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I am 49 and am a Churchwarden at St Michael at the North Gate, Oxford. I have lived in the Diocese for 27 years and am currently Lay Chairman of the Oxford Deanery Synod. I am National Chairman of the Prayer Book Society.

It has been my privilege to serve you as a member of General Synod since 2000, since when I have attended every Group of Sessions, speaking frequently in debates on a range of subjects, and seeking to bring a distinctive voice. I believe that the Synod is at its best when it values integrity over conformism, and rationality over emotionalism. I would describe my churchmanship as central and traditionally Anglican—a position which is greatly underrepresented on the General Synod.

I am a graduate of Merton College, Oxford, and have previously worked as an administrator in the NHS and a senior business systems analyst in the international IT department of a large retail company.

I believe in a Church of England which:

◆ **Has a vision for mission**

The Church of England is facing a ‘demographic time-bomb’ of aging and declining congregations. We are suffering the consequences of this both spiritually and financially.

Now more than ever we need to take seriously Christ’s Great Commission to go out and make disciples, as well as nurturing the discipleship of existing worshippers. We must be willing to embrace new ways of reaching out to people, and be open to learning from ‘success stories’ across all Church traditions. At the same time, we need to avoid any temptation towards forever seeking novelty in preference to tradition.

◆ **Is unafraid to challenge secular culture**

We live in an age when the Christian faith is regarded with increasing incomprehension and sometimes hostility. This can lead to pressures on the Church to accommodate itself to the secular culture, in the belief that this will make us appear more relevant or acceptable.

The Church has not always understood the rapidly changing society in which we now live, and we can do better. We are, however, called not to be ‘conformed to this world’, but to challenge the secular culture with a coherent and authentic presentation of the Gospel.

◆ **Upholds the ‘Five Guiding Principles’ in relation to women bishops**

Now that the Church of England has come to an arrangement to enable women to become bishops while providing for those who cannot accept this development, I am committed to the gracious outworking of the House of Bishops’ Five Guiding Principles to enable all to flourish.

◆ **Maintains its historic teaching on sex and marriage, while showing compassion and welcome to all**

We live in a sex-obsessed society and are continually bombarded through the media with explicit words and images which are spiritually, emotionally and socially destructive. In its current debates, the Church often seems to focus exclusively on the same-sex questions, overlooking the wider issues of brokenness around sex and relationships in our culture—the victims of which are often children born into unstable family circumstances.

We need to recognise the importance of family as God's gift to us, and also appreciate the positive value of the single life (whether deliberately chosen or otherwise): 'coupledom' and marriage are not everyone's calling.

In maintaining the traditional Biblical standard of marriage between one man and one woman as the proper context for sexual relations, the Church should remember that, in our different ways, we are all broken, all loved by God and all welcome.

◆ **Supports the sanctity of life from conception to natural death**

The Church of England has rightly been clear in its opposition to assisted suicide. Although motivated by compassion for the terminally ill, doctor-assisted suicide would (as seen in other countries where it has been introduced) help to undermine the culture of the sanctity of life, and lead to many vulnerable elderly people choosing death in order to avoid 'being a burden' on their families.

◆ **Uses the Book of Common Prayer (1662) within the 'mixed economy' of worship**

I will continue to defend and promote the BCP, which has shaped the doctrine and spirituality of Anglicanism for over 450 years; and through whose timeless beauty generations of Anglicans have been nurtured in their faith and helped to glimpse the holiness of Almighty God. Today's churchgoers—including young people and newcomers to the Church—deserve the opportunity to come to know and love it also. It is encouraging that increasing numbers of young clergy and ordinands are once again discovering its riches.

◆ **Understands that the real work of the Church is done in the parishes**

Parish churches are the 'engines of mission' in the Church of England. Through direct personal contact with local clergy and congregations, the message of Christ's Gospel is brought to the people and the love of God reaches out into the community every day. This is where the real work of the Church is done: not by committees, synods and advisors, whether at National or Diocesan level.

Whilst no organisation can function without proper administration and efficient leadership, the Church must steer clear of the twin perils of managerialism and excessive centralisation, and strive to avoid top-heavy and wasteful bureaucracy which places burdens of time, energy and money on the parishes.

Thank you if you have given me a high preference vote in previous elections. This year sees an unprecedented number of people retiring from the General Synod, so the re-election of continuing members will be more important than ever.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss these or any other matters.