

INDIAN (MALANKARA) ORTHODOX CHURCH

DIocese of UK-Europe and Africa

GUIDELINES FOR THE ELECTION OF

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017-22

Further to the Order (Kalpana) No. GEN 17 035 dated 30 March 2017 from Diocesan Metropolitan, the election of the Diocesan Council members for the period 2017-22 would be held in the Annual Diocesan General body meeting scheduled to be convened on Saturday 29 April 2017 at 1:00 PM to 4:00PM at Wood Farm School, Titup Hall Drive Headington, Oxford OX3 8QQ, UK.

The following points to be noted and to be followed as the procedures for the election and subsequent appointment of the Diocesan Council 2017-22.

1. Diocesan council to be elected for the governing of the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa as stipulated in the Constitution of the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa. The council members shall be adhered to the Constitution of Malankara Orthodox Church and pledge to the supremacy of the Holy Episcopal synod of Malankara Orthodox Church.
2. The members to be elected is as follows

Region and Zone	No. of Priests	No. of Lay person	Diocesan Secretary
Diocese General	0	0	1
Africa General	0	1	0
Europe General	0	1	0
Ireland General	1	1	0
UK General	1	0	0
UK Central Zone	0	1	0
UK North Zone	0	1	0
UK South Zone	0	1	0
Total	2	6	1

3. Election of the new Diocesan council will be one of the Agenda in the diocesan annual general body meeting scheduled to be held on 29 April 1:00pm to 4:00pm
4. Registration for the meeting would begin at 12:00 pm. Members arriving after 1:30pm will not be allowed to enter the meeting hall.
5. All the eligible members (elected representatives from the parishes) shall bring in the witness statement form duly endorsed and signed by the respective Vicars. Admission to the meeting hall will be denied in absence of the original witness statement form. The template of the form has been already sent to all the Parishes. If not received, please contact the Vicar/ Diocese office.
6. Identity cards will be issued to all the eligible members and the members should be seated on designated areas.

7. All the contestants to the diocesan Council should submit their nomination in the prescribed nomination form.
8. The important dates for the submission of nomination, screening, withdrawal and publishing final list are declared in the Election Notification Kalpana (No.GEN 17 035).
9. Final list of Diocesan Assembly members for the period 2017-22 will be published on 11 April 2017.
10. Presently serving Vicars of the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa and elected representatives from Parishes for the Diocesan Assembly 2017-22 are the only persons eligible to contest, nominate or support and for casting votes to elect the council members subject to below clauses 11-17.
11. Diocesan Secretary should be any serving Vicar of the diocese nominated and supported either by another serving Vicar or by Lay person diocesan representative. All the members in the diocesan assembly are eligible to vote for the Diocesan Secretary.
12. Priest Representative –UK region should be any serving Vicar presently serving the UK region of the diocese nominated and supported either by another serving Vicar from the UK region or Lay person diocesan representative from the UK region. All the eligible members from the UK Region of the diocesan assembly are eligible to vote for ‘Priest Representative –UK region’.
13. Priest Representative –Ireland region should be any serving Vicar presently serving the Ireland region of the diocese nominated and supported either by another serving Vicar from the Ireland region or Lay person diocesan representative from the Ireland region. All the eligible members from the Ireland Region of the diocesan assembly are eligible to vote for ‘Priest Representative –Ireland region’.
14. Lay Personnel- Regional /Zonal should be any elected representative from parishes of the respective region and zone of the diocese nominated and supported either by a serving Vicar or Lay person diocesan representative from the same region and zone. All the eligible members from the particular region/ zone in the diocesan assembly are eligible to vote for the respective area Diocesan council member (Lay person).
15. A Vicar/ Lay person shall not nominate or support candidates more than the stipulated limit of vacancies. In such cases all the concerned nominations will get rejected. For example number of vacancies for Lay persons from UK South zone is one. If the same person nominate or support two persons for the same vacancy, both the nominations will get rejected.
16. If a Vicar is serving more than one region, they are only eligible to contest for any one of the region however they are eligible to nominate and support contestants from different regions /zones in their respective areas subject to their service in that region/zone.
17. If no nominations are submitted for any of the vacancies and a vacancy is not filled from the diocesan assembly, the position will be filled in by due discussion with the concerned bodies as per the discretion of Diocesan Metropolitan.

18. Any concerns on the proceedings of the elections should be raised to the president of the meeting and the ruling of the Returning officer would be final subject to Diocesan Metropolitan's approval.

If any of the eligible diocesan assembly members have any concerns on the above guidelines, please feel free to discuss with Diocesan Secretary or submit your concerns before 15 April 2017, addressed to Diocesan Metropolitan and to be sent by email to office@indianorthodoxuk.org or by post to

Diocesan Secretary

Malankara House

35 Henman Close

Swindon

SN254ZW

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