



THE GOVERNING BODY (GB)

What is the Governing Body?

The Governing Body (GB) is the supreme legislature of the Church in Wales, broadly speaking the 'parliament' of the Church in Wales and comparative to the Church of England General Synod.

The Governing Body is responsible for decisions that affect the Church's Faith, Order and Worship. It also has powers to make regulations "for the general management and good government of the Church, and the property and affairs thereof."

How is the Governing Body's membership made up?

The overall size of the Governing Body is 143 members and is composed of three 'orders':

- The Bench of Bishops
- The Order of Clergy, which includes certain ex-officio members and clerics elected by clerical members of each Diocesan Conference in the Province
- The Order of the Laity, which includes certain ex-officio members and members elected by lay members of each Diocesan Conference in the Province. The election process in the Diocese of St Asaph ensures that wherever possible, the three archdeaconries are fairly and evenly represented in its lay membership.

Who is eligible to become a member of the Governing Body?

- Church in Wales clerics under the age of 70 years
- Lay communicants aged over 18 and under 75 years of age who either reside or have resided for a period of 12 months in a Church in Wales parish and who do not belong to a religious body which itself is not in communion with the Church in Wales.
- Clerics in full time salaried employment of the RB or Diocesan Board of Finance and lay persons in any salaried employment of the RB or Diocesan Board of Finance are not eligible to be members



What are the qualifications for membership of the Governing Body?

There are no formal requirements beyond the membership eligibility listed above but as the Governing Body business covers a very wide agenda ranging from the governance of the Church, liturgy & doctrine, to issues of social concern, members with a wide range of interests and experience are needed in order for the Governing Body to represent the views of the Church as a whole it is important that members can reflect views of their local churches as well as reporting back to them on the work of the Governing Body.

What is the time commitment expected of members of the Governing Body?

The term of office for elected, nominated and co-opted members is three years but this period may be renewed.

The Governing Body normally meets twice each year, in April and September. The meetings usually last for 24 hours from lunchtime on day 1 to lunchtime on day 2, therefore there is a requirement to stay overnight for those who need to travel. Meetings are held in a number of locations. Venues in Cardiff, Lampeter and Llandudno are frequently used.

Members of the GB are also members of the Diocesan Conference which is held on the second Saturday in October, the Diocesan Conference is a further full day's commitment.

Are members of the Governing Body able to claim expenses?

Membership of the GB is a voluntary role, however reasonable travel expenses may be claimed. Meals are provided at meetings and overnight accommodation is arranged and paid for.

How can I find out more about the Governing Body?

This leaflet is intended a brief guide – further and full information can be obtained:

- On the Church in Wales website:
<http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/governing-body/>
- In the Church in Wales Constitution:
<http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/resources/constitution-handbooks/constitution-of-church-in-wales/chapter-2-the-governing-body/>
- By contacting Mr John Richfield at the Provincial Office in Cardiff:
☎ 02920 348200
✉ johnrichfield@churchinwales.org.uk



How can I become a member of the Governing Body?

Elections to appoint lay and clerical members of the GB are held annually and a ballot is held at the Diocesan Conference in October. Candidates must be nominated by a member of the Diocesan Conference and every member of the Diocesan Conference receives guidance about how to nominate candidates for election. The contact details of members of the Diocesan Conference can be obtained from the Diocesan Office. Further information about how to become an elected member of the GB is contained on the Diocese of St Asaph elections webpage:

<http://stasaph.churchinwales.org.uk/life/diocesanelections/>

Or contact the Diocesan Office in St Asaph:

☎ 01745 582245

✉ karenwilliams@churchinwales.org.uk

