both the delight and duty of belonging to the only body in our land, alongside Westminster, entitled to make national law for England. And so, my request – which has not been taken lightly – comes with much admiration and reverence for the work being done. I am standing because I care for my diocese and the wider flourishing of the whole Church of England.

Who am I?

- I am an Ordinand studying towards both a BA and MA in Theology, Ministry & Mission at St Mellitus College, London.
- I also serve, in a context-based placement role, as the Discipleship Pastor with a group of collaborating parishes across east London called SAINT.
- I was born in London, have lived in local estates and council housing, and been raised in a single parent home by a wonderful, faith-filled mother.
- Prior to serving in ministry for the Church of England, I graduated from a BA Business Management degree with a 1st Class Honours, worked in the Fashion industry, and momentarily lived in Bangladesh whilst on Christian mission to the Garo people in Netrokona.

Why am I standing?

- **For the next Generation of young believers** – As a former Community Youth Worker for an Anglican parish church working in estates, schools, and hostels, I have had the privilege of seeing the power of the gospel message in transforming the fragile lives of young people.

Yet, I have also seen the struggle and hardship many young believers encounter when attempting to live out their Christian witness. Particularly in a time of contemporary moral & social issues many of us do not yet understand. I am, therefore, unequivocally committed to using innovative approaches of mission that reach out to young people, especially from areas of significant social and economic deprivation; helping them find their place in the Church.

- **For Mission and Community Action to all people** – In agreement with the five marks of mission, I am a strong believer that the Church of England is called to respond to human need by loving service. In a time where the increasing cost of food and the number of people using food banks has become a hallmark of this current period of austerity, it is my hope that the Church of England can counter with radical generosity.

The generosity of God is at the heart of the gospel. I believe in a giving-God who sent Jesus Christ into the world, so that we may live. This is why I am passionately envisioning the General Synod to be a place where we deeply consider the human. In the next quinquennium, a key priority will be to continue identifying those in need and explore forms of mission & outreach appropriate to different contexts, that flow from the local parish churches.

- **For Church Recovery and Growth post Covid-19** – As we recover from the global and local shaking brought on by the pandemic, the Church of England is at a critical juncture where key decisions on how best to use resources, abilities and time must be made. With wisdom and consideration for the complexity and diversity of expression across our church, I hope to contribute to this on-going conversation. I am dedicated to working hard to support clergy as ministry resources are becoming stretched.

If elected, I will actively look to help the Church of England grow in a shared vision of growth and accessibility. I believe that we should be considering how to improve access to our historic buildings as a precious community space, whilst having more agile ways of planting into new uninhabited areas within local parishes and beyond. In these very new times, I believe a mixed economy of different styles of churches, both neighbourhood and network, will be necessary in our call to preach the Gospel afresh to every generation.

Final Words

As a Church, we begin this quinquennium in a spiritual and cultural moment filled with daring opportunities. I desire to be part of this adventure. And I believe I can bring a diverse voice, a diligent spirit and generous outlook to the table.

I appreciate that the General Synod's work is much broader and deeper than large meetings, and much of the work will not always grab the "headlines". Yet, the present landscape of Christianity in our country beckons me. I hope I can earn your trust and support, as I invite you to prayerfully consider giving me your first-place preference. If you would like to speak with me further, please feel welcomed to contact me via email at temitope@saint.church – Thank you!

Faithfully yours,

Temitope Taiwo