



THE GIFT OF GOD
– it's grace that unites us

Convention of General Synod 2024

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DELEGATES for the 2024-27 synodical term

Being a lay delegate for a three-year term is a significant task – one that requires prayer and preparation. Before you allow your name to go forward for nomination, please ensure you are able to fulfil the responsibilities of delegate.

ESSENTIAL

- ✓ You must be a voting member of an LCA congregation.
- ✓ You must be over 18 years of age.
- ✓ You must be prepared to serve as your parish's elected delegate for the full synodical term (up to the 2027 Convention). You will be your parish's point of contact for pre- and post-Synod communications. As such you will receive and pass on to parish members information relating to General Convention business and opportunities for them to engage with the topics. As a General Synod delegate, you are a servant of the wider church, not only of your parish.
- ✓ You are required to have and maintain at least Level 1 Safe Church Training or equivalent, and a Working with Children type check both when you are elected and at the commencement of Convention of General Synod in October 2024. (The body electing or approving your appointment must attest to compliance with these requirements and ensure that you are aware of your obligations in this respect.)
- ✓ Your details are recorded in LAMP2.
- ✓ Voting at convention will be done electronically. If you must have a smartphone or similar device and are comfortable using it, we recommend you bring it with you. If you do not have a device or are uncomfortable using one, don't worry, we will be working with delegates to provide the needed support in the lead-up to Convention.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

- ✓ You are able to attend the 2024 General Convention of Synod, 4-7 October. If you are unable to do this, your parish should appoint an alternate delegate to attend in your stead, but you retain your role as delegate for the remainder of the synodical term.
- ✓ Delegate feedback after the 2021-23 General Convention noted that some delegates unnecessarily interrupted the flow of business (eg by confusing clarification questions with points of order). It is important that delegates are well versed in the rules of transacting business at a convention. Regardless of your experience as a delegate, you are urged to attend pre-Convention training. We anticipate there will be a comprehensive training webinar for new delegates and refresher training for experienced delegates.
- ✓ It is anticipated that the Way Forward team will bring to Convention a proposal for a framework that the LCANZ can operate as 'one church with two different practices of ordination'. Delegates should take every opportunity to learn about the project's progress and be well prepared to engage in this critical conversation at the Convention.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

- ✓ Feedback from 2021-23 delegates indicated some displeasure when a parish's pastor is a pastor delegate and his wife attended as the lay delegate. Also, when a parish is entitled to two lay delegates, the parish elects a husband-and-wife combination. While there may be efficiency considerations and while By-Laws do not preclude these practices, you are encouraged to consider the perceptions of your fellow delegates and to do everything possible to ensure your parish is properly represented.