

GENERAL SYNOD 2021
DR PHILLIP RICE

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Dear Readers,

After being converted in a mission while attending London University, then worshipping at All Souls, I settled in Stepney area where I spent the next 42 years serving the local church and community. I am widowed with three children and blessed with two grandchildren. I focus, as Christ's witness, on the local church, equality and enabling access to resources and finances for those in need across all walks of life. Please do read on to find out why and how I hope to serve on the Synod and help achieve God's purpose for His people.

**With gratitude,
Phillip**

Proposer: James Normand, Chelsea

Secunder: David Longbottom, Tower Hamlets

SERVICE SO FAR

- Lay Chair of Tower Hamlets Synod, 2021 (present)
 - General Synod Member, 2010-15
 - Lay Chair of Hackney Deanery Synod, 2000-06
 - Government Economic Adviser - 20 years, specialising in taxation of the rich
 - Civil Service, led the Westminster Alpha group within Christians in Government
 - Education Co-optee, Tower Hamlets Council – reviewing policies since 2011
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WHY I AM STANDING

To get things done!

- **I sense now** is the time to complete the LLF process with voting in 2022/23 – we need to get closure to be able to move on with our mission and ministry.

- **Make the most of finances and investments** (£8.7 billion of property and share investments) held by the national church institutions. It needs a strong push to achieve better sharing between the needs now and holding *excessive* reserves for the future.
- **Influence setting rules for the future** – in 2015, I argued that RPI was a wrong measure of inflation – thus freeing up cash for distribution to dioceses.
- **Engage with the community in the Public Square** – I am doing this through The East London Community Organisation (TELCO), now Citizens UK. This is a breath of fresh air to me and St Paul’s Shadwell, as we link up with activists in churches of all denominations, schools, pressure groups and unions. I am committed to campaigns e.g. bringing in the London Living Wage; responding to homelessness and night shelter where the churches are acting with great heart.
- **Support those with addiction** – in Tower Hamlets, I was nicknamed by the Mayor as “Dr Fixed odds betting terminals” for my persistent work on limiting gambling and reducing the addictive power of betting terminals. Also I was co-leader of Diocesan group to produce statistics and stories of the harm being created, and co-ordinated between church and secular groups.
- **Campaigning through letters to Church Times – I am a frequent writer** - I sense the value of the letters to awake the Christian community. In the past it has been the loose regulation of terminal gambling, in future to be fairness about where Church money is collected and spent.
- **Passionately drive growth and renewal** – for 15 years, I have been part of church plant in Shadwell and it continues to thrive. I seek to commend further church plants.
- **Special interest in sacred space** - Vice Chair of Friends of St Paul’s Cathedral, working on “the Remember Me” Covid memorial to pioneer a digital and physical chapel space for bereaved.

BELIEFS AND APPLICATION

- Vision whilst working on LLF: obeying God’s word and keeping a clear mandate from scripture, loving our neighbour and enabling the LGBTQ community to be welcome within church.
- Honour your father and mother – reinforcing traditional family units. Family and procreation are the foundation of marriage in traditional Jewish, Christian and Moslem practice. This is the Genesis mandate, the law of Moses, the 10 commandments, and confirmed by Jesus in gospels.
- John’s gospel: Jesus began his ministry at “the wedding in Cana”. The miracle is more than the water into wine, rather the continuation of the miracle of marriage that turns one man and one woman into one flesh. This flesh has the two natures otherwise nothing new is being made in the one flesh. Marriage rules defend family, produce identity and bloodline by joining in love.
- We need to distinguish clearly between God’s expansive love and human sexual love which is exclusive and limited to marriage. It is God’s action in agape (fatherly) love that is the greatest.
- Scripture cannot be set aside – hence we must move forward in agape love for one another.

Thank you for getting this far in the manifesto. I would like the opportunity to serve on General Synod as someone who has been immeasurably blessed by meeting the amazing range of people who are serving Christ by keeping on keeping on in many ordinary ways in the London parishes. Your vote matters.