



To: Area Deans, Lay Chairs and Deanery Secretaries

Guidance on filling Casual Vacancies on the Diocesan Synod

- Rule 45 of the Church Representation Rules 2022 states that an election to fill any casual vacancies for representatives from the deanery at diocesan synod should take place at a meeting of the members of the relevant house of the deanery synod unless the Bishop has directed that elections to fill casual vacancies should be conducted in a similar manner to the way in which the main election was carried out, and fixes a timetable. No direction has been given by the Bishop to this effect.

- Procedure

The fact that an election to fill a casual vacancy is to be held at a particular meeting will need to be included on the Agenda. A meeting of the house of clergy or laity can take place on the same occasion as the meeting of the deanery synod.

The wording on the Agenda may be as follows:

‘A meeting of the house of clergy/laity will be held on [x date] at [x location].
At this meeting, nominations will be called to fill [x vacancies] on the Diocesan Synod. (See attached note, ‘About the Diocesan Synod’).’

Candidates are particularly encouraged who are of Global Majority Heritage, disabled people, women, and those under the age of 30, as these members of our church communities are currently under-represented on the Diocesan Synod.

- We advise that lay candidates who are not members of the deanery synod should be invited to attend the meeting as visitors. At the meeting, you may wish to invite each of the candidates to say a few words about how they would help to represent the deanery at the Diocesan Synod before the voting takes place.
- If voting is required, we advise that this is carried out in a similar way to the practice adopted at PCC meetings to fill casual vacancies on deanery synods.

Please contact the Governance team if you have any questions on the guidance above Governance@london.anglican.org

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