

Governing Body At A Glance

Governing Body meeting 9-10 September 2026

This document summarises all items on the Governing Body's agenda in which decisions were made. The full livestream of the Governing Body meeting in September is available via the [Church in Wales's YouTube channel here](#).

General report of the Standing Committee

Decisions	Who is affected?
The Provincial Safeguarding Policy was amended. - This was to reiterate that everyone has a safeguarding responsibility and that clergy, employees and volunteers must comply with the Policy, procedures and guidance. - The changes to the policy: - introduce a compliance-based approach to accountability. - strengthen requirements for all parts of the Church to adopt, promote and publicise the Policy. - recognise adults who may be vulnerable in a Church context, including through spiritual abuse. - clarify proportionate risk management for people who may present a risk of harm. The latest version of the Safeguarding Policy is available via the Church in Wales website here.	All. The Provincial Safeguarding Policy applies universally across the Church in Wales. Those with direct safeguarding responsibilities in particular should take careful note of the changes to the policy.

Report of the Standing Committee on governance and legal matters

Decisions	Who is affected?
Additional safeguarding checks are now constitutionally required for bishops and other senior diocesan clergy appointments. Vacancies for assistant bishops, cathedral deans, archdeacons and stipendiary canons or prebendaries must also be publicly advertised.	▶ Those responsible for senior clergy appointments, including Electoral Colleges, diocesan bishops and the Provincial Safeguarding Panel.
The practical requirements for episcopal Electoral Colleges were amended. The period for holding an Electoral College after a See becomes vacant has increased to four months, with related timescales extended for a reconvened College and for referral of an unresolved vacancy to the Bench of Bishops. The Standing Committee may now select an alternative venue for an archiepiscopal Electoral College. Llandrindod Wells remains the preferred venue, but the Standing Committee may select another location when practical circumstances make this necessary.	▶ Electoral College members. ▶ Bench of Bishops. ▶ Those administering episcopal elections.
The deadline and deferral arrangements for private members' motions were changed. The normal deadline for submitting a motion has moved from five to twelve weeks before a Governing Body meeting (unless the President gives special leave for an emergency motion). With the Standing Committee's consent, the President may defer a motion to the following ordinary meeting where there is insufficient time on the agenda for proper consideration.	▶ Governing Body members wishing to submit private members' motions.
The number of legally qualified members of the Disciplinary Tribunal was increased. The number of legally qualified members of the Disciplinary Tribunal will increase from three to four, increasing the Tribunal's overall membership from 17 to 18.	▶ The Disciplinary Tribunal, its legally qualified members and parties to disciplinary proceedings.

■ Code of Conduct for clergy and licensed lay ministers

Decisions	Who is affected?
A second chapter (on financial integrity) was added to the Code of Conduct published in the Clergy Handbook. This chapter sets standards for personal and church finances, including the managing of conflicts of interest, maintaining clear financial boundaries and ensuring proper accountability for church money.	▶ Clergy and licensed lay ministers. ▶ Church bodies for which they have financial or trustee responsibilities.
Financial management and record-keeping requirements were strengthened. The Code requires appropriate accounting records, receipts for expenses, secure and prompt handling of church money, suitable training, documented trustee decisions, reporting of suspected misconduct and at least two people to authorise significant transfers.	▶ Clergy and licensed lay ministers who handle money or oversee church finances. ▶ Treasurers, church workers and volunteers involved in financial management.
Gifts from those in a minister's pastoral care worth more than £200 must now be declared. Monetary and non-monetary gifts, including personal benefits such as free accommodation, offered within a pastoral relationship must be considered carefully. Gifts over £200 must be disclosed to the bishop, or by a bishop to the Archbishop's Registrar.	▶ Clergy and licensed lay ministers receiving gifts through pastoral relationships. ▶ Bishops and the Archbishop's Registrar receiving declarations.
Related clergy guidance and terms of service were aligned with the new Code. The Professional Ministerial Guidelines were amended to reduce the gift-declaration threshold from £500 to £200 so both documents align. The Clergy Disciplinary Policy and Procedure and the Statement of Terms of Service were also updated to refer expressly to the Code of Conduct.	▶ All clergy. ▶ Those advising on or administering clergy conduct and discipline.

■ Framing a new funding model for the Church in Wales

During the meeting of the Governing Body on 9-10 September 2026, Governing Body members considered a discussion paper produced in response to a private members' motion passed by the Governing Body in September 2025. The motion requested further analysis of how the Representative Body supports ministry/mission areas (MAs) across the Church in Wales. Following a year of financial analysis, consultation and engagement with dioceses, which was instigated by the motion in 2025, the paper presented a series of strategic questions that the Governing Body considered in order to help shape the development of a future funding model.

The discussion did not produce a settled view on the detailed proposals, but there was broad support for a mission-led, equitable, accountable and financially sustainable funding model that delivers clear benefits to MAs. Members called for further theological and strategic reflection, stronger evidence, wider consultation and clearer measures of impact before significant changes are made. Further work was also requested on the future of the Church Growth Fund, fair transition arrangements, the balance between universal and targeted funding and greater collaboration and sharing of resources between dioceses.