**Guidance notes**

**Co-option requirements for 2024**

The following number of members will need to be elected by the Governing Body for the beginning of the 2024-2027 triennium:

* **Two** lay people under the age of 30 (an STV election);
* **One** cleric who has either been in Holy Orders for less than four years or who is licensed but not in receipt of a Church in Wales stipend.

In addition, the Standing Committee will appoint:

* **Two** lay people; and
* **One** cleric.

**Governing Body membership – background information**

**Role**

The Governing Body is the supreme legislature of the Church in Wales, broadly speaking the parliament of the Church in Wales.

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.’ (From Chapter II Section 35 of the Constitution of the Church in Wales.)

Governing Body business covers a very wide agenda ranging from the governance of the Church, for example the adoption of the 2012 Church in Wales Review and the changes to the organisation of mission and ministry area arrangements in the whole church arising from *2020 Vision*; liturgy and doctrine matters; to issues of social concern and financial strategy. For this reason the Governing Body needs members with a wide range of interests and from different traditions in the Church.

In order for the Governing Body to represent the views of the Church as a whole it is important that members can reflect the views of their local churches and ministry areas, as well as reporting back to them on the work of the Governing Body.

**Commitment**

Members serve for a three-year period of election or co-option initially. The Governing Body must meet once a year - but in practice it usually meets twice. Meetings generally take place over two days and alternate between venues across Wales.

**Expenses**

Accommodation and meals are provided for all members at meetings held in-person, and reasonable travel costs are reimbursed.

For more information on any aspect of the Governing Body please contact John Richfield on 02920 348 229 or via [johnrichfield@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:johnrichfield@churchinwales.org.uk)

**General eligibility criteria**

**Clergy**

Every cleric who holds a dignity, cathedral preferment benefice or office in the Church in Wales, or a license from a diocesan bishop is eligible to be a Governing Body member, **unless** that cleric is:

* A full-time salaried employee of the Representative Body, a Diocesan Board of Finance or any other such provincial or diocesan body in the Church in Wales;
* Disqualified from acting as a trustee or senior manager of a charity under the laws of Wales;
* Retired or who has reached his or her seventieth birthday;
* Belonging to a religious body not in communion with the Church in Wales; or
* Is arrested on suspicion of a criminal office for which the cleric would be liable under the laws of Wales as a result of conviction for that offence (or who is charged with such an offence without being arrested) shall not attend any meeting or vote in any proceedings of the Governing Body or any committee or sub-committee until the conclusion of those criminal proceedings.

**Lay persons eligible**

Every lay confirmed communicant over 18 and under 75 years of age who either:

* Resides or has resided for a period of 12 months in a Church in Wales ministry area; or
* Whose name appears on the electoral roll of any ministry area in Wales.

**Lay persons not eligible**

A lay person is **not** eligible to be a member of the Governing Body if they:

* Are a salaried employee of the Representative Body, a Diocesan Board of Finance or any other such provincial or diocesan body within the Church in Wales;
* Are disqualified from acting as a trustee or senior manager of a charity under the laws of Wales;
* Have reached his or her seventy-fifth birthday;
* Belong to a religious body not in communion with the Church in Wales; or
* Are arrested on suspicion of a criminal office for which they would be liable under the laws of Wales as a result of conviction for that offence (or who is charged with such and offence without being arrested) shall not attend any meeting or vote in any proceedings of the Governing Body or any committee or sub-committee until the conclusion of those criminal proceedings.

**GDPR statement** on use of personal information in communicating with Governing Body members and for the administration of Governing Body meetings.

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales takes Data Protection seriously. Information on how your data is held and how it is processed can be found at:

<https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/privacy-notice>. If you have any queries or require additional information please contact the Legal Department [legal@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:legal@churchinwales.org.uk) or by telephone on 02920348200.   
  
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