

Cynhadledd Esgobaeth Llanelwy :: St Asaph Diocesan Conference

Pwyllgor Sefydlog :: Standing Committee



A discussion paper for future meetings of the Standing Committee

As we enter the final year of the current triennium of the Standing Committee, planning is now starting for the elections of the new Standing Committee memberships, and the future programming of meetings to allow for a larger number of our church membership to be able to consider putting themselves forward for election by making attendance at the meetings of the Standing Committee more achievable and accessible.

Pre-pandemic, the programme of meetings consisted of four full-day meetings, happening in March, June, September and November, being held at various locations throughout the diocese. During the pandemic, these meetings became online meetings limited in time to about three hours or so.

The Standing Committee has a number of responsibilities and obligations, and therefore the business of the meetings is carefully considered in advance and, where necessary for time reasons, decisions have to be made about the importance of any business raised, or reports to be given by any of the strategic bodies within the diocese which are answerable to the Diocesan Conference through the Standing Committee.

The online meetings have given the opportunity for members to attend without the need for travelling, and an upturn in attendance has been recorded during the period since March 2020.

As we look towards a new triennium, therefore, and in order to encourage a more diverse membership from our churches and Mission Areas, the following proposals are offered for consideration for the future programming of meetings. For the avoidance of doubt, these proposals will not affect the final year of the current triennium.

- It is proposed that one of the Standing Committee meetings in each year (to be held in February) should be a day-long meeting held on a Saturday at a central location within the diocese. The long form meeting will enable more business to be brought to the Standing Committee, and will also allow Standing Committee to meet face-to-face to gather and discern God's plan for the future of the Diocese. This is particularly valuable when discussing matters of vision and strategy.
- A further two meetings will be shorter, two-hour evening meetings, held online in May and September where essential business and urgent matters can be discussed and considered. It is envisaged that the September meeting would concentrate on the annual accounts and budget for the Diocese, so that they can be presented to the Diocesan Conference in October.

- There may also be an opportunity to hold a short face-to-face meeting of the Standing Committee after the Diocesan Conference, if needed.
- It is hoped that that this pattern of meetings will enable those who are in full time employment, or still in education, who have an interest in the administration and governance of the Diocese to consider whether they want to put themselves forward for election as Mission Area representatives without having to take annual leave to attend meetings, or without the meetings otherwise interfering with work, childcare, education, or other considerations that would have made attending Standing Committee meetings difficult, if not impossible, in the past.

This change to the pattern of the Standing Committee meetings will be opened for further discussion by Standing Committee, before a proposal is put forward, which is being recommended for acceptance, that the new triennium, meeting for the first time in November 2022, should follow a pattern of one full-day Saturday meeting, a short meeting following the Diocesan Conference (if necessary), and two two-hour evening meetings held online, as a trial.

Owain Llŷr Williams
Diocesan Registrar