

Diocesan Synod Motions (DSMs) are motions passed by diocesan synods that have been referred to the General Synod. Once a DSM has been referred to the General Synod, it remains on the Agenda until it is either debated or withdrawn by the proposing diocese.

Diocesan Synod Motions are listed under the General Synod's Special Agenda IV. The other Special Agendas include Legislative Business (Special Agenda I), Liturgical Business (Special Agenda II), and Private Members' Motions (Special Agenda III).

Current DSMs

Confirmation numbers to Statistics for Mission

... to move on behalf of Canterbury Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod:

- a. request that the number of candidates presented for confirmation should be recorded, so they could be used by parishes,
- b. deaneries or dioceses as one of their measures if they so desired; and
- c. support the recording of confirmations, alongside baptisms, weddings and funerals in the annual Statistics for Mission online return.

September 2023

Day of prayer and action for the persecuted church

... to move on behalf of London Diocesan Synod:

'That this Synod, in the light of the motion passed at the February 2022 Group of Sessions relating to the persecuted Church (i.e. item 18 on the Agenda, as amended), request the Archbishops' Council to work ecumenically with other churches to establish a national day of prayer and action for the persecuted Church around the world'

August 2022

Food Banks and Inadequacies in Social Security

... to move on behalf of Sheffield Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod, mindful that the fourth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion is to “transform unjust structures of society”,

- a. note the major contribution to social welfare being made by the churches and others in the provision of food banks
- b. note with concern that levels of dependence on food banks have been increasing and that inflation is making the situation even worse
- c. believe that this dependence reflects serious inadequacies in the social security system
- d. note that the Trussell Trust has said: 'we stand on the edge of a precipice with a clear decision to make: either we accept food banks as a 'new normal' or we work to create a more dignified, compassionate and humane society where everyone has enough money for essentials'
- e. welcome the Chancellor’s intervention to help the least well-off households with their energy bills but note this will not remove the problem of increased dependency on foodbanks
- f. call on the House of Bishops to urgently engage with HM Government, in particular the Secretary of State, to press it to review the adequacy of current social security provision.'

January 2023

Human Dignity of Disabled Children

... to move on behalf of the Liverpool Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod, reaffirming its belief that every person is unique and precious and made in the image of God, and endorsing section 6 of the Equality Act (2010):

- a. Challenge the common assumption that bringing a disabled child into the world is a tragedy to be avoided;
- b. Call upon healthcare providers and other public authorities to improve the support they give to the parents and families of children born with disabilities;

Call upon His Majesty's Government and healthcare providers to ensure that mothers whose unborn child may be disabled in any way are given comprehensive and unbiased information about the condition and support available to them;

- d. Call upon dioceses, parishes and chaplaincies to consider how they might better witness to the human dignity of disabled children, including the better pastoral advice and support they might offer to their parents and families.'

March 2024

Kairos Palestine

...to move on behalf of the Carlisle Diocesan Synod:

'That this Synod:

- a. endorse the "Cry for Hope" expressed by Palestinian Christians and the 'Global Kairos for Justice' coalition (GKfj);
- b. request that the Faith and Order Commission produce a report which analyses and refutes any theological justifications, for example, those promoted by some Christian Zionists, for the oppression of Palestinians;
- c. instruct the Ethical Investment Advisory Group to provide guidance to the National Investing Bodies (NIBs) and Dioceses that will enable them to screen their investments and thereby make decisions regarding engagement with, and divestment from, companies which profit from the occupation.'

March 2021

Rest Periods for Office Holders

.... to move on behalf of Winchester Diocesan Synod:

'That this Synod request that the Archbishops' Council lay before it for approval draft Regulations amending the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations 2009 so that an office holder is entitled to not less than 36 hours (a day and a half) of rest in any period of seven days, to include an uninterrupted rest period of not less than 24 hours, but so that the statement of particulars of office may continue to specify that any rest period may not be taken on or include a Sunday or any or all of the principal Feasts of the Church of England or Ash Wednesday or Good Friday.'

April 2023

Safer Recruitment for PCCs and Synods

... to move on behalf of Lichfield Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod request that the Archbishops Council:

- a. review current legislative provision dealing with disqualification from holding office on a PCC or synod constituted under the Church Representation Rules;
- b. consult the National Safeguarding Team on appropriate safeguarding measures;
- c. bring forward proposals to amend the Church Representation Rules and other relevant legislation to allow checks to be made as to the eligibility of individuals to hold office on a PCC or synod; and
- d. bring forward legislation to provide a robust and effective means for preventing those who are disqualified on safeguarding or other grounds from being elected to, or holding, office.'

April 2022

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