

What is required of a General Synod member?

There is much that could be written on what the requirements are of a General Synod member – and many misunderstandings that appear. The following headlines might help any considering standing as a candidate.

General Synod member should:

- ✓ Be able to attend all/most meetings of the General Synod during the five years they are a member (it is possible to attend on Zoom, though infinitely preferable to do so in person).
- ✓ Be interested in the issues brought for debate at Synod.
- ✓ Vote in debates (whether take notes or substantial).
- ✓ Participate – if possible – in one or more of the various boards and committees that surround and support the work of Synod.

What is not necessarily required of Synod members includes:

- ✗ Making speeches (plenty of members go a whole five years without making a single speech).
- ✗ Reading all the papers – it is highly unlikely that anyone reads all the papers (there are just too many!).
- ✗ Be an expert on the matters under consideration. The chances are that most people will have some relevant experience on a number of issues, but even where you are not an expert, your view/opinion still counts and your vote matters.

Being a member of General Synod also means that you are a member of your Diocesan Synod and (in most dioceses) expected to participate also in the life of at least one Deanery Synod.