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Dear Electors

It has been a huge privilege to represent you at General Synod over the last two years, during an interesting and fruitful time. Conversations, debates and decisions have covered a wide range of issues – from the local: PCC powers over church property, safeguarding policies, new baptism texts – to the national : women bishops, ethical investment by the church; discipleship and evangelism initiatives – and the global : climate justice for the poor. I would very much like to continue to represent you at General Synod, and offer here a flavour of the things about which I am passionate.

Thank you for reading this election address,
Liz

A strong church voice

The public face of the national church is the umbrella beneath which we are able to evangelise effectively on the ground. I believe the church should have a clear and Christ-like voice on all issues of national and global importance. I have been a member of the General Synod Economics & Ethics committee, which met last year with representatives from the Porvoo churches and produced a report exploring a Scriptural approach to global and local economies.

An inclusive church

I believe the church should be inclusive at all levels in matters of age, gender, ability, ethnicity and sexuality. I would welcome being part of a church that supports and blesses all adult relationships that are faithful, committed, monogamous and seeking to be loving and lifelong, in which the persons concerned are prepared to submit their relationship to Christ. Given the divergence of views on these matters, I believe we should allow for the conscience of individual ministers and congregations to be exercised.

A strong lay voice

It is vital for the health and growth of the church that the distinctive calling and experience of lay people is heard, at all levels of church life. I am passionate about our discipleship and ministry, both within the church and the world, and in the church taking seriously the joys and challenges of exploring this interface. As a result of members of GS asking for greater lay representation on national church bodies, I have been invited to join the national Continuing Ministerial Development Panel.

A united, diverse church

The strength of the church lies both in its unity and diversity. I have been privileged to be a facilitator in the Shared Conversations of the national and regional church in recent years, exploring the issues of women bishops and human sexuality. I believe that within the church at all levels we should be listening respectfully to one another, even when we cannot agree, acknowledging differing views, and continuing to open the Scriptures and celebrate the Eucharist together. As your representative on GS I would welcome hearing and learning from your views on all issues, and I commit to sharing the work of Synod with you.

A missional church

I believe in a distinctive lay vocation to mission in the world, as individuals wherever we are called to be, and as church communities. I would like to see a greater acknowledgement of this at national church level, and appropriate support and resources devoted to this area of church life. I have a vision for a contemporary culture in which belonging to the church and committing to Christ is seen as a positive life choice to which people of all ages are drawn. This is the calling of the church – to be loving, challenging, open to the Holy Spirit and to the world. This is our calling.