

Information for Candidates

Meetings of the General Synod, Committees and Commissions

1. The frequency and length of meetings of the full General Synod follow a regular pattern of two or three meetings in a calendar year.
2. The months in which meetings are held are February, July and November (if required). The February meeting and any November meeting is non-residential and takes place at Church House, Westminster, London SW1; but the July meeting is held residentially at the University of York.
3. The weeks during which the meetings are held each year are fixed in advance by a Synod resolution passed no later than the July meeting of the previous year. The Business Committee of the General Synod then informs Synod members in the agenda paper for each meeting of the precise dates (within the pre-arranged weeks) on which the Synod will meet, in the light of the needs of that particular agenda.
4. The normal pattern of February meetings in London spans up to six days ending on a Saturday (though it is most unlikely that the meetings would begin as early as the Monday), the sitting hours on each day usually being from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. However, the Business Committee agreed that in 2023, the meeting dates will include a weekend.
5. In York, residential meetings are usually held over a weekend from Friday evening to not later than lunchtime on Tuesday. The Synod does not transact business on Sunday morning during a weekend residential meeting. Instead, by invitation of the Dean and Chapter, members are able to attend a Sung Eucharist in York Minster.

General Synod meetings for the rest of the current term of office are as follows:

17-19 November 2025 (London)
9-13 February 2026 (London)
10-14 July 2026 (York)

NB A general election is anticipated in the latter half of 2026 when the current term will end.

6. Members are not required to record their attendance at any full meeting and do not have to comply with any convention or Standing Order requiring them to attend any minimum number of meetings. It rests with each individual to do the best he or she can in the light of other commitments and particular concerns in each Synod agenda. The Business Committee do, however, try as far as possible to help members by ensuring that particular items of business begin at published times.
7. Any member of the Synod may be invited by the Appointments Committee to serve on a number of permanent or temporary bodies but he or she is entirely free to refuse such invitations. In accordance with normal practice, individual members' preferences are carefully taken into account in fixing dates of committee meetings and every effort is made by the Appointments Committee to share out the committee work fairly among members who are qualified to deal with the tasks to be undertaken.
8. Although in the above paragraphs the term "meeting" has been used, it may be helpful to explain that the practice of the Synod, following the Convocation custom, is to call all its sittings in Full Synod on one day a "session" and any number of sessions on consecutive days a "group of sessions". But this is only a matter of terminology and has no bearing on the frequency or length of sessions.