

51st Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

1st Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Monday 9 October 2017

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 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

3.2 Amendment to the business paper for Monday 9 October 2017

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 9 October 2017”.’

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 Secretary of the Synod

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

“Synod hereby elects Mr Robert Wicks to be Secretary of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

6.2 Chair of Committees

Dr Claire Smith moved –

“Synod hereby elects Dr Robert Tong AM to be Chair of Committees.”

Seconded and carried

6.3 Deputy Chair or Deputy Chairs of Committees

Dr Claire Smith moved –

“Synod hereby elects Canon Phillip Colgan, Mr Michael Easton and Dr Karin Sowada to be Deputy Chairs of Committees.”

Seconded and carried

6.4 Committee of Elections and Qualifications

Bishop Ivan Lee moved –

“Synod hereby elects a Committee of Elections and Qualifications consisting of the following persons –

Mr Michael Easton	Mr Ian Miller
Mr Doug Marr	Dr Karin Sowada”

Seconded and carried

6.5 Committee for the Order of Business

Dr Karin Sowada moved –

“Synod hereby elects a Committee for the Order of Business, consisting of the following persons –

The Secretary of Synod	Bishop Ivan Lee
The Rev Anthony Douglas	Dr Robert Tong AM”

Seconded and carried

6.6 Minute Reading Committee

Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Synod hereby elects a Minute Reading Committee consisting of the following persons –

Mr Clive Ellis	Miss Jenny Flower
Mrs Patricia Jackson	Mr Malcolm Purvis
Dr Claire Smith	Mr Tony Willis

The committee to operate on the basis that any 2 members may certify the minutes on behalf of the Committee.”

Seconded and carried

6.7 Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney

Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Under section 12 of the *Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917*, the Synod declares a vacancy in the offices of members of the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney for Canon Christopher Allan, the Rev Andrew Schmidt and Mr Roger Collison, each of whom have come to the end of their term of office.”

Seconded and carried

6.8 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) Mr Peter M G Young
- (3) Dr Robert Tong AM
- (4) Dr David Oakenfull
- (5) The Rev Michael Armstrong
- (6) Archdeacon Deryck Howell
- (7) Mr Roger Collison
- (8) Mr Matthew Robson
- (9) Ms Lyn Bannerman
- (10) Ms Lyn Bannerman
- (11) The Rev Philip Bradford
- (12) Mr Peter Hanson
- (13) Mr Peter Hanson
- (14) The Rev Wesley Fairhall
- (15) Ms Holly Raiche
- (16) Mr Rick Stevens
- (17) The Rev Caitlin Hurley
- (18) The Rev Dr Andrew Ford
- (19) Ms Sue Radkovic
- (20) The Rev Dr David Höhne
- (21) Professor Bernard Stewart
- (22) Professor Bernard Stewart
- (23) The Rev Paul Fitzpatrick
- (24) The Rev Jason Ramsay

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 presentation for up to 30 minutes on Monday 9 October 2017 from the Strategic Research Group on the progress of *Mission 2020*,
 - (ii) a presentation for up to 15 minutes on Tuesday 10 October 2017 on Safe Ministry,
 - (iii) a presentation from the Anglican Education Commission for up to 5 minutes on Tuesday 10 October 2017 to introduce their new Executive Director, and
 - (iv) a presentation for up to 10 minutes on Wednesday 11 October 2017 on the website of the Archbishop’s Taskforce for Resisting Pornography,
 - (v) a 3 minute video presentation from Anglicare on Monday 16 October 2017 on parish partnerships,
 - (vi) a 10 minute video presentation on Monday 16 October 2017 on the work of the Mission Property Committee and New Churches for New Communities, and
 - (vii) a presentation for up to 20 minutes on Tuesday 17 October 2017 introducing Youthworks’ new Chief Executive Officer and celebrating 20 years since its reconstitution as “Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney”,
- (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
- (c) 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 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 or which are not in a substantially complete form 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 Arrangements concerning moving amendments to motions

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

‘Synod, noting the report “Business rules for moving amendments to motions”, agrees to the following trial arrangements at this session of the Synod for the purposes of considering amendments to motions –

- (a) after a principal motion has been moved and seconded, any amendments which appear on the day's Amendment Sheet ("priority amendments") will be moved and seconded in the order determined by the President,
 - (b) after any priority amendments have been moved and seconded, debate on the principal motion, including any priority amendments, will proceed in the following way –
 - (i) a member who wishes to speak in the debate on the principal motion or move an amendment to the principal motion or an amendment to an amendment may only do so if called by the President,
 - (ii) the mover of a priority amendment may speak again in the debate on the principal motion or move a further amendment to the principal motion or an amendment to an amendment only if called by the President to do so, and
 - (iii) if a member formally seconds a priority amendment, the member is not regarded as having spoken in the debate on the principal motion,
- and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

10.4 Arrangements for Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Response

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

'Synod agrees to consider forthwith the following motion if the *Provisional Sydney Anglican Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse* at item 15.9 on today's business paper is passed as a policy of the Synod –

"Synod, noting –

- (i) the report *24/16 Domestic Violence* (the 'Report'), and
- (ii) the accompanying document *Responding to Domestic Abuse: Provisional Policy and Good Practice Guidelines* (the 'Domestic Abuse Response'), and
- (iii) the *Provisional Sydney Anglican Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse* (set out in Section 1 of the Domestic Abuse Response) (the 'Provisional Policy') –
 - (a) commends the Provisional Policy to all clergy and parish councils for use in churches,
 - (b) invites clergy and church members to provide comments and feedback on the Domestic Abuse Response (including the Provisional Policy) to Standing Committee by 30 April 2018,
 - (c) requests that the Standing Committee bring to the Synod session in 2018 proposed amendments to the Provisional Policy, and
 - (d) requests the Standing Committee to consider and, if thought fit, act on the recommendations referred to in the Report."

Seconded and carried

10.5 Arrangements for considering the proposed Property Receipts Levy and its application

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

'Synod agrees to the following arrangements for considering the motion at item 16.6 (the "Levy Motion") and the motion at item 16.7 (the "Application Motion") on today's business paper –

- (a) the mover of the Application Motion will move and speak to the Application Motion,
- (b) the mover and seconder of the Levy Motion will make a combined presentation of up to 15 minutes in relation to the Levy Motion,
- (c) following the combined presentation, there will be a time for questions about the Levy Motion,

- (d) following the time for questions, consideration of the Levy Motion will continue in the usual way,
 - (e) if the Levy Motion is carried, the seconder of the Application Motion will second and speak to the Application Motion (if the Levy Motion is not carried, the Application Motion will lapse),
 - (f) following the seconder's speech, there will be a time for questions about the Application Motion, and
 - (g) following the time for questions, consideration of the Application Motion will continue in the usual way,
- and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

10.6 Arrangements for the review of the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

"Synod agrees that, at the appropriate time under the business rules, the motion to pass the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 as an ordinance of the Synod be put in the following form –

'That the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 pass as an ordinance of the Synod and that the Standing Committee be requested to undertake a review of the operation of the Ordinance prior to the 2018 session of the Synod.'

Seconded and carried

10.7 Consideration of General Synod – Constitution (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017 Assenting Ordinance 2017

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

'Synod –

- (a) pursuant to business rule 5.2(3)(d), permits the *General Synod – Constitution (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017* (the "Amendment Canon") to be introduced without notice, other than the notice required by business rule 5.2(2), and
- (b) agrees to consider the Amendment Canon immediately after consideration of the *General Synod – Offences Amendment Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017* at item 15.3 on today's business paper.'

Seconded and carried

10.8 Arrangements for the Consideration of the Gender Identity Report

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

'Synod –

- (a) suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent Dr Megan Best speaking to the motions at items 16.1 and 16.2 on today's business paper, if called on by the President to do so, and
- (b) agrees that if the motion at item 16.1 on today's business paper is passed as a resolution, the Initial Principles of Engagement at 9.1 of the Gender Identity Report are to be consequentially amended to reflect amendments incorporated into the final form of the resolution.'

Seconded and carried

10.9 Supplementary information in relation to coordinating the planting of churches

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

‘Synod agrees that if the motion at item 16.11 on today’s business paper is not passed today –

- (a) to a supplementary report prepared by the mover in relation to the motion at item 16.11 being provided to members as part of tomorrow’s Daily Papers, and
- (b) to consider a motion to receive this report during the time for considering procedural motions tomorrow.’

Seconded and carried

10.10 Arrangements for consideration in Committee of the General Synod – Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017

Mr Garth Blake SC moved –

‘Synod agrees to the following arrangements for considering in committee the proposed amendment to the text of the *General Synod – Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017* at item 15.1 on today’s business paper that the Ordinance commence on a date to be determined by the Standing Committee –

- (a) Dr Robert Tong AM to have up to 10 minutes to make a presentation in support of the amendment, and
- (a) Mr Garth Blake SC to have up to 10 minutes to make a presentation in opposition to the amendment,

and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.’

Seconded and carried

11. Notices of Motions

Notices of motions were given by the following members –

- (1) The Rev Dr Mark Thompson
- (2) The Rev Dr Raj Gupta
- (3) Mr James Flavin
- (4) Dean Kanishka Raffel
- (5) Dr John Collier
- (6) Canon Sandy Grant
- (7) Canon Sandy Grant
- (8) Canon Sandy Grant
- (9) The Rev Dr Andrew Ford
- (10) Professor Chris Bellenger
- (11) Professor Chris Bellenger
- (12) The Rev Joseph Wiltshire
- (13) The Rev Joseph Wiltshire
- (14) Mrs Gillian Davidson
- (15) Mrs Gillian Davidson
- (16) Bishop Peter Lin
- (17) Mr Timothy Watson
- (18) The Rev Zac Veron

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 Annual reports submitted under the Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod notes that the following annual reports submitted under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995* have been tabled and receives them –

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

Seconded and carried

12.2 Annual reports due by 30 September

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

Synod notes that the following organisations have a financial year ending 30 June and that they are not due to submit their annual report and a copy of their audited accounts until 30 September –

Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid (The) *
 Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid (The) as trustee of the Archbishop of Sydney's
 Overseas Ministry Fund *
 Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid (The) as trustee of the Archbishop of Sydney's
 Overseas Relief and Aid Fund *

Seconded and carried

12.3 Standing Committee and other special reports

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod receives the following reports and resolves that they be printed at the discretion of the Standing Committee –

- (1) 2017 Report of the Standing Committee
- (2) Synod Funds Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2016
- (3) Parish Funds Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2016
- (4) Regional Councils' Annual Reports for 2016
- (5) Amendments to *Faithfulness in Service* approved by the General Synod Standing Committee
- (6) Application of funds from the proposed Property Receipts Levy
- (7) A Theology of Gender and Gender Identity
- (8) Business rules for moving amendments to motions (39/16)
- (9) Catholicity and Communion / Theology of Communion and Catholicity (25/14)
- (10) Clergy Assistance Program – 12 month review
- (11) Consultation on Anglicare's delivery of welfare and support services
- (12) Gender Identity
- (13) General Synod 2017 Session
- (14) Kangaroo Valley, Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish to a parish
- (15) Licensing of incumbents interim report (10/16)
- (16) Lifelong Ministry Development Guidelines
- (17) Mission Property Committee – progress report
- (18) Mission Property Committee proposal to provide guidance to parishes undertaking development projects
- (19) Ordinances passed by the Standing Committee
- (20) Parish cost recovery charges for 2018
- (21) Proposal for a Property Receipts Levy (22/15)
- (22) Proposal for the establishment of the Anglican Church Growth Trust
- (23) Responding to Domestic Abuse: Provisional Policy and Good Practice Guidelines / Domestic Violence (24/16)
- (24) Restructure of the investments of the Diocesan Endowment
- (25) Review of the Mission Property Committee / Membership structure of Mission Property Committee (21/16) / Resourcing the management and development of parish property (33/16)
- (26) Safe Ministry Board and Professional Standards Unit Annual Report
- (27) Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities 2019-2021
- (28) Stipends, Allowances and Benefits for 2018 (2/05)
- (29) The Same-Sex Marriage Debate
- (30) Explanatory statements and reports on Bills”

Seconded and carried

12.4 Amendments to Faithfulness in Service

Having been granted leave, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Synod, noting the report “Amendments to *Faithfulness in Service* approved by the General Synod Standing Committee”, adopts the amendments to *Faithfulness in Service* as set out in Attachments 2 and 4 of the report.”

Seconded and carried

12.5 Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities 2019-2021

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

‘Synod approves the “Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities 2019-2021”.’

Seconded and carried

12.6 Coordinating the planting of churches

Dr Robert Mackay moved –

‘Synod, noting –

- (i) the report Proposal for the Establishment of the Anglican Church Growth Trust, and
- (ii) the report Review of the Mission Property Committee in response to Synod resolution 21/16 and 33/16 (the “MPC Report”),

requests the Standing Committee to consider –

- (a) ways to facilitate appropriate coordination between the Mission Property Committee, Evangelism and New Churches, and New Churches for New Communities, in supporting church planting and revitalisation throughout the diocese, and
- (b) amending the *Mission Property Ordinance 2002* to implement the recommendations in the MPC Report in relation to the composition of the Mission Property Committee, and notes with gratitude the long-standing efforts of the retiring Chair of the Mission Property Committee, Mr Geoff Kyngdon.’

Seconded and carried

12.7 Workload related burnout

Mr Matthew Robson moved –

“This Synod –

- (a) notes the impact workload related burnout has on ministries within our parishes,
- (b) commends our theological and training organisations in their continued education in recognising burnout in all its forms,
- (c) congratulates Ministry, Training and Development in its creation of the Lifelong Ministry Development Guidelines,
- (d) requests Ministry, Training and Development to investigate online self-assessment tools that permit Ordained and Stipendiary Lay Workers to measure their workloads to alleviate or prevent burnout, and
- (e) continues to pray fervently for those in all pastoral ministry.”

Seconded and carried

13. Motions

13.1 NSW Bill on Euthanasia and Assisted Dying

Dr Karin Sowada moved –

“Synod –

- (a) consistent with its previous resolutions (17/16, 32/14 and 38/10), reaffirms that all human life is precious in God's sight, and that the Bible prohibits the purposeful killing of innocent people,
- (b) re-iterates its opposition to patient-assisted suicide and doctor-assisted euthanasia,

- (c) recognises that there are no adequate legal safeguards possible for any proposed legalisation of euthanasia or assisted suicide that can protect the vulnerable and frail aged,
- (d) calls on Anglicans in the Diocese of Sydney to engage in the public debate on euthanasia/assisted suicide in an informed way which recognises the social, ethical and medical consequences of any new legislation, and
- (e) calls on the NSW Parliament –
 - (i) to reject the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017, and
 - (ii) to increase funding of palliative care services for all citizens of NSW.”

Seconded

Mr Graham Isbister moved as an amendment to Dr Sowada’s motion –

‘Omit the matter in paragraph (e)(ii) and replace with the following –

“(ii) to continue to prioritise the improvement of palliative care services.”.’

Seconded

Mr Isbister’s amendment was accepted by Dr Sowada and was carried.

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

“Synod –

- (a) consistent with its previous resolutions (17/16, 32/14 and 38/10), reaffirms that all human life is precious in God’s sight, and that the Bible prohibits the purposeful killing of innocent people,
- (b) re-iterates its opposition to patient-assisted suicide and doctor-assisted euthanasia,
- (c) recognises that there are no adequate legal safeguards possible for any proposed legalisation of euthanasia or assisted suicide that can protect the vulnerable and frail aged,
- (d) calls on Anglicans in the Diocese of Sydney to engage in the public debate on euthanasia/assisted suicide in an informed way which recognises the social, ethical and medical consequences of any new legislation, and
- (e) calls on the NSW Parliament –
 - (i) to reject the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017, and
 - (ii) to continue to prioritise the improvement of palliative care services.”

14. Presidential Address

The President delivered his address to the Synod.

Adjournment

At 5:15 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. Strategic Research Group *Mission 2020* presentation

Bishop Peter Lin and the Rev Dr Raj Gupta gave a presentation regarding progress in *Mission 2020*.

The Rev Dominic Steele led the Synod in prayer for mission in the Diocese.

16. Motions

16.1 General Synod – Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017

Ms Michelle England moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the General Synod - Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017.”

Seconded and carried

Ms England moved –

“That the General Synod - Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 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?”

A member of Synod indicated that they wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance.

Ms England moved –

“That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the General Synod - Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017.”

Seconded and carried

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

Ms England moved –

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

Seconded and carried

Ms England moved –

“That Synod agree to consider on Tuesday 10 October 2017 a motion that the General Synod - Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

Adjournment

At 9:25 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

10 October 2017

51st Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

1st Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Tuesday 10 October 2017

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Bible study

The Rev Ed Vaughan led the Bible study.

3. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Monday 9 October 2017.

4. Answers to Questions

4.1 Land sale ordinances

Mr Peter M.G. Young asked the following question –

What (briefly) were the circumstances surrounding the seven land sale ordinances passed by Standing Committee since 31 October 2016?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows -

The 7 land sales since 31 October 2016 concerned the parishes of:

Brighton/Rockdale,
Dural District,
Camden,
Huskisson,
St Ives,
Watsons Bay, and
St Andrew's Cathedral.

In summary, the reasons for the sale of land were:

- selling a residence to purchase a replacement residence, and
- selling land to purchase other land or undertake developments where strategic opportunities have arisen, such as acquiring land adjoining an existing church site or a new site for ministry use.

Summaries of the circumstances surrounding each of the 7 land sales will be posted with this answer on the notice board in the foyer.

4.2 Disposal of interest in St Andrew's House Corporation

Mr Peter M.G. Young asked the following question –

Is the Endowment of the See considering the disposal of its interest in St Andrew's House Corporation for similar reasons to that of the Diocesan Endowment?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

One half share in St Andrew's House Trust is owned by the Property Trust and is held for the purposes of the EOS Capital Fund. Neither the EOS Committee nor the Property Trust has given any consideration to disposing of this interest.

St Andrew's House Corporation is an independent body corporation, established by ordinance and managed by a board appointed in accordance with the ordinance. The Board of St Andrew's House Corporation has arranged to make a presentation to Standing Committee seeking Standing Committee's opinion on a long term strategy for St Andrew's House.

4.3 References to Appellate Tribunal

Dr Robert Tong AM asked the following question –

With reference to item 6.7 of the Supplementary Report of the Standing Committee "Participation in References to the Appellate Tribunal" and in respect to each reference –

- (a) What is the text of the questions referred to the Appellate Tribunal?
- (b) Who made the references?
- (c) Were the references made at the request of a person or body?
- (d) If yes, who is the person or body who made the request?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) There are two references to the Appellate Tribunal which are referred to in the Supplementary Report of the Standing Committee.

The full text of the questions for each reference will be posted with this answer on the notice board in the foyer.

The first reference concerns the consecration of bishops in a church that is not a member of the Anglican Communion or in communion with the Anglican Church of Australia. The reference is expressed as being in the context of the Rt Rev Richard Condie and my attending the consecration of Bishop Andy Lines as a bishop for Europe in the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA).

The second reference concerns the affiliation of non-Anglican Churches with our Diocese under the provisions of the *Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005*.

- (b) The Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Philip Freier.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The ACNA reference was made at the request of:
 - The Rt Rev'd Andrew Curnow, Bishop of Bendigo
 - The Rt Rev'd Bill Ray, Bishop of North Queensland
 - The Rt Rev'd Kay Goldsworthy, Bishop of Gippsland
 - The Rt Rev'd John Stead, Bishop of Willochra.

The Affiliated Churches reference was made at the request of the Rt Rev'd Peter Stuart, Administrator of the Diocese of Newcastle, on behalf of that Diocese.

4.4 Theology of Christian assembly

Dr David Oakenfull asked the following question –

What steps have been taken to implement Resolution 16 passed by the 2015 session of Synod requesting the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to revisit its report “A theology of Christian assembly” (4 September 2008), noting that this report makes no reference to prayer or worship?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Resolution was brought to the attention of the Doctrine Commission on 2 November 2015. At that time, the Doctrine Commission was working on the following reports –

- (a) Human sexuality and the ‘Same Sex Marriage’ Debate,
- (b) Community and Catholicity,
- (c) A Theology of Gender and Gender Identity, and
- (d) Domestic Violence

and as a consequence, the Doctrine Commission has not yet had a chance to provide a response.

4.5 Impact of proposed Property Receipts Levy

The Rev Michael Armstrong asked the following question –

- (a) (i) Noting that “trusts” are included within the proposal for a Property Receipts Policy (point 35), and the rationale of trusts given at point 7, does this mean that all trusts, including those with specified purposes, will be included in this proposal?
- (ii) If the answer to the above is yes, will this require the trustees to change each Trust by Ordinance, and if so will, as per current practice, each Parish have the opportunity for its members to respond to such a change?
- (iii) If the answer is yes, has any research been conducted or modelling been undertaken into any impact there may be upon the establishment of trusts in the future, especially should potential donors understand that a trust may be varied in such a way?
- (b) Has research been carried out, data collected or modelling done on the impact upon current mission and ministry within Parishes, particularly the impact upon those who may fund mission and ministry from property income and/or trusts? If so, could this information be distributed to the Synod?
- (c) Has research been carried out, data collected or modelling done, on any potential impact upon current staffing across the Diocese, especially positions such as Assistant Clergy and Youth and Children’s Ministers? Did Standing Committee consider allowing such ministry positions to be “offset” against the levy in order to ensure there is no net loss of ministry in “urban” areas? If so, could this information be distributed to the Synod?
- (d) It is noted that those who lease buildings for worship (39b) are able to “offset” these costs against their income, while Parishes which own their buildings in which worship is conducted are unable to offset such property costs (43). Has Standing Committee conducted any research or modelling upon what impact this may have on Parishes who currently do not lease facilities and are seeking to revitalise their urban plant, especially those who may have aged or heritage buildings that often have higher costs than those who lease? If so, could this information be distributed to the Synod?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) (i) No. The levy will apply to income from a trust only when it is received by the parish. This will not require the alteration of parish trusts.
- (ii) Not applicable.
- (iii) Not applicable.
- (b) The modelling provided in the report is based on data from the 2015 Annual Financial Statements from parishes. This is necessarily incomplete, because the proposed Property Receipts Levy allows deductions for various property-related expenses that were not separately captured in 2015 parish returns. The expectation of the Committee is that actual contributions under the levy will be materially less than the data as modelled, once these deductions are taken into account. The Annual Financial Statements will be changed for 2017 parish returns, so that more accurate modelling can be undertaken in 2018. Given the highly provisional nature of the indicative parish contributions provided in Appendix 4 and the Committee's expectation that actual contributions under the levy will be materially less, no detailed modelling has been done on the impact upon current mission and ministry within parishes.
- (c) No research has been carried out on the potential impact upon current staffing across the Diocese. Standing Committee considered allowing a range of parish ministry costs to be admitted as offsets under the levy proposal, but did not proceed on the basis that these were inconsistent with the 'equality' principle as detailed in the report in paragraphs 21 to 22. Where a parish has special needs or is unfairly burdened by the levy, it has the option of the provision made available for all parishes, as detailed at paragraphs 47 to 49 of the report, to seek relief by promotion of an ordinance to Standing Committee.
- (d) The rationale for not allowing ministry facility costs as offsets under the levy proposal are set out in the report in paragraph 43. On this basis, no modelling has been provided. A parish with special building needs (for example, Heritage) has the option of promoting an ordinance to Standing Committee to vary the impact of the Property Receipts Levy, as explained in the report in paragraphs 47 to 49.

4.6 Payment from Diocesan Endowment to support NO campaign

Archdeacon Deryck Howell asked the following question –

- (a) How much of the \$1,000,000 allocated by Standing Committee from the Diocesan Endowment to support the NO campaign in the Marriage Survey has already been spent?
- (b) What reasons were given for how the figure of \$1,000,000 was arrived at?
- (c) To whom is the spending organisation or person(s) accountable for the way the money is spent?
- (d) Will the Synod receive a report as to how the money will have been spent?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The full amount has been transferred to Coalition for Marriage and has been spent or committed to secure television and other media buys.
- (b) The diocesan contribution was a reflection of the expenses of running a national advertising campaign.
- (c) Coalition for Marriage Limited is accountable to its members. Each of the 4 founding member organisations appoint 1 director to the Board of the Company. Bishop Michael Stead has been appointed by our Diocese as a director. He is also chairman of the Board. Strict accounting and other controls are in place to ensure that all funds are used for the purposes for which they have been given.
- (d) No.

4.7 Support of “No” case and response to proposed legislation

Mr Roger Collison asked the following question –

- (a) How much money has/will be spent by the Sydney Diocese supporting the “No” case?
- (b) What will our response be if the proposed legislation gets up?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The Standing Committee authorised expenditure of \$50,000 for the production and distribution of the booklet *What has God Joined Together?* Sydney Diocese made a contribution of \$1,000,000 to Coalition for Marriage in support of the ‘No’ campaign, funded by a one-off draw down in the Diocesan endowment. It is not anticipated that there will be further funding from diocesan sources for the ‘No’ case.
- (b) The ‘No’ campaign has successfully raised awareness of the consequences of same-sex marriage for freedom of speech and freedom of religion. While it is hoped that this will result in a majority ‘No’ vote, the alternative outcome does not mean that our participation in the ‘No’ campaign was in vain. In the event of a majority ‘Yes’ vote, both major political parties are now acknowledging the need for any legislation to include protections for freedom of speech and freedom of religion. We are in a better position to argue for robust protections as a result of the ‘No’ campaign.

4.8 Part-time incumbents

Mr Matthew Robson asked the following question –

- (a) Are any incumbents of full parishes (i.e. not provisional parishes) in the Diocese licensed or otherwise authorised by the Archbishop to discharge their responsibilities for the cure of souls in the parish on a part-time basis?
- (b) For each incumbent so licensed or authorised –
 - (i) who are the incumbents and which are their parishes?
 - (ii) what proportion of their time are they expected to be working in their parish?
 - (iii) what other role or ministry are they authorised to undertake?
 - (iv) what impact do such incumbents have on Parish Cost Recoveries for their parishes? and
 - (v) what impact do such arrangements have on the incumbents Long Service Leave, Insurance and Superannuation?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The licences for incumbents of parishes do not specify whether the appointment is full time or part time.
- (b) Not applicable.

During the vacancy in a parish the Rector of an adjacent parish may be appointed as the Acting Rector of the neighbouring parish. Alternatively the Regional Bishop may be appointed as the Acting Rector. In both these cases there are no PCR or leave entitlements accruing because of the appointment as Acting Rector.

There are some parishes which do not have the financial resources to pay their Rector a full stipend and allowances. The Parish and Rector then agree that the appointment is for a fixed proportion of days based on a 6 day week. In these circumstances the remuneration, PCR, leave and superannuation is calculated based on the agreed proportion of a 6 day week.

4.9 Understanding proposed property receipts levy

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked the following question –

In order to help Synod members to understand and prepare for debate on this matter, could clarification be provided this week on the following matters –

- (a) What does the word “property” mean in this paper?
 - (i) Just income from buildings and land?
 - (ii) Or, also income from all investments, including bank accounts as paragraph 3(c)(iii) and paragraph 35 imply?
 - (iii) But not income from regular giving, donations and bequests as paragraph 3(c)(i) implies?
- (b) If the answer to question (a)(iii) above is yes, does that mean that any income from investments (bank or other) held across financial year(s) from regular givings, donations or bequests will be exempted on an ongoing basis from the proposed Property Receipts Levy (e.g. in the case of a very generous bequest, all or some of which the parish wishes to hold in investment for a time for future needs/plans)?
- (c) If the answer to question (b) above is yes, how will this be managed/accounted for over years if a parish, say, wishes to enhance interest to be received, by combining this unlevied income with invested income from other sources, that is to be levied?
- (d) If the answer to question (b) above is no, what is the justification for that?
- (e) Appendix 4 of the paper shows the indicative impact on parishes of the possible three models, against 2015 data for “property income”. What “property income” does that column for each parish include?
 - (i) Just income from buildings and land,
 - (ii) Or (i) combined with some or all investments?
- (f) There are some parishes who receive income from running their own businesses (in some cases doing so rather than leasing out a building to other companies to run a business). Possible examples are child care, book publishing etc. Why is income, after reasonable expenses, from such parish-run businesses apparently not included in this levy proposal, and how is this justified?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Property means assets under the control of a parish that generate income for the parish, including liquid assets such as bank accounts. This is further explained in paragraph 35 of the report.
- (b) Any property or investment income received by a parish and returned in its annual financial returns would be subject to the levy provisions.
- (c) If investment income is capitalised and not received as income by a parish then that income would not be subject to the levy provisions.
- (d) If investment income is received by a parish and returned as income on its annual financial return then it would be subject to the levy provisions. I note that the proposed levy does not touch the underlying value or corpus of the investments but only the income from the capital that is received by the parish.
- (e) The property income listed in Appendix 4 includes all income from buildings, land, bank accounts and investments that parishes included in their 2015 annual financial return. The Committee is aware that the data presented in Appendix 4 due is incomplete, because the proposed Property Receipts Levy allows deductions for various property-related expenses that were not separately captured in 2015 parish returns.
- (f) Any non-personal income that a parish returns in its annual financial return would be subject to the proposed levy. This would include the net income – i.e. profit – generated by a parish-run business such as a child-care centre.

4.10 Parish contributions by ordinance

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked the following question –

In 2015, Synod, in answer to Question 17, was provided with information on those parishes then contributing, via Ordinances, to Diocesan funds, Diocesan organisations, other organisations and for some other unspecified purposes. Could Synod please be given a revised list including all parishes which currently contribute monies, via an Ordinance, to the Diocese, its organisations and/or other organisations, including –

- (a) the name of the parish,
- (b) the recipients of the monies from each parish, and
- (c) the amount specified in each Ordinance to be allocated to each recipient?

If the information cannot be provided in answer to either point (b) or (c) above, please explain why the Ordinance was not specific about these matters.

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

An answer to this question cannot be readily compiled in the time available as there is no register of the parishes that contribute via ordinance to diocesan funds, diocesan organisations, other organisations or other unspecified purposes.

The parishes that contribute via ordinance to Synod are listed in Note 2 to the Synod Funds – Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2016 (on page 23 of Book 1).

There are a number of reasons the answers to parts (b) and (c) of the question are not straightforward –

- (a) The recipient specified in the ordinance may not be the ultimate recipient. For example, the *Hunters Hill (Woolwich Sale Proceeds) Ordinance 2016* specified that "...15% of the balance remaining be paid to the capital of the Sydney Diocesan Synod Fund" and that "... the sum of \$25,000 to be paid to the Northern Region Council" but in 2017 Standing Committee passed the *Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2017* which accepted that the surplus from the sale of surplus property in established areas of Sydney would be more appropriately used to help establish churches in new growth areas of Sydney and accordingly redirected the 15% of net proceeds (some \$379,000) to the capital of the funds managed by New Churches for New Communities.
- (b) The ordinance may specify the allocation of funds not by amount but by reference to a percentage of the balance remaining after other amounts have been calculated.

4.11 New residence for the Archbishop

The Rev Philip Bradford asked the following question –

- (a) Since Bishops Court was sold, what progress has there been in buying a new residence for the Archbishop? Are the sale proceeds still being held in investment for the express purpose of purchasing a new one? When is it anticipated that a new residence will be purchased?
- (b) Is it true that, in the last 20 years, other properties owned by the Diocese and being used as residences for Bishops have been sold? If so, which ones and what were the total proceeds from these? Also, if true, why were these residences sold?
- (c) How many Bishops are now living in Diocesan owned properties and, where they are not, how many live in their own home and how many in property rented by the Diocese?
- (d) Does the Diocese plan to acquire residences again for the purpose of housing our Bishops or does it intend to continue renting in the foreseeable future? If there is not a clear intention to acquire our own property for this purpose, why not?

- (e) Is there any thought that the proposed Property Receipts Levy will be used for such purposes?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) In my Presidential Address yesterday I announced the arrangements which have been made to provide a future residence for the Archbishop. The whole of the net proceeds from the sale of Bishops Court at Darling Point are invested by the Property Trust and are earning income. The sale ordinance provided for the sum of \$7 million to be set aside to fund the acquisition of the new residence to pay costs of providing interim accommodation and other expenses. After payment of rent plus removal and other costs, and with the addition of income earned the sum of \$6,914,477 was available as at 31 August 2017.
- (b) In the time available it has not been possible to find all the information requested, however the information for the last 10 years is set out below. If the questioner needs to know the details of property sales from 1997 to 2006 it would be best to contact the Property Trust to seek this information.

Over the past 20 years the Property Trust has sold the following EOS residences, each time in accordance with an ordinance passed by the Standing Committee:

Kieraville	\$555,000
Bellevue Hill	\$3.2 million
Greenacre	\$843,000
Chatswood	\$1.668 million

In each case the residence was sold because it was considered that the property no longer suited the purposes for which it had been owned.

- (c) Bishop Ivan Lee lives in a house in the Western Sydney Region which is owned by the EOS Capital Fund.
- Bishop Peter Hayward lives in a house he owns in the Wollongong Region. He is provided with a housing allowance.
- Bishop Chris Edwards lives in a house he owns in the Western Sydney Region. He is provided with a housing allowance. On 1 September 2017, the Property Trust exchanged contracts to purchase a house in the Northern Region to become the residence for the Bishop of North Sydney. The purchase is awaiting settlement. In due course Bishop Edwards will move into this house and he will no longer be provided with a housing allowance.
- Bishop Peter Lin lives in a house in the Georges River Region which is the Rectory for the parish where he was formerly the Rector. The EOS pays rent to the parish for this house. Before a new Rector is appointed to the parish Bishop Lin will move from his current home.
- Bishop Michael Stead lives in a house he owns in the North Sydney Region. He is provided with a housing allowance. For family reasons the Archbishop and Bishop Stead came to an arrangement for Bishop Stead to live outside the South Sydney Region for the initial years of his appointment. This was disclosed to the Standing Committee at the time it was considering giving consent to Bishop Stead's appointment. The EOS Committee expects to acquire a residence in the South Sydney Region in due course for Bishop Stead.
- (d) The EOS Committee has a long term plan to own a residence for the relevant Regional Bishop in each of the five regions of the diocese. It is expected that funds will be available to provide for a residence for the Bishop of North Sydney and the Bishop of South Sydney. Additional money will need to become available to fund the two further residences to be acquired.
- (e) There has been no suggestion that the proposed Property Receipts Levy be used to fund the acquisition of residences for Regional Bishops.

4.12 Parish Funds

Mr Peter Hanson asked the following question –

Regarding Parish Funds 951, 952, 953, 954, and 955 –

- (a) What was the maximum aggregate cash balance held in these funds in the period 1 January to 31 December 2016 (to the nearest \$100,000) and in what month was this?
- (b) What was the minimum aggregate cash balance held in these funds in the period 1 January to 31 January 2016 (to the nearest \$100,000) and in what month was this?
- (c) What was the maximum aggregate cash balance held in these funds in the period 1 January to 30 September 2017 (to the nearest \$100,000) and in what month was this?
- (d) What was the minimum aggregate cash balance held in these funds in the period 1 January to 30 September 2017 (to the nearest \$100,000) and in what month was this?
- (e) Does the \$2.2 million average cash balance in these funds earn less than 1.00% - $\$17,658/((\$2,318,074+\$2,124,484)/2)$?
- (f) What is the purpose of holding between \$1.785 million and \$1.839 million in Equity in these funds?
- (g) Has the Standing Committee Finance Committee asked any questions regarding these funds since January 2016? How have these questions altered the management of these funds?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) \$2,318,000 in December 2016.
- (b) \$740,000 in February 2016.
- (c) \$1,814,000 in September 2017.
- (d) \$899,000 in February 2017.
- (e) Yes, prior to July 2017 the majority of these funds were held in Glebe Income Accounts earning 1%, although since July 2017 the funds have been transferred to the Diocesan Cash Investment Fund which is currently earning in excess of its benchmark of 1.56%.
- (f) This amount is required for working capital. The balance reaches a peak at end of the calendar year, drops in January and February and grows through the rest of the year.
- (g) There have been no questions in the period, however there was extensive work in the establishment of the levels. It is measured back to the projected cashflow on a quarterly basis by the Finance Committee on behalf of the Standing Committee.

4.13 Synod Funds

Mr Peter Hanson asked the following question –

Regarding Synod Funds 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 153 and 189 –

- (a) What was the maximum aggregate cash balance held in these funds in the period 1 January to 31 December 2016 (to the nearest \$100,000) and in what month was this?
- (b) What was the minimum aggregate cash balance held in these funds in the period 1 January to 31 January 2016 (to the nearest \$100,000) and in what month was this?
- (c) What was the maximum aggregate cash balance held in these funds in the period 1 January to 30 September 2017 (to the nearest \$100,000) and in what month was this?

- (d) What was the minimum aggregate cash balance held in these funds in the period 1 January to 30 September 2017 (to the nearest \$100,000) and in what month was this?
- (e) Does the \$1.5 million average cash balance in these funds earn only 1.25% - $\$18,215/((\$1,659,003+\$1,451,727)/2)$?
- (f) What is the reason in 2016 for Appropriations in Fund 129 exceeding Receipts by \$205,000?
- (g) What is the purpose of holding between \$1.351 million and \$1.546 million in Equity in these funds?
- (h) Has the Standing Committee Finance Committee asked any questions regarding these funds since January 2016? How have these questions altered the management of these funds?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) \$1,791,000 in February 2016.
- (b) \$1,574,000 in January 2016.
- (c) \$2,748,000 in April 2017.
- (d) \$1,823,000 in January 2017.
- (e) Yes, prior to July 2017 the majority of these funds were held in Glebe Income Accounts earning 1%, although since July 2017 these funds have been transferred to the Diocesan Cash Investment Fund which is currently earning in excess of its benchmark of 1.56%.
- (f) Principally, it is due to a special application of funds in this year to meet the cost of responding to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
- (g) The Synod Funds group of funds includes Fund 131 known as the Synod Diocesan Synod Fund. Standing Committee has determined as a matter of policy, to establish a holding fund for the purpose of holding a 'risk reserve' of a suitable minimum amount.
- (h) There have been no questions in the period, however there was extensive work in the establishment of the levels. It is measured back to the projected cashflow on a quarterly basis by the Finance Committee on behalf of the Standing Committee.

4.14 Business case for proposed property receipts levy

Mr Wesley Fairhall asked the following question –

- (a) Paragraph 56 of the proposal for a Property Receipts Levy states that it was outside the terms of reference of the drafting committee to develop a detailed proposal for the use of the additional funds raised from the levy. It also states that the funds to be raised (estimating around \$2.5million in 2018) are to be "additional" to existing funding arrangements. Who asked the committee to draw this proposal up; what did that person/group have in mind would be the main purpose of these funds so raised; and did that person/group indicate to the drafting committee the level of funding needed to be met by this levy?
- (b) Paragraph 56 further states that the funds raised by this Levy should be used to build the "capital base" of the Diocese, and in existing urban areas. Does this mean both buildings, and land? Where is the business case that demonstrates this need in 2018, and on into future years (noting that this amount is far in excess of the needs identified in brownfields in one year by the Mission Property Committee of \$500,000)?
- (c) Why has Synod never been presented with the business case for the funds to be raised by this levy, including a justified target based on that business case over the foreseeable future?
- (d) Should not a business case first be prepared, before any new funding levy is imposed on parishes for capital purposes, including an analysis of the impact of

decline in church attendance, current occupation rate (attendance etc) in existing parishes, the capacity of transport for people to travel to church buildings in neighbouring parishes (public transport; car parking etc) etc?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) A Synod resolution 22/15, based on input from parishes during multiple consultation sessions with parish representatives, determined that a levy on non-offertory income may be preferable to the existing Large Property Receipts Policy. Some of the reasons for this are listed in the report in paragraphs 10 and 27 to 31. The following year, synod resolution 4/16 asked the committee to model a proposal that provides significant additional funding for ministry initiatives. This resolution is reproduced in paragraph 15 of the report. In order to maintain the integrity of the current synod budget, and to honour the stated desire of the four parishes that currently between them contribute an average of \$1.31m every year to the synod fund for them to be included in levy proposal along with other parishes, it was necessary to set contribution rates that would raise more than \$1.31m p.a.
- (b) To set contribution rates at a level that would raise only this sum would shift the burden of funding from our wealthiest parishes to all other less well-endowed parishes. This was seen as a violation of the biblical principles of equality and stewardship as set out in the report at paragraphs 21 to 24, as well as a disregarding of the mind of Synod expressed in motions 22/15 and 4/16.
- (c) The capital base of the diocese includes both land and buildings. As all parishes contribute to the expansion of the land component of the diocesan capital base via the Greenfields levy, the committee considered investment in the buildings component of the diocesan capital base as an appropriate and complementary application of levy proceeds. There is evidence-based research that indicates that one of the key blockers to churches growing in size is the inability to invest in their buildings. The case for brownfields investment will be made by the movers of the levy application motion.
- (d) See the previous answer.
- (e) The committee has prepared the Property Receipts Levy in response to multiple requests from the Synod to do so.

4.15 Gender balance on Governing Board of Moore Theological College

Ms Holly Raiche asked the following question –

In the light of strong community expectations about female representation on Boards, and also Moore College's own statements, in Synod papers, in recent years, including this year, that it has question of gender balance on the Board "under active consideration" –

- (a) Why is there only one female member out of 16 members, being the student elected representative, currently on the Board (according to the College's website as of 30 September 2017)?
- (b) What does the College mean by "under active consideration"?
- (c) What precisely does the College do to actively seek out suitable female members?
- (d) What would be a "suitable" female member, in the Board's view?
- (e) Does complementarian theology impact on the ability to achieve greater gender balance on the Board, and if so, in which way?
- (f) Does the fact that women may not be appointed as Rectors in the Diocese impact on the ability to achieve greater gender balance on the Board, and if so, in which way?
- (g) Can the Board advise on any other specific factors which might, or do, get in the way of low female representation on the Board?
- (h) How often has the Board considered this matter in the last 12 months?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) There are currently two female members of the Moore College Governing Board (Dr D Warren and Miss T Khatchoyan). The position to be filled by a nominee of Anglican Deaconness Ministries is currently vacant and a woman has been approached to fill this post.
- (b) The question of Board composition has been discussed at various points, most recently in connection with a proposed revision of the Moore College Ordinance.
- (c) The College pursues suitably qualified candidates from its contacts in the Diocese and in the academic sector. The principal concerns are for members who share the College's vision and values, are able to sign the statement of faith, and who have the requisite skill for a Board seeking to provide good governance to a twenty-first century Higher Education Provider.
- (d) A suitable female member of the Governing Board would be someone with knowledge of theological education at a tertiary level, who is enthusiastic about the College's vision and values, is able to sign the statement of faith, and who has the specific skills necessary at the time the vacancy occurs on the Board. This is the same whether the prospective member was male or female.
- (e) No.
- (f) No. The Moore College Ordinance specifies that at least three persons elected by the synod as members of the Council (and so members of the Governing Board) must be incumbents of parishes within the Diocese. Including the Archbishop, this means that the Ordinance requires only 4 members (out of 16) to be male.
- (g) No.
- (h) There have been at least three conversations about Board composition at meetings of either the Governing Board or its Executive in the past twelve months.

4.16 Loquat Valley School

Mr Rick Stevens asked the following question –

Concerning the Anglican Schools Corporation Report to Synod 2017 –

- (a) Did the former Loquat Valley School exist in its own right as a school of the Anglican Schools Corporation until the end of June 2016?
- (b) If the answer to the above question is “yes”, was Loquat Valley School listed in the report, naming the Principal (Mr Keith Dalleywater) and the members of the School Council?
- (c) Was Mr Keith Dalleywater the Principal of Loquat Valley School until the end of June 2016?
- (d) If the answer to the above question is “yes” was Mr Dalleywater acknowledged anywhere in the report for his contributions to the school and to the corporation?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

In answer to the specific questions:

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) Yes
- (d) No

At the end of term 2, 2016, Mr Keith Dalleywater ceased to act as the principal of Loquat Valley Anglican School Pittwater and the school effectively became a campus of St Luke's Grammar School, Dee Why. For the purposes of registration only, the school became a campus of St Luke's Grammar School at the end of 2016. Reference is made to the Loquat Valley/Bayview Campus of St Luke's in the St Luke's Grammar School Report.

The Anglican Schools Corporation Report to Synod is also used by the Corporation in communications with other parties, such as the Commonwealth and State education ministers and education departments and will be used until September 2018. The view was taken that it was appropriate to include the school in this manner.

That said, the Chairman of the Board of the Corporation acknowledges that a separate report reflecting the whole year of operation for Loquat Valley School including the departure of Mr Dalleywater would have been beneficial and apologises on behalf of the Board for this oversight.

4.17 Diocesan Year Book

The Rev Caitlin Hurley asked the following question –

Noting that –

- (a) the Diocesan Year Book has been published annually for the last 150 or so years, and
- (b) the last Diocesan Year Book was published in 2015,

Is there a plan to publish a hardcopy version in 2017 or 2018 and/or is there any plan to make the information contained therein available online?

If so, is it intended that the diocesan statistics, obituaries, ordinations, and presidential addresses of the years from 2015 to 2017, which are currently not published in Year Books, also be included?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Generally a Year Book has been published annually although there was a combined Year Book for the years 2013 and 2014 and at various times in the past.

Since early 2016 the Diocesan Registry and SDS have been developing and implementing a new database which is being used to record clergy licences, lay minister authorities and other information. Casual staff have been employed to enable a detailed review to be undertaken of the relevant information in the new database with a view to most of the content of Year Books being produced automatically. The new system will also provide a facility for individuals and parish authorities to update information online. It had been hoped that a combined 2016 – 2017 Year Book would be produced before the end of this year but this now seems unlikely. The current plan is to issue a combined Year Book in the first quarter of 2018. This will include the diocesan statistics, obituaries, ordinations, and presidential addresses since the 2015 Year Book was produced. My 2017 Presidential Address is available on the sydneyanglicans.net website and the Presidential Addresses for previous sessions of Synod are available on the SDS website.

4.18 Gender balance on diocesan boards and committees

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford asked the following question –

Given the Diocesan *Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations* which calls for gender balance of its members (Appendix 1, F(a)(i)), could the President inform the Synod of –

- (a) the percentage of current Synod members who are women,
- (b) the percentage of women members of the previous Standing Committee,
- (c) the percentage of the anticipated members of Standing Committee following this session of Synod who are women,
- (d) the percentage of members of Standing Committee sub committees, whether formal or ad hoc, that are women,

- (e) the number and percentage of these Standing Committee sub committees, whether formal or ad hoc, that are chaired by women,
- (f) the overall percentage of Standing Committee elected positions on boards, councils and committees currently held by women,
- (g) the overall percentage of Synod elected positions on boards, councils and committees held by women following the elections at the beginning of the 50th Synod,
- (h) the overall percentage of Synod elected positions on boards, councils and committees that are expected to be held by women following this session of Synod,
- (i) any plans or strategies to increase the representation of women on these elected bodies, and
- (j) any plans or strategies to increase the representation of women on other bodies within the Diocese called together on an ad hoc basis?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) 18.7%
- (b) 16.7%
- (c) 20.4%
- (d) The percentage of members of formal Standing Committee subcommittees that are women is 22.3%. Ad hoc committee membership is less certain and a percentage cannot be determined at this time.
- (e) The percentage of members of formal Standing Committee subcommittees that are chaired by women is 9.1%. Some committees do not have Chairs, and these have been excluded. Ad hoc committee membership is less certain and a percentage cannot be determined at this time.
- (f) 24.6%
- (g) 19.5%
- (h) 23.3%
- (i) The Synod's strategy to increase the representation of women on bodies to which it elects members is largely reflected in changes made to the Synod Elections Ordinance in 2013 and in the Governance Policy passed by the Synod in 2014.
Under its Governance Policy (paragraph F(a)(i)), the Synod's expectation is that each diocesan board must develop effective processes to ensure, among other things, that the gender balance of its members is adequate. This policy builds on amendments made to the Synod Elections Ordinance in 2013 which require that where a Synod elected vacancy on the board arises, the chair or other responsible officer of the board is to be invited to provide a statement to the Synod or the Standing Committee as to whether the gender balance on the board is adequate, among other things. Members of the Synod and the Standing Committee are able to take such statements into account in identifying and nominating suitable candidates to fill the vacancy.
It is fair to say that the chairs of many boards do not take up the opportunity to provide such statements. I would encourage them to do so.
In the time available, it has not been possible to survey each diocesan board to determine whether each has developed effective processes to ensure adequate gender balance. However, it would not be unreasonable to infer from the information provided earlier in this answer, that there is still some work to do in this area.
- (j) I believe there are a number of members of the Standing Committee who are already pursuing such plans and strategies.

4.19 Faithfulness in Service and family and domestic violence

Ms Sue Radkovic asked the following question –

Can you confirm that in November 2016, the General Synod Standing Committee made amendments to *Faithfulness in Service*, which included adding the following sentence at

the end of paragraph 6.3: "Abuse in a family or domestic context is commonly known as "family and domestic violence"?"

To which the President replied –

Yes, in November 2016, the General Synod Standing Committee made amendments to *Faithfulness in Service*, which included adding the following sentence at the end of paragraph 6.3: "Abuse in a family or domestic context is commonly known as "family and domestic violence"?" The separate report of Standing Committee on these amendments did not comment specifically on this in its report, but did recommend its adoption among the changes tabled in Appendix 4 of its report. The Synod adopted these changes yesterday.

4.20 Stipendiary lay workers

The Rev Dr David Höhne asked the following question –

With regard to the employment of stipendiary lay workers within the context of a Parish of the Diocese, could the President inform the house of –

- (a) Under what legislative framework are stipendiary lay workers within a parish context employed?
- (b) Who employs the stipendiary lay worker within the parish?
- (c) If the employment of a stipendiary lay worker is terminated, who would write the letter of termination?
- (d) What guidance is given to the employers of stipendiary lay workers with respect to the employment responsibilities and obligations under the relevant legislation (asked about in (a))?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(f) as it seeks a legal opinion.

Nonetheless I make the following comments.

Stipendiary lay workers are under the general legislative framework that is applicable to employees in New South Wales. The principal legislation is the *Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)*, though there are many other legislative instruments that also regulate their employment. Under rule 3.13A of the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*, the wardens appoint lay ministers with the concurrence of the rector of the parish. The wardens are the employer if they sign the employment contract. The standard-form of employment contract recommended by SDS provides for the wardens to sign as employer. It also stipulates that the lay minister is responsible to the rector for the day to day performance of the duties associated with the position, but responsible to the wardens in relation to all administrative matters.

A lay minister must also hold an authority from the Archbishop under the *Authorisation of Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015* in order to exercise the office of lay minister in a parish. The standard-form letter of appointment makes the offer of employment conditional upon the authority being granted.

A letter of termination would be signed by the employer, typically the wardens. However under the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*, a decision to remove a lay minister from their position must be made with the concurrence of the rector, so the rector will be involved in the termination, though not necessarily a signatory to the termination letter.

SDS publishes *Employment Relations Guidelines*, including standard-form employment contracts for parish staff and other resources. These are available through the Parishes Extranet. The standard-form contracts are also available on the main SDS website.

4.21 Model Parish Trust Ordinance

Professor Bernard Stewart asked the following question –

- (a) In respect of the Model Parish Trust Ordinance that has been adopted by particular parishes, have any such Ordinances varied from the Model in respect of –
 - (i) the Parish (through the Wardens) rather than the Anglican Church Property Trust (ACPT), receiving income from the hire of a church hall (as specified under 6(1)(c) as included in the Trust Property?, and
 - (ii) payment to the ACPT of 30% of the net income from the hire of such a hall(s)?
- (b) In respect of payments made for rates, taxes and charges payable, together with the requirement of the ACPT for any parish hall under the Model Ordinance presently adopted, which the following services and consequential charges be made prior to any funds being provided to the Parish –
 - (i) a property manager (in respect of repairs and maintenance), and
 - (ii) an administrative charge for services rendered through the ACPT (in respect of rates, taxes).

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Yes, however the general practice is for parishes to administer leases and licences at the local parish level in any case. This involves receiving the lease or licence income, either directly or through a managing agent, if one has been appointed.
It is assumed that the reference to “30% of the net income” in the question is a reference to the capitalisation provision in the Model Parish Trust Ordinance. This does not apply to lease or licence income, only investment income which is not invested in the Property Trust’s Long Term Pooling Fund.
- (b) The Property Trust does not deduct amounts from lease and licence income on account of rates, taxes or charges.
If a managing agent has been appointed by the Property Trust at the request of the relevant parish, the agent will deduct a management fee from the lease or licence income in accordance with the applicable agency agreement before passing it on to the parish.
Parishes are responsible remitting amounts on account of any rates, taxes or charges that are payable in connection with the real property of the parish trust fund.

4.22 Parishes subject to a Parish Trust Ordinance

Professor Bernard Stewart asked the following question –

How many Parishes are now subject to a Parish Trust Ordinance as propounded by the Manager, Legal Services to all parishes on 21 December 2012, and

- (a) What proportion of all Parishes in the Diocese does this number represent?
- (b) Given that 12 new Trust Ordinances are listed as Ordinances passed by Standing Committee in the year to 30 August 2017 (p117, Report of Standing Committee, Book 1), at this rate of progress, when will all Parishes in the Diocese be subject to such an Ordinance?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) 120 parishes currently have a Parish Trust Ordinance, being 44% of the Parishes of the Diocese.
- (b) At a rate of 12 trust ordinances per year, it would take a further 12.5 years for all parishes to have a trust ordinance put in place.

4.23 Census and diocesan data concerning population

Mr Paul Fitzpatrick asked the following question –

Would the President please provide the Synod with –

- (a) the average population per parish in each of the five diocesan regions, and
- (b) the average population per active parish clergy in each of the five diocesan regions, in the years 2001, 2011 and 2016 according to census and diocesan data from these years (where active parish clergy is taken to mean all ordained ministers on the paid staff of a parish within that region)?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Population data has been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population by Local Government Area dataset rather than the census.

The figures are set out in tabular form and will be posted on the notice board in the foyer –

- (a) Average Population per Parish by Region

Region	2001	2006	2011	2016
South Sydney	13,600	14,100	16,400	18,000
Northern	11,900	12,100	12,800	13,700
Wollongong	16,800	16,500	16,800	16,800
Western Sydney	20,700	20,200	21,300	23,500
Georges River	19,400	21,300	23,600	26,200

- (b) Average Population per Active Parish Clergy

Region	2001	2006	2011	2016
South Sydney	10,200	10,200	9,100	10,900
Northern	7,800	7,600	6,200	6,500
Wollongong	10,700	10,100	8,800	8,400
Western Sydney	12,400	11,800	10,700	11,100
Georges River	16,400	17,200	14,400	15,400

4.24 Vacancy on Trinity Grammar School

The Rev Jason Ramsay asked the following question –

In the schedule of elections sent out on August 9, it was noted that a vacancy was created on the Trinity Grammar School Council due to a resignation which took effect on 31/12/16. Why did Standing Committee not fill that vacancy during 2017?

To which the President replied –

The vacancy was the result of a resignation by Mr John Rudd, effective on 31 December 2016. However, the Diocesan Secretary was not notified of this vacancy at that time. The Diocesan Secretary became aware of the vacancy on 3 July 2017 as a result of the advice from the Council of Trinity regarding positions on the Council to be elected by Synod at this session. A vacancy was declared at the Standing Committee meeting held on 31 July 2017. At that same meeting, as is its practice, the Standing Committee agreed to defer consideration of the vacancy until after Synod, allowing Synod to fill the vacancy through the elections process.

5. Questions

Questions were asked by the following members –

- (1) Mr Peter M G Young
- (2) Mr Tom Mayne
- (3) Mrs Nicky Fortescue
- (4) Mrs Nicky Fortescue
- (5) Mrs Nicky Fortescue
- (6) The Rev Dr James Collins
- (7) The Rev Simon Flinders
- (8) The Rev Malcolm Purvis
- (9) Mr Mark Boyd
- (10) Mr Peter Hanson
- (11) Mr James Balfour
- (12) Mr Doug Maclennan
- (13) Professor Bernard Stewart
- (14) The Rev Greg Burke
- (15) Mr Mark Tough
- (16) Ms Joanna Hayes
- (17) Mr Jonathan Miller
- (18) Mr Jonathan Miller
- (19) Mr Allan Piper

6. Procedural motions from members

6.1 Consideration of motion expressing grief and apology in regards to domestic abuse

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

“Synod agrees to consider the motion expressing grief and apology in regards to domestic abuse at item 8.29 on today’s business paper following consideration of item 8.5.1 *Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Response.*”

Seconded and carried

7. Notices of Motions

Notices of motions were given by the following members –

- (1) The Rev Dr Andrew Ford
- (2) Mr Andrew McLachlan
- (3) Bishop Chris Edwards
- (4) Bishop Michael Stead
- (5) The Rev Dr David A Höhne
- (6) Mr Jim Campbell
- (7) The Rev Jason Ramsey
- (8) The Rev James Warren

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 Affirmation of all types of church planting

The Rev Dr Raj Gupta moved –

“Synod –

- (a) notes the urgency of reaching all people with the saving message of the death and resurrection of Jesus,

- (b) notes that the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates the Australian population to be 24.7million people, and increasing at the net rate of one person every 1 minute and 24 seconds,
- (c) notes the Mission 2020 goal to plant 15 new churches in Greenfield areas, as well as two new churches per mission area, and
- (d) accordingly affirms the efforts of all types of church planting that seeks to reach and save the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ as a means to see more people saved from death to life.”

Seconded and carried

8.2 National Schools Chaplaincy Program

Mr James Flavin moved –

“As 2017 is the 10th anniversary of the Federal Government’s National Schools Chaplaincy Program, this Synod –

- (a) thanks God for the 438 faith-based chaplains serving in the public schools of NSW, and
- (b) thanks the Federal Government for its ongoing support of the program.”

Seconded and carried

8.3 Statement of Anglican doctrine of marriage

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

“Synod –

- (a) requests that Standing Committee appoint a committee of suitably qualified persons to consider whether the Diocesan Education Policy, the Corporate Governance Policy Statement of Faith, or any other relevant diocesan policies, statements or ordinances should be amended to state formally our Anglican doctrine that marriage is the union of a man and a woman for life to the exclusion of all others, so as to assist the ability of our Anglican schools and other organisations to maintain that it is a genuine, legitimate and justified occupational requirement for their board members, principals, executive officers and other relevant staff and office holders to hold to this traditional Christian belief about marriage, in order to maintain the Christian religious ethos of our institutions,
- (b) affirms that such a committee could also consider any other core doctrinal matters currently relevant and contested in our society,
- (c) encourages Standing Committee to consider making any amendments suggested by the committee, and
- (d) asks that this be treated as a matter of urgency.”

Seconded and carried

8.4 NCLS Community Social Profiles

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford moved –

“Synod –

- (a) expresses its gratitude to NCLS Research for their long-term partnership with our Diocese and parishes, especially through provision of Church Life Profiles and Community Social Profiles (CSPs),
- (b) encourages NCLS Research to offer updated parish-specific CSPs to all parishes in our Diocese again, as soon as practically possible with the data from the 2016 Australian census,
- (c) commends CSPs to all parishes as an extremely valuable aid for understanding their local mission context, and

- (d) encourages every parish to consider utilising their Community Social Profile once it becomes available.”

Seconded and carried

8.5 Retirement of Dr Bryan Cowling

Professor Chris Bellenger moved –

“Synod acknowledges, with thanks to God, the outstanding service given to the education of children by Dr Bryan Cowling over the past 50 years. Bryan has recently retired after 10 years as the Executive Director of Anglican EdComm, the Anglican Education Commission.

Dr Cowling served in education first as a classroom teacher in government schools and then as a school inspector and within the senior leadership of the NSW Department of Education; as a curriculum developer, consultant and trainer, and as an Honorary Associate in the Faculty of Education at the University of Sydney. Prior to joining EdComm, Dr Cowling was the founding Principal of Thomas Hassall Anglican College, one of the Anglican Schools Corporation schools. Throughout his care Bryan Cowling has been committed to education that is biblically shaped, concerned for the welfare of the whole child and Christ honouring. Dr Cowling has also served as a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese for the past 15 years.

We thank God that Bryan has recovered from life-threatening infection and major surgery in 2016 and 2017. We pray that Bryan and his wife Megan may enjoy a fruitful and fulfilling retirement within the circle of their family and friends.”

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Dr John Collier led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Dr Bryan Cowling.

8.6 Appointment of Mr Stephen Kinsella as next Executive Director of Anglican EdComm

Professor Chris Bellenger moved –

“Synod notes that Mr Stephen Kinsella will commence as Executive Director of EdComm, the Anglican Education Commission, early in 2018, welcomes him to this new role in the Diocese and prayers that his work through EdComm will strengthen the work and Christian ministry of Anglican schools and of Christian teachers generally throughout the Diocese.

Stephen Kinsella BCom, DipEd, MEdStud, MACE, FAICD has been Headmaster of The Illawarra Grammar School (TIGS) since 2006 and before that was Principal of Kormilda College in Darwin. He has served as a teacher in both government and independent schools over four decades and he is well connected within several independent schools associations.

Mr Kinsella is married and he and his wife Gay have two adult children. He is a parishioner of St Mark’s Anglican Church, West Wollongong.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Ross Smith led the Synod in prayer for Mr Stephen Kinsella.

8.7 Church planting work of Evangelism and New Churches

The Rev Joseph Wiltshire moved –

‘This Synod gives thanks to God for the work of Evangelism and New Churches (ENC) and progress in planting churches across the Diocese, in particular, for –

- (a) two new plants under ENC at Leppington (starting February 2017 under the Rev Luther Symons) and at Wollondilly (beginning October 2017 lead by the Rev Jim Dayhew),
- (b) Grace Anglican “graduating” from ENC to become a parish in the Diocese (merging with Roseville East with the Rev Alby Lam appointed Rector in August 2017),

- (c) Church Planting Guidelines for the Diocese to assist parishes, mission leaders, potential planters in to continue planting churches and achieve of mission goals of 15 new churches in greenfield areas and at least two church plants in each mission areas by 2020.

This Synod urges all in the Diocese to pray fervently to the Lord of the harvest to raise up many more evangelists and planters and call many to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus while there is still time.'

Seconded and carried

8.8 Community Chaplains

The Rev Joseph Wiltshire moved –

“This Synod, noting –

- (a) the 2016 Census data revealing less people than ever identifying as Christian (52% down from 74% in 1991),
- (b) the hundreds of thousands of Sydney-siders who have little or no contact with our network of churches, or other Christian churches and so are highly unlikely to be invited to or come to a church service,
- (c) the increasing numbers of residents in our city from cultural backgrounds with little or no knowledge of Christ and Christian teaching (21% of homes have a language other than English with Mandarin, Arabic and Cantonese being the next most common spoken, 18% of migrants to Australia have come since 2012),
- (d) the alarming decrease in the numbers of newcomers in our churches (down from 12% in 2001 to 8% in 2016),

thanks God for the vision of people from ENC, Anglicare, CMD and Mary Andrews College and many parishes to raise up 1000 community chaplains to go out to the lost, to the tribes and deserts in our city and proclaim Christ by word and deed. We praise God for these lay urban evangelist who speak of Christ in sporting clubs, men's sheds, factory floors, nursing homes, mental health facilities, social clubs and the like humbly and prayerfully seeking to win many for Jesus. We urge all parishes to identify the tribes, deserts, sub cultures in their area to identify lay evangelists who have a heart and vision to reach these people. We encourage parish leaders and interested lay members to increase their engagement in this, and to join the Community Chaplains Training Workshop (at MAC Level 1 St Andrew's House) on Saturday 11 November 2017 (details on ENC website) and increase the missional contact with their communities for the sake of Christ and the salvation of many.”

Seconded and carried

8.9 Forum of Synod

Mrs Gillian Davidson moved –

“Synod requests Standing Committee to review the arrangements for the Diocesan Synod and report to the next Synod in relation to –

- (a) the logistics of contracting the meeting time from the current format which comprises 5 afternoon and evenings,
- (b) possible alternative arrangements in relation to the convening of Synod in so far as they relate to the times and where Synod meets.

In preparing a report for the next Synod, Standing Committee should consider the reports, resolutions and learnings which came from *Resolution 40/99 Weekend Meetings of the Synod.*”

Seconded and carried

8.10 The Rev Canon David Wong

Bishop Peter Lin moved –

“Synod thanks God for the work of the Rev Canon David Wong and Evangelism and New Churches (ENC) in developing Chinese ministry and consulting with churches across the Diocese to minister effectively to the increasing numbers of Chinese background people. We thank God for David and for the churches and individuals who financially support this work and are thankful for the many opportunities there are to reach Chinese speaking people across Sydney.

We are particularly thankful that almost 40 churches across the Diocese now have specific ministries such as ESL, playgroups, investigating bible study groups, and congregations reaching Chinese background people. This Synod commends ENC and the Archbishop’s Chinese Ministry Advisory Board for this initiative and encourages parishes to make use of David and other engaged in this work to see Christ honoured in every community.”

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Bishop Peter Lin led the Synod in prayer for Canon David Wong.

9. Anglican Education Commission presentation

Professor Chris Bellenger gave a presentation regarding the work of the Anglican Education Commission.

Dr John Collier led the Synod in prayer for the work of the Anglican Education Commission.

10. Motions

10.1 **General Synod Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017**

Ms Michelle England moved –

“That the General Synod – Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford led the Synod in prayer for survivors of domestic abuse.

10.2 **Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017**

Mr Michael Easton moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Easton moved –

“That the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 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?”

A member of Synod indicated that they wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance.

Further consideration of the proposed ordinance was adjourned.

11. Safe Ministry presentation

Mr Lachlan Bryant, Mrs Kylie Williams and the Rev Neil Atwood gave a presentation regarding the Safe Ministry Refresher Course

Adjournment

At 6:00 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.15 pm tonight.”

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.15 pm.

12. Motions

12.1 Provisional Sydney Anglican Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

“That the *Provisional Sydney Anglican Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse* 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 policy 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 policy?”

There was no member who wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed policy.

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

“That the *Provisional Sydney Anglican Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse* pass as a policy of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

12.2 Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Response

Archdeacon Kara Hartley moved –

‘Synod, noting –

- (i) the report *24/16 Domestic Violence* (the “Report”), and
- (ii) the accompanying document *Responding to Domestic Abuse: Provisional Policy and Good Practice Guidelines* (the “Domestic Abuse Response”), and
- (iii) the *Provisional Sydney Anglican Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse* (set out in Section 1 of the Domestic Abuse Response) (the “Provisional Policy”) –
 - (a) commends the Provisional Policy to all clergy and parish councils for use in churches,
 - (b) invites clergy and church members to provide comments and feedback on the Domestic Abuse Response (including the Provisional Policy) to Standing Committee by 30 April 2018,
 - (c) requests that the Standing Committee bring to the Synod session in 2018 proposed amendments to the Provisional Policy, and
 - (d) requests the Standing Committee to consider and, if thought fit, act on the recommendations referred to in the Report.’

Seconded and carried

12.3 Grief and apology in regards to domestic abuse

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

“That this Synod grieves with victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and prays for their healing and recovery. We give thanks to God for those women and men, clergy and lay people, who have faithfully supported, cared for and protected such victims in our churches and communities.

We grieve that God’s good gift of marriage can be distorted and dishonoured through the sin of perpetrators. We pray for their repentance and restoration to faithful living under Christ.

We also deeply regret that domestic abuse has occurred among those who attend our churches, and even among some in leadership. We apologise for those times our teaching and pastoral care have failed adequately to support victims and call perpetrators to account.”

Seconded and carried

The Rev David O’Mara led the Synod in prayer.

12.4 Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017

Consideration resumed on the on the proposed Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017.

Mr Michael Easton moved –

“That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017.”

Seconded and carried

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

Mr Easton moved –

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

Seconded and carried

Mr Easton moved –

“That Synod agree to consider on Wednesday 11 October 2017 a motion that the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

12.5 **Diocesan Tribunal Ordinance 2017**

Mr Michael Easton moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the Diocesan Tribunal Ordinance 2017.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Easton moved –

“That the Diocesan Tribunal Ordinance 2017 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?”

There was no member who wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance.

Mr Easton moved –

“That Synod agree to consider on Wednesday 11 October 2017 a motion that the Diocesan Tribunal Ordinance 2017 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

12.6 Professional Standards Transition Ordinance 2017

Mr Michael Easton moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the Professional Standards Transition Ordinance 2017.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Easton moved –

“That the Professional Standards Transition Ordinance 2017 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?”

There was no member who wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance.

Mr Easton moved –

“That Synod agree to consider on Wednesday 11 October 2017 a motion that the Professional Standards Transition Ordinance 2017 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

12.7 General Synod – Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017

Mr Michael Meek SC moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the General Synod – Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Meek moved –

“That the General Synod – Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 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?”

There was no member who wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance.

Mr Meek moved –

“That the General Synod – Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

12.8 **General Synod – Offences Amendment Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017**

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the General Synod – Offences Amendment Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017.”

Seconded and carried

Dr Tong moved –

“That Synod agree to consider passing the General Synod – Offences Amendment Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 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 were no questions.

Dr Tong moved –

“That Synod agree to consider on Wednesday 11 October 2017 a motion that the General Synod – Offences Amendment Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

Adjournment

At 9:30 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

11 October 2017

51st Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

1st Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Wednesday 11 October 2017

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Bible study

The Rev Ed Vaughan led the Bible study.

3. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Tuesday 10 October 2017.

4. Declaration of Contested Elections

The Archbishop declared the results of the contested elections.

The list of the results of the contested elections was laid upon the table.

5. Answers to Questions

5.1 **Diocesan land affected by any proposed land transport corridor to Badgerys Creek Airport**

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

Is any diocesan land directly affected by any proposed land transport corridor to or from Badgerys Creek Airport?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Yes.

The Anglican Schools Corporation owns land at Rossmore that is adversely affected by the proposed South West Rail Link extension corridor.

The various diocesan land holdings at Oran Park and the Mission Property Committee sites at Rossmore and Bringelly are not directly affected but will all benefit by being within walking distance of proposed railway stations for the South West Rail Corridor to serve Badgerys Creek Airport. St James Luddenham and the Mission Property Committee site at Austral are also not directly affected but will benefit from proposed road upgrades at the Northern Road and Bringelly Road respectively.

5.2 **Domestic Violence and the understanding of ‘submission’**

Mr Tom Mayne asked the following questions –

- (a) Why, during the pre-Synod briefing, did Archdeacon Kara Hartley representing the Domestic Violence Task Force, decline to mention 'female submission' when asked by the Diocesan Secretary to comment on complementarianism? Is belief in female submission no longer a pre-requisite for dealing with Domestic Violence?
- (b) Is belief in female submission a pre-requisite of the diocese for addressing Domestic Violence as stated in clause (b) of the original Canon Grant motion passed by Synod in 2013?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Part (a) of the question is out of order under business rules 6.3(4)(a) and (d) as it makes assertions and inferences. The questioner may wish to speak to Archdeacon Hartley about the matter.
- (b) No.

With the permission of the President given under business rule 6.4, Canon Sandy Grant made a personal explanation about certain inferences and assertions made in paragraph (b) of the question concerning belief in "female submission".

5.3 **Deductibility of costs associated with a ministry centre purchased with proceeds from the sale of property**

Ms Nicky Fortescue asked the following question –

With regard to the Property Receipts Levy, if a church owns a property of some form that could be sold for the purposes of a much-needed building project for a ministry centre (where church gatherings would take place, administration, etc.) would the costs associated with this centre be deductible against the income earned?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The proposed property receipts levy would not apply to the proceeds from the sale of property, as per paragraph 33 of the Committee's report. However, any income earned on the investment of sale proceeds, would be subject to the proposed levy. That said, because the sale of church property requires an ordinance, a parish may consider relying on the process outlined in paragraph 48 of the report and seek relief from the policy as it would apply to those investment earnings when it brings its sale ordinance to Standing Committee.

5.4 **Carrying over of expenses to subsequent years, under the proposed Property Receipts Levy**

Ms Nicky Fortescue asked the following question –

With regard to the Property Receipts Levy –

- (a) In the situation that in any given year expenses for maintenance and repair of a given property exceeds receipts, was it considered that costs of property maintenance and improvement could be carried over to following years as deductible expenses?
- (b) If yes, what was considered and why was it not included in the proposal?
- (c) If no, could this please be considered?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

It was considered that costs associated with an income-generating property might be offset against income from other income-generating property, but rejected for the same reasons marshalled in society against negative gearing, namely that this financial advantage is available only to the wealthy.

The possibility of a net loss in any one year from an income-generating property being carried forward to a future year as a deductible expense against future income generated by that property was considered by the committee. When the committee considered the costs of administering such a provision, it was rejected in light of the provision available to parishes to seek relief under ordinance.

5.5 **Consideration of socio-economic diversity of parishes under the proposed Property Receipts Levy**

Ms Nicky Fortescue asked the following question –

With regard to the Property Receipts Levy, what consideration has been given to the socio-economic diversity of parishes?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

In responding to the requests of Synod for a property receipts levy, the biblical principal of stewardship, referenced in paragraphs 23 and 24 of the report, influenced the committee's decision to recommend a progressive scale of contribution bands for the proposed levy. This ensures that the more property income a parish earns, the greater will be their contribution under the proposed levy.

5.6 **Moore Theological College report regarding risk management**

The Rev Dr James Collins asked the following question –

The Moore Theological College Ordinance 2009, at clause 25.3, reads "The Council is to provide at least once in each year a report, to the Synod together with an income and expenditure account and a balance sheet duly audited and such other information as may be required from time to time by resolution of the Synod. The report is to include a report on high level outcomes as required by the Commonwealth including a report on risk management within the College."

- (a) Could Synod be given a copy of the Risk Management Report for 2016, noting that Synod has been advised to see the website of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission for the financial report but the risk management report is not provided at that web link?
- (b) Could this report be provided to all Synod members by way of hard copy distribution or by email to all members, during this Synod session?
- (c) If not, why not?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Due to an oversight, the annual report to Synod for 2016 does not include a report on risk management within the College. This will be rectified in the report for 2017.

The Governing Board of Moore Theological College has responsibility to assess and manage risks that may arise in the life of the College. In doing so it has appointed a Risk and Compliance subcommittee of the Governing Board. This subcommittee reviews reports prepared by College management on risk and compliance. The Governing Board retains oversight of these issues by a standing agenda item at each meeting.

5.7 Progress of the Diocesan Doctrine Commission regarding the request of resolution 6/15

The Rev Simon Flinders asked the following question –

What progress, if any, has been made by the Diocesan Doctrine Commission in producing the report on the purpose and nature of episcopal leadership requested by the Synod in 2015 (in motion 6/15)? If other matters have necessarily taken precedence, when might the Synod now reasonably expect this report?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Doctrine Commission expects to provide this report within the period of the 51st Synod.

5.8 Syrian and Iraqi refugee response

Mr Malcolm Purvis asked the following question –

Regarding the Syrian and Iraqi refugee response mentioned in the presidential address –

- (a) To what services has the funding been allocated, and how much has been allocated to each service?
- (b) What have been the results of the Anglicare Refugee Training Program, specifically –
 - (i) How many people has Anglicare trained?
 - (ii) How many of those have gone on to participate in providing help to refugees?
 - (iii) Of those who have gone on to provide help to refugees, how many were directly linked by Anglicare to parishes?
- (c) In light of the Diocesan vision of seeing Christ honoured as Lord and Saviour in every community, what impact has the project had on the ministry of the parishes in areas where these refugees have settled?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) There were two appeals as part of the Syrian Iraqi Refugee Response. The General appeal raised \$571,000 and a major donor appeal to specifically to Early Learning Through Play programs targeted towards Syrian and Iraqi Refugees raised \$179,000. In addition, Anglicare provided \$200,000 bringing the total funding for the response to \$946,000.

The funding has been allocated up until July, 2018 in the following ways –

- \$137,000 for a Project Manager;
 - \$370,000 directed to Early Learning Through Play programs;
 - \$150,000 directed to trauma and relationship counselling;
 - \$84,000 directed to community settlement;
 - \$65,000 directed to community engagement;
 - \$63,000 directed to funding a program communications officer; and
 - \$72,000 directed to client support services (the provision of food, clothing and essentials cards etc.)
- (b)
 - (i) 450 church volunteers have been trained to date and there are more volunteers registered for sessions later this year in 2018.
 - (ii) Anglicare are currently working on a report to analyse how many people who have been trained have been involved in working or supporting refugees.

However, to date there have been –

- Volunteer opportunities have been communicated through the Sydney Anglicans website;
 - Volunteers have been contacted via phone and email directly from the training list and have been placed in church based programs such as ESL and Mobile Community Pantries;
 - Volunteers have attended a refugee picnic event in Cabramatta; and
 - Many Volunteers have been followed up and have organised donations of food, clothing, heaters that have then been distributed to refugee families.
- (iii) Anglicare will incorporate this information into the aforementioned report that is being produced on the response.
- (c) As there has been significant Syrian and Iraqi refugee settlement in the Georges River Region we have seen churches in that region working actively to reach out to connect with Syrian and Iraqi communities.

Local church initiatives to connect include –

- The Bankstown, Fairfield, and Liverpool parishes which have all commenced new food ministry initiatives to connect with their communities;
- Hoxton Park Anglican Church which has been supported in their Arabic ministry;
- The distribution of over 1000 Arabic/English bibles provided by the Bible Society; and
- Bankstown, Ashbury, Parramatta and Newton parishes have all established an Early Learning Through Play ministries targeted towards vulnerable refugee children.
- Some of these initiatives were also supported by micro-grants from Anglican Deaconess Ministries.

Anglicare is still keen to hear from parishes who wish to become involved with refugees in their local communities or supporting the initiatives of other parishes who already have established programs serving refugees.

5.9 Constitution and membership of the Anglican residential University Colleges in Sydney

Mr Mark Boyd asked the following question –

- (a) How are each of the three Anglican residential University Colleges in Sydney, being St Paul's College at the University of Sydney, New College at the University of NSW and Robert Menzies College at Macquarie University, constituted?
- (b) Does the Synod of the Diocese or the Archbishop elect or appoint any of the members of the Governing Boards of any of these Colleges? If so, how?
- (c) Do any of these three Colleges have membership as of right on the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney? If so, how are they represented?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) St Paul's College is constituted and incorporated under the *Saint Paul's College Act 1854*, an Act of the NSW Parliament. New College and Robert Menzies College are companies limited by guarantee.
- (b) In the case of St Paul's College, no. In the case of both New College and Robert Menzies College, the Standing Committee elects 8 members of the governing board and the Archbishop is also a member. The remaining member on each board is appointed by the relevant university.
- (c) Yes. The Warden of St Paul's College and two qualified members of the College Council who are elected by the Council. Neither New College nor Robert Menzies College have membership on Synod as of right.

5.10 Membership and terms of reference of the Finance Committee of the Standing Committee

Mr Peter Hanson asked the following question –

- (a) Who were/are the members of the Standing Committee Finance Committee in –
 - (i) 2016?
 - (ii) 2017?
- (b) What is the charter/terms of reference for the Standing Committee Finance Committee?
- (c) When did the Finance Committee meet in –
 - (i) 2016?
 - (ii) 2017?
- (d) What subjects were discussed in each year?
- (e) What were the tangible outcomes from these meetings?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The membership for both 2016 and 2017 comprised: Mr Rodney Cosier, Mr James Flavin (Chair), Mr Doug Marr, Mr John Pascoe (Deputy Chair), Mr Mark Robinson, Mr Ian Steward and Ms Nicola Warwick-Mayo. The membership of the Finance Committee is set out on the SDS website.
- (b) The Finance Committee's terms of reference are –
 - (i) reporting on matters of a financial nature affecting the Synod,
 - (ii) prudential oversight of the Synod funds (including the parish cost recovery group) and liaising with the external auditors of the Synod Fund, and
 - (iii) exercising powers delegated by Standing Committee under numerous ordinances.

The delegations to the Finance Committee are set out on the SDS website.
- (c) In 2016 and 2017, the Finance Committee generally met 10 days prior to each meeting of the Standing Committee.
- (d) In summary, the Finance Committee considered matters directly affecting the financial affairs of the Synod and Standing Committee, Diocesan Organisations, and parishes. Any action taken under delegated authority was reported to the next meeting of the Standing Committee. From time to time the Finance Committee brought recommendations to the Standing Committee in relation to matters falling within its terms of reference. The Finance Committee also responded to specific requests from the Standing Committee.
- (e) It is not practical to list out the outcomes from all meetings of the Finance Committee over a 2 year period. The information is available to Synod members in the Finance Committee's reports to the Standing Committee which are contained in the minutes of the Standing Committee.

5.11 Distribution made by St James' Hall to Synod funds in 2016

Mr James Balfour asked the following question –

- (a) Why is the distribution of more than \$200,000 made by St James' Hall to Synod funds in 2016 not recorded in the table on page 18 of the financial report, nor in note 2 on page 23?
- (b) Where is this significant receipt recorded in the accounts?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Beginning in 2016 the distribution from the parish of St James is being deposited with the Property Trust in a central fund along with similar funds from other parishes before being released to Synod the following year. The effect is that the money has been received and will be made available to Synod, but the particular distribution from St James Hall in 2016 will appear as part of the total coming from the Property Trust in the 2017 financial statements of the Synod. The distribution will be detailed in note 2 and identified as being from St James Hall.

5.12 Proposed Property Receipts Levy option for a parish to continue under ordinance

Mr Doug MacLennan asked the following question –

- (a) My understanding is that Parishes currently under an Ordinance for the purpose of receiving a share of income with the Diocese from property leasing agreements, will not be affected by the introduction of the ‘Proposed Property Receipts Levy’ and that such ordinances will remain in force until the expiry date of such ordinances. Is this correct?
- (b) My understanding is that Parishes currently under an Ordinance for the purpose of receiving a share of income with the Diocese from property leasing agreements, will have the option to either –
 - (i) renegotiate a new ordinance at the expiry of their current ordinance or
 - (ii) elect to accept the terms and conditions of the ‘Proposed Property Receipts Levy’.

Is this correct?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Yes. Paragraph 48 of the report proposes that parishes receiving property income under ordinance will not be impacted by the proposed levy.
- (b) Yes.

5.13 Powers delegated to the Standing Committee with respect to passing ordinances

Professor Bernard Stewart asked the following question –

With respect to the procedure anticipated in the report ‘Proposal for a Property Receipts Levy’ whereby Synod requests Standing Committee to pass an Ordinance with respect to property income (clause 3e of the report), please advise in respect of the content of relevant Ordinances, and without reference to legal opinion or inference –

- (a) Is this procedure provided for in any Ordinance determining the operation of Standing Committee, and if so what is laid down?
- (b) Irrespective of any information provided under (a), is the procedure applicable to all Ordinances (apart from Canons of the Anglican Church of Australia) which might otherwise be addressed by Synod, and if not, what limitations apply?
- (c) Can all or some of the limitations specified under (b) be suspended by the Standing Committee in respect of any particular Ordinance by passage of a motion to that effect and which Ordinance provides for this?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

This question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(f) as it seeks a legal opinion.

Nonetheless I make the following comments for the education of the Synod on this matter.

- (a) Yes. The *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897* and the *Delegation of Powers Ordinance 1998* give the Standing Committee broad functions and powers to make ordinances for the order and good government of the church in the Diocese of

Sydney pursuant to powers of delegation contained in the Acts of Parliament that constitute the Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Sydney.

- (b) Clause 5 of the *Delegation of Powers Ordinance 1998* provides that during the recess of the Synod, the Standing Committee may exercise all or any of certain powers and functions of the Synod set out in these Acts of Parliament, subject to certain limitations.

In summary, the Standing Committee's ordinance-making power is equivalent to that of the Synod except that the Standing Committee may not make –

- Ordinances dealing with cases of incapacity or inefficiency in the discharge of ministerial duty by clergy.
- Ordinances determining the cases in which the licence of a member of clergy may be suspended or revoked.
- Ordinances determining the membership of the Synod or rules for the conduct of the business of Synod.

In addition, the Standing Committee may not make an ordinance authorising the sale of land held for the sole benefit of a particular parish unless the majority of the parish council of that parish have consented in writing to the ordinance.

The Delegation of Powers Ordinance also provides that any ordinance proposed to be made by the Standing Committee can be referred to the Synod by the Archbishop or upon a request in writing from any 3 members of the Standing Committee.

- (d) No.

5.14 **Decision to contribute to the Coalition for Marriage**

The Rev Greg Burke asked the following question –

Can the President please inform the Synod about the process and rationale behind the decision to contribute \$1 million to the Coalition for Marriage's Same Sex Marriage advertising campaign?

To which the President replied –

The Archbishop answered the question by reading the attached letter dated 11 October 2017 to the members of the Synod.

5.15 **Financial assistance for spouses of clergy who have separated due to domestic violence**

The Rev Mark Tough asked the following question –

Is financial assistance available from the Diocese to spouses of clergy who have separated from their spouses due to domestic abuse and are struggling to make ends meet as a result?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

When domestic abuse in a clergy marriage becomes known, the relevant Regional Bishop and the Archdeacon for Women's Ministry are usually involved in ministering to one or both people. The most immediate need is for the provision of accommodation, usually for the wife and any children.

The Regional Bishop usually comes to an arrangement with the parish for the wife and children to remain in the parish residence for an initial period and helps to arrange the available government finance support.

The Archbishop has access to some money which can be used at his discretion but the available funds are limited and can only provide short term assistance.

5.16 **Potential further donations to other social issues**

Ms Joanna Hayes asked the following question –

Should Synod expect Standing Committee to make donations of a similar size to the ‘no’ campaign on other vital social issues such as Domestic Violence, Climate Change, response to Aboriginal Rights, and if not, why not?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

It is not possible to speculate on what the Standing Committee may do in the future, as all matters are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

5.17 **Amounts received and spent in association with the Greenfield levy**

Mr Jonathan Miller asked the following question –

Since its adoption by Synod, what is the total amount received and spent, to date, of the ‘Greenfield’ levy?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows -

The total amount received from the Greenfield land acquisition levy since its establishment in 2013 to date is \$10,104,970 million. All funds have been exhausted to purchase land at Riverstone (\$2.6 million) and Marsden Park (\$3 million) in North West Sydney, and Leppington (\$2.75 million) and Bringelly (\$4.65 million) in South West Sydney. The levy raises approximately \$2 million p.a. The levy funds have been supplemented by \$2.9 million raised through land sales to complete the acquisition of these 4 properties which cost a total of approximately \$13 million. The Mission Property Committee is currently searching for suitable land in other identified growth corridors so that it is ready to make further acquisitions as soon as funds become available.

5.18 **Salaries of SDS staff**

Mr Jonathan Miller asked the following question –

Is it possible for the salaries of the SDS staff of all levels, by sufficient grouping/banding to provide meaningful analysis and enabling personal anonymity, be made available?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

SDS provides in its annual financial reports to Synod the aggregate compensation paid to its key management personnel (namely, the CEO, CFO, and Head of Diocesan & Corporate Services). This reflects the disclosure requirements that apply to listed companies which SDS has adopted despite not being a listed company.

Given the relatively small number of SDS staff, it is not appropriate to disclose more information about staff salaries than what has currently been disclosed. However, Synod can be assured that the SDS Board’s policy in setting staff salaries, is implemented with some care, by which staff positions are remunerated to an externally referenced benchmark for equivalent positions in Sydney, subject to some variation to reflect individual performance.

5.19 Availability of annual reports for Synod members

Mr Allan Piper asked the following question –

On Monday, 39 annual reports were tabled under Item 14.1 of Monday's Business Paper. Of these, the five Regional Council reports are included in Book 1, and two other reports have been mailed out to Synod members. To my knowledge, the other 32 reports have not been explicitly made available to Synod members.

In the interests of transparency and accountability, is it possible in future years for all annual reports to be made available to Synod members, either by inclusion in one of the Synod books, circulation of web links, or some other electronic means?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The obligations that apply to Regional Councils in providing their annual reports to Synod under clause 9(2) of the *Regions Ordinance 1995* are different to those that apply generally to diocesan organisations in providing their annual reports to Synod under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*.

The Regional Council reports are to be included in the report of the Standing Committee to the Synod for that year. In contrast, the reports provided under the Accounts Ordinance are to be tabled by the Standing Committee at the next ordinary session of Synod.

Some of the annual financial reports tabled at Synod are also publicly available from the website of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. The availability of such information is indicated on the business paper for the first day of the session.

Some diocesan organisations voluntarily publish their annual reports and financial statements online, for example SDS and GAB.

However there remains a number of diocesan organisations whose annual reports are not made available beyond being tabled at Synod.

Under the Synod's Governance Policy (in Governance Standard (D)(d)), members of the Synod must have reasonable access to the annual reports of diocesan organisations tabled at Synod. It is recognised that reviewing the tabled annual reports on the Synod stage while the Synod is in session may not always be regarded as reasonable access. So, in order to give meaningful effect to the policy, members have for some years been able to arrange with the Diocesan Secretary a mutually convenient time during the Synod session to review the annual reports tabled at Synod.

6. Questions

Questions were asked by the following members –

- (1) Mr Colin Adams
- (2) The Rev Bruce Stanley
- (3) The Rev Alistair Seabrook
- (4) The Rev Alistair Seabrook
- (5) The Rev Andrew Katay
- (6) The Rev Greg Burke
- (7) The Rev Martyn Davis
- (8) Canon Tom Harricks
- (9) Ms Alison Woof
- (10) Mr Jeremy Freeman
- (11) Mr Jeremy Freeman
- (12) Mr Jeremy Freeman
- (13) Mr Jeremy Freeman
- (14) Mr Jeremy Freeman

- (15) Mr Matthew Robson
- (16) Mr Rick Stevens
- (17) Mr Ken West
- (18) Mr Peter Hanson
- (19) Mr Peter Hanson
- (20) Mr Peter M G Young
- (21) The Rev Steven Layson
- (22) Dr David Oakenfull
- (23) Mr Peter Yates
- (24) The Rev Peter Tong
- (25) The Rev Peter Tong

7. Procedural motions from members

7.1 **Modified arrangements for considering an alternative to the proposed Property Receipts Levy and its application**

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

‘Synod agrees to the following modified arrangements for considering the motion at item 8.15 on today’s business paper (the “Levy Motion”) together with the motion at item 8.16 (the “Application Motion”) –

- (a) the mover of the Application Motion will move and speak to the Application Motion,
- (b) the mover and seconder of the Levy Motion will make a combined presentation of up to 15 minutes in relation to the Levy Motion,
- (c) following the combined presentation, there will be a time for questions about the Levy Motion,
- (d) following the time for questions, Mr James Balfour and Bishop Michael Stead will both be given 5 minutes to speak respectively for and against the following alternative motion (the “Alternative Motion”) taken to have been moved by Mr Balfour –

“Synod –

- (a) commends the work done by the Large Receipts Policy Review Committee,
- (b) endorses the four theological principles of ‘generosity in fellowship’, ‘equality’, ‘stewardship’ and ‘equity with transparency’ but believes that the proposal put forward fails to match these principles as closely as possible alternatives, and –
 - (i) believes that the principle of generosity should be applied so as to enable the entire diocese to contribute to the valuable work of funding Synod’s vital programmes,
 - (ii) understands that the proposed PRL would result in some 80% of the revenue from the scheme being contributed by just 10% of parishes and believes that this does not deliver equality,
 - (iii) believes that a substantial levy applying purely to property revenue will create perverse incentives for the management of parishes’ assets which will result in poor stewardship of resources,
 - (iv) believes that the necessity to create additional definitions of expenses in the chart of accounts so as to calculate net revenue from property income, and particularly the exclusion of the funding of sinking funds from the allowable deductions, is neither equitable nor transparent,
- (c) recognises that a precedent for levying funds for vital programmes has been successfully established by the Church Land Acquisition Levy which is based on Net Operating Receipts,
- (d) notes that a levy of 0.5% of Net Operating Receipts would generate funds of approximately \$500,000, and

- (e) requests Standing Committee to submit an Ordinance to Synod for approval in 2018 either extending the Church Land Acquisition Levy or establishing a new levy based on Net Operating Receipts of all parishes.”
- (e) after the speeches of Mr Balfour and Bishop Stead, debate on the Alternative Motion will proceed in the usual way,
- (f) if the Alternative Motion is not carried, consideration of the Levy Motion will continue in the usual way (if the Alternative Motion is carried, it will replace the Levy Motion),
- (g) if the Levy Motion is carried, the seconder of the Application Motion will second and speak to the Application Motion (if the Levy Motion is not carried, the Application Motion will lapse),
- (h) following the seconder’s speech, there will be a time for questions about the Application Motion, and
- (i) following the time for questions, consideration of the Application Motion will continue in the usual way,
- and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.’

Secoded

Bishop Stead’s procedural motion was put but was not carried.

7.2 Consideration of motions relating to the consecration of Bishop Andy Lines and the Scottish Episcopal Church

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod agrees to consider the motions at items 8.21 and 8.22 on today’s business paper at 4.30 pm on Tuesday 17 October 2017.”

Secoded and carried

7.3 Consideration of motions relating to the same-sex marriage debate

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

‘Synod agrees to consider the motions at items 8.26, 8.31 and 8.33 on today’s business paper at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 17 October 2017.’

Secoded and carried

7.4 Consideration of Appointment of assistant ministers and stipendiary lay workers

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford moved –

‘Synod agrees to consider motion 8.30, Appointment of Assistant Ministers and stipendiary lay workers, on today’s Business Paper immediately following consideration of 8.6 *Assistant Minister’s Ordinance 2017*.’

Secoded and carried

8. Notices of Motions

Notices of motions were given by the following members –

- (1) The Rev Andrew Katay
- (2) The Rev Craig Hooper
- (3) The Rev Canon Stephen Gibson
- (4) Mr Philip Gerber
- (5) Mr Matthew Robson
- (6) Archdeacon Derryck Howell
- (7) The Rev Mark Tough
- (8) Dr Erica Sainsbury

9. Motions

9.1 Appointment of Mr Robert Wicks as Chief Executive Officer of Sydney Diocesan Secretariat

Having been granted leave, Dr Erica Sainsbury moved –

“Synod, noting the appointment of Mr Robert Wicks to the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat, warmly congratulates Mr Wicks on this appointment and expresses our deep affection for him, and gratitude to God for his tireless and faithful service to this house over many years as Secretary of Synod. We particularly give thanks for his thorough preparation for every session of Synod, his encyclopaedic knowledge, and love, of all things procedural; his ability to explain and simplify complex processes to assist Synod in our decision-making; and the wisdom, wit and humour which are hallmarks of his contribution. We pray for Rob as he takes on this new role, and ask God to fill him with the wisdom, courage, humility, strength and patience that he will need. We further pray that in all things, Rob will continue to seek God’s will, and that God will be glorified through him.”

Seconded and carried by acclamation.

The Rev Antony Barraclough led the Synod in prayer for Mr Robert Wicks.

10. 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.

10.1 Retirement of Mr Geoffrey Kyngdon

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

“Synod gives thanks for the ministry and work of Mr Geoffrey Kyngdon over the past 25 years in the Wollongong Region and broader Diocese, including: Member General Synod; Member Provincial Synod; Member Sydney Synod; Member Standing Committee of Sydney Synod; Member and Chairman of Diocesan Mission Property Committee; Diocesan Reader; Assistant to Bishop of Wollongong; Member Wollongong Regional Council; Member Macarthur Anglican School; Member Anglican Schools Corporation; Lay Canon St Michael’s Cathedral; Churchwarden Oak Flats; Treasurer Oak Flats; Parish Secretary Oak Flats; Synod Representative Oak Flats.

We give thanks to God for Geoff’s passion to share the Scriptures and to defend the truth of the gospel. He has enthusiastically supported the expansion of gospel work through the provision of new ministry opportunities in our schools, through the acquisition of more sites upon which God’s people will gather, and through the many important yet unseen administrative tasks within the life of our Diocese. We wish Geoff and Marilyn God’s blessing in their retirement and for their continued ministry in Oak Flats.”

Seconded and carried by acclamation

The Rev Jodie McNeil led the Synod in prayer for Mr Geoff Kyngdon and his wife Marilyn.

10.2 General Synod – Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford moved –

“This Synod, having passed the *General Synod – Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017* calls upon the Standing Committee to –

- (a) prioritise the preparation, drafting and other work needed on aspects of Part 2 of the Second Schedule of the Canon, which it considers would make the standards in this Part more suitable and workable within the Diocese of Sydney,

- (b) promptly engage in the consultation process required in order to present proposed changes to the General Synod Standing Committee meeting on the 8 – 9 December 2017,
- (c) take all necessary steps to make preparations within the Diocese for the implementation of this Canon, and
- (d) where possible consider implementing those aspects of the Canon (and its Schedules) that are not subject to the processes in part (a) and (b) of this motion.”

Seconded and carried

10.3 **150th Anniversary of Scripture Union**

Mr Andrew McLachlan moved –

“Recognising that this year marks the 150th anniversary of Scripture Union internationally, Synod gives thanks to God for the work of Scripture Union in our Diocese, working with the churches to make God’s good news known to children, young people and families and encouraging people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer.

The Synod recognises that many Sydney Anglicans, including many of our leaders, have found opportunities to serve the kingdom and opportunities to grow in leadership in the context of SU’s ministries. So we pray that God will continue to bless the work of Scripture Union, especially their missions, camps, and the ISCF and SUPA groups in public schools.

Seconded and carried

The Rev Simon Flinders led the Synod in prayer for the work of Scripture Union.

10.4 **Appointment of assistant ministers and stipendiary lay workers**

The Rev Dr David A Höhne moved –

“Synod hereby resolves to request Standing Committee to appoint a committee to review and report to the next session of Synod on the appropriate terms and conditions for appointment of assistant ministers and stipendiary lay workers to parishes and other church organisations including, inter alia, the following matters –

- (a) the applicability of a probationary period,
- (b) circumstances where a fixed term contract may apply,
- (c) appropriate review mechanisms for performance,
- (d) appropriate mechanisms for transition from being a Deacon to a Presbyter in the case of assistant ministers,
- (e) terms and conditions for the appointment of assistant ministers and stipendiary lay workers,
- (f) terms and conditions in relation to the termination of assistant ministers and stipendiary lay workers,
- (g) appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms in the event of a breakdown in relationship between the Senior Minister and the Assistant Minister or the stipendiary lay worker,
- (h) comparison of these matters with any relevant employment legislation, and such other matters as the Committee may consider appropriate for consideration by Synod.”

Seconded and carried

11. Motions

11.1 **Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017**

Mr Michael Easton moved –

“That the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* pass as an ordinance of the Synod and that the Standing Committee be requested to undertake a review of the operation of the Ordinance prior to the 2018 session of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

11.2 **Diocesan Tribunal Ordinance 2017**

Mr Michael Easton moved –

“That the *Diocesan Tribunal Ordinance 2017* pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

11.3 **Professional Standards Transition Ordinance 2017**

Mr Michael Easton moved –

“That the *Professional Standards Transition Ordinance 2017* pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

11.4 **General Synod – Offences Amendment Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017**

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

That the General Synod – Offences Amendment Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.

Seconded and carried

11.5 **Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017**

Archdeacon Kara Hartley moved –

“That Synod permit the introduction of the Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017.”

Seconded and carried

Archdeacon Hartley moved –

“That the Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017 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?”

A member of Synod indicated that they wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance.

Archdeacon Hartley moved –

“That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017.”

Seconded and carried

The text of the proposed ordinance was considered by the Synod in Committee.

Before consideration of the text of the proposed ordinance in Committee had concluded, the Chair of Committees moved –

“That the Chair of Committees leaves the chair and reports progress.”

Seconded and carried.

The Chair of Committees reported progress to the Synod.

Archdeacon Hartley moved –

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

Seconded and carried

Archdeacon Hartley moved –

“Synod agrees, if consideration of the Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017 is not resumed at this evening’s session, to continue consideration on Monday 16 October 2017.”

Seconded and carried

12. Archbishop’s Taskforce for Resisting Pornography presentation

The Rev Marshall Ballantyne Jones gave a presentation regarding the work of the Archbishop’s Taskforce for Resisting Pornography.

13. Adjournment

At 6:05 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.20 pm tonight.”

Seconded and carried

14. Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.20 pm.

15. Motions

15.1 Gender Identity Initial Principles of Engagement

Dr Claire Smith moved –

'Synod, noting the Gender Identity Report –

- (a) agrees to approve in principle the Initial Principles of Engagement at 9.1 of the Gender Identity Report as a policy of the Synod, and
- (b) in particular affirms –
 - (i) The promise of the gospel is that all who trust in Christ are assured of everlasting peace and wholeness in the resurrection life of the new creation.
 - (ii) All those who have faith in Christ are loved by God and belong to the body of Christ, including those whose personal trials and afflictions in this life include gender identity issues or gender incongruence.
 - (iii) Those who experience gender identity issues or incongruence deserve our compassion, love, and care.
 - (iv) In the beginning, God made humanity male and female, and, in his creative purposes, biological (bodily) sex determines gender.
 - (v) Human nature was damaged and distorted by the Fall but not destroyed. All people continue to be made in the image of God. The experience of incongruence between objective biological sex and subjective gender identity is one consequence of that damage and distortion but in no way diminishes a person's full humanity.
 - (vi) The human person is a psychosomatic unity, where body and soul come into being at the same time and, in this life and the next, exist together. Embodiment is integral to human identity, and biological sex is a fundamental aspect of embodiment. Preserving the integrity of body and soul, and honouring and protecting the biologically sexed body that God has given are necessary for human flourishing.
 - (vii) The binary distinctions of male and female are to be embraced and upheld in the lives of Christian men and women respectively, and expressed in culturally appropriate ways that conform to Scripture.
 - (viii) We deeply regret that, in the past, some gender non-conforming people have experienced rejection or lack of compassion in our churches and ministries.
 - (ix) Churches, schools, and other Anglican organisations are to be places where all people, including those who experience gender identity issues and incongruence, are welcomed, loved, supported and helped to live in obedience to Christ.'

Seconded

The Rev David Sandifer moved as an amendment to Dr Smith's motion –

'Insert as a new paragraph (b)(vii) (with consequential renumbering) –

- “(vii) Gender transitioning includes behaviours which the Scriptures warn against, and is at odds with a claim to faithfulness to Christ. Christians struggling with gender incongruence should be gently and lovingly supported in embracing their God-given biological sex.”

Mr Sandifer's amendment was not carried.

Dr Smith's motion was carried without amendment.

15.2 Development of a final form of diocesan policy for gender identity issues

Dr Karin Sowada moved –

'Synod commends the Gender Identity Report ('the Report') to all Anglican schools and other agencies in the diocese which are called upon to care for people with gender identity

issues and asks the governing boards and councils, and the heads and chief executive officers of such schools and agencies to –

- (a) provide comments and feedback to Standing Committee on the Initial Principles of Engagement approved in principle as a policy of the Synod at its session in 2017 by 30 April 2018, and
- (b) ensure any policies, guidelines and procedures which they draft to address this issue are consistent with those Initial Principles of Engagement, and
- (c) consult with the Archbishop about the final form of such policies, guidelines and procedures before they are published, and
- (d) commit to reviewing such policies, guidelines and procedures in light of any revised form of policy adopted by the Synod following its session in 2017,

and requests that the Standing Committee bring to the Synod session in 2018 a revised form of the Initial Principles of Engagement with a view to the revised form being adopted as a policy of the Synod.'

Seconded

The Rev Simon Flinders moved as an amendment to Dr Sowada's motion –

'In the first paragraph, insert the matter –

- (a) "Synod members," prior to the words "Anglican Schools", and
- (b) ", as well as Synod members," following "schools and agencies".

Mr Flinders' amendment was carried.

Dr Sowada's motion was carried in the following form (with editorial amendment) –

'Synod commends the Gender Identity Report ('the Report') to all Synod members, Anglican schools and other agencies in the Diocese which are called upon to care for people with gender identity issues and asks the governing boards and councils, and the heads and chief executive officers of such schools and agencies, as well as Synod members, to –

- (a) provide comments and feedback to Standing Committee on the Initial Principles of Engagement approved in principle as a policy of the Synod at its session in 2017 by 30 April 2018, and
- (b) ensure any policies, guidelines and procedures which they draft to address this issue are consistent with those Initial Principles of Engagement, and
- (c) consult with the Archbishop about the final form of such policies, guidelines and procedures before they are published, and
- (d) commit to reviewing such policies, guidelines and procedures in light of any revised form of policy adopted by the Synod following its session in 2017,

and requests that the Standing Committee bring to the Synod session in 2018 a revised form of the Initial Principles of Engagement with a view to the revised form being adopted as a policy of the Synod.'

15.1 Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

"That Synod permit the introduction of the Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017."

Seconded and carried

Bishop Edwards moved –

"That the Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 be approved in principle."

Seconded

The President asked –

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

There was a time for questions.

Before the time for questions had concluded, Dean Kanishka Raffel moved as a procedural motion at 9.33 pm –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 3.15 pm on Monday 16 October 2017.”

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 October 2017

51st Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

1st Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Monday 16 October 2017

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Bible study

The Rev Ed Vaughan led the Bible study.

3. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Wednesday 11 October 2017.

4. Further answer to a question asked on 10 October 2017

4.1 Domestic Violence and the understanding of 'submission'

Mr Tom Mayne asked the following question –

- (a) Why, during the pre-Synod briefing, did Archdeacon Kara Hartley representing the Domestic Violence Task Force, decline to mention 'female submission' when asked by the Diocesan Secretary to comment on complementarianism? Is belief in female submission no longer a pre-requisite for dealing with Domestic Violence?
- (b) Is belief in female submission a pre-requisite of the diocese for addressing Domestic Violence as stated in clause (b) of the original Canon Grant motion passed by Synod in 2013?

To which the President replied –

On Wednesday of last week I answered the question of Mr Tom Mayne regarding domestic abuse that was listed at Item 3.2 of the Business Paper for that day and reproduced on today's business paper at Item 3.1. The answer I gave was as follows –

- (a) Part (a) of the question is out of order under business rules 6.3(4)(a) and (d) as it makes assertions and inferences. The questioner may wish to speak to Archdeacon Hartley about the matter.
- (b) No.

Upon hearing my answer, Canon Grant sought leave and was granted leave to make a personal statement.

Upon reflection, I considered that both parts of Mr Mayne's questions were out of order, under our Business Rules, because both parts contained an assertion and made inferences or imputations.

With respect to my answer to part (b) of Mr Mayne's question, I therefore think it is necessary to reissue an answer, which I have discussed with Mr Mayne and Canon Grant. Mr Mayne assures me that his use of the phrase was in good faith, though he mistakenly referred to clause (b) instead of paragraph 2, which uses the term 'submission' but not 'female submission' as he asserted.

Hence my revised answer to part (b) of the question is as follows –

- (b) While the answer is No, this part of the question is also out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(a) and (d) because it contains an assertion and makes an imputation, which on the evidence is plainly false, since resolution 33/13, moved by Canon Grant and passed by the Synod, made no reference to ‘female submission’. On the contrary, the relevant part of the resolution reads –

...consideration ought to be given to ensuring that upholding the Bible’s good teaching on submission and sacrificial love – both in preaching and teaching, and in marriage education or counselling – is not easily twisted as a cover for abuse.

5. Answers to questions asked on 11 October 2017

5.1 Property Trust policy on the simultaneous sale and purchase of property

Mr Colin Adams asked the following question –

- (a) Given the President’s comments, referring to the Anglican Church Property Trust, that “there is always room for improvement” in how the Property Trust fulfils its role as “a servant of the parishes rather than a master”, does the Property Trust have a policy on the simultaneous sale and purchase of property?
- (b) Has the Property Trust considered, as a matter of policy, allowing the wardens or members of a parish to provide an indemnity to cover any timing differences between the exchange of contracts for purchase and the settlement of sale?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Yes.

The issue of simultaneous sale and purchase of property for a given parish does arise on rare occasions. On the most recent occasion, the Property Trust was asked to execute a contract for the purchase of land where the ability to settle the contract required clear funds to be available from the sale of another property. The Property Trust’s policy requires cash sufficient to meet the contractual obligation to settle a property purchase, or a combination of cash or clear funds, an unconditional and irrevocable bank guarantee or an unconditional irrevocable offer of finance from an APRA regulated financial institution to be held by the Property Trust before the Property Trust will execute a purchase contract.

- (b) The Property Trust has considered giving the option of a guarantee and indemnity being obtained from the members of the parish council of the parish for whom the acquisition is being made as an alternative. On balance, the Property Trust decided against introducing this option as the Property Trust was very uneasy about potentially needing to contemplate legal action against the members of a parish council in the event a settlement could not proceed due to insufficient funds.

5.2 Chinese-language ministry in the Diocese

The Rev Bruce Stanley asked the following questions –

- (a) (Approximately) How many Chinese-speaking Rectors are there currently in the Sydney Diocese?
- (a) (Approximately) How many Chinese-speaking congregations are currently operating in the Diocese on a weekly basis?
- (b) How many of these Chinese speaking services occur in Parishes with a non-Chinese speaking Rector?

(c) How many Parishes employ more than one full time Chinese-speaking clergy?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The following numbers are approximate, based on the best information that could be gathered in the time period.

- (a) 8
- (b) 37
- (c) 18
- (d) Parishes do not employ clergy. However there are 3 parishes which have more than one licensed Chinese-speaking member of clergy as a rector or assistant minister.

5.3 Regional mission in the Western Region

The Rev Alistair Seabrook asked the following question –

Are there any plans for a regional mission in the Western Region in 2018/2019?

To which the President replied –

There has been a recent discussion by the Archbishop and Regional Bishops about the possibility of regional missions over the next few years. The bishops of Western Sydney and South Sydney will be consulting with Mission Area leaders and rectors before any plans are made for missions in those regions.

5.4 Online SRE accreditation training

The Rev Alistair Seabrook asked the following question –

Are there any plans to make SRE accreditation training available online?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The 'Anglican Diocese of Sydney' is one of over 100 organisations approved by the NSW Department of Education to provide special religious education in public schools in NSW. Consequently each year I sign an 'Annual Assurance Letter' on behalf of the Diocese as one of these providers. The letter includes a declaration that the Diocese has a complying training program in place for SRE teachers.

I have delegated responsibility for SRE training and accreditation within the Diocese to Anglican Youthworks. At present there are no firm plans to make SRE training and accreditation available online for Sydney Anglican SRE Teachers. Face to face training provides the opportunity not only to pass on knowledge, but to also model the teaching principles and practices that we want SRE teachers to know and use in the classroom. Youthworks expansive and growing network of local and senior trainers build relationships between local trainers and teachers and enable the training to be contextualised to the local schools. Moreover, our local and senior trainer system provide a cost effective method of providing SRE training across the diocese.

Youthworks SRE curriculum resources are also used in regional NSW, Queensland, Western Australia and New Zealand. Youthworks is investigating the provision of online SRE training for providers outside the Diocese of Sydney.

5.5 Net increase in income under the proposed Property Receipts Levy

The Rev Andrew Katay asked the following question –

Noting the answer by the President to question 5 asked on 9 October, namely that the modelling provided to Synod in its papers of the proposed Property Receipts Levy was necessarily incomplete because the proposed Property Receipts Levy allows deductions for various property-related expenses that were not separately captured in 2015 parish returns; what is the best estimate of the net increase in income if the proposed levy were to be adopted, over the existing arrangements of ordinance income under the current Large Receipts Policy?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows -

The best available estimate of the net increase in income if the proposed levy were to be adopted, over the existing arrangements of ordinance income under the current Large Receipts Policy is not less than \$500,000 per annum.

5.6 **Contribution to the Coalition for marriage**

The Rev Greg Burke asked the following question –

- (a) Was any consideration given to advising the parishes of the diocese of the decision to contribute \$1 million to the Coalition for Marriage's advertising campaign either before or after the decision was taken (and before the Presidential Address)?
- (b) Was any consideration given to alternatives such as making a smaller "seed funding contribution" and asking parishes and individual Anglicans to make voluntary contributions to the campaign if they wished?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows -

- (a) The timeline of events in the same-sex marriage postal survey meant that it was not possible to consult with parishes before the decision was made by Standing Committee. Like the postal survey itself, our contribution was "urgent and unforeseen" until early September. There was no certainty that the postal survey would go ahead until the High Court dismissed the legal challenge on 6 September. The report proposing a contribution to Coalition for Marriage was written after this date, and circulated to Standing Committee members on 12 September for the Standing Committee meeting on 18 September. The decision of the Standing Committee was made public to synod members soon thereafter, in the report on pages 272-284 of the Supplementary Report of the Standing Committee. This report was distributed to all synod members on 22 September, that is, 4 days after the decision was made.
- (b) The Archbishop wrote a letter to all Sydney Anglicans on August 16 advising that the Diocese of Sydney had committed to being a lead partner in the Coalition for Marriage, and to encourage Sydney Anglicans to make voluntary contributions to the campaign. The Archbishop made direct contact with a number of individual Sydney Anglicans to invite them to contribute. The diocesan contribution was intended to be in addition to these individual contributions.

5.7 **Proposed redress scheme arising out of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse**

The Rev Martyn Davis asked the following question –

Are there currently any details available about the proposed redress scheme arising out of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse?

- (a) If so –
 - (i) Are there any indications about our responsibilities and obligations in this matter?

- (ii) Are there any projections of the financial costs to the Sydney diocese to meet these obligations and how is it envisaged that these costs will be covered?
- (b) If not, is there any indication of when these kinds of details will become available?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Federal Government has announced that a Commonwealth Redress Scheme will commence on 1 July 2018. The Scheme will be limited to child sexual abuse which occurred prior to that date.

Institutions will be invited to voluntarily opt into the Scheme by written agreement.

The Scheme will operate on the basis that each participating responsible entity meets the cost of the claims attributable to the entity which are processed through the Scheme. Participating entities will need to meet the following costs:

- redress costs comprising a monetary payment, direct personal response, and psychological counselling;
- contribution to the cost of a survivor's legal advice to a capped amount; and
- administration costs.

Many details are still unknown. However it is anticipated that an exposure draft of the proposed legislation to establish the Scheme will soon be made publicly available by the Government.

Once further details are made available it may be possible to determine an approximate cost for an average claim. However it is difficult to estimate how many survivors of abuse committed in our Diocese may wish to apply to have their claims assessed under the Commonwealth Redress Scheme. At the recent session of General Synod, Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald from the Royal Commission indicated that only 34% of survivors of abuse in Anglican institutions attending private sessions had reported the abuse to the relevant institution.

The Royal Commission Working Group of the General Synod is in active discussion with the Honourable Christian Porter MP, Minister for Social Services in respect to the proposed redress scheme. Two members of our Synod, Mr Garth Blake SC and the Rev Dr Andrew Ford are members of the Working Group. The matter is also under active consideration by our Diocesan Royal Commission Steering Committee on behalf of the Standing Committee.

5.8 General Synod Assessments and cost of attendance

Canon Tom Harricks asked the following question –

- (a) What was the amount of General Synod Assessments last year?
- (b) What was the cost of sending Sydney's delegation (including airfares, accommodation, meals) to General Synod 2017?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The General Synod Assessment for 2016 was \$459,008.
- (b) Noting that travel costs for General Synod members (such as airfares and airport transfers) are paid by the General Synod Office from the Assessments contributed from each diocese, it is expected that the final cost (excluding travel costs) will be approximately \$68,000. This figure includes the cost of accommodation and meals, meeting room hire, the travel costs for the Archbishop's Media Advisor and known miscellaneous expenses.

5.9 Directors and Officers Insurance

Ms Alison Woof asked the following question –

- (a) Do all persons elected to Committees and Boards by the Synod have appropriate Directors and Officers Insurance?
- (b) If not, does the diocese formally indemnify all such persons?
- (c) Where the answer to the above two questions is not 'yes', which Committees and Boards are not so covered?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The Property Trust arranges a program of insurance for parishes and a number of diocesan organisations. This program includes Directors and Officers insurance. Diocesan organisations arrange their insurance independently. In the time available it has not been possible to ascertain whether diocesan organisations not covered by the Program have Directors and Officers insurance.
- (b) No. However the ordinance of a diocesan organisation may specify an indemnity against the assets of the organisation or the organisation may have entered into deeds of indemnity with its board members.
- (c) As many diocesan organisations arrange their own insurance it is not known which, if any, do not have Directors and Officers insurance.

5.10 Diocesan insurance program

Mr Jeremy Freeman asked the following question –

Has Standing Committee, within the last fifteen years, reviewed the policy decisions and management of the diocesan insurance program? If so, when and what was the scope of the review?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Synod has given responsibility for the insurance program to the Property Trust through the *Church Insurances Ordinance 1981*.

The Property Trust obtains independent advice from the insurance broker, Marsh Pty Ltd as to the adequacy of the insurance program. The Property Trust also obtains the concurrence of the boards of those diocesan organisations covered by the Program as to the adequacy of the insurance. Over recent years many of those organisations have obtained independent professional advice in order to inform the feedback they provide to the Property Trust.

Each year since 2007, the Property Trust has obtained an independent professional actuarial report about the adequacy of insurance policies and related cover provided under the Program. These reports are shared with the Finance Committee of the Standing committee.

5.11 Synod membership of Lay Ministers and Assistant Ministers

Mr Jeremy Freeman asked the following question –

- (a) Does the Synod membership ordinance provide for Authorised Lay Ministers to be represented on Synod? How many members of Synod are Lay Ministers? What is this number as a proportion of the total membership?

- (b) Does the Synod membership ordinance provide for Assistant Ministers to be represented on Synod? How many members of Synod are Assistant Ministers? What is this number as a proportion of the total membership?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Lay ministers can be members of Synod if they are elected by the parish under Part 5, or appointed by Standing Committee or the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee under Part 8 and 8A of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*. There are 16 lay ministers who are members of the 51st Synod and this represents 1.99% of the total membership.
- (b) Assistant Ministers may be members of Synod if they are appointed as an alternate by their rector, or appointed by the Archbishop under Part 7. There are 15 Assistant Ministers who are members of the current session of the 51st Synod and this represents 1.86% of the total membership.

5.12 Participation in the General Synod Viability and Structures Taskforce

Mr Jeremy Freeman asked the following question –

What is the Diocese's ongoing participation in the General Synod Viability and Structures Taskforce process?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Viability and Structures Steering Group was set up at the 2014 General Synod and had its goal to make some transformative recommendations that every diocese could support and pursue collaboratively. The Sydney Diocese made representations to the Steering Group and a member of our clergy was the NSW Provincial Representative.

The Final Report of the Steering Group was received by the 2017 General Synod and there are five main recommendations that can be found in the report in Book 2 of the General Synod Papers available on the General Synod website.

The final recommendations of the Steering Group report requested the General Synod Standing Committee to take further action on the recommendations.

5.13 Accountability of diocesan organisations

Mr Jeremy Freeman asked the following question –

How are the diocesan organisations held accountable to the Synod?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

There are four main ways in which diocesan organisations are accountable to the Synod.

Firstly, members of the boards of diocesan organisations are elected by the Synod.

Secondly, the constitutions of diocesan organisations are set out in an ordinance and can be amended by the Synod or Standing Committee. These ordinances set out the governance arrangements of the organisations, including their purposes, membership, functions and powers.

Thirdly, the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995* requires all diocesan organisations to provide an annual report to the Synod, which includes certain information in respect to their governance, finances and operations.

And fourthly, Synod members have the opportunity to ask questions of the President about the work of diocesan organisations at each session of the Synod.

5.14 Reporting of contributions under the proposed Property Receipts Levy

Mr Jeremy Freeman asked the following question –

If the proposed Property Receipts Levy is adopted by the Synod, under current accounting arrangements will parish payments made in accordance with the levy be transparently reported to Synod? What will be transparently reported to Synod?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Synod can expect details of all parish payments made in accordance with the proposed property receipts levy to be reported each year to the Synod in the Annual Financial Reports, most likely in a way similar to the transparent annual reporting of payments by parishes to the Synod Fund (see pages 18 and 23 of the Synod Funds - Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2016). However the final arrangements for reporting will be determined in the ordinance establishing the levy if it is passed by the Synod.

5.15 Incumbents with a less than full time appointment

Mr Matthew Robson asked the following question –

Regarding incumbents of full parishes where arrangements have been made for the incumbent's appointment to be less than full time –

- (a) What are the parishes where such an arrangement exists?
- (b) What is the variation in Parish Cost Recoveries (both fixed and variable) for each of those parishes due to such arrangements?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) There is no requirement for the Diocesan Registry or other central authority to be notified when an incumbent and parish authorities come to an arrangement for the incumbent to be less than full time so it is not possible to provide this information. The Regional Bishops are aware of special arrangements applying in 4 parishes.
- (b) In each of these 4 cases known to the Regional Bishops, there is no variation in the Parish Cost Recoveries and the incumbent receives 100% of the long service leave and other benefits under the PCR system.

5.16 Opening, Closure, Merger or Takeover of Schools Corporation Schools

Mr Rick Stevens asked the following question –

Concerning the Synod Business Paper 17 October 2016: Motion passed at Item 6.15 – Opening, Closure, Merger or Takeover of Schools Corporation Schools (acknowledging the Supplementary Report, page 203, Book 2, of the current Synod) –

- (a) When can Synod expect to receive a report from the Standing Committee with regard to reviewing the Anglican Schools Ordinance as requested in the above motion?
- (b) Has the Schools Corporation board reviewed its internal processes and procedures as requested in the above motion?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The Standing Committee received a response from the Anglican Schools Corporation in relation to this matter at its August 2017 meeting. However by reason of the pressing nature of other business, the Standing Committee was unable to consider the response prior to this session of the Synod. The Synod can expect to receive a report concerning this matter as part of the Standing Committee's annual report in 2018.
- (b) Yes. The outcome of the review has been provided to the Standing Committee.

5.17 Church attendance statistics

Mr Ken West asked the following question –

With regard to the church attendance statistics which parishes regularly supply to the Diocese, please advise –

- (a) What was the aggregate church attendance across the Diocese in each of the years 2011 to 2016 and 2017 to date?
- (b) How do these numbers correlate with the metrics gathered as part of *Mission 2020*?
- (c) Do these statistics offer any insights into the success or direction of *Mission 2020*?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Early in each year parishes are asked to advise the Registry of their attendance statistics for the previous calendar year. The Archbishop's Office makes significant effort to collect these statistics but the response rate varies from year to year.

The total attendance numbers provided by parishes for the years requested are:

2011	53,162
2012	52,947
2013	53,297
2014	54,468
2015	55,028
2016	51,533

I regret to inform the Synod that 26 parishes have not provided their attendance statistics for 2016. Attendances for 2017 will not be available until early 2018.

- (b) & (c) This data is consistent with the concern that was expressed in the Strategic Research Group presentation on *Mission 2020* that indicated a plateau or decreases on a number of measures.

5.18 Diocesan Endowment

Mr Peter Hanson asked the following question –

Regarding the Diocesan Endowment –

- (a) Who are the Trustees?
- (b) What was the surplus of the Diocesan Endowment in 2016 and are there any significant changes anticipated in 2017?
- (c) What percentage of the Surplus from the Diocesan Endowment is paid into Synod Funds (i.e. what percentage of the total surplus from the Endowment was the \$4.3 million in 2016 and what is the percentage budgeted for 2017)?
- (d) What, if any, discretion did the Trustees of the Diocesan Endowment have in responding to the request from Standing Committee for the \$1 million funding given to the No to Same Sex Marriage campaign?

- (e) Did the Ordinance demanding the extra \$1 million distribution from the Diocesan Endowment vary any of the terms of the Endowment Deed to allow a distribution for this purpose?
- (f) Where was the \$1,000,000 paid from – was it from the earnings of the Endowment in 2017 or was it from the Capital or from the Accumulated Funds built up over past years?
- (g) Given Bishop Michael Stead's speech to synod in 2016 regarding the lack of wisdom in plundering the Capital and Accumulated Funds of Diocesan Endowment for worthy purposes, what effect will the \$1 million taken from the Endowment have on its ability to pay a greater share of its income towards Synod Funds in future years?
- (h) How much was taken from the Diocesan Endowment to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give the thirsty something to drink, welcome asylum seekers and refugees, house the homeless, cure the sick, and visit those in prison (see Matthew 25:31-46) in each of –
 - (i) 2016; and
 - (ii) Year to date 2017?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The Glebe Administration Board.
- (b) The surplus in 2016 was \$13.7 million. The surplus in 2017 is expected to be significantly lower due to the transfer on 1 September 2017 of the half share in St Andrew's House from the Diocesan Endowment to the Synod. It is not possible to predict the amount of the surplus for 2017 with any significant level of precision as a large proportion of the assets of the Diocesan Endowment are invested in assets which vary in value with changes in investment markets.
- (c) Distributions are not determined by reference to the surplus earned by the Diocesan Endowment. Under the *Diocesan Endowment Trust Ordinance 2016*, the GAB is required to advise the Standing Committee each year of the amount which may prudently be distributed from the Diocesan Endowment in the following year. GAB gives this advice having regard to modelling provided by its Asset Consultant, Mercer. GAB's principal consideration is having a high level of confidence that the real value of the Diocesan Endowment will be maintained over time, as required by the *Diocesan Endowment Trust Ordinance 2016*.
- (d) The Standing Committee has authority under delegations from the Synod to make special appropriations from the Diocesan Endowment. However, as a matter of courtesy, the Standing Committee has adopted a policy to consult with the GAB before consideration is given to making any special appropriation. The GAB was consulted in accordance with this policy. For the purpose of the consultation, GAB obtained advice from Mercer about the impact that payments of various amounts up to \$1,000,000 from the Diocesan Endowment would have on GAB's ability to maintain the real value of the Diocesan Endowment and on future distributions to the Synod. Based on that advice the Standing Committee was persuaded that a \$1 million payment was appropriate in all the circumstances.
- (e) No
- (f) The \$1 million was paid from the accumulated funds of the Diocesan Endowment.
- (g) Based on the modelling from GAB's Asset Consultant, Mercer, GAB was advised that a payment of \$1 million from the Endowment in 2017 is expected to have no impact on the absolute levels of projected distributions to the Synod over the next 20 years. The effect of the \$1 million payment was in terms of risk. That is, the probability of the Diocesan Endowment maintaining its real value over the next 20 years would drop marginally if a \$1 million payment was made but would remain well above the confidence level required by GAB to maintain expected levels of distributions to the Synod.
- (h) Distributions from the Diocesan Endowment are paid to Synod Fund 129 and combined with distributions from a number of other funds. Payments from Synod Fund 129 are made for a range of purposes to the organisations specified in the annual Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinances. It is not possible to

specify the particular use of the amounts applied from the Diocesan Endowment since the amounts allocated for spending are made from a pool of funds.

5.19 Aims of the Archbishop for the Diocese

Mr Peter Hanson asked the following question –

- (a) Does the Archbishop recall stating in his acceptance speech to his election as Archbishop, that one of the aims of his Arch-episcopacy was along the lines that he wanted the Diocese of Sydney to become “as well known for its love as it is for its doctrinal purity”?
- (b) Is that still one of his aims?
- (c) Is he measuring progress towards the achievement of this goal?
- (d) What progress has been made towards its achievement?
- (e) Has he measured the effect that –
 - (i) The active participation of the Diocese in the No campaign for Same Sex Marriage; and
 - (ii) His participation in the consecration of a bishop in a church not in communion with the Anglican Communion worldwide, has had on the achievement of this goal?

To which the President replied –

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Though it is not easy to measure such progress, in my view the manner in which debates are conducted in the Synod, bears testimony to the manner in which our mutual respect and love for one another is displayed. However, this has been confirmed by a recently received and unsolicited email from a newish member of our Synod who has experienced Synods in other dioceses.

“I feel greatly privileged to be a member of the Sydney Synod. I'm struck by the way in which we give ourselves to serious matters with thoughtfulness, prayerfulness, humility and a deeply biblical form of engagement. I'm struck by how we disagree peaceably and fruitfully. Without putting too fine a point on it, I am not used to Synods of such reverence, seriousness and love.”

- (e)
 - (i) While there has been a few cases of ungodly behaviour in the ‘No’ campaign, I am not aware of any that may be attributed to Sydney Anglicans. On the contrary, I believe that our own booklet, *What has God joined together?*, and its good reception among Sydney Anglicans has borne fruit in providing a winsome and sensitive approach to putting the case for voting ‘No’.
 - (ii) I believe that my participation in the consecration of Canon Andy Lines as a bishop in the Church of God, has not deflected either my goal or the progress of my goal. It is not well known that although the Archbishop of Canterbury may not consider ACNA as a member of the Anglican Communion, the Church of England does recognise his episcopal orders, as they do all ACNA orders. This is a strange anomaly, but part of the unusual nature of the Anglican Communion. Furthermore, at the consecration in Chicago in June the largest number of Anglican bishops in living memory gathered in fellowship and prayer to set apart a godly man for episcopal ministry. Not only that, the number of Primates, Archbishops and Diocesan Bishops represented more than 2/3 of the worldwide membership of the Anglican Communion. To consider such a consecration with this representation by bona fide bishops as improper or illegal ignores the voice of Anglicans from around the world who say otherwise. That I stand alongside Athanasius, who ordained orthodox men in provinces where heretical bishops of Arian theology presided, and

alongside our own former Archbishop Donald Robinson, who consecrated Dudley Foord for the Church of England in South Africa (also not recognised by the Archbishop of Canterbury as part of the Anglican Communion) in St Andrew's Cathedral in 1984, is I believe a mark of honour from which I do not resile. As the apostle Paul so eloquent describes standing for the truth of the gospel: 'the only thing that counts is faith working through love' (Galatians 5:6).

5.20 Questions at Synod

Mr Peter M.G. Young asked the following question –

- (a) How soon can we ask questions of the diocese for the next ordinary session of Synod?
- (b) How can such questions be answered prior to the first day of the ordinary session of Synod?
- (c) Can written answers be issued before such day and if so how?
- (d) To whom should we address questions to the diocese, as Synod representatives, during the year?
- (e) Do answers to questions at Synod currently have to be oral?
- (f) Is there a procedure at meetings of the Standing Committee, whereby Standing Committee representatives may ask questions of the diocese?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) A member can give notice of a question for a session of Synod to the Secretary at any time. However, the question must formally be asked as part of the business of the Synod at the session.
- (b) A question asked as part of the business of the Synod cannot formally be answered prior to the session of the Synod.
- (c) No.
- (d) Outside the proceedings of a session of the Synod members may not always be entitled to receive answers to questions about diocesan organisations and the affairs of the Diocese generally. However, the staff of SDS and the Archbishop's Office are willing to assist with reasonable questions from Synod members during the year and will provide answers to the extent they are able. If members use the Contact Form on the SDS website, the question will be allocated to the relevant member of staff. Members can also ask questions through the Secretary.
- (e) Under Synod business rule 6.3(2), a question is asked by making a brief statement informing the Synod of the subject matter of the question when called upon by the President, and handing the full text of the question to the Secretary. To this extent, questions must be oral.
- (f) There is no formal procedure allowing members of the Standing Committee to ask questions of the President on matters affecting the diocese generally. However there are certain bodies that provide regular reports to the Standing Committee and these reports provide a context for asking questions. A member also has the ability to move a motion requesting the provision of a report or information by a diocesan body.

5.21 Safe Ministry Training

The Rev Steven Layson asked the following question –

In the light of the excellent presentation on online Safe Ministry Training, could the Archbishop please let us know how many (if any) clergy and/or bishops are not up to date with their Safe Ministry Training? What, if anything, is planned to be done to ensure our church leaders lead by example in this important matter?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Archbishop and the five Assistant Bishops are all up to date with their Safe Ministry Training. The Faithfulness in Service Conference this year did not contain a component to update Safe Ministry Training so the Archbishop and Assistant Bishops made sure they attended a refresher course before their 3 year period expired. It is expected that all licensed clergy and authorised lay ministers have done the same. If not, then they should immediately take steps to undertake a refresher course. I suggest the new online safe ministry training be used.

No central records are maintained of the Safe Ministry Training status of clergy. All these records are maintained by the relevant parish or employer. In the context of recent and expected future changes in requirements for Safe Ministry Training, the Professional Standards Unit and Registrar are examining the possibility of a system being developed to enable parishes to be offered an efficient centralised record of safe ministry information.

Rule 7.2(4) of Schedule 1 of the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008* gives the Archbishop power to direct that parish clergy undertake the required training. It is my intention to obtain information on the status of clergy safe ministry training and to issue directions to any clergy who are not up to date.

5.22 Patron saints of parishes

Dr David Oakenfull asked the following question –

Is it now official diocesan policy for patron saints of parishes to be given redundancy notices?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

There is no ordinance giving any diocesan authority the power to give redundancy notices to patron saints.

Relevant clauses in the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008* are –

5.2 Name of a church

- (1) The name of a church is that specified in the licence or sentence of consecration.
- (2) The name of a church may only be changed by the Archbishop at the request of the minister and wardens, if any.

9.1 Name of parish

- (1) The name of the parish is that last designated by the Archbishop.
- (2) The name of the parish may only be changed by the Archbishop at the request of the minister and parish council.

From time to time the Archbishop receives requests from the relevant parish authorities to change the name of a church or parish. After considering each request, the Archbishop decides whether he agrees with the proposal.

In recent times there has been one occasion when the long standing name of a parish was changed and the name was subsequently changed back to the original name.

5.23 Parish of Beacon Hill

Mr Peter Yates asked the following question –

- (a) What is the status of the Parish of Beacon Hill in the North Sydney Region?

- (b) Why were the Parish's Nomination Rights not restored to it some years ago, following the Parish's agreement to go into partnership with the Parish of Narrabeen and, after the ending of that partnership by the Senior Minister of the Narrabeen Parish?
- (c) Why has the Parish been given neither Nomination Rights nor been declared a Provisional Parish?
- (d) Will the Bishop of North Sydney, as the Acting Rector of the Parish, undertake to hold discussions with the few remaining stalwarts of the parish's congregations (and with past members of the parish who still have an interest) about future alternatives for the Parish?
- (e) Were the Regional Bishop and the Archbishop aware of the decision taken by the then Parish Council, at the insistence of the current Acting Incumbent, to sell the Christian Pre-School Kindergarten that leased the Parish's Church Property, which lease provided, but its rentals, substantial funds to allow the Parish to remain financially viable?
- (f) Is it correct that because of the closure of the Christian Pre-School Kindergarten, together with the departure to other neighbouring parishes of a significant number of longstanding Beacon Hill Church Members, mainly because of that closure, the parish is struggling financially?
- (g) Is it correct that the Archbishop's wife, Dianne, had much of her childhood upbringing in the Parish of Beacon Hill, and that her parents were faithful servants of the Lord Jesus in the Parish for many years?
- (h) Is it correct that the Archbishop, as the previous Regional Bishop of North Sydney, when opening the Parish's new Rectory at Oxford Falls some years ago, encouraged both the then clergy and parishioners of the parish to persevere because the parish had a vital role for Christian growth on the Northern Beaches of Sydney?
- (i) What future does the Diocese see for the Parish of Beacon Hill? Before any decision is taken, will the Regional Bishop of North Sydney undertake to discuss alternative options for the Parish with all of the Church's parishioners who have an interest?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) It is a parish, not a provisional parish that has been vacant since the resignation of the Rev David Lakos on 10 October 2010.
- (b) A request was received from the parish nominators with the support of the then Regional Bishop to suspend the nomination process for twelve months until 9 September 2011. A further extension was sought from the parish nominators with the support of the then Regional Bishop for a two year period until 19 July 2013. No further extension was sought.
- (c) To be declared a provisional parish, the parish needs to have failed the local revenue test for 3 consecutive years. This has not occurred. The Parish's nomination rights have lapsed because they did not seek an extension.
- (d) The Bishop of North Sydney has, as recently as two weeks ago, met with the Acting Minister, the Rev Rick Mason, and a warden of the Parish and will continue discussions with the Wardens and the Assistant Minister about the future plans for the Parish.
- (e) The decision in 2015 not to renew the lease to the preschool was made by the Parish Council. The incumbent, namely the Regional Bishop, placed no pressure on the Parish Council with respect to any decision regarding the preschool. Rather he worked hard to broker an agreeable compromise. The Parish Council and Wardens were of the mind that the preschool was not aligned with the ministry purposes of the Parish.
- (f) In its most recent times the preschool was not advertised as a Christian preschool and its chair was not attending any church. Some of the teachers were Christians and they faithfully witnessed to Christ through their work but the preschool was not part of the ministry of the parish and its objects were more aligned with being a community preschool. The financial returns from the parish for the year following the closure of the preschool passed the diocesan test for parish status to be maintained.
- (g) True, but not relevant.

- (h) Yes.
- (i) The Regional Bishop has for some time been in discussions with the wardens and the Parish Council about the future of the Parish and they will be bringing some suggestions to the Parish as a whole in due course.

5.24 Recruitment of candidates for Anglican ordination

The Rev Peter Tong asked the following question –

What strategies does the Diocese have in order to recruit candidates for Anglican ordination? If this is done regionally, what strategies does each Region have?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The local church is the primary location for recruiting men and women for ordination. Our ministers are our primary recruiters.

As ministers live in community with, serve with and equip the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4) they are able to identify who has the potential convictions, character and competencies to consider full-time ministry and to encourage such people to pursue training and ordination.

Ministry Training and Development seeks to support this recruiting by speaking at churches about ordained ministry when invited, meeting with people individually and visiting Moore College and Regional Conferences to promote and discuss ordained ministry.

5.25 Part-time incumbents

The Rev Peter Tong asked the following question –

- (a) If an incumbent is licensed on a full-time basis, is it purely a matter between the incumbent and his parish council if the incumbent is to take up other positions outside the parish?
- (b) Does the diocese provide any guidelines to help incumbents and parish councils come to part-time arrangements?
- (c) Is this the same process for Assistant Ministers?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) A rector is not required to work a set number of hours as part of the office that they hold in the parish. However in most parishes clergy work a 6 day week. It is expected that any proposed deviations from this would be discussed with the Archbishop (or relevant regional bishop) and the parish council.

Habitual and wilful neglect of duty after written admonition is an offence under the *Offences Ordinance 1962*, and will also be a ground of misconduct under the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017*. If a member of clergy neglected the duties of their office by taking up another position without the agreement of the Archbishop (or relevant regional bishop) and the parish council they could, depending on the circumstances, be subject to a professional standards process.

- (b) No.
- (c) No. Assistant Ministers are under the direction of the Rector in respect to their ministry duties. An Assistant Minister who is ordained also does not work a set number of hours. Their duties are determined by the Rector, and therefore any position that would require the Assistant Minister allocating time to another pursuit would need to be agreed with the Rector. Depending on the nature of the position, this may involve a commensurate change to the stipend, benefits and allowances

paid to the Assistant Minister. The wardens and parish council should therefore also be involved in any such decision.

6. Procedural motions

6.1 Extension of Anglicare Presentation

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

‘Synod agrees –

- (a) to extend by 5 minutes Anglicare’s presentation on parish partnerships in order to show a video on its Housing Assistance program for older people at risk of homelessness,
- (b) to reschedule that presentation to immediately before the calling of motions on tomorrow’s business paper, and
- (c) to the following motion being added to tomorrow’s business paper –

“Synod gives thanks to God for Anglicare’s commitment to the provision of accommodation to older people at risk of homelessness through their Housing Assistance program and –

- (a) encourages Anglicare to continue their expansion of this ministry; and
- (b) encourages parishes in which Housing Assistance programs are planned to be located to partner with Anglicare in reaching out to build relationships with the programs’ residents through which they may hear and respond to the gospel.”’

Seconded and carried

6.2 Modified arrangements for considering the Licensing of Incumbents interim report and the Lifelong Ministry Development guidelines

The Rev Gavin Poole moved –

“Synod agrees that –

- (a) item 7.2 Pastoral Supervision Working Party and Rector Training Review Group not be an order of the day and can therefore be included in the call over,
- (b) item 7.3 Lifelong Ministry Development Guidelines be taken on Monday, 16 October 2017 from 4.00 pm,
- (c) item 7.1 Licensing of Incumbents interim report be taken immediately following motion 7.3,

and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.”

Seconded

The Rev Craig Schafer moved as an amendment to Mr Poole’s motion –

“Omit the matter in paragraphs (b) and (c).”

Seconded

Mr Schafer’s amendment was carried.

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

“Synod agrees that item 7.2 Pastoral Supervision Working Party and Rector Training Review Group not be an order of the day and can therefore be included in the call over, and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.”

6.3 Arrangements to consider a motion regarding the composition, purpose and role of Synod

Mr Doug Marr moved –

‘Synod agrees to consider the following motion immediately after the conclusion of consideration of the *Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017* –

“Synod asks the Standing Committee to bring a report to the October 2018 session of Synod on the composition, purpose and role of Synod.”

Seconded and carried

6.4 Withdrawal of notice of motion concerning Heads of Schools as Synod members

Mr Robert Wicks –

“Synod agrees to the motion at item 7.19 on today’s business paper being withdrawn.”

Seconded and carried

6.5 Proposed review of the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897

Mr John Pascoe moved –

‘Synod agrees to consider the following motion immediately after the passing of the *Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017* –

“Synod asks the Standing Committee to review the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897* particularly in respect to the inconsistency between the definition of a ‘Regional Elector’ in clause 1(1) and the definition of a “Qualified Lay Person” in clause 1(2)(b), and any other inconsistencies it may find in the Ordinance.”

Seconded and carried

6.6 Modified arrangements for considering motions relating to the same-sex marriage debate

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

“Synod agrees to consider the motions at items 7.14, 7.15 and 7.16 on today’s business paper at 7.00pm on Tuesday 17 October 2017, for as many of these motions that do not pass formally on the callover on Tuesday afternoon.”

Seconded and carried

6.7 Arrangements to consider the motion to endorse payment to Coalition for Marriage

Professor Bernard Stewart gave notice of the following procedural motion –

“Synod agrees to the following arrangements if the motion at item 7.29 on today’s business paper is not carried –

(a) to immediately consider the following motion –

‘Synod endorses the provision of \$1 million by Standing Committee to the Coalition for Marriage.’, and

(b) to resolve the motion by secret ballot,

and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.’

6.8 Procedural motion for the suspension of business rules concerning passing of ordinances

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent, on the last schedule day of meeting, the consideration of a motion that a proposed ordinance pass as an ordinance of the Synod, notwithstanding that the text of the ordinance has been considered or amended by the Synod in Committee on that day.”

Seconded and carried

6.9 **Adjournment of the Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017**

The Rev Andrew Bruce moved –

“That Synod adjourn consideration of item 7.5 on today’s business paper until the next session of Synod.”

Seconded

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

6.10 **Consideration of the motion concerning assistance for spouses and families of clergy and lay stipendiary workers where separation has occurred due to domestic violence**

The Rev Mark Tough moved –

“That the motion contained in item 7.30 in today’s business paper be debated and voted upon before Synod concludes on Tuesday night.”

Seconded

Mr Robert Wicks moved as an amendment to Mr Tough’s procedural motion –

‘Omit all the matter after “That” and insert instead –

“if the motion contained in item 7.30 of today’s business paper is not voted on before Synod concludes on Tuesday night, the motion be referred to the Standing Committee for consideration with the recommendations concerning domestic abuse set out in the report of the Domestic Violence Task Force.”

Seconded

Mr Wicks’ amendment was carried.

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

“That if the motion contained in item 7.30 of today’s business paper is not voted on before Synod concludes on Tuesday night, the motion be referred to the Standing Committee for consideration with the recommendations concerning domestic abuse set out in the report of the Domestic Violence Task Force.”

6.11 **Withdrawal of motion at item 7.22**

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

“Synod agrees to the motion at item 7.22 on today’s business paper being withdrawn.”

Seconded and carried

6.12 **Appearance of the Archbishop on the ABC’s Q&A**

Having been granted leave, Dean Kanishka Raffel moved –

“Synod –

- (a) notes that the President is to appear on the ABC television program Q&A on Monday 23 October 2017; and
- (b) gives thanks to God for this opportunity for the Archbishop to appear on national television; and
- (c) encourages members of Synod to call upon God in prayer for his help, provision and sovereign over-ruling in these circumstances, and further encourages Synod members to consider attending as a member of the audience; and
- (d) commends the Archbishop to God in prayer that he may give an answer for the hope we have in Christ and do so with gentleness, respect and a clear conscience.”

Seconded and carried

Dean Raffel led the Synod in prayer for the Archbishop.

7. 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.

7.1 Pastoral Supervision Working Party and Rector Training Review Group

The Rev Phillip Wheeler moved –

“Synod thanks the members of the Pastoral Supervision Working Party and Rector Training Review Group for the time and energy they have committed to discussing proposals concerning professional development and reflective practice.”

Seconded and carried

7.2 Gender representation on Diocesan boards and committees

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford moved –

“Synod requests Standing Committee to bring a report to the next Synod which outlines the composition of the various Diocesan boards, committees and councils in so far as they reflect the gender participation of those groups.

Synod requests the report to include –

- (a) the numbers and percentages of women and men on the Synod Diocesan boards, committees and councils,
- (b) goals or targets that the Diocesan organisation could work towards to ensure greater balance of diverse representation of Diocesan boards, committees and councils,
- (c) recommendations as to how to improve participation by women, and
- (d) a summary of any theological considerations involved in reaching their decisions.”

Seconded and carried

7.3 Exploring New Church Models

The Rev Craig Hooper moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) Thanks God for, and notes the Report “Mark Bilton Consultancy – Sydney Diocese, Report to Rectors on Central Support Services”, that came to Rectors in May 2017. In 2016 over 100 rectors across the Diocese, met in 10 meetings with Mark Bilton and different challenges facing us were identified, as we seek to reach the lost and build them up in Christ. The Report, just noted, is our bishops’ response to those findings.
- (b) Encourages Rectors to read the Report if they haven’t already.

- (c) Calls particular attention to Area 2 in this Report “Exploring New Church Models: A Call for an openness to, and exploration of, new and innovative models of ‘church’”, as ways of reaching more with the gospel and building them up in Christ. We need to continue to explore what it means to be all things to all people, so that by all possible means we might save some (1 Corinthians 9:22, 23).
- (d) Encourages Rectors and existing Churches, and Mission Areas therefore, to be open to new ways of doing ‘church’, to note all the items indicated in the report, including that Evangelism and New Churches and the Strategic Research Group are exploring and considering new models, and therefore to consult with them in their endeavours to reach the lost and build them up in Christ.’

Seconded and carried

7.4 Passing the leadership baton at Youthworks

Canon Stephen Gibson moved –

“Synod gives thanks for the ministry of the Rev Zac Veron as CEO of Anglican Youthworks and acknowledges, with thanks to God, the outstanding service given by Zac to the Youth and Children’s ministry in our Diocese and beyond in churches, schools, SRE training, Youthworks College, Year 13, Christian Education Publications and outdoor education and camping ministry.

We pray for Zac and his wife Sheree in their new parish ministry leading St David’s Arncliffe.

Synod welcomes the appointment of the Rev Craig Roberts as the next CEO of Anglican Youthworks. Synod notes that Craig will commence as new CEO of Anglican Youthworks at the end of 2017 in this important role of leading and facilitating Youth and Children’s ministry in our Diocese.

We also pray for Craig and his wife Libby in this new ministry.

We also give thanks to God for the sterling efforts of Dr Laurie Scandrett as our Interim CEO throughout 2017.”

Seconded and carried

The Rev Chris Braga led the Synod in prayer for the former, interim and future CEOs of Youthworks.

7.5 Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans Australia

Mr Philip Gerber moved –

“Synod notes that –

- (a) the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans Australia (FCA) as part of the GAFCON movement aims to guard and proclaim the unchanging truth in a changing world by standing with and supporting brothers and sisters in the worldwide Anglican Communion who remain orthodox and faithful to Biblical principles,
- (b) FCA’s Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 November 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Chapter House of St Andrew’s Cathedral, Sydney,
- (c) the keynote speaker at the FCA AGM will be the Rev Michael Kellahan from Freedom For Faith on the topics of Religious Freedom and Christian Mission in Australia in the 21st Century,

and encourages members of Synod to support FCA by praying for FCA, joining FCA and attending the AGM.”

Seconded and carried

7.6 Assistance for authorised employees in parish ministry

Mr Matthew Robson moved –

“This Synod –

- (a) commends Mr Martin Thearle, Mr Robert Wicks, the President and Standing Committee in the development of the Clergy Assistance Program,
- (b) thanks the Standing Committee for the 12 month review,
- (c) is encouraged that feedback received to date has been very positive,
- (d) notes that the program is presently available only to clergy and their spouses,
- (e) recognises that many of the “presenting issues” such as stress, employment, anxiety and parish conflict on paragraph 15 of the 12 month review may be present in the lives of authorised employees in parish ministry, and
- (f) requests the Standing Committee to bring to the next ordinary session of the Synod, a report examining the feasibility of expanding the eligibility criteria of the program to allow authorised employees in parish ministry to gain access to assistance.”

Seconded and carried

7.7 Assistance for spouses and families of clergy and lay stipendiary workers where separation has occurred due to domestic violence

The Rev Mark Tough moved –

In light of its wholehearted acceptance of the *Provisional Sydney Anglican Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse*, and its deeply sincere expression on 10 October 2017 of grief, regret and sorrow to victims and survivors of domestic abuse, Synod –

- (i) acknowledges the responsibility of the Anglican Church of Australia to examine its ordination candidates to ensure that they are fit to enter Holy Orders,
- (ii) acknowledges the responsibility of the Anglican Church of Australia to ensure that its clergy are fit to remain in Holy Orders,
- (iii) acknowledges the responsibility of the Anglican Church of Australia to ensure that its lay stipendiary workers are fit to be licenced to work in churches and to remain in this work,
- (iv) accepts the theological statements in the *Provisional Sydney Anglican Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse* that speak of the circumstances when it is right for the victims of domestic abuse to separate from their spouses and not be reconciled,
- (v) acknowledges that a key reason why domestic abuse victims might find it difficult to separate from their spouses is because of potential financial hardship (especially where children are involved),
- (vi) acknowledges that the family of clergy and lay stipendiary workers live in locations where the relevant ministry worker is licenced to minister, rather than around their natural support networks (e.g. family and close friends), and that this can make it even more difficult for victims of domestic abuse to separate from their spouses,

and therefore requests –

- (a) that Standing Committee, as a matter of urgency and in consultation with the Professional Standards Unit, create a generously provisioned long-term operating fund which has the purpose of assisting spouses of clergy and lay stipendiary workers who have been or will left in financial hardship as a result of their need to separate from their spouses due to domestic abuse,
- (b) that the policy which is created to administer the fund proposed in paragraph (a) provide a way for funds to be distributed quickly to those who are in need,
- (c) that Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation schools have short to medium term bursaries available to assist the families of clergy and lay stipendiary workers where separation has occurred due to domestic abuse, and
- (d) that Anglicare give priority for emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay stipendiary workers where separation has occurred due to domestic abuse.

Seconded and carried

8. Motions

8.1 Licensing of incumbents interim report

The Rev Phillip Wheeler moved –

'Synod, noting the Second Interim Report of the Licensing of Incumbents Review Committee –

- (a) requests the Standing Committee to amend the Ministry Training and Development ("MT&D") Ordinance Objects to provide an approved accreditation system for clergy Professional Development,
- (b) requests MT&D to develop and distribute a resource to assist nominators who are involved in interviewing prospective rectors, that includes recommendations to discuss the prospective rector's involvement in professional development,
- (c) requests Standing Committee to amend the parish Prescribed Financial Statement to include an expense line for Professional Development and to ask the Stipends and Allowances Committee to make a recommendation of an appropriate amount per clergy to be included in annual parish budgets for professional development,
- (d) endorses the concept of Negotiated Relinquishment of Incumbency as a mechanism to assist Rectors who are choosing, or being encouraged to leave a parish, and requests Standing Committee to determine how it is to be implemented and report to Synod in 2018,
- (e) notes the draft Healthy Parish Relationships guidelines, invites members to provide feedback to the Committee and endorses the Committee's attention to this area,
- (f) requests the Standing Committee to bring a bill to the next Synod that would constitute as misconduct "unreasonable and persistent failure to attend the triennial *Faithfulness in Service* training" and "unreasonable and persistent failure to complete the triennial Safe Ministry training.'

Seconded

The Rev Dominic Steele moved as an amendment to Mr Wheeler's motion –

'Omit the matter in –

- (a) paragraph (a), and
 - (b) paragraph (b)
- (with consequential re-lettering).'

Seconded

The Rev Chris Braga moved as an initial amendment to Mr Wheeler's motion –

'In paragraph (b), omit the matter "involvement in" and insert instead "future".'

Seconded

Mr Braga moved as a further amendment to Mr Wheeler's amendment –

'In paragraph (d), omit the word "negotiated" and insert instead "Voluntary".'

Seconded

The Rev David Ould moved –

'In paragraph (d), omit the matter ", or being encouraged".'

Seconded

Both paragraphs of Mr Steele's amendment were put separately, and each was lost.

The initial amendment of Mr Braga, and the amendment of Mr Ould were lost.

The further amendment of Mr Braga was carried.

Mr Wheeler's motion, as amended, was put and was carried in the following form –

'Synod, noting the Second Interim Report of the Licensing of Incumbents Review Committee –

- (a) requests the Standing Committee to amend the Ministry Training and Development ("MT&D") Ordinance Objects to provide an approved accreditation system for clergy Professional Development,
 - (b) requests MT&D to develop and distribute a resource to assist nominators who are involved in interviewing prospective rectors, that includes recommendations to discuss the prospective rector's future professional development,
 - (c) requests Standing Committee to amend the parish Prescribed Financial Statement to include an expense line for Professional Development and to ask the Stipends and Allowances Committee to make a recommendation of an appropriate amount per clergy to be included in annual parish budgets for professional development,
 - (d) endorses the concept of Voluntary Relinquishment of Incumbency as a mechanism to assist Rectors who are choosing, or being encouraged to leave a parish, and requests Standing Committee to determine how it is to be implemented and report to Synod in 2018,
 - (e) notes the draft Healthy Parish Relationships guidelines, invites members to provide feedback to the Committee and endorses the Committee's attention to this area,
- requests the Standing Committee to bring a bill to the next Synod that would constitute as misconduct "unreasonable and persistent failure to attend the triennial *Faithfulness in Service* training" and "unreasonable and persistent failure to complete the triennial Safe Ministry training.'

Mr Jeremy Freeman did not participate in the debate or vote in this matter.

8.2 **General Synod – Constitution (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017 Assenting Ordinance 2017**

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

"That Synod permit the introduction of the General Synod - Constitution (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017 Assenting Ordinance 2017."

Seconded and carried

Dr Tong moved –

"That Synod agree to consider passing the General Synod - Constitution (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017 Assenting Ordinance 2017 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 were no questions.

Dr Tong moved –

"That the General Synod - Constitution (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017 Assenting Ordinance 2017 pass formally as an ordinance of the Synod."

Seconded and carried

9. 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 Archbishop's New Churches for New Communities and the Mission Property Committee.

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

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.

10. Missionary Hour

The Rev Peter Rogers coordinated a series of presentations regarding Mission in Tanzania.

The Rev Simon Gillham gave a presentation about the Moore Theological College's Preliminary Theological Certificate and its use in Tanzania.

Bishop Peter Jensen gave a presentation regarding the work of GAFCON.

Following the presentations, Archbishop Glenn Davies led the Synod in prayer for the continuing mission of the gospel in the world.

11. Motions

11.1 Application of funds from the Property Receipts Levy

The Rev Dr Raj Gupta moved and spoke to the following motion –

- ‘Synod, noting the report “Application of funds from the proposed Property Receipts Levy” –
- (a) supports the creation of a Parish Property Development Fund (“PPDF”) as outlined in the report at paragraph 21(A), funded by the first \$500,000 of additional proceeds raised by the Property Receipts Levy (“PRL”) each year, noting that the criteria in 21(A)(v) do not indicate any priority, and subject to projects with a solid ministry case (without potential for revenue generation) also benefitting from the PPDF and doing so from its inception, and
 - (b) supports the creation of an urban development grant administered by the Mission Property Committee as outlined in the report at paragraph 21(B), funded by any additional proceeds raised by a PRL in excess of those required by the PPDF, and
 - (c) requests the Standing Committee to pass an ordinance to implement the PPDF and the urban development grant in conjunction with the implementation of the PRL.’

11.2 Proposal for a Property Receipts Levy

The Rev Craig Roberts moved –

‘Synod, noting the report “Proposal for a Property Receipts Levy” –

- (a) affirms the principle that the proposed levy should apply only to parish property income,
- (b) agrees that a property levy should be applied against net, rather than gross, property income because of the theological principle of “a sharing out of surplus”,
- (c) agrees in principle, that –
 - (i) offertory income (including regular giving, donations, bequests etc) should be used to meet the stipend, allowances and benefits of the minister of the parish and, to the extent possible, other recurrent ministry expenditure of the parish (including maintenance of non-income producing property),
 - (ii) property income should first be used to meet property expenditure, including the maintenance of buildings and adequate provision for future capital expenditure on commercial property before it is used to support recurrent ministry expenditure, and
 - (iii) a proportion of a parish’s surplus property income (i.e., non-offertory income) should be shared with the wider Diocese,
- (d) supports in principle a Property Receipts Levy (“PRL”) as outlined in the report and attached schedule subject to –
 - (i) a deduction being provided for bank and financial statutory charges, taxes and assessments on finance income, and
 - (ii) the Standing Committee being restricted from increasing any percentage or modifying any monetary thresholds without authorisation from the Synod,
 - (iii) parishes with net receipts of \$120,000 or less being totally excluded from this levy, and
- (e) requests the Standing Committee to pass an ordinance to implement a PRL with respect to property income from 2018.’

Seconded

There was a time for questions about the motion.

Mr James Balfour moved as an amendment to Mr Roberts’ motion –

“Omit paragraphs (a) – (e) and insert instead –

- ‘(a) commends the work done by the Large Receipts Policy Review Committee, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to consult with parishes on alternatives to a levy based on property income and to report back to Synod in 2018 on how they compare with a Property Receipts Levy.”

Seconded

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

‘In paragraph (e) –

- (a) omit the matter “pass an ordinance” and insert instead –
 - “bring a draft ordinance to next Synod”, and
- (b) omit the number “2018” and insert instead “2019”.’

Seconded

The Rev Andrew Katay moved as an amendment to Mr Roberts’ motion –

“In paragraph (c)(iii), after the matter “i.e. non-offertory income”, add the words –

‘net of all property expenditure on all properties.”

Seconded

Bishop Michael Stead moved as an amendment to Mrs Bannerman's amendment –

“Delete paragraph (b)”

Seconded

Mrs Bannerman's amendment was not carried. As a consequence, Bishop Stead's amendment to her amendment lapsed.

The amendments of Mr Balfour and Mr Katay were not carried.

Mr Roberts' motion was carried without amendment.

Adjournment

At 9:33 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

17 October 2017

51st Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

1st Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Tuesday 17 October 2017

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Bible study

The Rev Ed Vaughan led the Bible study.

3. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Monday 16 October 2017.

4. Further answer to a question asked on 11 October 2017

Mr Jeremy Freeman asked the following question –

Has Standing Committee, within the last fifteen years, reviewed the policy decisions and management of the diocesan insurance program? If so, when and what was the scope of the review?

To which the President replied –

Yesterday I answered the question of Mr Jeremy Freeman regarding the diocesan insurance program that was listed at Item 4.10 of the Business Paper for that day. This answer contained an error.

It was stated in the answer that the Property Trust has obtained an independent actuarial report in respect to the adequacy of the insurance program each year since 2007. It has since been ascertained that there have in fact been 3 such reports obtained since 2007. The last paragraph of the answer to the question is therefore amended to read:

Periodically, since 2007, the Property Trust has obtained an independent professional actuarial report about the adequacy of insurance policies and related cover provided under the Program. These reports have been provided to the Finance Committee of the Standing Committee.

5. Procedural motions from members

5.1 Consideration of motion to endorse payment to Coalition for Marriage

Having been granted leave, Professor Bernard Stewart moved –

'Synod agrees to consider the motion at item 5.18 on today's business paper at 7:00 pm (after consideration of the motions at items 5.10-5.12), and to the following arrangements if the motion at item 5.18 on today's business paper is not carried –

- (a) to immediately consider the following motion –
 “Synod endorses the recent provision of \$1 million by Standing Committee to the Coalition for Marriage”, and
- (b) to resolve the motion by secret ballot,
 and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.’

Seconded and carried

5.2 Revised time limit for speeches

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod agrees to a time limit of 3 minutes for all speeches made by members for the remainder of this session when the Synod is not in Committee (except speeches by movers and seconders of motions) and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.”

Seconded

8 members stood in their place to object to the suspension of business rules without notice.

Mr Wicks’ motion therefore lapsed.

5.3 Withdrawal of notice of motion concerning Synod Property Partnerships

The Rev Andrew Katay moved –

“Synod agrees to the motion at item 5.17 on today’s business paper being withdrawn.”

Seconded and carried

5.4 Withdrawal of notice of amendment 7 to the Assistant Ministers Ordinance

Having been granted leave, the Rev Dr David Höhne moved –

“Synod agrees that amendment 7 on today’s amendment sheet be withdrawn.”

Seconded and carried

5.5 Withdrawal of notice of amendment 8 to the Assistant Ministers Ordinance

Having been granted leave, Mr Paul Fitzpatrick moved –

“Synod agrees that amendment 8 on today’s amendment sheet be withdrawn.”

Seconded and carried

6. Anglicare presentation

Bishop Peter Hayward gave a presentation regarding Anglicare’s Parish Partnership and Housing Partnership programs.

7. Calling of motions on the business paper

The President called the motions in the 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.

7.1 Freedom to uphold marriage as a union between one man and one woman

The Rev Zac Veron moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) affirms the Bible’s teaching that marriage is a life-long union voluntarily entered into between one man and one woman,
- (b) commends the brave women (Cella White, Dr Pansy Lai and Heidi McIvor) who appeared in the first “You can Say No” television advertisement authorised by the Coalition For Marriage, for speaking about some of the consequences for children if same sex marriage is legalised in Australia,
- (c) expresses its sadness at the barrage of abuse, threats and intimidation these women, and others, have been subjected to for exercising their democratic right to speak and voice an opinion,
- (d) requests the Archbishop to write to these three women to encourage them and convey the support and thanks of this Synod,
- (e) encourages all Australians to consider the implications for children’s education and the teaching of gender ideology in Australian schools should same sex marriage become law, and
- (f) encourages all churches to urge their members to speak to friends and neighbours about the impact on future generations of children should the “yes” campaign succeed.’

Seconded and carried

Mr Veron led the Synod in prayer regarding marriage in our society.

7.2 Legal equality for LGBTI couples

Mr Jim Campbell moved –

“Synod –

- (a) noting that the Federal Government’s comprehensive Same-sex Relationships reforms in 2008 removed every piece of legal discrimination against gay men, lesbians and same sex couples in Federal legislation, giving LGBTI couples the same legal rights as heterosexual de-facto couples, and
- (b) noting that there are state-based Registers of Civil Unions, Relationships Registers or equivalent that provide for recognition and registration of de-facto relationships in all states and Territories (except Western Australia and the Northern Territory), which provide de-facto couples with substantively the same legal rights as married couples,
- (c) but also noting that these systems for recognition and registration of de-facto relationships are not consistent across Australia,
- (d) affirms that the appropriate way for Australia to address the remaining areas of inequality or inconsistency for LGBTI couples is via a national system for the recognition of same-sex unions, similar to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (UK), and
- (e) urges the Federal Government and state and territory governments to work together to implement a nationally consistent legislative approach to this end.”

Seconded and carried

7.3 Promotion and protection of religious freedom

The Rev James Warren moved –

“Synod notes the growing public conflicts over religious freedom in the context of the postal survey, and requests the Standing Committee consider –

- (a) how an ongoing positive public case might be made to promote freedom of religion and belief for all, and

- (b) how to publicly protect freedom of belief where it is being challenged.

Synod commends the ongoing religious freedom work Freedom for Faith are doing for the Diocese.”

Seconded and carried

7.4 Luther and other Reformers

The Rev Jason Ramsay moved –

“This Synod, noting that the end of this month marks 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, thus beginning the European Reformation, gives thanks to God for his mercy in bringing Luther to a life of repentance and faith, his wisdom in bringing Luther and other Reformers to a firm understanding of the great truths of the Scriptures and his providence in ordering the circumstances of history in order that the ideas of the Reformers could take root and spread. In particular, Synod praises God for –

- (a) the recovery of the doctrine that we are justified by faith alone,
- (b) the reminder that we are saved by the free gift of God’s grace alone,
- (c) the great news that Christ alone has done all that needs to be done for our salvation,
- (d) the Reformation principle that the Scripture should be accessible to all, and that no Christian’s conscience should be bound other than by Holy scripture, and
- (e) the fact all this is for the glory of God alone.

Synod calls on all churches to hold out this great news to a world which does not know Christ and asks churches in our Diocese to promote knowledge of the Reformation as a key part of our heritage. Synod further calls on all parishes to emulate our Reformation forebears by regularly and prayerfully reviewing its ministries, conduct of services, and strategic-planning practices, to ensure that these Reformation principles are magnified rather than diluted in our churches.”

Seconded and carried

7.5 Anglicare’s Housing Assistance program

The Rev Ray Robinson moved –

Synod gives thanks to God for Anglicare’s commitment to the provision of accommodation to older people at risk of homelessness through their Housing Assistance program and –

- (a) encourages Anglicare to continue their expansion of this ministry; and
- (b) encourages parishes in which Housing Assistance programs are planned to be located to partner with Anglicare in reaching out to build relationships with the programs’ residents through which they may hear and respond to the gospel.

Seconded and carried

8. Motions

8.1 Kangaroo Valley: Reclassification as a Parish

The Rev Andrew Paterson moved –

“Synod assents to the reclassification of Kangaroo Valley as a parish with effect from 1 January 2018.”

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Mr Tony Willis led the Synod in prayer for the parish of Kangaroo Valley.

8.2 Lifelong Ministry Development Guidelines

The Rev Gary O'Brien moved –

“Synod, noting the report Lifelong Ministry Development guidelines –

- (a) thanks MT&D for their attention to this important area,
- (b) recognises the significance of last year’s Synod survey research that –
 - (i) 42% of respondents do not believe that rectors are looked after in a way that gives them the best opportunity to improve and grow over time,
 - (ii) 8% of rectors do not believe that they are currently “well suited” to their position,
 - (iii) 30% of rectors report a low level of energy,
 - (iv) 21% of rectors significantly struggle with depression or anxiety,
- (c) encourages all clergy to participate in LMD being operated by MT&D,
- (d) recognises that a culture of professional development will be best achieved if confidentiality is maintained in relation to the personal information of participants in LMD, other than disclosing the name of a participant to a person who has pastoral responsibilities in respect to the participant,
- (e) urges parish councillors and lay Synod representatives to support their minister’s commitment of time and resources to professional development and reflect this in their parish budget, and
- (f) asks the diocesan members of the Nomination Board, when considering a prospective rector, to discuss with the parish nominators the prospective rector’s involvement in professional development.”

Seconded and carried

8.3 Application of funds from the Property Receipts Levy

Having been granted leave, the Rev Nigel Fortescue moved that the motion moved yesterday by the Rev Dr Raj Gupta be amended to read as follows –

Synod, noting the report “Application of funds from the proposed Property Receipts Levy” –

- (a) supports the creation of a Parish Property Development Fund (“PPDF”) as outlined in the report at paragraph 21(A), funded by the first \$500,000 of additional proceeds raised by the Property Receipts Levy (“PRL”) each year, noting that the criteria in 21(A)(v) do not indicate any priority, and subject to projects with a solid ministry case (without potential for revenue generation) also benefitting from the PPDF and doing so from its inception, and
- (b) supports the creation of a development grant administered by the Mission Property Committee as outlined in the report at paragraph 21(B), funded by any additional proceeds raised by a PRL in excess of those required by the PPDF, and
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to pass an ordinance to implement the PPDF and the development grant in conjunction with the implementation of the PRL.

Seconded and carried

Mr Fortescue seconded and spoke to the amended form of Dr Gupta’s motion.

The Rev Anthony Douglas moved as an amendment to Dr Gupta’s motion –

‘Omit the matter in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) and replace with the following –

- “(a) encourages diocesan bodies to refrain from the use of the word ‘urban’ when referring to the whole of the established parishes and provisional parishes in the diocese, as this can cause unnecessary and unintentional confusion,
- (b) supports the principle of applying additional proceeds raised by the Property Receipts Levy to expand the capital base of the diocese,

- (c) requests Standing Committee to find a more equitable formula for assessing the application of such funds, such that no particular type of bottleneck is privileged over any other, and
- (d) further requests that there be no requirement that any minimum sum be allocated to external consultants ahead of other applications.”

There was a time for questions about the motion.

The Rev Philip Wheeler moved as an amendment to Dr Gupta’s motion –

“Delete paragraph (b) and consequently, delete all the words after the acronym ‘PPDF’ in paragraph (c).’

The amendments of Mr Douglas and Mr Wheeler were not carried.

Dr Gupta’s motion was carried without amendment.

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. Youthworks presentation

The Rev Craig Roberts and the Rev Dr Bill Salier gave a presentation regarding the work of Youthworks.

10. Procedural motions from members

10.1 Arrangements for consideration of business

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

“Synod agrees to consider immediately the motions at the following items on today’s business paper: 5.4, 5.5, 5.8, 5.9, 5.6, 5.7, 5.18; noting that if 5.18 is not carried, Synod has agreed to then immediately consider the motion foreshadowed by Professor Bernard Stewart considering the recent provision of \$1 million to the Coalition for Marriage.”

Seconded and carried

11. Motions

11.1 General Synod – Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

"That Synod permit the introduction of the General Synod – Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017."

Seconded and carried

Dr Tong moved –

"That Synod agree to consider passing the General Synod – Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 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 were no questions.

Dr Tong moved –

"That the General Synod – Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 pass formally as an ordinance of the Synod."

Seconded and carried

11.2 **General Synod – Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017**

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

"That Synod permit the introduction of the General Synod – Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017."

Seconded and carried

Bishop Stead moved –

"That Synod agree to consider passing the General Synod – Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 formally."

Seconded and carried

Bishop Stead spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The President asked –

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

There were no questions.

Bishop Stead moved –

"That the General Synod – Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 pass formally as an ordinance of the Synod."

Seconded and carried

11.3 **Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017**

Debate resumed on the following motion moved by Bishop Chris Edwards –

“That the Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 be approved in principle.”

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?”

There was a member who wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance.

Bishop Edwards moved –

“That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017.”

Seconded and carried

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

Bishop Edwards moved –

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

Seconded and carried

Bishop Edwards moved –

“That Synod agree to consider a motion that the Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 pass as an ordinance of the Synod once the Chair of Committees has certified the text of the ordinance.”

Seconded and carried

11.4 **Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017**

Archdeacon Kara Hartley moved –

“That Synod resolves itself into the Synod in Committee to consider further the text of the *Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017*.”

Seconded and carried

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

Archdeacon Hartley moved –

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

Seconded and carried

Archdeacon Hartley moved –

“That Synod agree to consider a motion that the Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017 pass as an ordinance of the Synod once the Chair of Committees has certified the text of the ordinance.”

Seconded and carried

11.5 **Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017**

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

“That the Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

11.6 **Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017**

Archdeacon Kara Hartley moved –

“That the Synod Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017 (previously titled the Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017) pass as an ordinance of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

11.7 **Composition, purpose and role of Synod**

Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Synod asks the Standing Committee to bring a report to the October 2018 session of Synod on the composition, purpose and role of Synod.”

Seconded and carried

11.8 **Proposed review of the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897**

Mr John Pascoe moved –

‘Synod asks the Standing Committee to review the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897* particularly in respect to the inconsistency between the definition of a “Regional Elector” in clause 1(1) and the definition of a “Qualified Lay Person” in clause 1(2)(b), and any other inconsistencies it may find in the Ordinance.’

Seconded and carried

11.9 **Consecration of Bishop Andy Lines**

The Archbishop vacated the chair and Bishop Ivan Lee took the chair to preside during consideration of this motion.

The Rev Canon Dr Mark Thompson moved –

‘Synod gives thanks to God for the leadership of our Archbishop in representing our Diocese and participating in the consecration of Bishop Andy Lines as the Anglican Church in North America (“ACNA”) Missionary Bishop to Europe in Chicago on 30 June 2017. The announcement of Bishop Lines’ consecration, within hours of the Scottish Episcopal

Church announcing its amendment of canon law on marriage in order to allow same sex marriages on 8 June, was a message of hope to Scottish Episcopalians and others who have been left without faithful episcopal oversight for these stranded Christians and we rejoice that three Australian bishops (Archbishop Davies, Bishop Richard Condie and Bishop Gary Nelson) were among the consecrators. We note with gratitude that the Archbishop took this step with the unanimous support of the Standing Committee. We commit to continuing in prayer for Bishop Lines and all faithful Anglicans who stand for biblical truth and faithful Christian discipleship.’

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Mrs Gillian Davidson, being a member of the Appellate Tribunal, absented herself from the meeting place of Synod during debate on this motion.

11.10 **Scottish Episcopal Church**

The Very Rev Kanishka Raffel moved –

“Synod –

- (a) notes with regret that the Scottish Episcopal Church has amended their Canon on Marriage to change the definition that marriage is between a man and a woman by adding a new section that allows clergy to solemnise marriage between same-sex couples as well as couples of the opposite sex,
- (b) declares that this step is contrary to the doctrine of Christ and the doctrine of our Church, and therefore inconsistent with the Fundamental Declarations of our Churches,
- (c) notes with sadness that the Scottish Episcopal Church has thereby put itself out of fellowship with the wider Anglican Communion,
- (d) expresses our support for those Anglicans who have left or will need to leave the Scottish Episcopal Church because of its redefinition of marriage, or who struggle to remain in good conscience, and
- (e) prays that the Scottish Episcopal Church will return to the doctrine of Christ in this matter and be restored to communion with faithful Anglicans around the world.”

Seconded

The Rev James Collins moved as an amendment to Dean Raffel’s motion –

“Delete paragraph (c).”

Mr Collins’ amendment was not carried.

Dean Raffel’s motion was carried without amendment.

Canon Phillip Colgan led the Synod in prayer concerning the consecration of Bishop Andy Lines and the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Mrs Gillian Davidson, being a member of the Appellate Tribunal, absented herself from the meeting place of Synod during debate on this motion.

11.11 **Withdrawal of funds from the Diocesan Endowment**

Archdeacon Deryck Howell moved –

“Synod, noting that Standing Committee has recently donated \$1 million from the Diocesan Endowment to the Coalition for Marriage for the support of that organisation’s media campaign –

- (a) endorses Standing Committee’s authority to withdraw funds from the Endowment when the object of the withdrawal is to acquire other assets,

- (b) directs the Standing Committee to seek the endorsement of Synod (by electronic communication if necessary) to proceed with any special drawdown from the Endowment for purposes other than acquiring assets, and
- (c) requests Standing Committee to bring to the next session of Synod a report and ordinance giving effect to the direction of paragraph (b)."

Seconded

The Rev Richard Bligh moved as a procedural motion –

"That the motion be not be voted on."

Seconded

The President asked –

"Does the Synod wish the debate on the principal motion to continue before the procedural motion is put to the Synod?"

The President's question was put and the Synod answered in the negative.

Mr Bligh's motion was put and was carried.

Archdeacon Howell's motion lapsed.

With the leave of the Synod, Archdeacon Howell made a personal explanation regarding this matter.

11.12 **Payment to the Coalition for Marriage**

The President made a determination that the previous motion concerning the withdrawal of funds from the Diocesan Endowment was not carried and therefore it was in order to proceed to consider the motion of which Professor Bernard Stewart previously gave notice.

Professor Bernard Stewart moved –

"Synod endorses the recent provision of \$1 million authorised by Standing Committee to the Coalition for Marriage."

Seconded

Miss Joanna Hayes moved –

"That Synod dissents from the President's determination regarding the consideration of this motion."

Miss Hayes motion of dissent was not carried.

Mr Philip Gerber moved –

"That the motion be not be voted on."

The President asked –

"Does the Synod wish the debate on the principal motion to continue before the procedural motion is put to the Synod?"

The President's question was put and the Synod answered in the negative.

Mr Gerber's motion was put and was carried.

Professor Stewart's motion lapsed.

12. Closure

12.1 Leadership of Bible studies

Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Synod records its appreciation of the preaching and leadership of the Rev Ed Vaughan for the Synod Service and the Bible studies during the remainder of this session.”

Seconded and carried

12.2 Officers of the Synod

Bishop Ivan Lee 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

12.3 Minutes of 17 October 2017

Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod authorises the President to sign the minutes of 17 October 2017 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 “A Mighty Fortress is our God” after which the President gave the Benediction.

12.5 Adjournment

At 9:47 pm Mr Doug Marr 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

13 November 2017