

Guide to The Vacancy in See Committee

What does the committee do?

The committee is responsible for part of the process of appointing a new diocesan bishop, it only meets when there is a vacancy for a new Bishop of Newcastle.

The committee discusses the needs of the diocese when a vacancy arises and prepares a statement of those needs for the Crown Nomination Commission, together with any information about the Diocese that the CNC requests.

The committee also elects by ballot from amongst its members representatives to be members of the Crown Nominations Committee. The CNC shortlists and interviews candidates, it is also comprised of both Archbishops and elected members from General Synod.

Who needs to be elected?

There are 6 casual vacancies for **2 clergy** (one from each archdeaconry) and **4 lay people** (1 from Northumberland archdeaconry, 3 from Lindisfarne archdeaconry) on the Vacancy in See Committee.

Anyone who is on a parish electoral roll in the Diocese and is a communicant can stand as a lay candidate.

Who can propose and second nominees?

Only **members of the Diocesan Synod** can nominate and second candidates and vote in the elections.

For lay vacancies, the proposer and seconder must be a member of the House of Laity of Diocesan synod.

For clergy vacancies, the proposer and seconder must be members of the House of Clergy of Diocesan Synod.

What is the commitment?

Membership on the committee will last until December 2021, unless the Committee is part-way through work on a vacancy in which case the committee will continue its work until its finished.

The committee only meets if there is a vacancy in the role of the Bishop of Newcastle. The committee (usually) holds two meetings.

Encourage & Pray

As the aim of the committee is to be representative of the diocese, there may be people you know who would be able to provide insight into different aspects of the ministry, mission and people of the diocese – please **encourage candidates to stand**.

In particular, members of the laity who are not already part of Deanery/Diocesan Synod can stand on the committee and may be unaware of this opportunity.

Please join us in prayer for the candidates as they consider taking on this role.

What is the deadline for sending back nomination forms?

Please can candidates return nomination forms by email, copying in the email addresses of both nominees, by **noon of Thursday 4th June** to elections@newcastle.anglican.org

Alternatively, nomination forms can be sent by post to the **Diocesan Secretary, Church House, St John's Terrace, North Shields, NE29 6HS**. If you intend to send your nomination form by post please be aware that delivery times have been affected by the current disruption due to coronavirus.