

From the wider Church

Virtual meeting of General Synod

The timetable for an informal virtual meeting of members of General Synod on Saturday July 11 has been published. This has the support of the Business Committee of the General Synod after it was confirmed that the residential meeting due to take place in York in July had been cancelled in the light of the coronavirus pandemic.

The term of the current General Synod has been extended for a year, with planned elections to the General Synod postponed until next autumn. Synod officers continue to explore options to enable the Synod to transact its business remotely if it is not possible to meet in person in November.

The timetable can be found on the Synod area of the Church of England website, [here](#).

The full text from Church House, Westminster reads:

“This is to update you that the Privy Council met on 20 May 2020 when an Order was made under section 84 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 to postpone to 31 July 2021 the date on which the Convocations of Canterbury and York will automatically stand dissolved if they are not dissolved sooner than that in accordance with Her Majesty’s directions.

“The General Synod is automatically dissolved at the same time as the Convocations and the dissolution of the Synod is therefore also postponed. It is the dissolution of these bodies that triggers fresh elections.

“Elections to the General Synod that were due to be held this autumn will now take place in the autumn of 2021. It is expected that these will be undertaken using the online election process, and the allocation of seats for dioceses shall remain as agreed at the February 2020 Group of Sessions.

“The inaugural session will take place in November 2021. This means that the term of office of current elected members of the Convocations of Canterbury and York and of the House of Laity is extended until July 2021. Any casual vacancies that arise before 13 July 2020 must now be filled.

“Directions as to the time within which this must be done will be issued as soon as possible. It is important that each diocese is fully represented.”