

Encouraging Lay Representation

Session for clergy & lay people in
preparation for the 54th Synod



VICTORIAN ANGLICANS TOGETHER

Agenda

Welcome & prayer

Why VAT is running this session

Ways clergy and locums can encourage lay representation

What to expect at Synod as a Lay Representative

Supports for Synod Representatives

General discussion

Why we're running this session

- Who we are: Victorian Anglicans Together (victoriananglicanstogether@gmail.com)
- Support clergy and locums organising lay representation
- Give interested lay people an overview of what to expect at Synod
- At the last Synod session, the 53rd Synod (2019-2022), some parishes did not have their full complement of Lay Representatives
- Create a recording to share

What this session is *not* about

- Not about the ‘nitty-gritty’ of Synod proceedings
- Not about standing orders (rules of conduct)
- Not about moving or seconding or speaking to motions or voting
- Rather, it offers a **snapshot** of Synod & supports for Synod reps, Lay and Clergy

Timeline for organizing lay representation (it's a tight deadline!)

- The mandate for the 54th Synod has been issued by Archbishop Philip
- An election of Synod Representatives must be held on or by **Sun 16th April** (low Sunday)
- At least 15 days beforehand (just over 2 weeks), announce the **election date and time** at all services
- Also announce the **closing time for nominations** which is immediately before the first service on the Sunday prior to the election date
- All nominations have to be **submitted by 8am on Sun 26th March**

Timeline for organizing lay representation (it's a tight deadline!)

- If by 26th March, the number of nominations submitted is **equal to (or less than)** the number of eligible positions, **no election is required.**
- If by 26th March there are **more nominations than eligible positions**, then an election is required and an election must be **announced and held by 16th April.**
- The **notice of election** should probably be **posted at the entrance to the church** (this is common practice for other church elections).

Timeline for organizing lay representation (it's a tight deadline!)

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Note: 16th April is the Sunday after Easter (fewer people tend to attend church so most likely won't be present to vote in an election). Easter Sunday is the 9th April; it's a good idea to plan to be able to hold an election (if needed) **at the latest on Sun 2nd April** (Palm Sunday).

Synod Elections 2023

- Every 3 years at the beginning of a new Synod, elections for most of the major positions and committees in the diocese take place.
- The reason is that most of the major roles are 3-year appointments.
- The major committees are where the culture of our church is debated and formed.
- Major committees (and the number of clergy and laity on each committee) are shown on the next slide.

Synod Elections 2023

Canons of the Cathedral		Archbishop in Council		Board of Nominators		Diocesan Tribunal	
Clergy	Laity	Clergy	Laity	Clergy	Laity	Clergy	Laity
3	2	6	6	9	9	4	4
		3 Female	3 Female			2 Full	2 Full
		3 Male	3 Male			2 Reserve	2 Reserve

Social Responsibilities		General Synod		Provincial Council		Board of Enquiry		Anglicare Victoria
Clergy	Laity	Clergy	Laity	Clergy	Laity	Clergy	Laity	
No less 3	No less 3	15	15	8	8	1	1	3

- Board of Nominators (9 clergy and 9 Laity) will be elected this year.

The importance of the Board of Nominators

- This year, members of the 54th Synod will elect the Board of Nominators
- This Board will nominate candidates for the next Archbishop of the Diocese of Melbourne
- The 54th Synod will elect the next Archbishop from those candidates during its three-year life
- If Synod fails in the election of the next Archbishop, it may fall to the Board to elect.

Ways clergy and locums can encourage lay representation: conversation points

- Lay people have a vital role to play at Synod in ensuring we remain and continue to be an open, diverse and broad diocese that values mainstream Anglicanism and our liturgical tradition.
- Synod is the only forum in which the deep concerns of all the people of God in this Diocese can be expressed, heard and influence what our church can be.
- The 54th Synod will be a crucial moment for our church, as it will elect a new Archbishop for Melbourne.

Ways clergy and locums can encourage lay representation: [conversation points](#)

- It's a forum where you can hear the good news about what other congregations are doing, get new ideas about initiatives and build friendships with other Anglicans from across the Diocese.
- Opportunity to learn about how our church functions – its structures, committees and processes – and about how Anglicans are serving the church and wider society.

What to expect at Synod as a Lay Representative

Key responsibilities of Lay Representatives:

- Attend!
- Prepare (e.g., connect with groups that run pre-Synod meetings)
- Vote
- Questions
- Other opportunities to participate (motions: moving, seconding etc.)

Supports for Synod Representatives

VAT and other groups will run meetings in preparation for Synod in October on:

- Intro to standing orders, motions, legislation
- Intro to elections and voting
- Guide to the Business Papers & the Business of Synod
- During Synod, VAT offers a discussion platform for people to keep in touch
- VAT website under construction: victoriananglicanstogether.org

General Discussion
