

50th Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

2nd Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Monday 12 October 2015

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Prayers

Prayers were read by the Registrar, Mr Doug Marr.

3. Procedural motions

3.1 Amendment to the business paper for Monday 12 October 2015

Having been granted leave, Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod permits the alteration of today’s business paper in the manner set out on the paper circulated to Synod members headed ‘Amendments to the business paper for Monday 12 October 2015’.”

Seconded and carried

3.2 Commencement of business and Presidential Address

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod –

- (a) notes that the Presidential Address will be delivered from 4.30 pm, and
- (b) agrees to commence consideration of its business with items 4 and 6-14 inclusive on this business paper, and
- (c) suspends any part of the business rules which would prevent these arrangements.”

Seconded and carried

4. List of members of the Synod

The President tabled a copy of the list of members of the Synod.

5. Document appointing a Commissary

The President tabled a copy of a document appointing a Commissary.

6. Elections

6.1 Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Under section 12 of the *Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917*, the Synod declares a vacancy in the office of member of the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney for the Rev David Ould and Mr Peter Rushborne both of whom have come to the end of their term of office.”

Seconded and carried

6.2 Minute Reading Committee

Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Synod noting –

- (a) that the Minute Reading Committee is to consist of not more than 8 members, and
- (b) that the Committee currently has 4 members, namely Dr Bryan Cowling, Mr Clive Ellis, Miss Jenny Flower and Dr Claire Smith, and
- (c) the desirability of increasing the number of members to ensure 2 members are able to certify the minutes on behalf of the Committee for each day of the session,

hereby elects Mr Tony Willis as an additional member of the Minute Reading Committee.”

Seconded and carried

6.3 Uncontested Elections

The list of the uncontested elections was tabled and the President declared the persons named to be elected.

7. Tabling of the minute book of the Standing Committee

The minute book of the Standing Committee was tabled.

8. Petitions

There were no petitions.

9. Questions

Questions were asked by the following members –

- (1) Mr Peter M G Young
- (2) Ms Lyn Bannerman
- (3) Ms Lyn Bannerman
- (4) Ms Lyn Bannerman
- (5) The Rev Simon Roberts
- (6) Mr Bruce York
- (7) The Rev Katrina Haggard
- (8) The Rev Dr Margaret Powell
- (9) Mr Mark Boyd
- (10) Mr Paul Fitzpatrick
- (11) Mr Paul Fitzpatrick
- (12) Mrs Alison Woof

10. Procedural motions

10.1 Arrangements for the scheduling of business

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod –

- (a) agrees in principle to deal with its business in accordance with the Indicative Timetable for Synod Business including –
 - (i) a 30 minute *Mission 2020* Update from the Strategic Research Group on Monday 12 October 2015,
 - (ii) a 15 minute presentation from Moore Theological College concerning its new building project on Tuesday 13 October 2015,
 - (iii) a 15 minute presentation from the Mission Property Committee and New Churches for New Communities on Wednesday 14 October 2015,
 - (iv) a 3 minute video from the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee and the Missionary Hour on Monday 19 October 2015, and
 - (v) a 15 minute presentation from the Professional Standards Unit on the new safe ministry policy documents on Tuesday 20 October 2015, and
- (b) requests that the Committee for the Order of Business bring to the Synod at the beginning of each day any recommendations about amending the Indicative Timetable for Synod Business in light of the progress of business, and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements, or as would prevent the Synod from considering any recommendations from the Committee for the Order of Business.”

Seconded and carried

10.2 Arrangements concerning Daily Papers and amendments

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod –

- (a) notes that at this session it is proposed to prepare and print Daily Papers (usually including the Business Paper and Amendment Sheet) in a consolidated form and distribute them to members in the foyer of the Wesley Theatre from 2.15 pm on each day,
- (b) notes that the Daily Papers will be posted on the SDS website, www.sds.asn.au as soon as they are finalised,
- (c) in order to facilitate this process, agrees that amendments for inclusion in an Amendment Sheet for any day of the session must be received by the Synod Secretary (either on paper or by email sent to synodbusiness@sydney.anglican.asn.au) in a substantially complete form by 11.00 am to be included on the Amendment Sheet for that day, and
- (d) notes that amendments received by the Synod Secretary after that time may, where feasible, be projected on the overhead screen in the Wesley Theatre (if required to be considered on that day) but will otherwise be included on the Amendment Sheet for the following day.”

Seconded and carried

10.3 Implementation of the Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

‘Synod agrees that if a motion that the *Diocesan Policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour* pass as a policy of the Synod is carried, the mover may forthwith move the following –

“Synod –

- (a) determines that the Diocesan Policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour (the ‘policy’) commences on 1 January 2016 and that the existing Grievance Policy and Procedure for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour by clergy and church workers in parishes ceases on that date, and

- (b) requests that a copy of the policy be circulated to all rectors and parish councils for their attention and that parishioners be made aware of the policy, and
- (c) requests that the Regional Bishops be offered training to undertake their responsibilities under the policy, and
- (d) requests that the Regional Bishops report annually to Standing Committee on such training received for their policy responsibilities and on their use (or otherwise) of the policy and model procedures, and
- (e) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the policy provided any amendments are reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod, and
- (f) requests the Standing Committee to undertake a review of the policy after a period of 5 years from its commencement, and
- (g) requests the committee appointed to review the Discipline Ordinance 2006 to consider whether the Offences Ordinance 1962 should be amended to include as an additional offence for clergy and other church workers 'repeated and unreasonable behaviour directed towards a staff member or volunteer worker in a parish that creates a risk to the health or safety of that person'."

Seconded and carried

10.4 Consideration of diocesan response to the Syrian refugee crisis

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

"Synod agrees to the following arrangements for considering the response of the Diocese to the Syrian refugee crisis –

- (a) the motion at item 19.6 on today's business paper will be considered at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 20 October 2015,
- (b) following consideration of the motion, the President will invite members to make brief suggestions in speeches of up to 2 minutes each as to how the Diocese might be mobilised to assist those who seek refuge in Australia as a result of this crisis, and
- (c) at a time determined by the President, the time for speeches will end and the President will invite the seconder of the motion to pray for those who are suffering, for the leadership of the Archbishop and for our response as a Diocese."

Seconded and carried

10.5 Distribution of brochures

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

"Synod approves of the distribution to members of brochures produced by New Churches for New Communities (NCNC) and the Bush Church Aid Society (BCA) at a time and in a manner determined by the Synod Secretary."

Seconded and carried

10.6 Revised form of motion concerning repentance of and restitution for child abuse

Mr Thomas Lovett moved –

'Synod agrees –

- (a) to substitute the motion appearing at item 19.19 on today's business paper with the following revised form of the motion –
 - "Synod acknowledges that the Anglican Diocese of Sydney –
 - (a) continues to take a lead and show the way in publicly repenting of and apologising for child abuse that has occurred within its

jurisdiction which was known or ought to have been known by the Church, and

- (b) is willing to make restitution to victims of abuse that has occurred.”
- (b) to consider the revised form of motion at a suitable time after the Professional Standards Unit presentation on Tuesday 20 October 2015.

Seconded and carried

10.7 Arrangements for considering motion concerning the Rev Bruce Hall

The Rev Archie Poulos moved –

“Synod agrees to consider the motion concerning the Rev Bruce Hall at item 19.4 of today's business paper immediately after the call-over of motions on Tuesday 20 October 2015.”

Seconded and carried

10.8 Arrangements for considering motion concerning recognition, encouragement and support for faithful Anglicans

The Rev Dominic Steele moved –

“Synod agrees that motion 19.20 on today's business paper be discussed on Wednesday night immediately after discussion on motions 17.2 and 17.3.”

Seconded and carried

11. Notices of Motions

Notices of motions were given by the following members –

- (1) Canon Sandy Grant
- (2) The Rev Robert Cameron
- (3) Dr Stuart Piggin
- (4) Dr Laurie Scandrett
- (5) Dr Rodney James
- (6) The Rev Gupta
- (7) Miss Alicia Watson
- (8) The Rev David Rogers
- (9) The Rev Richard Wenden

12. Calling of motions on the business paper

The President called the motions in order in which they appeared on the business paper, except those motions about a proposed ordinance or those motions to be considered at a time fixed by the Synod.

12.1 Yoga and other such activities

Having been granted leave, the Rev Ian Millican moved –

“Synod, noting the report on *Yoga and other such activities* in response to Synod Resolution 16/14, thanks the Social Issues Committee for its work on this matter and –

- (a) emphasises that Christians are called to obey the first commandment ‘You shall have no other Gods before me’ and thus must, as Christ's disciples, avoid participating in the worship of false gods;
- (b) recommends that individual Christians should exercise discernment with respect to yoga and other such practices, which may or may not contain elements of worship of other gods;

- (c) advises churches not to rent out their premises to yoga classes on account of the spiritual confusion this may cause;
- (d) advises schools, and other Anglican institutions not to engage in yoga and other such practices, but to seek alternative means of promoting health and well-being; and
- (e) urges Anglicans, clergy and laity alike, to consider the missional significance of the widespread uptake of yoga by Australians of Western European cultural background in recent decades.”

Seconded and carried

12.2 Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

Professor Christopher Bellenger moved –

‘Synod agrees to amend the terms of the resolution of the Synod by which the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee is constituted (35/09) in the manner shown in the following marked form of the resolution –

“Synod agrees to form a Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (TEMOC), consisting of 9 persons elected by Synod, ~~for a 3 year term and~~ one person appointed by the Archbishop, ~~with the Committee having the additional power to co-opt~~ and up to three more persons appointed by the Committee.”

A person who is elected or appointed as a member of the Committee after the 2nd session of the 50th Synod must, before attending a meeting of the Committee, lodge with the Committee for safe-keeping a signed statement of personal faith in the form set out in Appendix 3 of the Synod’s Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations.

On the first day of each ordinary session of the Synod, 3 members elected by the Synod are to retire. Such members are those who have held office longest since last being elected but, in the case of competition, are to be determined by the members concerned or, if these members cannot agree, the order of retirement is to be determined by lot. The members appointed by the Archbishop or the Committee are to hold office for a period of 3 years. In any case, a retiring member is eligible for re-election or re-appointment.

The Committee is ~~to be~~ charged with furthering ministry to students in tertiary education throughout the Diocese, including responsibility for –

- (a) recruiting, training and supporting University and technical and further education chaplains and promoting their ministries,
- (b) the allocation of resources in accordance with strategic priorities, which it should report to Synod via the Standing Committee once formulated,
- (c) in consultation with appropriate bodies, preparing for Synod’s consideration a diocesan policy framework, measurable goals and strategies on ministry in TAFE and other VET (vocational education and training) institutes, and also a policy on ministry in private HEPs (higher education providers),
- (d) exploring the possibility of further creative partnerships with Anglican University colleges, AFES, Anglican Education Commission and other relevant bodies, and
- (e) encouraging the support of tertiary education ministry from other sources,–

and agrees that the Interim Committee appointed by Standing Committee be the Committee until such time as Synod elections can be held.”

Seconded and carried

12.3 Training in emergency and other safe ministry procedures

Mr David Minty moved –

“Synod requests the Standing Committee to review the form, content and timing of training required of parishioners involved in relevant ministries in relation to safe ministry including –

- (a) child protection and protection of other vulnerable individuals,
- (b) work health and safety,
- (c) emergency procedures, and
- (d) food safety

to ensure that –

- (i) the necessary training and consequent accreditation is provided in a cost-effective and timely manner,
- (ii) can be readily monitored by parishes and the Diocese as well as
- (iii) ensuring compliance with legislative changes, emerging community standards and the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

In particular, consideration be given to including hands-on training for Emergency Control/Coordination Team members in the use of firefighting equipment in a three-year cycle of accreditation, in conjunction with existing safe ministry training if practical.”

Seconded and carried

12.4 Preparation of parish histories

Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Synod asks parishes which prepare parish histories and similar publications to lodge complimentary copies with the Diocesan Archives and the Moore College Library to ensure the long term availability of these important documents.”

Seconded and carried

12.5 The Rev Stuart Abrahams

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

‘Synod records with thanks to God for the life and ministry of the Rev Stuart Noel Abrahams AM and his service of his Lord and Saviour in his many ministry responsibilities in the diocese of Sydney.

Following an early career in real estate, Stuart was a student at Moore College from 1959 to 1961. Stuart was ordained in 1962 and served as Curate at Wollongong, then from 1964 to 1966 he was the Home Secretary of CMS New South Wales. Then followed time as Rector at Northbridge (1966-73), St Andrew’s Wahroonga (1973-77) and Nowra (1977-1984).

In March 1984 Archbishop Robinson asked Stuart to become the Director of the Vision for Growth Appeal. In mid-1992 Stuart took on the role of being the Director of the Archbishop’s Ministry and Support Appeals Unit. For a period in 1997 and 1998 Stuart served as Chief Executive Officer of Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney.

After retirement, Stuart continued to serve others by ministering in parishes and in a variety of other ways. In 1996 he was instrumental in establishing the Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund to raise money to support the work in Ethiopia of Dr Catherine Hamlin. Stuart maintained a close and active interest in the work of Dr Hamlin until his death.

On Australia Day 2009 Stuart became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) “for service to international humanitarian aid through the establishment and administration of the Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund, and to the Anglican Church of Australia”.

In all his spheres of his ministry, Stuart offered a personal and caring Christian ministry and a commitment to evangelism.

Synod sends its condolences to Billie, Stuart's widow, and to the other members of his family.'

Seconded and carried

12.6 Purpose and nature of episcopal leadership

The Rev Simon Flinders moved –

"Synod requests the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to prepare a report for the 1st Session of the 51st Synod in 2017 on the purpose and nature of episcopal leadership, giving particular consideration to the nature of episcopal and archiepiscopal ministry in a diocese such as ours where there are assistant bishops, and provide both a biblical and theological rationale as well as a practical description of the roles, responsibilities and priorities of bishops and archbishops."

Seconded and carried

12.7 The NSW Government and Problem Gambling Harm Minimisation

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

"Synod laments deeply that more than a year later, there has been no significant response from the NSW Government towards the recommendations in the report of the NSW Legislative Council's Select Committee on the Impact of Gambling published in August 2014.

Synod again grieves that NSW has above-average expenditure on gambling on a per capita basis compared to national averages.

Therefore Synod again commends the report's recommendations and urges the NSW Government to implement effective gambling harm-minimisation measures, as a matter of high priority, in particular –

- (a) introducing a \$1 maximum bet limit for poker machines in New South Wales,
- (b) stopping the disproportionate concentration of poker machines in lower socioeconomic areas, where they create greater harm,
- (c) implementing a freeze on the transfer of machine entitlements between venues and the creation of any new entitlements,
- (d) implementing a third-party exclusion scheme in the state's clubs and hotels by 2017,
- (e) developing a scheme that requires venues to intervene to assist problem gamblers,
- (f) responding to research on the relationship between gaming machine design features and gambling harms, and
- (g) approaching the Australian Government to request that a set of standards be established for online wagering websites."

Seconded and carried

12.8 Alternative forms of Anglican Church

The Rev Dr Martin Bragger moved –

"For the purpose of greater missional fruitfulness, the Synod requests the Archbishop to establish a working group that will investigate the formation of alternative forms of Anglican Church –

- (a) that are theologically Anglican,
- (b) that are shaped by the principles for Christian community voiced to us by the New Testament,

- (c) that are specifically designed to penetrate and engage with the multiplicity of non-Christian spiritual and cultural worlds in which the majority of Australians now live, and
- (d) that are not necessarily required to owe anything to our traditional (Christendom-form) parish model.

Further, that the working group report back to Synod 2016 with specific and concrete proposals for the initiation of a process to create such alternative forms of church.”

Seconded and carried

12.9 Licensing of incumbents

The Rev Philip Wheeler moved –

“Synod requests Standing Committee, in consultation with the Archbishop, to report to the next session of Synod on –

- (a) the basis on which clergy are licensed as incumbents in the Diocese, and
- (b) whether there are circumstances where the present practice should be modified.”

Seconded and carried

12.10 Evangelism in the Diocese

The Rev Gavin Parsons moved –

“Synod, under the call of the 2020 Diocesan Mission Priority 1 to reach all the lost with the life-giving gospel of Christ, encourages –

- (a) parishes and diocesan organisations to participate in deliberate prayer for evangelism asking God to open doors for the proclamation of Jesus amongst family, friends, and neighbours and community of their ministry context,
- (b) parishes and diocesan organisations to deliberately plan for evangelism in their local ministry context,
- (c) Mission area groups to deliberately plan, partner, resource, and equip local church members for evangelism appropriate to their context,
- (d) parishes and diocesan organisations to participate in evangelism that is reaching the lost with the life giving gospel of Christ.”

Seconded and carried

13. Motions

13.1 Tabling and reception of accounts and reports etc

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod notes that the undermentioned reports etc have been tabled, receives them and resolves that they be printed at the discretion of the Standing Committee –

Diocesan Organisations - Audited Accounts and Annual Reports

- (1) Abbotsleigh, The Council of
- (2) Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney as trustee for the Community Building Partnership Grant Fund
- (3) Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney as trustee for the Endowment of the See Capital Fund
- (4) Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney as trustee for the Long Term Pooling Fund
- (5) Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney as trustee for the Mission Property Fund
- (6) Anglican Education Commission

- (7) Anglican Media Council
- (7A) Anglican Retirement Villages: Diocese of Sydney
- (8) Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Anglican Youthworks)
- (9) Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid (The)
- (10) Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid (The) as trustee of the Archbishop of Sydney's Overseas Ministry Fund
- (11) Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid (The) as trustee of the Archbishop of Sydney's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund
- (12) Archbishop of Sydney's Discretionary Trust
- (13) Arden Anglican School Council
- (14) Arundel House Council
- (15) Barker College, The Council of
- (16) Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council
- (17) Department of Evangelism and New Churches, The Board of
- (18) Endowment of the See Committee – Expenditure Fund
- (19) Georges River Regional Council
- (20) Glebe Administration Board as trustee of the Diocesan Endowment
- (21) Glebe Administration Board as trustee of the St Andrew's House Trust
- (22) Illawarra Grammar School Council, The
- (23) Kings School, The Council of
- (24) Macarthur Anglican Church School Council, The
- (25) Ministry Training and Development Council
- (26) Moore Theological College Council
- (27) Northern Regional Council
- (28) St Andrew's Cathedral Chapter
- (29) St Andrew's Cathedral School, The Council of
- (30) St Catherine's School Waverley, Council of
- (31) South Sydney Regional Council
- (31A) Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society Council (Anglicare)
- (32) Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee
- (33) Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation
- (34) Sydney Church of England Finance and Loans Board
- (35) Sydney Church of England Grammar School Council
- (36) Sydney Diocesan Secretariat
- (37) Tara Anglican School for Girls, Council of
- (38) Trinity Grammar School Grammar Council
- (39) Western Sydney Regional Council
- (40) William Branwhite Clarke College Council
- (41) Wollongong Regional Council

Standing Committee Reports etc

- (42) 2015 Report of the Standing Committee
- (43) Synod Funds Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2014
- (44) Parish Funds Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2014
- (45) Church Land Acquisition Levy (30/14)
- (46) Climate change (17/07) // Reducing the environmental impact of St Andrew's House
- (47) Doctrine Commission report on fellowship meals for the proclamation of the Lord's death (7/14)
- (48) Domestic violence and educating clergy (33/13)
- (49) Ethical Investment Policy, Review of (22/14)
- (50) Implementation of the Grievance Policy and Procedure (40/10)
- (51) Large Property Receipts Policy
- (52) Ministry progress and brownfields' grants (33/14)
- (53) Mission Property Committee
- (54) Ordinances passed by the Standing Committee
- (55) Parental leave for parish clergy
- (56) Progress in responding to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- (57) Report of the Viability and Structures Task Force (47/14)
- (58) Retention of marriage licences and same-sex marriage (31/14)
- (59) Safe Ministry Board and Professional Standards Unit Annual Report
- (60) Stipends, Allowances and Benefits for 2016 (2/05)
- (61) Study into Effective Church Planting in the Anglican Diocese of Sydney

- (62) Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (35/09)
- (63) Yoga and other such activities (16/14)
- (64) Georges River Regional Council – Annual Report for 2014
- (65) Liverpool South, Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish to a parish
- (66) Northern Regional Council – Annual Report for 2014
- (67) South Sydney Regional Council – Annual Report for 2014
- (68) Western Sydney Regional Council – Annual Report for 2014
- (69) Glenmore Park, Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish to a parish
- (70) Wollongong Regional Council – Annual Report for 2014
- (71) Explanatory statements and reports on Bills”

Seconded

Dr Barry Newman moved the following amendment to Mr Wicks’ motion –

‘In the 1st line, after the word “tabled” insert the following matter –
 “and, with the exception of report (47) Doctrine Commission report on fellowship meals for the proclamation of the Lord’s death (7/14)”.’

Dr Newman’s amendment was carried.

Mr Wicks’ motion, as amended, was carried.

13.2 Freedom Sunday 18 October 2015

Dr Karin Sowada moved –

“Synod notes that slavery existed in various forms from ancient times, and likewise continues today, often involving child labour, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.

Among other Scriptures that touch on the issue, Synod rejoices that even when urging personal contentment in our various circumstances, 1 Corinthians 7:21-23 encourages slaves to gain their freedom if they can and reminds them that they are the Lord’s freed persons when called to faith in Christ. Being bought by Christ at a great price, Christians know that the trafficking of humans for the purpose of the enslavement of one human being by another is never desirable in God’s economy.

Synod also recalls with gratitude the involvement of evangelical Christians and others, associated especially with the name of William Wilberforce, in the fight against the slave trade in the late 1700s and the early 1800s.

Therefore Synod commends to parishes’ consideration observance of ‘Freedom Sunday’, on Sunday, 18 October 2015, and draws attention to the prayer resources prepared by the Rev Dr David Höhne of the Social Issues Committee for the occasion.”

Seconded

Mrs Susan Hooke moved the following amendment to Dr Sowada’s motion –

‘In the third paragraph –

- (a) delete the matter “evangelical Christians and others, associated especially with the name of William Wilberforce,” and
- (b) insert instead the words “William Wilberforce and all involved”.’

Mrs Hooke’s amendment was seconded and carried.

Dr Sowada’s motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

“Synod notes that slavery existed in various forms from ancient times, and likewise continues today, often involving child labour, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.

Among other Scriptures that touch on the issue, Synod rejoices that even when urging personal contentment in our various circumstances, 1 Corinthians 7:21-23 encourages

slaves to gain their freedom if they can and reminds them that they are the Lord's freed persons when called to faith in Christ. Being bought by Christ at a great price, Christians know that the trafficking of humans for the purpose of the enslavement of one human being by another is never desirable in God's economy.

Synod also recalls with gratitude the involvement of William Wilberforce and all involved in the fight against the slave trade in the late 1700s and the early 1800s.

Therefore Synod commends to parishes' consideration observance of 'Freedom Sunday', on Sunday, 18 October 2015, and draws attention to the prayer resources prepared by the Rev Dr David Höhne of the Social Issues Committee for the occasion."

Dr Sowada led the Synod in prayer for all those suffering in association with slavery.

13.3 Special Religious Education

The Rev Zac Veron moved –

"Synod supports and values the ministry of Special Religious Education (SRE), and encourages the Archbishop, Anglican Youthworks, the Anglican Education Commission and parish Rectors to work together, including through the Archbishop's SRE Taskforce, and individually, to protect and expand that ministry.

Synod assures the Archbishop's SRE Taskforce of its prayers as it responds to multiple threats upon SRE, and encourages *Freedom 4 Faith* as it promotes and protects religious freedoms in Australia, to provide legal guidance to the Archbishop's SRE Taskforce.

Synod affirms the Diocese's long standing support of public school education, and commends the Diocese's 2,500 volunteer SRE teachers and helpers for their passion and commitment to the work of providing religious education to school children in the state schools within the boundaries of the Diocese."

Seconded

Professor Christopher Bellenger moved the following amendment to Mr Veron's motion–

'In the last line of the second paragraph, omit "guidance" and insert "advice".'

Seconded

Mr Andrew Stevenson moved the following amendment to Mr Veron's motion –

'In the second line of the third paragraph, after "2,500 volunteer" insert the words "and employed".'

Seconded

Mr Erich Serediuk moved the following amendment to Mr Veron's motion –

'After the third paragraph insert –

"Synod affirms the important value of encouraging children and young people to be spiritually nurtured and matured in faith through the ministry of SRE in collaboration with Scripture Union lunchtime groups and local church children's and youth ministries."

Seconded

Professor Bellenger's amendment was carried.

Mr Stevenson's and Mr Serediuk's amendments were not carried.

Mr Veron's motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

“Synod supports and values the ministry of Special Religious Education (SRE), and encourages the Archbishop, Anglican Youthworks, the Anglican Education Commission and parish Rectors to work together, including through the Archbishop’s SRE Taskforce, and individually, to protect and expand that ministry.

Synod assures the Archbishop’s SRE Taskforce of its prayers as it responds to multiple threats upon SRE, and encourages *Freedom 4 Faith* as it promotes and protects religious freedoms in Australia, to provide legal advice to the Archbishop’s SRE Taskforce.

Synod affirms the Diocese’s long standing support of public school education, and commends the Diocese’s 2,500 volunteer SRE teachers and helpers for their passion and commitment to the work of providing religious education to school children in the state schools within the boundaries of the Diocese.”

14. Presidential Address

The President delivered his address to the Synod.

Adjournment

At 5:22 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.00 pm tonight.”

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.00 pm.

15. Mission 2020 Update

Bishop Peter Lin led an update of *Mission 2020* with presentations given by the Rev Manoj Chacko concerning the Provisional Parish of Liverpool South, Mrs Jann Robinson concerning St Luke’s Grammar School, Dee Why and the Rev Colin Watson concerning the Parish of Normanhurst.

16. Motions

16.1 Study into effective church planting

Bishop Peter Lin moved –

‘Synod, noting –

- (i) the Study into Effective Church Planting in the Anglican Diocese of Sydney, and
 - (ii) the Mission 2020 goals to plant 15 new churches in greenfield areas and at least two new churches per mission area by 2020,
- (a) encourages rectors and parish councils to consider how they could initiate church planting in their parishes, or partner with other parishes to support church planting elsewhere in the Diocese,
- (b) requests that Evangelism and New Churches (“ENC”), in view of the decreased rates of church planting in this Diocese in recent years, to provide recommendations as to –
- (i) how recruitment and training of potential church planters may be improved,
 - (ii) the identification of church planting opportunities with regard to strategic planning at a regional level,

- (iii) the most effective method of identifying resources and assets to assist church planting,
 - (iv) effective methods to address conflict resolution in the context of church planting,
 - (v) how funding models underpinning the different styles of church planting in the Diocese could be enhanced,
 - (vi) how the role and resourcing of ENC may be improved in order to better support church planting in this Diocese, and
- (c) requests that the Standing Committee consider appropriate ways of providing financial support to church plants in brownfields areas, and report their findings to the next session of Synod.'

Seconded and carried

16.2 Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015

Mr Tony Willis moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

There was a time for questions.

Following a time for questions, the Rev Dane Courtney moved as a procedural motion –

“That further consideration of this ordinance be deferred.”

Seconded and carried

16.3 Doctrine Commission report on fellowship meals for the proclamation of the Lord’s death

Dr Barry Newman moved –

“This Synod –

- (a) expresses its disquiet that Standing Committee seems to have ignored resolution 7/14 passed at the previous session of Synod, which resolution, among other things, respectfully requested Standing Committee to forward to the Synod at its earliest convenience the original report of the Doctrine Commission concerning fellowship meals for the proclamation of the Lord’s Death, tabled and discussed at the meeting of the Standing Committee on February 25, 2013, and
- (b) again respectfully requests Standing Committee to forward said report to the next session of Synod.”

Seconded

Bishop Robert Forsyth moved the following amendment to Dr Newman’s motion –

The motion be amended as follows –

“This Synod –

- (a) notes that Standing Committee declined the request of Synod expressed in resolution 7/14, since the report referred to in the resolution was a draft report of the Doctrine Commission, and
- (b) thanks the Doctrine Commission for their work in producing the final report concerning Fellowship meals for the proclamation of Christ’s death.”

Seconded

Mr Robert Wicks moved a procedural motion –

“Synod suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent consideration of a motion to receive the report of the Diocesan Doctrine Commission tabled at this session and to resolve that it be printed at the discretion of the Standing Committee.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Wicks moved the following amendment to Bishop Forsyth’s amendment –

‘That Bishop Forsyth’s amendment be amended by adding the following new paragraph –

- ‘(c) receives the final report and resolves that it be printed at the discretion of the Standing Committee.’”

Seconded

Bishop Forsyth’s amendment was carried.

Mr Wicks’ amendment to Bishop Forsyth’s amendment was carried.

Dr Newman’s motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

“This Synod –

- (a) notes that Standing Committee declined the request of Synod expressed in resolution 7/14, since the report referred to in the resolution was a draft report of the Doctrine Commission,
- (b) thanks the Doctrine Commission for their work in producing the final report concerning Fellowship meals for the proclamation of Christ’s death, and
- (c) receives the final report and resolves that it be printed at the discretion of the Standing Committee.”

16.4 Incorporation of dioceses

Mr David Minty moved –

“Synod requests the Standing Committee to review the decision of all Victorian Anglican dioceses to incorporate in response to both workers’ compensation issues and the emerging findings of the Royal Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and report to the Synod on the advantages and disadvantages of such action for NSW dioceses in current circumstances.”

Seconded

Having been granted leave, Mr Minty moved the following procedural motion –

‘That the following amendments be incorporated into the form of the principal motion –

- “(a) In the 1st line after the words “Standing Committee” insert the matter “ask the Anglican Church Property Trust and the Royal Commission Steering Committee to”, and
- (b) In the 3rd line delete the words “report to the Synod on” and insert instead “consider”.’”

Seconded and carried

Mr Minty’s motion, incorporating the amendments, was carried in the following form –

“Synod requests the Standing Committee ask the Anglican Church Property Trust and the Royal Commission Steering Committee to review the decision of all Victorian Anglican dioceses to incorporate in response to both workers’ compensation issues and the emerging findings of the Royal Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and consider the advantages and disadvantages of such action for NSW dioceses in current circumstances.”

Adjournment

At 9:20 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 3.15 pm tomorrow.”

We certify that, to the best of our recollection, these minutes are a correct record of the Synod's proceedings.

Two Members of the)
Minute Reading Committee)

Signed by the President

13 October 2015

50th Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

2nd Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Tuesday 13 October 2015

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Bible study

Canon Stephen Gibson led the Bible study.

3. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Monday 12 October 2015.

4. Answers to Questions

4.1 **Support for churches in the Middle East**

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

Has the Diocese given any support or offered any support to the following churches (or other similar organisations) in Sydney since 1 January 2014 in refugee matters and, if so, in what (general as opposed to specific) manner –

- (a) Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East,
- (b) Syriac Orthodox Church,
- (c) Greek Orthodox Church,
- (d) Armenian Apostolic Church, or
- (e) Armenian Church?

To which the President replied –

No, not in Sydney.

Anglican Aid has distributed funds for Iraq to the Diocese of Egypt, the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME) and St George's Anglican Church in Baghdad. These funds were then distributed through church networks. The Anglican Aid Annual Report will be provided to Synod members today. Page 10 of the Report states that FRRME distributed funds through the following churches in Iraq –

- The Syrian Orthodox Church
- MarShamot Church
- The Armenian Church
- The Carmelites
- Al-Bishara Church

4.2 **Grants from the Diocesan Endowment to brownfield churches in 2007**

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked the following question –

In respect of the \$9.32m brownfields grants (made from the one-off \$20m distribution in 2007 from the Diocesan Endowment) to the 9 parishes (excluding St Barnabas, Broadway) listed in the table at paragraph 10 of the paper “Ministry progress and brownfields’ grants”, page 166, Book 2 (Supplementary report of the Standing Committee) –

- (a) What criteria were used by the relevant Committee at the time, which made these grants in 2007?
- (b) Was there an open application process available to all parishes?
- (c) How much of each grant to each parish was spent on –
 - (i) repairs, maintenance and general upgrade of matters such as lighting and sound systems; and/or
 - (ii) extensions of existing buildings; and/or
 - (iii) new land; and/or
 - (iv) new buildings?
- (d) Was any consideration given by the granting committee, in respect of issues of repairs, maintenance and equipment upgrades referred to in point (c)(i) above, concerning the ongoing responsibility of church wardens relating to the care and maintenance of all church property and grounds?
- (e) Was there a formal acquittal process required in respect of each of these grants and were these requirements met by each parish?
- (f) What was the remaining \$10.68m, from the total of the \$20m one-off distribution, spent on?

To which the President replied –

The Mission Property (Appropriation and Amendment) Ordinance 2007 (the “Ordinance”) established a mechanism by which the Mission Board, acting under delegated authority, was to determine the priorities for the application of the \$20 million appropriated from the Diocesan Endowment and added to the capital of the Mission Property Fund.

The Mission Property Committee (“MPC”) was required to report to the Mission Board about progress in implementing projects (both greenfield acquisition, the development of land and brownfield construction and renovation of ministry buildings) identified in accordance with those priorities.

- (a) Consistent with clause 5B of the Ordinance, the MPC considered the potential of a project to contribute to the objects of the Diocesan Mission was to be assessed primarily by its potential to contribute to an increase in the number of people attending church in the Diocese.

This was assessed by reference to a range of factors, some of which can be quantified and others of which are more subjective. Specific attention was given to –

- (i) evidence of growth (using the Church Life Cycle model) – does attendance and offertory data indicate potential for growth in the parish?
 - (ii) the status of the existing buildings – does the condition or capacity of existing buildings inhibit ministry?
 - (iii) projected demographic growth – is the parish located in an area where there is expected to be substantial population growth?
- (b) It was not an application process, the MPC drew on data from a number of sources including the New Capital Project (facility utilisation), project readiness (DA approval, regional Architectural Panel, etc), strategic demographic factors (Mission Property Strategy Report), and parish leadership (the Church Life Cycle model).
 - (c) The answer to this part of the question is shown in tabular form and will be available on the notice board in the foyer and on the SDS website.
 - (d) No grants were given for repairs, maintenance and equipment upgrades.

- (e) Clause 5(4) of the Ordinance required the MPC to provide a detailed report to the Standing Committee about its progress in implementing projects. The MPC also appointed a project manager to oversee the completion of each project in accordance with the building contract.
- (f) The answer to this part of the question is shown in tabular form and will be available on the notice board in the foyer and on the SDS website.

Attachment: Synod Question 2 (parts (c) and (f))

	Project total	Funding	Type
Annandale	2,400,000	1,000,000	Extension
Auburn St Thomas	500,000	450,000	Extension
Berowra	3,000,000	900,000	Extension
Broadway	18,500,000	1,750,000	New building
Dapto	3,300,000	1,100,000	New building
Glenmore Park	2,400,000	900,000	Extension
Hoxton Park	5,280,000	1,400,000	New building
Marrickville	280,000	170,000	Extension
Naremburn/Cammeray	3,900,000	500,000	Extension
Rooty Hill	3,500,000	1,150,000	New building
Total	43,060,000	9,320,000	
Contingency		680,000	
Oran Park (land)		2,200,000	
Austral (land)		1,750,000	
Stanhope Gardens (land)		3,630,000	
Other		2,400,000	

4.3 Secure online access to Synod documents

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked the following question –

Noting the expressed desire from some members at previous Synods for easier access to Synod documents, including confidential ones, which are too voluminous to make freely available in printed form –

- (a) Is there any consideration being given currently to the development of a secure area of the SDS website for Synod members?
- (b) Have any major barriers been identified to such a development, and if so, what are they; and
- (c) If so, what proposals are there, or might there be, to address these barriers?

To which the President replied –

- (a) SDS is currently considering how it can best provide secure information on its website to the members of the various boards and committees it serves. This includes Synod members.
- (b) In relation to Synod, a major barrier is the projected level of administration required to facilitate individual logon credentials on the current website for about 770 Synod members.
- (c) The most promising avenue to address this is as part of a possible new website, which is being actively considered.

4.4 Access to Audited Accounts and Annual Reports of Diocesan organisations

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked the following question –

As a number of the Audited Accounts and Annual Reports of the 41 diocesan organisations, tabled in Synod are publicly available on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) website –

- (a) could Synod please be provided with a list of those diocesan organisations and the website link to their reports; and
- (b) noting this Diocese's Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations, Appendix 1, section D, part (d) which states –
 "Members of the Synod must have reasonable access to the annual reports of diocesan organisations tabled at the Synod and must have an adequate opportunity to ask and have answered questions about the governance of diocesan organisations",
 could Synod in future receive this information, requested in part (a) of this question, prior to each Synod; and
- (c) if not, why not?

To which the President replied –

- (a) The answer to this part of the question is shown in tabular form and will be available on the notice board in the foyer and on the SDS website. So far as we can ascertain it is not possible to provide a direct web link to the audited accounts on the ACNC Register because of the way the ACNC uploads this information to the Register. The table provides the ABN's for the organisations. These ABNs can easily be used to search the ACNC Register for the information at www.acnc.gov.au.
- (b) Yes (though not direct web links to audited accounts for the reason stated). One possibility is that we indicate which organisations in the list have their audited accounts and reports available from the ACNC Register.
- (c) Not applicable.

Attachment:

School / Organisation	ABN
Abbotsleigh School Council	18 199 714 462
ACPT – Community Building Partnership Fund	19 344 575 886
Anglican Retirement Villages #	39 922 848 563
Anglican Youthworks	96 398 231 605
Anglican Aid (incorporating Archbishop's Community Care and Development Program) #	28 525 237 517
Anglican Aid – Overseas Ministry Fund #	94 609 182 072
Anglican Aid – Overseas Relief and Aid Fund #	59 792 865 372
Anglicare #	88 851 368 006
Arden Anglican School	22 851 187 489
Barker College Council	18 620 620 356

School / Organisation	ABN
Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council	65 653 218 326
Illawarra Grammar School Council	88 023 426 543
Kings School Council	24 481 364 152
Macarthur Anglican School Council	58 390 019 481
Moore Theological College Council	47 746 452 183
St Catherine's School Council	98 012 260 068
Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation	63 544 529 806
Sydney C of E Grammar School Council (Shore)	60 352 822 184
Tara Anglican Girls School Council	88 512 104 678
Trinity Grammar School Council	79 245 605 610
William Branwhite Clarke College Council	83 169 319 110

Note: # – 30 June year end.

4.5 Licences for Assistant Ministers and Stipendiary Lay Workers

The Rev Simon Roberts asked the following question –

- (a) How many new licences were issued to Assistant Ministers and Stipendiary Lay Workers in 2014-15 (ie, not renewals of existing licences)?
- (b) How many of these licences were issued before a Rector made a letter of offer to the applicant and before they commenced parish ministry?
- (c) How many of the licence applications covered by (a) were refused?

To which the President replied –

- (a) Between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015 new licences (not renewals of existing licences) were issued to –

60 ordained Assistant Ministers; and

23 Stipendiary Lay Workers

A further 27 new licences were issued to Assistant Ministers as a consequence of them being ordained as a presbyter.

- (b) Licences are only issued to Assistant Ministers and Stipendiary Lay Workers in parishes in accordance with a request by the Rector of the relevant parish. The Diocesan Registry has no way of knowing the date of a letter of offer to an applicant and relies upon the Rector to notify the date of commencement in the parish. Presumably a Rector would not sign a licence application for an Assistant Minister until he was satisfied that an appropriate offer and acceptance of a position was in place.

Rectors should ensure that any offers made to prospective Assistant Ministers and Stipendiary Lay Workers are subject to clearance by the Professional Standards Unit and the approval of the Archbishop.

- (c) The Registry is not aware of any completed application which has been refused during the year.

4.6 **Minimum price for the sale of Bishopscourt**

Mr Bruce York asked the following question –

My question concerns what is the process for the evaluation of the minimum acceptable selling price of Bishopscourt.

I understand the Standing Committee Subcommittee was not satisfied by the private auction best offer and therefore the sale process was not concluded. However for understandable commercial reasons the best price offer was never stated and therefore my question concerns what the process was in determining minimum acceptable price. I would take this to mean that someone did the sums on the current costs of running Bishopscourt compared to the estimate of costs in running another Archbishop's residence. The difference would be capitalised at current Glebe Board earnings rate (say about 4%) and this plus the funds required to purchase a new residence would determine the minimum acceptable price. Has something like this been undertaken by the Subcommittee please? Hopefully the final sale would be substantially greater than this minimum to provide for funds to be invested for the benefit of the Endowment of the See.

The Synod will also need to be reasonably satisfied that the sale has been properly evaluated not only on financial grounds but also on non-financial grounds.

To which the President replied –

This question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4) in that it contains assertions, expresses opinions and offers an argument.

Nonetheless I can make the following general comments.

The minimum price for the sale of Bishopscourt is determined by Standing Committee after a recommendation on an offer to purchase has been made to it by the Property Trust.

The Property Trust has not made any recommendation on a sale price to the subcommittee of the Standing Committee.

Synod may be aware that while media speculation has suggested a sale price in the order of \$25m, for commercial in confidence reasons the Property Trust does not comment on such speculation.

The Property Trust also notes Synod's requirement that up to \$7m from the sale proceeds is required to be applied towards the purchase of a new residence for the Archbishop and his family, so determination of a minimum sale price necessarily needs to balance the ongoing cost of operating Bishopscourt, including the maintenance of a routine capital expenditure program and achieving a sale at a level that will ensure that the sale proceeds over and above \$7m is of sufficient size to generate an appropriate investment return over the longer term.

4.7 **Review of Ethical Investment Policy**

The Rev Katrina Haggard asked the following question –

In their review of the Ethical Investment Policy has the Glebe Administration Board considered extending negative screens to cover businesses that use sexualised or porn-inspired advertising? If so, why is this not included in the report? If not, why not?

To which the President replied –

No. In reviewing the scope of the negative screens in the existing policy, Glebe Administration Board is only considering those activities which have been the subject of a specific Synod or Standing Committee resolution or direction (for example, businesses which earn revenue from pornography and gambling).

Glebe Administration Board is not aware of any specific Synod or Standing Committee resolution or direction about the matter referred to in the question.

4.8 Resources for outreach to Muslims

The Rev Dr Margaret Powell asked the following question –

What is the Diocese currently doing to equip our churches to reach Muslims for Christ in our city in the face of their increased presence among us?

To which the President replied –

There are people working in our Diocese who are experienced in connecting with Muslim people and who are available to visit churches and train church members - at least 19 as well as 1 working in the academic sphere and 2 currently training in Middle East in order to return and minister in Sydney. In the past year some churches (at least 5) and 3 university campuses have taken up this opportunity.

MentAC (Mentoring Across Cultures) is an apprenticeship training program based in Greenacre and has been operational for 4 years. In this 2 year program full or part time apprenticeship trainees are given theoretical input as well as practical experience in talking with Muslim men and women about Christ. There are currently 18 coming to the formal training and this includes 5 official trainees and 3 from other denominations.

There are several courses available which can be run in small or large groups with local or specialist leaders e.g. Cross and Crescent; Friendship First (Interserve); Bridges Course (Crescent Project, AIM).

Each year Moore College teaches a number of classes on Islam and all Moore College students are given the opportunity to be part of a focussed mission.

While there is much happening in a few areas of Sydney and amongst a small number of Sydney Anglicans, there is much work to be done to equip our churches to reach our Muslim neighbours for Christ.

4.9 Financial operation of the Glebe Admin Board and the Finance and Loans Board

Mr Mark Boyd asked the following question –

- (a) Can churches apply for loans from the Glebe Board?
 - (i) if not, when did this process cease?
 - (ii) if not, what arrangements were made for existing Glebe Board loans at that time?
- (b) Were any loans refinanced to the Finance & Loans Board? If so, how many and what was the total value?
- (c) How much capital does the Finance & Loans Board have?
- (d) How much is available to loan?
- (e) Does the Finance & Loans Board have any lending limits?

To which the President replied –

The Glebe Administration Board determined in November 2013 to cease its lending business and thereby ceased making new loans to parishes. Existing GAB borrowers were notified that loan terms would continue to be honoured but they would need to seek an alternative lender at the expiry of the loan with GAB. A number of borrowers have refinanced loans with other financiers or repaid loans.

The Finance and Loans Board has refinanced some, but not all, of the former GAB loans.

The Finance and Loans Board has net assets of about \$15.6m of which about \$2.8m is currently available for lending to parishes and other Diocesan organisations under its Ordinance.

The Finance and Loans Board is limited by the amount of capital it has available to lend but generally lends amounts up to \$750,000 for capital works on church buildings and rectories.

4.10 **Workers compensation for ordained clergy**

Mr Paul Fitzpatrick asked the following question –

- (a) What arrangements are in place for Workers Compensation (or equivalent) for ordained clergy injured in the course of their ministry in this Diocese?
- (b) Do these arrangements differ from those in place for lay people on staff at a church?
- (c) If so, how and why do they differ?
- (d) Would the President please advise the Synod of any recommended options for parishes to pursue in this area, especially in light of individual differences in private health cover and the potential severity of workplace injury?

To which the President replied –

- (a) Parish clergy of the Diocese of Sydney are not, generally speaking, covered by the NSW Workers Compensation system. Alternative arrangements are in place for parish clergy.

There is a Stipend Continuance Insurance plan which provides a monthly income benefit if parish clergy are totally disabled due to injury or sickness, or having been totally disabled, remain partially disabled. It is paid after 90 days have elapsed after the injury or sickness and continues until retirement or the disability ceases. Parish clergy who have completed 6 or more year's service receive a benefit of up to 75% of the notional value of the remuneration package of a minister. Parish clergy with less than 6 years service receive a benefit of up to 75% of the notional remuneration package of a 3rd and 4th year assistant minister. The benefits are lower in the case of a partial disability. Further information is contained in the SDS facts sheet about the Stipend Continuance Insurance Plan, which will be posted with this answer in the foyer and on the SDS website.

The Diocesan Sickness and Accident Fund also provides for payments to wardens to meet any short-term additional costs incurred when parish clergy are unable to perform normal ministry duties due to sickness or accident. It also provides assistance, up to certain limits, when parish clergy incur medical, hospital, rehabilitation or related expenses following an accident which occurred in the course of performing normal ministry duties, and these costs are not covered by insurance or Medicare.

- (b) Yes.
- (c) At a broad level the main differences are as follows –
 - Workers compensation applies in relation to workplace injuries, while Stipend Continuance Insurance coverage applies whether the injury or sickness is work related or not. Given the nature of ministry it would not always be clear whether or not a minister is injured in the course of work.
 - Workers compensation would provide a refund for medical and other expenses, while the Sickness and Accident fund provides assistance up to certain limits. However many expenses would also be covered by Medicare or Private Health Insurance.
 - There is also the possibility of lump sum payments under workers compensation.
- (d) No. Part (d) of the question is out of order under rule 6.3(4)(f) of the Synod business rules as it seeks a legal opinion.

4.11 **The role of the Commissary**

Mr Paul Fitzpatrick asked the following question –

What exactly is a Commissary and why does the business of Synod require that he be tabled?

To which the President replied –

Section 11 of the Constitution in the Schedule to the Anglican Church of Australia Constitution Act 1902 provides for the bishop of a diocese to appoint another bishop as a commissary who may exercise the powers vested in the diocesan bishop if the diocesan bishop is absent from the Province of NSW.

The word “commissary” is derived from the word “commission”. The Commissary acts in commission with the Archbishop in fulfilling his diocesan duties when he is unavailable to do so.

Rule 1.2 of the Synod Business Rules provides that the Commissary will preside at Synod in the absence of the Archbishop.

Rule 3.2(d) of the Synod Business Rules requires that the appointment of the commissary be tabled. The rule provides for the transparent and efficient running of the Synod in the event that the Archbishop is unavailable to preside.

4.12 Special Religious Education in public schools

Mrs Alison Woof asked the following question –

Concerning Special Religious Education (SRE) in public schools in New South Wales.

- (a) How many students are taught Primary SRE by people overseen by the Diocese? How many teachers and helpers do we deploy in this ministry?
- (b) How many students are taught High School SRE by people overseen by the Diocese? How many teachers and helpers do we deploy in this ministry?
- (c) Regarding the banning of High School SRE resources earlier this year –
 - (i) was the Diocese aware of the ban before it was in place?
 - (ii) if the answer to (c)(i) is “yes”, what advocacy did the Diocese perform at that time to attempt to stop the ban before it was in place?
 - (iii) what advocacy did the Diocese perform after the ban was put in place?
- (d) Regarding the changes to the Enrolment form for SRE –
 - (i) was the Diocese aware of the changes to the Enrolment form before they were in place?
 - (ii) if the answer to (d)(i) is “yes”, what advocacy did the Diocese undertake at that time to attempt to stop the changes to the Enrolment form before they were in place?
 - (iii) what advocacy did the Diocese perform after the changes to the Enrolment form were put in place?
 - (iv) does the Diocese have an estimate of the contraction in the number of students enrolled for SRE due to those changes? If so, what is that estimate?
- (e) Regarding the banning of Special Religious Instruction (SRI) in Victoria, what liaison has been performed by the Diocese with the providers of SRI in Victoria and the Dioceses in Victoria to learn from that experience to ensure such a ban does not occur in New South Wales?

To which the President replied –

- (a) 2,300 SRE teachers and helpers and an estimated 80 000 students.
- (b) Approximately 200 SRE Teachers and an estimated 30 000 students.
- (c) There was a Ministerial directive to immediately disallow the use of three high school resources in public and secondary schools, though the Department claims it was not a ban.
 - (i) No.

- (ii) Not applicable.
- (iii) As the directive came from the Minister, the Archbishop immediately sought an appointment with the Minister for Education, which was granted the following week. The outcome of this meeting was to reinstate the two books in the high school curriculum. One of the books, Teen Sex by the Book, was not part of the SRE curriculum despite the Minister's directive including this publication.

Senior Youthworks staff also met with representatives of the Department a week after the directive and requested an explanation for the directive and the process by which it was implemented.

The Diocesan Secretary and the SDS Legal Counsel also met with the Department's Legal Counsel in an effort to understand the legal basis, if any, for the Department's action.

- (d) (i) Yes. The Director of EdComm was aware of the proposed changes as a member of the Department's SRE Consultative Committee.
- (ii) Advocacy was made by both the Executive Director of EdComm, Dr Bryan Cowling and by the Archbishop who supplied and advocated alternative forms in writing.
- (iii) Dr Cowling is in ongoing conversations with the Department as the new enrolment form for 2016 was released last week. The Archbishop continues to have an active interest in this area.

A representative from Anglican Youthworks liaised with representatives from the other SRE providers to advocate for the 2014 changes to be overturned and for a new form be developed that better reflected the legislation regarding SRE in the school program.

- (iv) Youthworks has received significant anecdotal evidence that the changes did have a material and negative impact on some schools. Sales of Youthworks' SRE resources were down approximately 10% within one year. Several factors have contributed to the contraction in the number of students enrolled in SRE. At least some of that decline may be attributed to the 2014 changes to the Enrolment form that was put in place.

- (e) The SRE Office Director has been contacted by Victorian ACCESS ministries to discuss how we respond to the changing environment around SRE.

The Standing Committee has also requested a report from EdComm concerning SRI in Victoria and its implications for NSW. It is anticipated that this report will be provided to the November 2015 meeting of the Standing Committee.

5. Questions

Questions were asked by the following members –

- (1) Mr Daniel Armishaw
- (2) Mrs Pamela Shaw

6. Procedural motions from members

6.1 Arrangements for considering the Large Property Receipts Policy

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

“Synod agrees to consider paragraphs (a) and (b) of the motion at item 8.5 on today's business paper concerning the Large Property Receipts Policy as separate motions.”

Seconded and carried

6.2 **Distribution of dinner invitation from Liberty Christian Ministries**

The Rev Robert Cameron moved –

“Synod consents to the distribution to members of an invitation to a dinner being held by Liberty Christian Ministries, such distribution being on Monday 19 or Tuesday 20 October in a manner determined by the Synod Secretary.”

Seconded and carried

6.3 **Scheduling the consideration of a motion concerning Bishop Robert Forsyth**

Miss Alicia Watson moved –

“Synod requests the Order of Business Committee to make the motion concerning the retirement of Bishop Robert Forsyth at item 8.30 on today’s business paper an order of the day at a suitable time during the second week of this session.”

Seconded and carried

6.4 **Distribution of brochure from the Anglican Church League**

Canon Thomas Harricks moved –

“Synod approves the distribution to members of the Anglican Church League's leaflet promoting their upcoming Governance Workshop, such distribution to be in the manner and at a time determined by the Synod Secretary.”

Seconded and carried

6.5 **Video presentation in relation to ministry in socially disadvantaged areas**

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

“Synod agrees to a 5 minute video being shown following the seconder’s speech in relation to the motion at item 8.21 on today’s business paper.”

Seconded and carried

7. **Notices of Motions**

Notices of motions were given by the following members –

- (1) The Rev David Ould
- (2) The Rev Peter Tong
- (3) The Rev Christopher Braga
- (4) The Rev James Crowweller
- (5) The Rev Dr Margaret Powell

8. **Calling of motions on the business paper**

The President called the motions in order in which they appeared on the business paper, except those motions about a proposed ordinance or those motions to be considered at a time fixed by the Synod.

8.1 **Doctrine Commission’s report “A theology of Christian assembly”**

Dr David Oakenfull moved –

‘That this Synod –

- (a) requests the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to revisit its report “A theology of Christian assembly” (4 September 2008), and
- (b) noting that the Commission's current report –
 - (i) makes no reference to WORSHIP, and
 - (ii) makes only passing reference to PRAYER,
 requests the Commission to give due consideration to (and advice on) the proper place for worship and prayer in Christian assembly.’

Seconded and carried

8.2 **Campus Bible Study, Unichurch and the Fellowship of Overseas Christian University Students**

Having been granted leave, Dr Robert Tong moved –

“This Synod gives great thanks to God that the year 2015 marks 40 years since the commencement of Campus Bible Study (CBS) and Unichurch and 30 years since the commencement of the Fellowship of Overseas Christian University Students (FOCUS) at the University of NSW.

Synod gives thanks for the faithful ministry over these years of the Revs Phillip Jensen, Paul Grimmond and Carl Matthei at CBS and Unichurch and Joshua Ng at FOCUS. Synod particularly gives thanks for the many people who have, as a result of God using these ministries, come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and also those who have entered full-time pastoral ministry in evangelical churches in Australia or have gone onto the overseas mission field.

Synod notes with thankfulness and recognises that a celebration of these ministries will be held on Saturday 31 October at the Clancy Auditorium at the University of NSW.

This Synod commits to pray for the present generation of students and the ministry teams led by the Revs Carl Matthei and Joshua Ng.”

Seconded and carried

8.3 **CMS Mission Aid Group in Tanzania**

Dr Rodney James moved –

“This Synod notes that the CMS Mission Aid Group (MAG) will close at the end of this year after 34 years of service to the Tanzanian Church. We praise God for those people who have served in this way over many years and pray that He will continue to bless the Tanzanian Church in the future.”

Seconded and carried

Dr James led the Synod in prayer for the work of Mission Aid Group and the Church in Tanzania.

8.4 **Bishop Ivan Lee**

The Rev Raj Gupta moved –

“Synod notes that Bishop Ivan Lee is scheduled for, major surgery on 26 October and encourages all parishes to pray for his health, impending surgery and for a swift recovery, and that the God of all comfort would pour out his comfort on Bishop Lee, Virginia and their family at this time.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Gupta led the Synod in prayer for Bishop Lee and his family.

8.5 **The Rev Dr Michael Stead**

Having been granted leave, Miss Alicia Watson moved –

“Synod gives thanks to God for the appointment of the Rev Dr Michael Stead as the next Bishop of South Sydney and looks forward to his leadership and partnership with the parishes and the South Sydney Regional Council in furthering the spread of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the region. The Synod warmly welcomes Dr Stead, his wife Felicity and their family as they minister with us in this area of the Diocese.”

Seconded and carried

Miss Watson led the Synod in prayer for Dr Stead and his family.

8.6 Chaplaincy in public schools

The Rev Richard Wenden moved –

“Synod encourages all those associated with the ministry of chaplaincy in public schools and assures them of our continued prayers.”

Seconded and carried

9. Procedural motion

At 4.20 pm, the Rev Anthony Douglas moved –

“That Synod agrees to suspend so many of the business rules as would prevent the consideration of the bill for the Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015 forthwith.”

Seconded and carried

10. Motions

10.1 Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015

Bishop Robert Forsyth moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015.”

Bishop Forsyth moved –

“That the Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015 be approved in principle.”

Seconded

The President asked –

“Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?”

There was a time for questions.

The President asked –

“Does any member wish to speak against the motion, or move an amendment to it?”

There was no member who wished to speak against the motion or move an amendment to it.

Bishop Forsyth moved –

“That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

Before consideration of the text of the proposed ordinance in Committee had concluded, the Deputy Chair of Committees reported the proposed ordinance with amendments.

Bishop Forsyth moved –

“That Synod resume consideration of the Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015 at a time to be determined by the Committee for the Order of Business.”

Seconded and carried

11. Moore Theological College presentation

The Rev Dr Mark Thompson and the Rev Dr Colin Bale gave a presentation regarding the building development at Moore Theological College.

Archbishop Glenn Davies led the Synod in prayer for the work of Moore Theological College.

Adjournment

At 5:53 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.00 pm tonight.”

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.00 pm.

12. Motions

12.1 Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2015

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

Bishop Hayward moved –

“That the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2015 be approved in principle.”

Seconded

The President asked –

“Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?”

There were no questions.

The President asked –

“Does any member wish to speak against the motion, or move an amendment to it?”

There was no member who wished to speak against the motion or move an amendment to it.

The motion that the ordinance be approved in principle was put and was carried.

The President asked –

“Does any member wish to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance?”

No member of Synod indicated that they wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance.

Bishop Hayward moved –

“That the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2015 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

12.2 **Parochial Cost Recoveries and Church Land Acquisitions Levy Ordinance 2015**

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the Parochial Cost Recoveries and Church Land Acquisitions Levy Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

Bishop Hayward moved –

“That the Parochial Cost Recoveries and Church Land Acquisitions Levy Ordinance 2015 be approved in principle.”

Seconded

The President asked –

“Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?”

There was a time for questions.

The President asked –

“Does any member wish to speak against the motion, or move an amendment to it?”

There was no member who wished to speak against the motion or move an amendment to it.

The motion that the ordinance be approved in principle was put and was carried.

Bishop Hayward moved –

“That the Parochial Cost Recoveries and Church Land Acquisitions Levy Ordinance 2015 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

12.3 Proposal for a Property Receipts Levy

The Rev Craig Roberts moved –

‘Synod –

- (i) noting the Large Property Receipts Policy (“LPRP”) approved in principle at its last session in October 2014,
- (ii) noting its request that the Standing Committee consult with parishes about the LPRP with a view to bringing a revised form to this session,
- (iii) noting the revised form of the LPRP included in the Standing Committee’s report to Synod on this matter (“Report”) together with an outline of a possible Property Receipts Levy as an alternative to the LPRP,
- (iv) noting that during the consultation process there appeared to be a preference for a form of Property Receipts Levy instead of a LPRP,

agrees that a Property Receipts Levy along the lines described in the Report may be preferable to a LPRP, and therefore requests the Standing Committee to collect the necessary financial data from parishes, and undertake the necessary modelling and further consultation to bring to the Synod no later than its session in 2020 a proposal for a Property Receipts Levy to replace the LPRP.”

Seconded

Ms Lyn Bannerman moved as an amendment to Mr Roberts’ motion –

‘Omit the matter from (iv) “there appeared to be” and insert instead the matter “some parishes indicated”.’

Seconded

Ms Bannerman moved as a further amendment to Mr Roberts’ motion –

‘Omit the matter “to replace the LPRP” and insert instead the matter “to be considered as an alternative to a LPRP”.’

Seconded

Mr Roberts accepted the amendments of Ms Bannerman.

Ms Bannerman’s amendments were carried.

Mr Roberts’ motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

‘Synod –

- (i) noting the Large Property Receipts Policy (“LPRP”) approved in principle at its last session in October 2014,
- (ii) noting its request that the Standing Committee consult with parishes about the LPRP with a view to bringing a revised form to this session,
- (iii) noting the revised form of the LPRP included in the Standing Committee’s report to Synod on this matter (“Report”) together with an outline of a possible Property Receipts Levy as an alternative to the LPRP,
- (iv) noting that during the consultation process some parishes indicated a preference for a form of Property Receipts Levy instead of a LPRP,

agrees that a Property Receipts Levy along the lines described in the Report may be preferable to a LPRP, and therefore requests the Standing Committee to collect the necessary financial data from parishes, and undertake the necessary modelling and further consultation to bring to the Synod no later than its session in 2020 a proposal for a Property Receipts Levy to be considered as an alternative to a LPRP.’

12.4 Large Property Receipts Policy

Mr Roberts moved –

“Synod –

- (a) resolves to resume forthwith consideration of the LPRP in the revised form, with a view to finalising the LPRP as a policy of the Synod pending the Synod’s consideration of a form of Property Receipts Levy in its place, and
- (b) confirms that it would be appropriate to index threshold amounts in the LPRP if it were to continue beyond 2020.”

Seconded

Following a time for questions and then debate on the motion, the motion was put but was not carried.

12.5 Retirements Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2015

Mr Michael Meek SC moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the Retirements Ordinance 1993 Amendment Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Meek moved –

“That Synod agree to consider passing the Retirements Ordinance 1993 Amendment Ordinance 2015 formally.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Meek spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The President asked –

"Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?"

There were no questions.

Mr Meek moved –

“That the Retirements Ordinance 1993 Amendment Ordinance 2015 pass formally as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

12.6 Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015

Bishop Robert Forsyth moved –

“That the Synod resolves itself into the Synod in Committee to consider further the text of the Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

The text of the proposed ordinance was considered by the Synod in Committee. After consideration of the text was completed, the Chairman of Committees reported the proposed ordinance with no further amendments.

Bishop Forsyth moved –

“That the report of the Chairman of Committees be adopted.”

Seconded and carried

Bishop Forsyth moved –

“That the Synod agree to consider at a time to be determined by the Committee for the Order of Business a motion that the Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

12.7 **Special Religious Education and Safe Ministry training accreditation**

The Rev Anthony Douglas moved –

“Synod recognises and affirms the importance of ensuring that the delivery of Special Religious Education in primary and secondary schools is of the highest quality, and is grateful to Youthworks for their efforts to this end in recent years.

Synod –

- (a) recognising that it is vital that SRE teachers be thoroughly trained,
- (b) noting that current authorisation arrangements for local trainers allow them to provide training for members of their own and only one other parish, and
- (c) acknowledging that it is difficult for remote parishes to rely on volunteers to provide local training on an infrequent basis, and uneconomical for Youthworks to provide training in remote areas,

requests Youthworks to revise accreditation policies (for both SRE Accreditation and Safe Ministry training) so that rectors are empowered to determine whether a suitably accredited local trainer from another parish possesses the capacity to provide effective training for members of their own parish.”

Seconded

Mr James Flavin moved as an amendment to Mr Douglas’ motion –

‘In the final paragraph, omit the word “rectors” and insert instead “regional bishops in conjunction with the regional councils”, and omit the words “their own parish” and insert instead “parishes in their region”.’

Mr Flavin’s motion was not carried.

Mr Douglas’ motion was carried without amendment.

Adjournment

At 9:16 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 3.15 pm tomorrow.”

We certify that, to the best of our recollection, these minutes are a correct record of the Synod's proceedings.

Two Members of the)
Minute Reading Committee)

Signed by the President

14 October 2015

50th Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

2nd Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Wednesday 14 October 2015

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Bible study

Canon Stephen Gibson led the Bible study.

3. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Tuesday 13 October 2015.

4. Answers to Questions

4.1 Current Commissary

Mr Daniel Armishaw asked the following question –

Who is the current Commissary?

To which the President replied –

From time to time I sign a document appointing a Commissary. The appointment only comes into effect when I am absent from the Province of New South Wales.

On some occasions the person who usually acts as the Commissary may be absent or unable to act and therefore it is usual practice for the appointment document to list a number of bishops to act as may be needed.

By a document signed by me on 25 September 2015, the following were appointed as Commissary in the order shown –

Bishop Robert Forsyth
 Bishop Ivan Lee
 Bishop Peter Hayward
 Bishop Chris Edwards
 Bishop Peter Lin

4.2 Average weekly service attendance in the Diocese related to Connect09

Mrs Pamela Shaw asked the following question –

I recall that at the Synod in 2014 someone on the floor stated that the number of parishioners in the Diocese went down after the commencement of the first Connect mission.

Can we please have the relevant numbers of parishioners in the Diocese –

- (a) before Connect 1,
- (b) after introduction of Connect 1.

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

There is no way of knowing the number of parishioners in the Diocese however each year the Diocesan Registry receives returns from parishes about average weekly service attendance. The attendance numbers for 2013 are shown on page 128 of the 2015 Year Book.

Assuming the reference to “Connect 1” in the question means what was known as Connect 09, I can advise that the total average weekly service attendance for the whole diocese in the relevant years were –

2008	50,634
2009	51,951
2010	53,216

5. Questions

Questions were asked by the following members –

- (1) The Rev Matthew Lensing
- (2) The Rev Jeremy Tonks
- (3) Ms Lyn Bannerman
- (4) Ms Lyn Bannerman
- (5) The Rev Craig Schafer
- (6) The Rev Craig Schafer
- (7) The Rev James Warren
- (8) The Rev Roger Cunningham
- (9) The Rev Roger Cunningham
- (10) The Rev Roger Cunningham
- (11) Mrs Patricia Low

6. Procedural motions from members

6.1 **Scheduling the consideration of a motion concerning the biography of Sir Marcus Loane**

Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Synod agrees to the motion concerning the biography of Sir Marcus Loane at item 8.23 on today’s business paper being made an order of the day at a suitable time during the second week of this session.”

Seconded and carried

6.2 **Revised form of the bill for the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015**

Mr Tony Willis moved –

“That Synod –

- (a) agree to the Synod Secretary circulating to Synod Members by this Friday a link to a revised form of the bill for the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015 showing certain proposed changes in marked form, and
- (b) note that it is the mover’s intention to seek the leave of Synod next Monday to substitute the revised form of bill for the form of bill currently before the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

7. Notices of Motions

Notices of motions were given by the following members –

- (1) The Rev Roger Cunningham
- (2) The Rev Roger Cunningham
- (3) The Rev Robin Kinstead
- (4) The Rev Robin Kinstead
- (5) The Rev Robin Kinstead
- (6) The Rev Alistair Seabrook

8. Calling of motions on the business paper

The President called the motions in order in which they appeared on the business paper, except those motions about a proposed ordinance or those motions to be considered at a time fixed by the Synod.

8.1 Safe Ministry Policy

Having been granted leave, Mr Doug Marr moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) affirms the following diocesan Safe Ministry Policy Statement adopted by the Synod in Motion 18/04 –

“The Anglican Church of Australia is committed to the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare and safety of all people, particularly within its own community. To ensure the safety of children and vulnerable people in our communities, the Church will –

 - carefully recruit and train its clergy and church workers,
 - adopt and encourage safe ministry practices by its clergy and church workers,
 - respond promptly to each concern raised about the behaviour of its clergy and church workers,
 - offer pastoral support to any person who has suffered abuse, and
 - provide supervision of and pastoral accountability to any person known to have abused a child or another vulnerable person.”,
- (b) encourages all parishes and organisations that have not adopted the diocesan Safe Ministry Policy Statement to do so,
- (c) recognises the *SafeMinistry.org.au* website as an important access point for survivors of abuse in the Diocese of Sydney for seeking information and support and for reporting abuse,
- (d) commends the *SafeMinistry.org.au* website to parishes in the Diocese of Sydney for safe ministry support, information and resources,
- (e) recommends each parish adopt the Safe Ministry Journey policies for Parishes, and specifically the policy documents for those serving in the following roles –
 - (i) Ministers
 - (ii) Safe Ministry Representatives
 - (iii) Head of Youth Ministry
 - (iv) Youth Ministry Leaders
 - (v) Head of Children’s Ministry
 - (vi) Children’s Ministry Leaders.’

Seconded and carried

8.2 Communion with the Anglican Church in North America

The Rev David Ould moved –

“Synod declares it is in communion with the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) so long as communion is consistent with the Fundamental Declarations contained in the 1961 Constitution.”

Seconded and carried

Having been granted leave, Mr Ould read a statement from the Primate of the Anglican Church of North America, the Rt Rev Dr Foley Beach.

Mr Ould led the Synod in prayer for the Anglican Church of North America and its Primate, the Most Rev Dr Foley Beach.

8.3 Importance of Special Religious Education

The Rev Christopher Braga moved –

“This Synod –

- (a) affirms the goodness and importance of the gospel of Christ crucified and risen, and the knowledge of God and of ourselves as revealed in the Bible for the development of children and young people,
- (b) affirms the importance of Special Religious Education (SRE) to the lives of NSW public school children as a means of developing their own personal values and beliefs,
- (c) values the opportunity given to all parents/caregivers in the NSW government school system to have SRE of their choice provided for their children,
- (d) values the priority given to SRE during the normal school timetable,
- (e) respects the right of parents to object to their child receiving SRE and withdrawing them from SRE,
- (f) values the development and implementation of SRE Curriculum authorised by approved providers outside the Board of Studies NSW syllabuses,
- (g) values the partnership with principals and school communities in seeing SRE as an integral part of school activities, taking place in school hours and under the jurisdiction of the school,
- (h) encourages all incumbents to ensure the highest quality of delivery of SRE in the schools for which they are responsible, including ensuring all SRE teachers are suitably trained, supervised and accredited, and to welcome any systems and procedures to ensure this is occurring,
- (i) encourages Anglican Youthworks to pursue the ongoing development and enhancement of contemporary, age-appropriate curriculum which links with the training given to SRE volunteer teachers, and where appropriate, reflects the broad learning outcomes for government school students, and
- (j) supports the Archbishop, bishops, clergy and other parties as they engage in clear, timely public and unified advocacy and defence of the Diocese’s current SRE rights, program and policy.”

Seconded and carried

8.4 Connection with our Muslim neighbours

The Rev Dr Margaret Powell moved –

“That a working group be formed in association with Moore College, and chaired by the Head of the Department of Mission, to develop material and an organised and comprehensive approach that will motivate, educate and equip our churches to connect with our Muslim neighbours in culturally appropriate ways in order to commend Christ to them – not from fear but because the love of Christ compels us. That the committee include the mover and the Reverends John Bales and Bruce Hall.”

Seconded and carried

9. Procedural Motion

Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Synod agrees that motion 8.25 on today’s business paper be considered tonight, following discussion of motions 8.4, 8.5 and 8.6.”

Seconded and carried

10. Welcome to the Rev Ian Mears from the Lakes Evangelical Church

The Archbishop welcomed the Rev Ian Mears and his wife Margaret who is attending as a guest and representative from the Lakes Evangelical Church, being a church affiliated with this Diocese.

11. Motions

11.1 Ministry in socially disadvantaged areas

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

“Synod –

- (i) noting the “Dropping off the Edge 2015” report by Jesuit Social Services and Catholic Social Services Australia which observes “consistent place-based disadvantage” in Australia and that in NSW “a significant number of postcodes have remained depressed for long periods demonstrating the persistent, entrenched nature of the disadvantage experienced by these communities”,
- (ii) noting the Anglicare August 2015 Parish Disadvantage Report which –
 - (A) highlights the fact that successful ministry in such areas of disadvantage require particularly focused targeting of resources from outside those areas, and
 - (B) recommends that the Diocese, both corporately and from individual parishes, should consider how best to provide those resources,
- (a) thanks God for the work of Anglicare, Anglican Aid and other diocesan organisations and units which currently deliver, support and partner with such ministries,
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to produce a report on how the Diocese may best support ministry in places of disadvantage in the most deliberate, effective and co-ordinated manner, including the best way to recruit, train and support leadership in these areas.
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to report back to Synod at its next session on what is required to implement such a program of support.”

Seconded

Bishop Hayward’s motion was carried.

11.2 Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015

Bishop Robert Forsyth moved –

“That the Synod resolves itself into the Synod in Committee to consider further the text of clause 10 of the Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

Clause 10 of the proposed ordinance was considered by the Synod in Committee. After consideration of the clause was completed, the Chairman of Committees reported the proposed ordinance with amendment.

Bishop Forsyth moved –

“That the report of the Chairman of Committee be adopted”

Seconded and carried

Bishop Forsyth moved –

“That the Synod agree to consider on Monday 19 October 2015 a motion that the Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

11.3 **General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Diocesan Council) Canon 2010 Assenting Ordinance 2015**

Dr Robert Tong moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Diocesan Council) Canon 2010 Assenting Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

Dr Tong moved –

“That Synod agree to consider passing the General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Diocesan Council) Canon 2010 Assenting Ordinance 2015 formally.”

Seconded and carried

Dr Tong spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The President asked –

"Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?"

There was a time for questions.

Dr Tong moved –

“That the General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Diocesan Council) Canon 2010 Assenting Ordinance 2015 pass formally as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

11.4 **Synod and Standing Committee (Membership) Amendment Ordinance 2015**

Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the Sydney and Standing Committee (Membership) Amendment Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Marr moved –

“That the Sydney and Standing Committee (Membership) Amendment Ordinance 2015 be approved in principle.”

Seconded

The President asked –

“Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?”

There was a time for questions.

The President asked –

“Does any member wish to speak against the motion, or move an amendment to it?”

There was no member who wished to speak against the motion or move an amendment to it.

The motion that the ordinance be approved in principle was put and was carried.

The President asked –

“Does any member wish to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance?”

No member of Synod indicated that they wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance.

Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Sydney and Standing Committee (Membership) Amendment Ordinance 2015 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

11.5 Government schools

Professor Christopher Bellenger moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) reaffirms its support for public education in schools, TAFE colleges and universities,
- (b) recognises the significant role that public education has played in the formation of the majority of children and young people and in the development of a civil democratic society in Australia,
- (c) gives thanks to God for Christian teachers who work in government schools and recognises the strategic importance of an ongoing supply of well-trained classroom Christian teachers, Christian education leaders and Christian principals in government schools,
- (d) recognises the role and focus of the Anglican Education Commission (“EdComm”) in the recruitment of Christian men and women into the teaching profession and in programs to assist them to develop as exemplary Christian teachers and leaders in secular society,
- (e) calls on churches to –
 - (i) pray regularly for Christian teachers in their congregations who teach children and young people in government schools,
 - (ii) support the work of EdComm in identifying and urging teachers in their congregations teaching in government schools to become part of a local network of Christian teachers for mutual encouragement, mentoring and the sharing of ideas,
 - (iii) maintain and sustain the best possible relationships with school leaders, teachers and parent groups of government schools in their locality, and
 - (iv) pray for the work of EdComm in its advocacy role on behalf of the Diocese with governments and other agencies on a wide range of contemporary educational matters including national curriculum and teaching standards, religious education, equity, funding and religious freedom.’

Seconded and carried

Professor Bellenger led the Synod in prayer for the work of EdComm.

11.6 Anglican schools

Having been granted leave, the Rev Dr Michael Stead moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) (i) recognising our diocesan schools as outstanding educational institutions, each with their own unique culture, which exist to advance the educational purposes of the Diocese,
- (ii) recognising that biblically shaped education seeks, among other things, to encourage the search for and commitment to truth and to cultivate, critique and seek the transformation of our culture in accordance with godly wisdom,
- (iii) recognising that a commitment to biblically shaped education reinforces outstanding educational outcomes,
- (iv) recognising the crucial role that an increasing number of Chaplains are taking in working alongside academic staff to assist them in conceptualising and embedding a biblically focussed worldview throughout their teaching programs,
- (v) recognising that the Anglican Education Commission (“EdComm”) seeks to support Christian educators in diocesan schools to understand how biblically shaped education can be embedded in all aspects of school life,
- (vi) honouring the work of all teachers in diocesan schools but recognising the special role of Christian teachers in providing an education that is informed by a biblical worldview,
- (vii) recognising the need for effective mentoring of Christian teachers in how to integrate their faith with teaching practice,
- (viii) recognising the need for Christian students to consider teaching as a vital vocation for the benefit of future generations,
- (b) gives thanks to God for our diocesan schools and prays for the work of our schools in educating young men and women,
- (c) calls on our diocesan schools to work collaboratively with EdComm –
 - (i) to equip all their teaching staff to understand what it means to work in an Anglican Christian educational institution,
 - (ii) to support and mentor Christian teachers in the integration of their faith and teaching practice, and
 - (iii) to prioritise the recruitment and training of Christian teachers,
- (d) calls on the churches of our Diocese –
 - (i) to acknowledge the importance of the work of its members who are teachers and support them in prayer, and
 - (ii) to support the work of EdComm through prayer and in identifying and urging teachers in their parishes to become a part of local networks of Christian teachers for mutual Christian encouragement, mentoring and the sharing of ideas, and
- (e) encourages partnerships between EdComm, Anglican University chaplains and evangelical Christian university groups in facilitating the training and mentoring of Christian pre-service teachers.’

Seconded and carried

Dr David Nockles led the Synod in prayer for the work of EdComm among Anglican schools.

12. Mission Property Committee and New Churches for New Communities presentation

Mr Geoff Kyngdon and the Rev Glenn Gardner gave a presentation regarding the work of the Mission Property Committee and New Churches for New Communities.

Mr Kyngdon led the Synod in prayer for the work of the Mission Property Committee and New Churches for New Communities.

Adjournment

At 5:50 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.00 pm tonight.”

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.00 pm.

Having been granted leave, Dr Laurie Scandrett made a statement recognising the foresight of the Rev Ian Mears in calling for the recruitment of more Christian teachers about 15 years ago in his capacity as Chair of the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation.

13. Motions

13.1 Affirmation of marriage as between a man and a woman

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

“Synod –

- (a) affirms once again that marriage, as a gift from God who made us male and female, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life,
- (b) recalls that marriage is the symbol of God’s unending love for his people, and of the union between Christ and his Church,
- (c) recognises that marriage is a bedrock institution of society, designed for its good order and the secure and loving care of children by their own mother and father,
- (d) notes, nonetheless, that many children are lovingly cared for in other contexts, and affirms that the welfare of such children must be paramount, along with support for their parents and other carers,
- (e) never condones violence against or mistreatment of our neighbours who identify as gay or lesbian,
- (f) calls on all Australian Christians to engage respectfully in the debate over marriage and to pray for the members of the Federal Parliament in their consideration of this matter,
- (g) insists that, should the Federal Parliament decide to change the legal definition of marriage, robust provisions for freedom of speech and religion are included in relevant legislation, to protect those whose conscientious beliefs mean they cannot celebrate such a redefinition; and nevertheless,
- (h) urges the Federal Parliament to uphold the classical understanding of marriage as being between a man and a woman, in accordance with current provisions of the Marriage Act 1961.”

Seconded

Ms Naomi Spencer moved as an initial amendment to Canon Grant’s motion –

‘In paragraph (e) omit the word “gay” and insert instead the word “homosexual”.’

Seconded

Ms Spencer moved as a further amendment to Canon Grant’s motion –

‘Insert a new paragraph (g), with consequential relettering, as follows –

“(g) encourages all diocesan bodies, including churches, schools, etc, to engage stakeholders in discussion, prayer, education about the qualities and blessing of marriage as God intended, being mindful of the potential for another 'stolen' generation and the forthcoming national plebiscite.”

Seconded

Mr Michael Meek moved the following amendment to Ms Spencer's further amendment –

‘Omit the matter –

“the potential for another ‘stolen’ generation and”.’

Seconded

The Rev Dominic Steele moved the following amendment to Canon Grant's motion –

‘In paragraph (e), omit the words “never condones” and insert the words “condemns any”.’

Seconded

Mr James Flavin moved the following amendment to Canon Grant's motion –

‘In paragraph (e), omit the matter “who identify as gay or lesbian” and insert instead the matter “for any reason including gender identity”.’

Seconded

Miss Sally Anderson moved the following amendment to Canon Grant's motion –

‘In paragraph (e) omit the matter “or lesbian” and insert the matter “, lesbian, bisexual, trans or intersex (LGBTI)”.’

Seconded

Mrs Patricia Jackson moved the following amendment to Canon Grant's motion –

“Reverse the order of paragraphs (g) and (h).”

Seconded

Mr Matthew Johnson moved the following amendment to the amendment of Miss Anderson –

‘Omit the matter “or intersex (LGBTI)” and insert instead the matter “, intersex or queer (LGBTIQ)”.’

Seconded

Canon Grant accepted the amendment of Mr Steele.

Mr Steele's amendment was carried.

Ms Spencer's initial amendment was not carried.

Having been granted leave, Mr Flavin withdrew his amendment.

Mr Johnson's amendment to Miss Anderson's amendment was not carried.

Miss Anderson's amendment was carried without amendment.

Mrs Jackson's amendment was not carried.

Mr Meek's amendment to Ms Spencer's further amendment was carried.

Ms Spencer's further amendment, as amended, was put but was not carried with 218 votes for and 269 votes against the amendment.

During a count of the vote on Ms Spencer's further amendment, there was a time of personal prayer for Synod members about this matter.

Canon Grant's motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

"Synod –

- (a) affirms once again that marriage, as a gift from God who made us male and female, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life,
- (b) recalls that marriage is the symbol of God's unending love for his people, and of the union between Christ and his Church,
- (c) recognises that marriage is a bedrock institution of society, designed for its good order and the secure and loving care of children by their own mother and father,
- (d) notes, nonetheless, that many children are lovingly cared for in other contexts, and affirms that the welfare of such children must be paramount, along with support for their parents and other carers,
- (e) condemns any violence against or mistreatment of our neighbours who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans or intersex (LGBTI),
- (f) calls on all Australian Christians to engage respectfully in the debate over marriage and to pray for the members of the Federal Parliament in their consideration of this matter,
- (g) insists that, should the Federal Parliament decide to change the legal definition of marriage, robust provisions for freedom of speech and religion are included in relevant legislation, to protect those whose conscientious beliefs mean they cannot celebrate such a redefinition; and nevertheless,
- (h) urges the Federal Parliament to uphold the classical understanding of marriage as being between a man and a woman, in accordance with current provisions of the Marriage Act 1961."

13.2 Retention of marriage licences and same-sex marriage

Bishop Robert Forsyth moved –

"Synod, noting the report provided in response to resolution 31/14, declares its view that –

- (a) if the definition of marriage under the *Marriage Act 1961* were to be amended to allow for unions of same-sex couples to be treated as marriages under the Act, and
- (b) provided clergy who are authorised as marriage celebrants under an amended Act were not legally compelled to solemnise marriages other than in accordance with God's law,

clergy should continue as authorised marriage celebrants under an amended Act in order to solemnise the marriage of a man and a woman, although it would be open for individual clergy, for example by reason of conscience, to withdraw as an authorised celebrant in consultation with their parish. Further, it would be unnecessary and pastorally unhelpful for the Anglican Church of Australia to withdraw as a recognised denomination under the Marriage Act in such circumstances."

Seconded

There was a time for questions.

The Rev Ray Robinson moved as an initial amendment to Bishop Forsyth's motion –

'Omit the word "should" and insert instead "could".'

Seconded

Mr Robinson moved as a further amendment to Bishop Forsyth's motion –

“Omit the last sentence.”

Seconded

Mr Robinson's amendments were put but neither were carried.

Bishop Forsyth's motion was carried without amendment.

13.3 Recognition, encouragement and support of faithful Anglicans

The Rev Dominic Steele moved –

“Synod –

- (a) praises God for the godly leadership of the Australian Bishops' Conference, in their unanimous adoption of the following protocol in 2014 and 2015 –

As we ordain, license or appoint to ministries within our dioceses we undertake to uphold *Faithfulness in Service*, the code of conduct for bishops adopted by the General Synod in Resolution 59/04 and as amended by the General Synod from time to time.

noting that *Faithfulness in Service* states –

7.1 The sexual conduct of clergy and church workers has a significant impact on the Church and the community.

7.2 Sexuality is a gift from God and is integral to human nature. It is appropriate for clergy and church workers to value this gift, taking responsibility for their sexual conduct by maintaining chastity in singleness and faithfulness in marriage.

7.4 You are to be chaste and not engage in sex outside of marriage.

- (b) regrets the recent appointment in August 2015 of a man in a long term homosexual relationship to a ministry office in the Diocese of Gippsland, as it constitutes –
- (i) a departure from the teaching of Scripture,
 - (ii) a departure from Lambeth Resolution 1.10 of 1998 (which rejects homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture),
 - (iii) a departure from *Faithfulness in Service* §7.4, and
 - (iv) a breach of the Australian Bishops' Protocol agreed to by all Australian bishops in 2014, 2015,
- (c) views the actions of the Bishop of Gippsland as a breach of collegiality and fellowship at a profound level and which deeply grieves us,
- (d) prayerfully and respectfully requests the Australian Bishops to appoint clergy and church workers in line with the expectations for elders as set forth in Scripture and in accordance with –
- (i) Lambeth Resolution 1.10 of 1998,
 - (ii) *Faithfulness in Service* §7.4, and
 - (iii) the Australian Bishops' Protocol, and
- (e) praises God for the recent formation of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans in Australia and, in the light of the Bishop of Gippsland's actions, encourages our Bishops and Standing Committee to look for ways to recognise, encourage and support those faithful Anglicans who are disenfranchised by such actions, and to reach those elements of society denied a faithful presentation of the gospel.”

Seconded

The Rev David Ould moved the following amendment to Mr Steele's motion –

- (a) reletter paragraph (e) as (g),
- (b) insert a new paragraph (e) as follows –
 - “(e) regrets the recent statements by the Bishop of Wangaratta, the Rt Rev John Parkes, in the media affirming that ‘same-sex marriage’ is compatible with Scripture, as it constitutes –
 - (i) a departure from the teaching of Scripture,
 - (ii) a departure from *Faithfulness in Service* §7.4,” and
- (c) insert a new paragraph (f) as follows –
 - “(f) views the actions of the Bishop of Wangaratta as a breach of collegiality and fellowship at a profound level and which deeply grieves us.”

The Rev David Clarke moved the following amendment to Mr Steele's motion –

‘Insert a new paragraph (f) as follows –

- “(f) requests that a copy of this resolution be circulated to all bishops and assistant bishops in the Anglican Church of Australia.”

The Rev James Warren moved as an initial amendment to Mr Steele's motion –

‘In paragraph (e) omit the matter “praises God for the recent formation of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans in Australia and,”

Mr Warren moved as a further amendment to Mr Steele's motion –

‘In paragraph (e) omit the matter “in the light of the Bishop of Gippsland's actions” and insert instead the matter “in the light of the actions of the Bishops of Gippsland and Wangaratta”.’

Mr Clarke's amendment to Mr Steele's motion was carried.

Mr Warren's initial amendment to Mr Steele's motion was not carried.

Mr Warren's further amendment to Mr Steele's motion was carried.

Mr Ould's amendment to Mr Steele's motion was carried.

Mr Steele's motion, as amended, was carried in the following form (with editorial change to reletter the new paragraph introduced by the amendment of Mr Clarke) –

‘Synod –

- (a) praises God for the godly leadership of the Australian Bishops' Conference, in their unanimous adoption of the following protocol in 2014 and 2015 –

As we ordain, license or appoint to ministries within our dioceses we undertake to uphold *Faithfulness in Service*, the code of conduct for bishops adopted by the General Synod in Resolution 59/04 and as amended by the General Synod from time to time.

noting that *Faithfulness in Service* states –

- 7.1 The sexual conduct of clergy and church workers has a significant impact on the Church and the community.
- 7.2 Sexuality is a gift from God and is integral to human nature. It is appropriate for clergy and church workers to value this gift, taking responsibility for their sexual conduct by maintaining chastity in singleness and faithfulness in marriage.
- 7.4 You are to be chaste and not engage in sex outside of marriage.

- (b) regrets the recent appointment in August 2015 of a man in a long term homosexual relationship to a ministry office in the Diocese of Gippsland, as it constitutes –
 - (i) a departure from the teaching of Scripture,
 - (ii) a departure from Lambeth Resolution 1.10 of 1998 (which rejects homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture),
 - (iii) a departure from *Faithfulness in Service* §7.4, and
 - (iv) a breach of the Australian Bishops' Protocol agreed to by all Australian bishops in 2014, 2015,
- (c) views the actions of the Bishop of Gippsland as a breach of collegiality and fellowship at a profound level and which deeply grieves us,
- (d) prayerfully and respectfully requests the Australian Bishops to appoint clergy and church workers in line with the expectations for elders as set forth in Scripture and in accordance with –
 - (i) Lambeth Resolution 1.10 of 1998,
 - (ii) *Faithfulness in Service* §7.4, and
 - (iii) the Australian Bishops' Protocol, and
- (e) regrets the recent statements by the Bishop of Wangaratta, the Rt Rev John Parkes, in the media affirming that 'same-sex marriage' is compatible with Scripture, as it constitutes –
 - (i) a departure from the teaching of Scripture,
 - (ii) a departure from *Faithfulness in Service* §7.4," and
- (f) views the actions of the Bishop of Wangaratta as a breach of collegiality and fellowship at a profound level and which deeply grieves us,
- (g) praises God for the recent formation of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans in Australia and, in the light of the actions of the Bishops of Gippsland and Wangaratta, encourages our Bishops and Standing Committee to look for ways to recognise, encourage and support those faithful Anglicans who are disenfranchised by such actions, and to reach those elements of society denied a faithful presentation of the gospel, and
- (h) requests that a copy of this resolution be circulated to all bishops and assistant bishops in the Anglican Church of Australia.'

Adjournment

At 9:38 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 3.15 pm on Monday 19 October 2015.”

We certify that, to the best of our recollection, these minutes are a correct record of the Synod's proceedings.

Two Members of the)
 Minute Reading Committee)

Signed by the President

19 October 2015

50th Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

2nd Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Monday 19 October 2015

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Bible study

Canon Stephen Gibson led the Bible study.

3. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Wednesday 14 October 2015.

4. Answers to Questions

4.1 Itinerant preachers employed by Evangelism and New Churches

The Rev Matthew Lemsing asked the following question –

How many itinerant preachers and how many student ministers has Evangelism Ministries employed each year from 2005 to the present?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The number of itinerant preachers employed by Evangelism and New Churches ranged from 2 to 6 over the period.

ENC engaged either 5 or 6 student ministers from 2005 to 2009, none from 2010 to 2014 and 4 in 2015.

Further details will be provided in tabular form on the notice board in the foyer and on the SDS website.

Attachment: Synod Question 1

Year	Itinerant preachers	Student ministers
2005	6	5
2006	4	5
2007	3	6
2008	5	5
2009	5	6
2010	3	0
2011	3	0
2012	2	0

Year	Itinerant preachers	Student ministers
2013	3	0
2014	3	0
2015	4	4

4.2 Simplified form of the Doctrine Commission's report into Human Sexuality and the Same Sex Marriage Debate

The Rev Jeremy Tonks asked the following question –

Is the Archbishop aware of any plans to provide a simplified and more accessible summary of the Doctrine Commission's "Human Sexuality ... (and the same sex marriage debate)"?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

At its December 2014 meeting, the Standing Committee requested Anglican Media (in consultation with the Chair of the Doctrine Commission) to communicate the report through "the publication of a condensed version...in Southern Cross" and "the preparation and dissemination...of material conveying the key elements of the report to broader audiences".

In March this year, Anglican Media published a feature article in Southern Cross titled "Beneath the Surface" which contained a summary of the key elements on the report. A PDF copy of the March Edition of Southern Cross can be accessed at sydneyanglicans.net.

4.3 Parishes that contribute to the central Diocesan funds and organisations

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked the following question –

Are there any other parishes that contribute by ordinance to central Diocesan funds and organisations other than those listed at page 140 of Book 1 (red book)? If so, can a list be provided to Synod of the churches, the receiving funds/organisations and the annual amounts?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The answer is shown in tabular form and will be available on the notice board in the foyer and on the SDS website.

Attachment: Synod Question 3

Organisation/fund and Parish	Amount distributed in 2014
Diocesan Endowment	
St Laurence	\$14,303
Miranda*	\$3,134
*From September 2015 distributions are instead made to the Synod Fund.	
Endowment of the See Expenditure Fund	
Ryde	\$81,727
Northern Regional Council	
Hunters Hill	\$2,689

Organisation/fund and Parish	Amount distributed in 2014
South Sydney Regional Council	
York Street	\$354
Surry Hills	\$3,469
Leichhardt	
Darling Street	\$39,782**
Randwick	\$1,253
	\$18,118
	** This figure is larger than usual given late distribution of some 2013 funds.
Georges River Regional Council	
Liverpool	\$17,961
Other	
The Parish of Campbelltown makes contributions to the Sydney Anglican Indigenous People's Ministry Committee.	
The parish of Leichhardt makes contributions to CMS.	
The parish of Liverpool makes contributions to the parish of Fairfield with Bossley Park.	
The parish of Malabar makes contributions to Unichurch (UNSW).	
	Unknown

Notes:

1. The question uses the present tense. The answer therefore includes parish contributions from investment and lease income but not one-off past contributions made from sale proceeds.
2. The list only includes contributions made under an ordinance. It should be noted that other parishes may also make direct contributions to organisations from their own funds.
3. The list does not include the payments from parishes already listed on page 140 of the Synod Book.

4.4 Use of Greenfield Grant money

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked the following question –

In answer to my question dated 12 October 2015, on Brownfield Grants (made from a one-off distribution in 2007 from the Diocesan Endowment for various building projects) it was advised that \$2.4 million was spent on “other”.

- (a) Could a breakdown of this \$2.4 million be provided to Synod?
- (b) And if not, can an indication be given of the general purposes to which the expenditure was put?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

All of the \$2.4m was applied to supplement the Land Acquisition Levy funds used to purchase the Mission Property Committee's most recent sites at Leppington (\$1.5m) and Marsden Park (\$0.9m).

4.5 Development of Safe Ministry Training resources

The Rev Craig Schafer asked the following question –

In relation to paragraph 48 of the Safe Ministry Board (SMB) and PSU report –

- (a) Will the SMB consult with rectors as part of its considerations of online delivery of safe ministry content?
- (b) Is the SMB aware if other churches in Australia are successfully using online safe ministry training?
- (c) When does the SMB anticipate that its considerations will reach a conclusion?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Yes. There are also 2 Rectors who are currently members of the Safe Ministry Board (the “Board”) who bring a parish perspective to the delivery of training.

The Board would encourage any Rectors who wish to be consulted in relation to the online delivery of safe ministry training content to email the Professional Standards Unit.

The Board has also already surveyed Safe Ministry Representatives in relation to safe ministry training earlier this year. The Board has noted that there is strong support among survey respondents for an online component of the training. The Board has resolved to investigate this matter further.

- (b) Yes. Hunter Bible Church on the Central Coast is one example of a church that has developed, and is using, online safe ministry training.

The Board has recently learned that another denomination is currently developing online safe ministry training for the use of its member churches. The Board will be liaising with those involved in the development of this training as part of its investigations as to what form of training may be suitable and appropriate for the Sydney Diocese.

- (c) It is likely that the SMB will have completed its investigations into this matter by the next session of Synod, and will have made recommendations about this matter by that time.

4.6 Consultation with Syrian speaking churches regarding the intake of refugees

The Rev Craig Schafer asked the following question –

In planning how best to respond to the Australian Government's decision to accept a special intake of Syrian refugees, what consultations has Anglicare, the Archbishop or other diocesan representatives had with representatives of Syrian speaking churches in Sydney?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

I have not as yet undertaken any direct consultations with representatives of Syrian Churches in Sydney. To my knowledge, nor has Anglicare, or any other diocesan representatives.

Undertaking such consultations with representatives of Syrian churches and congregations in Sydney will of course be a consideration as the diocesan response to the special intake of refugees gains momentum in the coming months once refugees begin arriving in numbers.

4.7 Greenfields funding and the Land Acquisition Levy

The Rev James Warren asked the following question –

- (a) Is 2% “greenfields” Land Acquisition Levy enough?

- (b) If there was more money available to MPC what more could be done?
- (c) What opportunities/greenfield are we missing out on that is a great shame given the development of Sydney?
- (d) What amount (percentage-wise) would MPC find useful if they could request?
- (e) What is holding us back in increasing this figure or asking parishes with larger incomes to contribute more?
- (f) Who is best placed to reconsider whether the Land Acquisition Levy is set high enough?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Diocesan Resources Committee is responsible for providing recommendations to Standing Committee and Synod regarding the land acquisition levy and future funding of MPC.

Approximately \$2 million per annum is to be raised by the land acquisition levy from 2016-2018. Synod has set the levy at 2% of parish receipts based on a number of considerations including the demand for land acquisitions and what is a feasible amount for local parishes to afford.

The MPC estimates that \$17.5 million in greenfield land acquisitions and \$42 million for construction of new churches is required over the next 5 years. This answer excludes the needs for new churches in brownfield areas of the Diocese.

The most recent land acquisition at Marsden Park cost \$3 million, and so the levy is likely to fund 1 new site approximately every 1 1/2 years. However, this is insufficient to provide the amount of land and construct the new churches required to serve the rapid population growth in the greenfield areas of the Diocese. Greater funding would allow the MPC to make a greater number of strategic land acquisitions at a significantly reduced price. For example, in 2012 the MPC identified suitable land at Box Hill to acquire for a 2 hectare site for \$2 million, however there were insufficient funds available. Land prices have now more than tripled in this time due to land rezoning and infrastructure provision, and MPC may not be able to afford to purchase a much needed church site for that locality. An increase in funding could also allow the MPC to bring forward the construction of more churches on the 5 sites acquired that are currently vacant. This would enable the MPC to facilitate the provision of churches to effectively catch up with the population growth.

The Archbishop's New Churches for New Communities aims to raise funds for the cost of construction of new churches on MPC sites.

It is noted that a number of parishes have already recognised the funding needs of the MPC and have donated funds above and beyond the levy towards the MPC to support the mission in greenfields areas of the Diocese.

The MPC acknowledges that the need for new churches is greater than funds available, and has expressed its thankfulness to Synod for allocating the current land acquisition levy and also to parishes for their financial support. Any increase in the levy will enable MPC to provide the abovementioned land and new churches in a shorter time frame.

4.8 Safe Ministry training program costs

The Rev Roger Cunningham asked the following question –

Regarding Youthworks' responsibility to implement the Safe Ministry Training program across the Diocese on behalf of the PSU, for each of the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 –

- (a) What is the total expense of this undertaking broken down in the form of an itemised list?
- (b) What are the sources of income currently utilised to meet this expense?
- (c) What is the break-down of amounts received from each source as an itemised list?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The answer is shown in tabular form and will be available on the notice board in the foyer and on the SDS website.

SAFE MINISTRY	12.5%	14.0%	14.0%
* Proportional to the total staff allocation to support Safe Ministry in the year received.	Youthworks Ministry Support employed 1.2 staff tasked to support Safe Ministry in 2013. This figure represents 12.5% of the total team capacity. The team employed a total of 9.6 staff.	Youthworks Ministry Support employed 1.2 staff tasked to support Safe Ministry in 2014. This figure represents 14% of the total team capacity. The team employed a total of 8.6 staff.	Youthworks Ministry Support employed 1.4 staff tasked to support Safe Ministry in 2015. This figure represents 14% of the total team capacity. The team employed a total of 9.6 staff.

Safe Ministry Item	2013	2014	2015 Budget
Income	\$	\$	\$
Training	29,205	26,498	37,000
PCR	100,000	100,000	103,000
TOTAL	129,205	126,498	140,000

Expenses	\$	\$	\$
Staff Salaries*	90,394	87,737	109,152
Staff on-costs*	12,096	14,776	19,633
Marketing/ Promotions*	11,875	13,300	22,065
Financial Fees*	875	586	1,008
Depreciation*	527	485	588
Safe Ministry Program Expenses	22,108	8,000	6,000
Communication/ Information Technology*	2,582	2,458	3,158
Office Costs	2,040	2,463	2,436
Accounting and Head Office*	11,962	13,398	13,300
TOTAL	154,459	143,203	177,340

SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(25,254)	(16,705)	(37,340)
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4.9 Special Religious Education training program costs

The Rev Roger Cunningham asked the following question –

Regarding Youthworks' responsibility to implement the Special Religious Education (SRE) accreditation program across the Diocese on behalf of the Archbishop, for each of the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 –

- What is the total expense of this undertaking broken down in the form of an itemised list?
- What are the sources of income currently utilised to meet this expense?
- What is the break-down of amounts received from each source as an itemised list?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The answer is shown in tabular form and will be available on the notice board in the foyer and on the SDS website.

SRE MINISTRY			
ASSUMPTIONS	55%	55%	55%
* Proportional to the total staff tasked to support SRE in the year received.	Youthworks Ministry Support employed 5.2 staff tasked to support SRE in 2013. This figure represents 55% of the total team capacity. The team employed a total of 9.6 staff.	Youthworks Ministry Support employed 4.6 staff tasked to support SRE in 2014. This figure represents 55% of the total team capacity. The team employed a total of 8.6 staff.	Youthworks Ministry Support employed 5.2 staff tasked to support SRE in 2015. This figure represents 55% of the total team capacity. The team employed a total of 9.6 staff.

SRE Item	2013	2014	2015 Budget
Income	\$	\$	\$
SRE Training	32,972	44,760	52,000
Donations	400,658	504,966	523,000
Grant*	176,000	177,300	200,000
TOTAL	609,630	727,026	775,000

Expenses	\$	\$	\$
Staff Salaries*	398,191	344,680	428,811
Staff on-costs*	55,715	58,052	77,131
Marketing/ Promotions	52,250	52,250	86,687
Fundraising*	76,750	140,740	207,000
Financial Fees*	3,444	2,304	3,960
Depreciation*	2,321	1,745	2,310
SRE Program Expenses	10,589	16,369	21,000
Communication/ Information Technology*	11,361	10,818	12,408
Office Rent*	8,973	9,681	9,570
Sundry*	968	310	1,015
Accounting and Head Office*	52,635	52,635	52,635
TOTAL	673,197	689,584	902,527

SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(63,567)	37,442	(127,527)
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4.10 Review of Regional Councils

The Rev Roger Cunningham asked the following question –

When was a review of the purpose and effectiveness of Regional Councils last conducted?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Standing Committee conducted a review into the effectiveness of regionalism in 2006. This was in response to a proposal in the explanatory statement for the bill for the Regions Ordinance 1995 that such a review be undertaken.

The 2006 review involved canvassing the views of regional bishops and regional councils and considered that major changes to regionalism at that time were not justified. Instead a number of minor changes were recommended and adopted by the Synod in passing the Regions Amendment Ordinance 2006.

4.11 Online delivery of Safe Ministry Training

Mrs Pat Low asked the following question –

In light of the increasing number of our parishioners who are required to do Safe Ministry Training, has consideration been given to making the process easier (but not less rigorous) by making the theory component an online course, with a hard copy for those not wishing to do it online, to be completed and tested before a single, shorter face to face session?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Consideration has not been given to structuring safe ministry training in the manner specified in the question. However, this will be taken as a suggestion to be considered by the SMB as part of its investigations into this matter referred to in the answer to Question 5. Thank you for the question.

5. Procedural motions from members

5.1 Revised form of the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015

Mr Tony Willis moved –

“Synod, noting that –

- (i) with the agreement of Synod last Wednesday, a link to a revised form of bill for the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015 was circulated to Synod members on Friday, and
- (ii) notice was also given last Wednesday of the intention to seek the leave of Synod to substitute the revised form of bill for the form currently before Synod, and
- (iii) clean and marked versions of the revised form of bill are reproduced in today’s Daily Papers,

agrees to substitute the revised form of bill for the form currently before the Synod and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent this.”

Seconded

Bishop Chris Edwards moved the following amendment to Mr Willis’ motion –

‘Add the following words to the end of the motion –

‘but defers consideration of the revised form of bill until the next session of Synod.’

Seconded

Dr Laurie Scandrett moved the following amendment to Bishop Edward’s amendment –

'After the word "but", insert the matter, ", following the report of the Chair of Committees being adopted,"

Seconded

Mr Robert Wicks moved as a procedural motion –

"That consideration of Bishop Edwards' amendment be deferred."

Seconded and carried

Mr Willis' motion was carried without amendment.

5.2 Revised form of Policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

'Synod agrees to permit Canon Sandy Grant to move the following procedural motion immediately prior to consideration of the motion at item 6.5 on today's business paper –

"Synod agrees to substitute the revised form of the Policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour included in today's Daily Papers for the form of policy appearing at pages 193 to 199 of Synod Book 2."

Seconded and carried

5.3 Arrangements for presenting the reclassification motion for Liverpool South

Bishop Peter Lin moved –

"Synod agrees that after Bishop Peter Lin has formally moved the motion at item 6.1 on today's business paper, Mr Thomas George, a parishioner of the provisional parish of Liverpool South but not a member of Synod, may speak to the motion in place of Bishop Lin."

Seconded and carried

5.4 Large Property Receipts policy

Having been granted leave, the Rev Craig Roberts gave notice of the following motion –

"Synod requests Standing Committee to adhere to its Large Receipts Policy until such a time as a proposal for a levy on non-offertory income is considered by Synod."

Seconded and carried

6. Calling of motions on the business paper

The President called the motions in order in which they appeared on the business paper, except those motions about a proposed ordinance or those motions to be considered at a time fixed by the Synod.

6.1 Diocesan Doctrine Commission report on Human Sexuality

The Rev Jim Crossweller moved –

"Synod thanks the Sydney Diocesan Doctrine Commission for its recent publication *Human Sexuality & the Same-Sex Marriage Debate* and commends it to the churches of the Diocese for the clarification and confirmation of the biblical theology of human sexuality and commits to pray for those in our community who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or intersex (LGBTI).

Synod requests Standing Committee to continue its work of developing pastoral guidelines for pastors as they minister to Christians experiencing same-sex attraction, their family and friends, and their churches; and that a committee be formed of sufficient size, breadth of experience, and expertise to accomplish this, to report to Synod in 2017.”

Seconded and carried

6.2 Review of Regional Councils

The Rev Roger Cunningham moved –

“Synod requests Standing Committee to conduct a review of the purpose and effectiveness of Regional Councils.”

Seconded and carried

6.3 Effective Ministry under God

The Rev Robin Kinstead moved –

“Synod –

- (a) recognises and gives thanks to God for the work of the dedicated staff of Effective Ministry;
- (b) commends the online resource effectiveministry.org and encourages rectors, other clergy and lay people to visit the website, to explore the resources and to use those which suit their local ministry.”

Seconded and carried

6.4 Priscilla and Aquila Centre

The Rev Alistair Seabrook moved –

“Synod, acknowledging the perfect wisdom of our Creator in making us male and female to complement each other as we work together in his world –

- (a) thanks God for the work of the Priscilla and Aquila Centre at Moore College and particularly the leadership of its Director, Jane Tooher, in helping us think through the implications of God’s good design for the ministry in this Diocese, and
- (b) recommends the forthcoming conference on Monday 1 February 2016 to the ministry teams of the churches and organisations represented at this Synod.”

Seconded and carried

7. Motions

7.1 Liverpool South: Reclassification as a Parish

Bishop Peter Lin moved –

“Synod assents to the reclassification of Liverpool South as a parish with effect from 1 January 2016.”

Seconded

Mr Thomas George spoke to Bishop Lin’s motion.

The motion was put and was carried by acclamation.

Bishop Lin led the Synod in prayer for the provisional parish of Liverpool South.

7.2 **Glenmore Park: Reclassification as a Parish**

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

“Synod assents to the reclassification of Glenmore Park as a parish with effect from 1 January 2016.”

Seconded and carried by acclamation

The Rev Neil Atwood led the Synod in prayer for the provisional parish of Glenmore Park.

7.3 **Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015**

Bishop Robert Forsyth moved –

“That the Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

7.4 **Revised form of Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour**

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

“Synod agrees to substitute the revised form of the Policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour included in today’s Daily Papers for the form of policy appearing at pages 193 to 199 of Synod Book 2.”

Seconded and carried

7.5 **Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour**

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

“That the *Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour* be approved in principle.”

Seconded

The President asked –

“Does any member have a question about the proposed policy?”

There was a time for questions.

The President asked –

“Does any member wish to speak against the motion, or move an amendment to it?”

There was no member who wished to speak against the motion or move an amendment to it.

The motion that the ordinance be approved in principle was put and was carried.

Canon Grant moved –

“That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of *the Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour*.”

Seconded and carried

Before consideration of the text of the proposed ordinance in Committee had concluded, the Deputy Chair of Committees reported the proposed ordinance with amendments.

Canon Grant moved –

“That the report of the Deputy Chair of Committees be adopted.”

Seconded and carried

8. Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee presentation

Professor Chris Bellenger gave a presentation regarding the work of the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee.

Canon Mark Williamson led the Synod in prayer for the work of the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee.

Adjournment

At 5:45 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.00 pm tonight.”

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.00 pm.

9. Missionary Hour

Canon Andy Lines, General Secretary of Anglican Mission in England (AMiE), gave a presentation regarding the current state of the Church of England and the work of AMiE in establishing and supporting new churches in England.

The Rev Alan Lukabyo gave a presentation regarding the use of Moore Theological College’s Preliminary Theological Certificate in the Anglican Province of the Indian Ocean (Mauritius, Seychelles and Madagascar).

Following the presentations the Archbishop led the Synod in prayer for the work of AMiE and the continuing ministry partnership with the Anglican Province of the Indian Ocean and the impact of PTC.

10. Motions

10.1 Bishop Robert Forsyth

The Rev Andrew Katay moved –

“Noting that this will be Bishop Robert Forsyth’s last Synod, Synod gives thanks to God for Bishop Forsyth’s nearly 40 years of ordained ministry both in the Diocese of Sydney and beyond. As a curate in the parishes of Glenbrook and Holy Trinity, Adelaide, as Rector of St Barnabas Broadway, and as Bishop of South Sydney, Robert has proclaimed Christ, warning and teaching with wisdom, so that people might be presented mature in Christ. As Chaplain to the University of Sydney, and for over 20 years the Chairman of The EU Graduates Fund, Robert pioneered a model of partnership with the Sydney University Evangelical Union which continues to bear fruit today. As Bishop of South Sydney, Robert has overseen a revitalisation of gospel ministry throughout the Region, with many churches turning around and a significant number of churches planted. Through his membership of

the Standing Committee, the Archbishop's liturgical panel, and the renewing structures taskforce, Robert has served the Synod with creativity and wisdom. As he moves into a new sphere of ministry, Synod thanks God for both Robert and Margaret, and prays that he will continue both to bless them, and to bless others through them, so that Jesus Christ will be honoured as Lord and Saviour."

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Mr Katay led the Synod in prayer for Bishop Forsyth and his family.

11. Procedural Motion

11.1 Consideration of Ministry progress and brownfields' grants

The Rev Stephen Semenchuk moved –

"That the item at 6.3 on the agenda be considered following the item at 6.7 tonight."

Seconded and carried

12. Prayer

12.1 Diocesan Doctrine Commission report on Human Sexuality

The Rev Dominic Steele led the Synod in prayer for those in our community who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or intersex, and effective and loving ministry to them.

13. Motions

13.1 Parental leave for parish clergy

Archdeacon Kara Hartley moved –

"Synod, noting the report Parental leave for parish clergy –

- (a) agrees in principle to making provision for parental leave for parish clergy by ordinance, and
- (b) invites Synod members to send any comments on the exposure draft bill for the *Parental Leave Ordinance 2015* to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2015 and requests the Standing Committee to take these comments into account in finalising a bill for consideration at the 2016 session of Synod."

Seconded

Mr Andrew McLachlan moved the following amendment to Archdeacon Hartley's motion –

'Amend the motion as follows –

- (a) in paragraph (a), omit the matter 'by ordinance',
- (b) insert a new paragraph (b) (with consequential renumbering) –
 - "(b) requests Standing Committee to consider whether such provision is best made by ordinance, by policy, or by some other instrument," and
- (c) in the renumbered paragraph (c) omit the matter "bill for the Parental Leave Ordinance 2015".

Seconded

The Rev Robert Cameron moved the following as an amendment to Archdeacon Hartley's motion –

'In paragraph (b), delete "finalising a bill for consideration at the 2016 session of Synod" and insert instead "bringing a proposal for consideration at the 2016 session of Synod".'

Seconded

Mr McLachlan moved as a further amendment to delete the words "a bill" in paragraph (c) and insert instead, the words "a proposal".

Seconded

Mr McLachlan's amendments were carried.

Having been granted leave, Mr Cameron withdrew his amendment.

Archdeacon Hartley's Motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

"Synod, noting the report Parental leave for parish clergy –

- (a) agrees in principle to making provision for parental leave for parish clergy,
- (b) requests Standing Committee to consider whether such provision is best made by ordinance, by policy, or by some other instrument,
- (c) invites Synod members to send any comments on the exposure draft to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2015 and requests the Standing Committee to take these comments into account in finalising a proposal for consideration at the 2016 session of Synod."

13.2 Ministry progress and brownfields' grants

The Rev Raj Gupta moved –

"Synod gives thanks to God for the contribution of \$9.32m from the Diocesan Endowment in stimulating some \$43m in parish building projects, which has facilitated enhanced new ministry opportunities, measured by notable increased attendance and offertory growth in a number of those churches.

Further, noting –

- (i) the report regarding Ministry Progress and Brownfields grants, and
- (ii) that 70% of the growth in new housing in Sydney is anticipated to be in brownfield areas, and
- (iii) the urgent desire to introduce Jesus to more people,

Synod requests that Standing Committee, in consultation with the Strategic Research Group and any other necessary parties, develop –

- (a) recommendations for Synod 2016 as to how capital could be raised for the development and expansion of church facilities in brownfield areas, and
- (b) appropriate criteria that could be used to ascertain suitable and strategic parishes to receive such an investment."

Seconded and carried

13.3 Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

"That the Synod resolves itself into the Synod in Committee to consider further the text of the *Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour*."

Seconded and carried

The text of the proposed policy was considered by the Synod in Committee. After consideration of the text was completed, the Deputy Chair of Committees reported the proposed ordinance with amendments.

Canon Grant moved –

“That the report of the Deputy Chair of Committees be adopted.”

Seconded and carried

Canon Grant moved –

“That Synod agree to consider tomorrow a motion that the *Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour* pass as a policy of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

Adjournment

At 9:31 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 3.15 pm tomorrow.”

We certify that, to the best of our recollection, these minutes are a correct record of the Synod's proceedings.

Two Members of the)
Minute Reading Committee)

Signed by the President

20 October 2015

50th Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

2nd Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Tuesday 20 October 2015

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Bible study

Canon Stephen Gibson led the Bible study.

3. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Monday 19 October 2015.

4. Procedural motions from members

4.1 Arrangements for speaking to certain motions after the callover

The Rev Robin Kinstead moved –

“Synod agrees that if either or both of the motions at items 5.9 and 5.10 on today’s business paper are passed formally on the call-over, the mover may speak for up to three minutes on each motion passed immediately after the call-over of motions.”

Seconded

Mr Kinstead’s motion was put but was not carried.

5. Calling of motions on the business paper

The President called the motions in order in which they appeared on the business paper, except those motions about a proposed ordinance or those motions to be considered at a time fixed by the Synod.

5.1 Funding of Safe Ministry Training and SRE Accreditation

Having been granted leave, the Rev Roger Cunningham moved –

“That the motion concerning funding of safe ministry training and SRE accreditation of which notice had previously been given on the business paper be withdrawn.”

Seconded and carried

6. Motions

6.1 The Rev Bruce Hall

The Rev Archie Poulos moved –

“Synod gives thanks to God for the work of the Rev Bruce Hall from 2012 to 2015 in carrying forward the legacy of Canon John Chapman as the Director of Evangelism and New Churches, in particular –

- (a) his unceasing desire to see the gospel of Christ crucified preached to all the people of Sydney,
- (b) his support for new and creative initiatives to reach people from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and
- (c) his encouragement of new church plants under the banner of Evangelism Ministries to reach people who would not be reached through our existing structures.

Synod also welcomes with joy the appointment of the Rev Phil Wheeler as the new Director of Evangelism and New Churches and assures him of our prayerful support as he begins in the vital role of encouraging and supporting evangelism and the planting of new churches to reach the lost of Sydney.”

Seconded and carried

The Rev Joe Wiltshire led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for the ministry of Bruce Hall, and the churches and individuals that he has worked with, as well as the continuing work of Evangelism and New Churches.

6.2 Biography of Sir Marcus Loane

The Rev Peter Tong moved –

“Synod thanks Canon Allan Blanch for his newly published biography of Sir Marcus Loane, *From Strength to Strength – a Life of Marcus Loane* launched on the 14th October 2015.

Synod also encourages future biographical and historical work, which records and celebrates those whom God has used to help secure and develop the evangelical character of the Diocese.”

Seconded and carried

6.3 Nomination process for electing the Archbishop

Dr Stuart Piggitt moved –

“That Standing Committee consider bringing to Synod amendments to the *Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982* to give effect to a provision that, once the minimum number of 20 nominations for a nominee is reached, no more nominators are required, and only the first 20 nominations for a nominee received by the Returning Officer will be made known to members of Synod.”

Seconded and carried

6.4 Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

“That the Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour pass as a policy of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

6.5 Implementation of the Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) determines that the Diocesan Policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour (the “policy”) commences on 1 January 2016 and that the existing

- Grievance Policy and Procedure for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour by clergy and church workers in parishes ceases on that date, and
- (b) requests that a copy of the policy be circulated to all rectors and parish councils for their attention and that parishioners be made aware of the policy, and
 - (c) requests that the Regional Bishops be offered training to undertake their responsibilities under the policy, and
 - (d) requests that the Regional Bishops report annually to Standing Committee on such training received for their policy responsibilities and on their use (or otherwise) of the policy and model procedures, and
 - (e) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the policy provided any amendments are reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod, and
 - (f) requests the Standing Committee to undertake a review of the policy after a period of 5 years from its commencement, and
 - (g) requests the committee appointed to review the *Discipline Ordinance 2006* to consider the relationship between the policy and the *Discipline Ordinance* and, in particular, to consider whether the *Offences Ordinance 1962* should be amended to include as an additional offence for clergy and other church workers “repeated and unreasonable behaviour directed towards a staff member or volunteer worker in a parish that creates a risk to the health or safety of that person”.’

Seconded and carried

6.6 Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015

Having been granted leave, Mr Tony Willis provided Synod an update regarding the process for considering this ordinance.

Debate resumed on the following motion –

“That the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015 be approved in principle.”

The President asked –

“Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?”

There was a time for questions.

The motion that the ordinance be approved in principle was put and was carried.

Mr Willis moved –

“That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

Before consideration of the text of the proposed ordinance in Committee had concluded, Mr Willis moved –

“That the Deputy Chair of Committees leave the chair and report progress.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Willis moved –

“That the report of the Deputy Chair of Committees be adopted.”

Seconded and carried

7. Professional Standards Unit presentation

Mr Lachlan Bryant and the Rev Catherine Wynn-Jones gave a presentation regarding the work of the Professional Standards Unit.

The Archbishop led the Synod in prayer for the work of the Professional Standards Unit.

Adjournment

At 5:47 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.00 pm tonight.”

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.00 pm.

8. Motions

8.1 Syrian refugee crisis

The Rev Dr Mark Thompson moved –

“This Synod, mindful of the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe in the wake of the violence in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East, remembering the open handed generosity of Christ our Good Samaritan, and aware of the abundant resources with which our gracious God has endowed this nation –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the leadership of Archbishop Glenn Davies on this issue both in public and in private, and particularly in mobilising the Diocese through its parishes and organisations to assist those in such dire need;
- (b) commits itself to support him in prayer as he continues to play such an important role in our nation’s response to this crisis;
- (c) commits itself and encourages all in this Diocese to continue to pray for the people of this war-torn region, especially those who suffer persecution for the name of Jesus;
- (d) encourages all in the Diocese to seek to build personal helping relationships where possible;
- (e) commends the Australian Government for agreeing to increase the number of refugees from this region; and
- (f) respectfully calls on the Australian Government to consider further significant increases to this number and the provision of a permanent safe-haven for the men, women and children who have suffered as result of civil war, terrorism and the policies of regimes and organisations in the area, including all those who have suffered persecution for their faith.”

Seconded

The Rev Zac Veron moved the following amendment to Dr Thompson’s motion –

‘After (f) insert –

- “(g) encourages all members of the Anglican Church in Sydney to enthusiastically and generously support the fundraising initiatives of Diocesan organisations that have committed assistance, expertise, resources and facilities towards the needs of the Syrian refugees.”

Seconded

At the invitation of the President, members made brief suggestions in speeches of up to 2 minutes each as to how the Diocese might be mobilised to assist those who seek refuge in Australia as a result of this crisis.

Canon Sandy Grant moved the following amendment to Dr Thompson’s motion –

‘In paragraph (f) omit “in the area” and insert “in all parts of the world”.’

Seconded

The amendments of Canon Grant and Mr Veron were carried.

Dr Thompson’s motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

“This Synod, mindful of the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe in the wake of the violence in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East, remembering the open handed generosity of Christ our Good Samaritan, and aware of the abundant resources with which our gracious God has endowed this nation –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the leadership of Archbishop Glenn Davies on this issue both in public and in private, and particularly in mobilising the Diocese through its parishes and organisations to assist those in such dire need;
- (b) commits itself to support him in prayer as he continues to play such an important role in our nation’s response to this crisis;
- (c) commits itself and encourages all in this Diocese to continue to pray for the people of this war-torn region, especially those who suffer persecution for the name of Jesus;
- (d) encourages all in the Diocese to seek to build personal helping relationships where possible;
- (e) commends the Australian Government for agreeing to increase the number of refugees from this region;
- (f) respectfully calls on the Australian Government to consider further significant increases to this number and the provision of a permanent safe-haven for the men, women and children who have suffered as result of civil war, terrorism and the policies of regimes and organisations in all parts of the world, including all those who have suffered persecution for their faith; and
- (g) encourages all members of the Anglican Church in Sydney to enthusiastically and generously support the fundraising initiatives of Diocesan organisations that have committed assistance, expertise, resources and facilities towards the needs of the Syrian refugees.”

At the invitation of the President, Canon Phillip Colgan led the Synod in prayer for those who are suffering, for the leadership of the Archbishop and for our response as a Diocese.

8.2 Repentance and redress for child abuse

Having been granted leave, the Rev Nigel Fortescue moved –

“Synod acknowledges that the Anglican Diocese of Sydney –

- (a) continues to publicly repent of and apologise for child abuse suffered within the institutions of the Diocese, and
- (b) continues to engage with survivors as they come forward to offer redress that may include –
 - (i) an acknowledgment of the abuse,

- (ii) financial assistance,
- (iii) provision of specific services including counselling, and
- (iv) a meaningful personal apology.”

Seconded and carried

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford led the Synod in prayer for the continuing response of this Diocese to matters of child sexual abuse and for the survivors of abuse.

9. Procedural Motion

9.1 Consideration of deferral motion of Bishop Edwards

The Rev Dane Courtney moved –

“Synod resume forthwith consideration of the motion moved yesterday by Bishop Chris Edwards regarding deferral of consideration of the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015.”

Mr Courtney’s motion was not carried.

10. Motions

10.1 Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015

Mr Tony Willis moved –

“That the Synod resolves itself into the Synod in Committee to consider further the text of the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

The text of the proposed ordinance was considered by the Synod in Committee. After consideration of the text was completed, the Deputy Chair of Committees reported the proposed ordinance with amendments.

Mr Willis moved –

“That the report of the Chairman of Committees be adopted.”

Seconded and carried

Having been granted leave, Bishop Chris Edwards moved that Synod resume consideration of the motion moved yesterday in the following amended form –

“Synod defers further consideration of the bill for the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015 until the next session of Synod and requests the Standing Committee to –

- (a) consult with the Chairs, Heads and Chaplains of Anglican schools in respect to a suitable form of the bill and any matters of principle identified in any proposed amendments to the text of the bill which have not been dealt with at this session,
- (b) invite the Chairs, Heads and Chaplains to send any comments on the bill and matters of principle to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 March 2016, and
- (c) make arrangements to resume consideration of the bill at the next session having regard to any comments that are received.”

Seconded

The Rev Fergus Semler moved the following as an amendment to Bishop Edwards' motion –

'At the end of paragraph (c) insert the matter "and the need for the Synod to have the in principle debate".'

Seconded

Mr Semler's amendment was not carried.

Bishop Edwards' motion was carried without amendment.

11. Further calling of motions on the business paper

11.1 Professional Pastoral Supervision for Clergy and Stipendiary Lay Ministers

The Rev Robin Kinstead moved –

"Synod –

- (a) recognises and gives thanks to God for the sacrificial and tireless efforts of our clergy and stipendiary lay ministers in parish ministry;
- (b) notes the need for all clergy and stipendiary lay ministers to debrief in a safe, stable and suitable supervisory space;
- (c) requests that the Standing Committee ask for a report from the Pastoral Supervision Working Group, and then review and report back to the Synod."

Seconded and carried

11.2 Career Transition Management for Clergy and Stipendiary Lay Ministers

Having been granted leave, the Rev Robin Kinstead moved –

"Synod –

- (a) recognises and gives thanks to God for the sacrificial and tireless efforts of our clergy and stipendiary lay ministers in parish ministry;
- (b) requests that the Standing Committee establish a Working Group to explore ways of making it possible for those clergy and stipendiary lay ministers who need to transition from their parish ministry role to do so with honour and dignity, and report back to the Synod."

Seconded and carried

11.3 Large Receipts Policy

Having been granted leave, the Rev Craig Roberts moved –

"Synod requests Standing Committee to adhere to its Large Receipts Policy until such time as a proposal for a levy as an alternative to a LPRP is considered by Synod."

Seconded and carried

12. Closure

12.1 Leadership of Bible studies

Having been granted leave, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Synod records its appreciation of the preaching and leadership of Canon Stephen Gibson for the Synod Service and the Bible studies during the remainder of this session.”

Seconded and carried by acclamation

12.2 Officers of the Synod

Having been granted leave, Bishop Robert Forsyth moved –

“Synod records its appreciation of –

- (a) the President for his chairmanship, and
- (b) the Chair and Deputy Chairs of Committees for their work in the Committee stages of ordinances, and
- (c) the members who helped during the session by giving advice and serving on committees, and
- (d) the services given by the Secretary, the staff of SDS, the Archbishop’s Office and Anglican Media, the music team and all those who have helped with the arrangements for sittings.”

Seconded and carried by acclamation

12.3 Minutes of 20 October 2015

Having been granted leave, Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod authorises the President to sign the minutes of 20 October 2015 upon the production to the Standing Committee of the certificate of any 2 members of the Minute Reading Committee.”

Seconded and carried

12.4 Hymn and Benediction

Members joined in the singing of the hymn “Praise My Soul the King of Heaven” after which the President gave the Benediction.

12.5 Adjournment

Mrs Catherine Rich moved –

“Synod adjourns without appointing another day of meeting.”

Seconded and carried

We certify that, to the best of our recollection, these minutes are a correct record of the Synod’s proceedings.

Two Members of the)
Minute Reading Committee)

Signed by the President

16 November 2015