

51st Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

3rd Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Monday 14 October 2019

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Prayers

Prayers were read by the Registrar, Mr Doug Marr.

The President welcomed the Rev Peter Wilson, Camden Valley Church.

The President welcomed the Rev Jay Behan, Bishop-elect of the Church of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa/New Zealand.

3. Procedural motions

3.1 Commencement of business and Presidential Address

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) notes that the Presidential Address will be delivered from 4.30 pm, and
- (b) suspends any part of the business rules which would prevent this arrangement.’

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. Procedural motions

6.1 Amendment to the business paper for Monday 14 October 2019

Mr Daniel Glynn 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 14 October 2019”.’

Seconded and carried

7. Elections

7.1 Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney

Mr Daniel Glynn 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 Mr Richard Neal, Mr Ian Pike, and Mrs Melinda West, who have come to the end of their terms of office, noting that Mr Neal, Mr Pike and Mrs West have each been nominated in anticipation of this vacancy being declared.'

Seconded and carried

7.2 Uncontested Elections

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

8. Tabling of the minute book of the Standing Committee

The minute book of the Standing Committee was tabled.

9. Petitions

There were no petitions.

10. Questions

Questions were asked by the following members –

- (1) Mr Peter Young
- (2) Mr Peter Young
- (3) Mr Peter Young
- (4) Mr Peter Young
- (5) Mr Peter Young
- (6) Mr Peter Young
- (7) Mr Peter Young
- (8) Mr Peter Young
- (9) Mr Peter Young
- (10) Mr Peter Young
- (11) Mr Peter Young
- (12) Mr Peter Young
- (13) Mr Peter Young
- (14) The Rev Dr Raj Gupta
- (15) The Rev Dr Max Wood
- (16) The Rev Gavin Parsons
- (17) Ms Lyn Bannerman
- (18) Mr Garry Allen
- (19) Miss Tiffany Davy
- (20) The Rev Joe Wiltshire
- (21) The Rev Anthony Douglas
- (22) The Rev Bruce Stanley
- (23) Mrs Stacey Chapman
- (24) The Rev Tim Mildenhall
- (25) The Rev Tim Mildenhall
- (26) The Rev Tim Mildenhall
- (27) The Rev Martin Kemp
- (28) The Rev Martin Kemp

- (29) Mrs Sue Radkovic
- (30) The Rev Tim Swan
- (31) The Rev Tim Swan

11. Procedural motions

11.1 Trial of proposed Synod Business Rules

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

‘Synod, noting the report “Synod Standing Orders” –

- (a) agrees to adopt as a trial for this session the amendments to the business rules proposed in the Bill for the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2019 (the Bill), as shown in the marked form of the *Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000* (included as an attachment to the report “Synod Standing Orders”),
- (b) agrees to adopt as a trial for this session, allowing of the consideration of Bills for ordinances and policies on the first day of the session,
- (c) requests the President to callover the remaining procedural motions immediately following this item, as would have been the case under the proposed rules,
- (d) agrees to consider the Bill on day 4 of this session, and
- (e) suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.’

Seconded and carried

12. Calling of procedural motions

The President called the remaining procedural motions in the order in which they appeared on the business paper.

12.1 Arrangements concerning Daily Papers and amendments

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) notes that it is proposed to prepare and print Daily Papers (usually including the Business Paper and Schedule of motions with amendments) in a consolidated form and provide 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 the Daily Papers 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 10.30 am to be included Daily Papers 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 in the Daily Papers for the following day.’

Seconded and carried

12.2 Arrangements for the scheduling of business

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) agrees in principle to deal with its business in accordance with the Timetable for Synod Business including –
 - (i) a presentation for up to 10 minutes from the Professional Standards Unit regarding developments in Safe Ministry training and requirements, on Tuesday 15 October 2019 following the callover of motions,
 - (ii) a 5 minute video prepared by the Anglican Church Growth Corporation, on Wednesday 16 October, following the callover of motions,
- (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 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

12.3 Arrangements for the consideration of motions to reclassify parishes

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) agrees that, for the purpose of considering the motions concerning the classifications of parishes, the movers and the seconders of the motions may combine with representatives of the parishes, to provide joint presentations (including visuals) instead of making separate speeches, in the following format –
 - (i) the parishes of Bayside (M11) and Fairfield with Bossley Park (M12) to combine for a presentation up to 20 minutes, including a concluding prayer, from 5:25 pm on Tuesday 15 October 2019,
 - (ii) the parishes of Berala (M13) and Pitt Town (M14) to combine for a presentation up to 20 minutes, including a concluding prayer, from 5:25 pm on Wednesday 16 October 2019, and
 - (iii) the parishes of Cobbitty (M15) and Oran Park (M16) to combine for a presentation up to 20 minutes, including a concluding prayer, from 5:25 pm on Monday 21 October 2019, and
- (b) suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.’

Seconded and carried

12.4 Arrangements for consideration of amendments to the Property Use and Governance policies

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

‘Synod agrees –

- (a) to consider M46 (Amendment to the Statement of Personal Faith in the Governance Policy) as the next unscheduled item of business following consideration of M25 (Amendment to the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations),
- (b) not to consider M26 (Circulation of updated Property Use and Governance Policies) prior to the conclusion of consideration of M24 (Amendment to the Property Use Policy), M25 and M46, and
- (c) that these arrangements should not prevent M24, M25 or M46 being taken on the callover of motions.’

Seconded and carried

12.5 Arrangements for consideration of motion regarding Compliance with the Children’s Guardian Bill 2019 (NSW)

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod agrees not to consider the motion at M32 (Compliance with the Children's Guardian Bill 2019 (NSW)) prior to the conclusion of consideration of the Bill at B3 (Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019).'

Seconded and carried

12.6 Suspension of business rules concerning passing of ordinances

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent, on the last scheduled 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 by the Synod in Committee on that day.'

Seconded and carried

12.7 Permission to distribute a document relevant to the Archbishop Election Amendment Ordinance 2019

The Rev Dominic Steele moved –

'Synod agrees to the printing and circulation of a one page report prepared by the Rev Dominic Steele, in support of an amendment to the text of the Bill for the Archbishop Election Amendment Ordinance 2019.'

Seconded and carried

13. Procedural motions

13.1 Deferral of consideration of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019

The Rev Joe Wiltshire moved as a procedural motion –

'Synod defers the consideration of the Bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019 until the next ordinary session of the Synod, and requests the Standing Committee to present a form of the Bill along with its report regarding 43/17 CPRS for Synod's consideration at that time.'

Dr Laurie Scandrett moved as a further procedural motion –

'Synod defers consideration of Mr Wiltshire's procedural motion until Tuesday 15 October.'

The Rev Anthony Douglas moved as an amendment to Dr Scandrett's procedural motion –

'Following the word, 'until', insert the matter 'the earlier of immediately prior to consideration of the Bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance or'.

Mr Douglas' amendment was passed.

Dr Scandrett's motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

'Synod defers consideration of Mr Wiltshire's procedural motion until the earlier of immediately prior to consideration of the Bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance or Tuesday 15 October.'

14. Notices of Motions

Notices of motions were given by the following members –

- (1) Mr Doug Marr
- (2) Canon Phillip Colgan
- (3) Mr Greg Hammond OAM
- (4) The Rev Dr Raj Gupta
- (5) The Rev Michael Armstrong
- (6) The Rev Simon Flinders
- (7) Dr Robert Tong AM
- (8) Dr Bryan Cowling
- (9) The Rev Phil Wheeler
- (10) Mr Tony Willis
- (11) The Rev Anthony Douglas
- (12) The Rev Neil Fitzpatrick
- (13) Bishop Chris Edwards
- (14) Bishop Chris Edwards

15. Procedural motions from members

15.1 Arrangements for the consideration of motion concerning Anglican Community Services

Mr Greg Hammond OAM moved –

‘Synod agrees to schedule consideration of the motion concerning Anglican Community Services as the first item after formal matters on Monday 21 October.’

Mr Doug Marr moved as an amendment to Mr Hammond’s motion –

‘Omit the words, ‘agrees to schedule consideration of’ and insert instead, ‘requests the Order of Business Committee to consider scheduling’.’

Mr Marr’s amendment was put and carried.

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

‘Synod requests the Order of Business Committee to consider scheduling the motion concerning Anglican Community Services as the first item after formal matters on Monday 21 October.’

15.2 Arrangements for the consideration of motion concerning Archbishop Glenn Davies

Mr Doug Marr moved –

‘Synod requests the Order of Business Committee to schedule Dr Tong’s motion concerning Archbishop Glenn Davies at a suitable time.’

Seconded and carried

16. 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.

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

Mr Daniel Glynn 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) Anglican Church Growth Corporation
- (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
- (4) Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney as trustee for the Long Term Pooled 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 Growth Corporation
- (9) Anglican Media Council
- (10) Anglican Schools Corporation *
- (11) Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks) *
- (12) Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid, The *
- (13) Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid, The, as trustee of the Archbishop of Sydney's Overseas Ministry Fund *
- (14) Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid, The, as trustee of the Archbishop of Sydney's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund *
- (15) Archbishop of Sydney's Discretionary Trust
- (16) Arden Anglican School Council
- (17) Arundel House Council
- (18) Barker College, The Council of
- (19) Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council *
- (20) Endowment of the See Corporation
- (21) Evangelism and New Churches, The Board of
- (22) Georges River Regional Council
- (23) Glebe Administration Board as trustee of the Diocesan Endowment
- (24) Glebe Administration Board as trustee of the Diocesan Cash Investment Fund
- (25) Macarthur Anglican Church School Council, The
- (26) Ministry Training and Development Council
- (27) Moore Theological College Council *
- (28) Northern Regional Council
- (29) St Andrew's Cathedral Chapter
- (30) St Andrew's Cathedral School, The Council of
- (31) St Andrew's House Corporation as trustee of the St Andrew's House Trust
- (32) St Catherine's School Waverley, Council of
- (33) South Sydney Regional Council
- (34) Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee
- (35) Sydney Anglican Loans Board
- (36) Sydney Church of England Grammar School Council (Shore)
- (37) Sydney Diocesan Services
- (38) Tara Anglican School for Girls, Council of
- (39) The Illawarra Grammar School Council *
- (40) The King's School, The Council of
- (41) Trinity Grammar School Council
- (42) Western Sydney Regional Council
- (43) William Branwhite Clarke College Council *
- (44) Wollongong Regional Council'

Seconded and carried

16.2 Standing Committee and other special reports

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

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

- (1) 2019 Report of the Standing Committee
- (2) Parish Funds Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2018
- (3) Synod Funds Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2018
- (4) Synod – St Andrew's House Fund Financial Report for 2018
- (5) Stipends, Allowances and Benefits for 2020
- (6) Children serving in ministry leadership to other children (37/18)
- (7) Doctrine Commission: Worship and Prayer in the Christian Assembly (16/15)

- (8) Doctrine Commission: The Implications of Domestic Abuse for Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage (18/18)
- (8A) Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity
- (9) Domestic Violence Response Progress Report
- (10) Enhancing engagement of Synod members / Synod business rules (40/18)
- (11) Freedom of Religion: Submission on the Exposure Draft of the Religious Discrimination Bill
- (12) Forum of Synod (14/17)
- (13) Gender representation on Diocesan boards and committees (revised 2019) (27/17)
- (13A) Governance arrangements for Diocesan Organisations
- (14) Human Sexuality Pastoral Guidelines
- (15) Implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (43/18), subject to substituting the text in subparagraph 21(a) of the report with: "there being matters that were not within the scope of the review that are relevant to the recommendation"
- (16) Ordinances passed by the Standing Committee
- (17) Parochial Cost Recovery charges for 2020
- (18) Parochial Cost Recovery instalments for 2020
- (19) Prioritisation of Synod requests
- (20) Steps taken to encourage ordination (11/18)
- (21) Reporting on the National Redress Scheme
- (22) Bayside, Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish to a parish
- (23) Berala, Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish to a parish
- (24) Cobbitty, Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish to a parish
- (25) Fairfield with Bossley Park, Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish to a parish
- (26) Oran Park, Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish to a parish
- (27) Pitt Town, Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish to a parish
- (28) Anglican Church Property Trust Annual Report 2018
- (29) Ministry Spouse Support Fund: Preliminary Report
- (30) Mission Property Committee
- (31) Regional Councils' Annual Reports for 2018
- (32) Safe Ministry Board and Professional Standards Unit Annual Report
- (33) Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (2/15)
- (34) Explanatory statements and reports on Bills and policies'

Seconded and carried

16.3 Ordinary sessions of Synod held in September

Canon Phillip Colgan moved –

'Synod encourages the next Archbishop to summon members to ordinary sessions of Synod held in the final weeks of School Term 3, rather than the first weeks of School Term 4, from 2021.'

Seconded and carried

16.4 Steps to encourage ordination

The Rev Dr Mark Thompson moved –

'Synod, noting the report '11/18 Steps to encourage ordination' –

- (a) encourages rectors to –
 - (i) see a key part of their role is to raise up the next generation of full time gospel ministry workers, including those ordained in this Diocese,
 - (ii) promote a culture of gospel generosity in training and sending people beyond their parish into this Diocese and beyond the Diocese,
 - (iii) develop an apprenticeship training model that helps people discern their giftedness for ministry and prepares them for more formal education and ministry training,

- (iv) promote Moore Theological College (MTC) as the first choice College for theological training and Youthworks College (YWC) for specialist youth and children's ministry training, and
- (v) challenge appropriately gifted and trained assistant ministers to be prepared to seek ordination as a presbyter to lead churches and intentionally train them for this responsibility,
- (b) encourages assistant ministers to see Christian leadership is marked by sacrificial service and if suitably gifted, be prepared to seek ordination to serve as rectors,
- (c) encourages MTC and YWC to keep equipping men and women for the work of the gospel and address the cost of theological education,
- (d) encourages Ministry Training & Development (MT&D) and MTC to –
 - (i) identify gifted men and women students to consider ordination for Anglican ministry in the Diocese, and
 - (ii) help rectors to build a training and recruiting culture and actively promote MTC, YWC and ordination, and
- (e) encourages congregations to –
 - (i) see themselves as training and sending churches, and
 - (ii) seeing the urgency of gospel proclamation, pray that the Lord will raise up workers for the harvest out of their congregation.'

Seconded and carried

16.5 **Implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**

Ms Michelle England moved –

'Synod noting the report 43/18 Implementation of Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse –

- (a) endorses implementation of the Royal Commission's Child Safe Standards by all institutions of the Diocese of Sydney that have contact with children in conducting their operations,
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to provide a report to the next session of the Synod in relation to implementation of the actions set out in the report, and
- (c) pending Standing Committee's report to Synod in 2020 (and except as otherwise addressed at the 2019 session of Synod) –
 - (i) refers questions of draft ordinances or policies required to facilitate their implementation to Standing Committee, and
 - (ii) requests the Standing Committee to bring recommendations on funding to enable implementation of the actions set out in the report for approval by Synod.'

Seconded and carried

16.6 **Staff management training**

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'Synod –

- (a) notes that while many rectors have participated in staff management training, the majority have not;
- (b) encourages rectors who have not already done so, to participate in staff management training as a matter of urgency;
- (c) requests the Safe Ministry Board, regularly include items relating to staff management in the content for the mandated triennial Faithfulness in Ministry training, noting that the 2020 Faithfulness in Ministry training will focus on staff management, and bullying in particular;

- (d) requests Ministry Training and Development to include appropriate training on the Ordinances relevant to Assistant Ministers as part of the post-ordination Ministry Development program for deacons;
- (e) recommends to the Archbishop that licences for Assistant Ministers, issued at the request of a rector, have an option for a specified term, with the minimum term being two years; and
- (f) requests the Ministry Standards Ordinance Review Committee to further review the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017*, particularly as it pertains to accusations of bullying, to ensure that rector development or other measures, are recommended prior to more serious action.'

Seconded and carried

16.7 Amendment to the Property Use Policy

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

'Synod agrees to amend its Property Use Policy by inserting the following as a new paragraph 10(a) –

“This policy is not intended to require a withdrawal from, or the exclusion of, those who do not share our doctrines, tenets and beliefs. Rather, we should welcome to our properties those who do not share our doctrines, tenets and beliefs, to the fullest extent possible, yet in a way that does not cause our doctrines, tenets and beliefs to be contravened or compromised. The mere presence of those who do not share our beliefs or the mere expression of beliefs we do not share, will not contravene this policy. However allowing our property to be used for the promotion or propagation of such beliefs does. For example, it does not contravene our doctrines, tenets and beliefs for a resident of an Anglican retirement village who is an adherent of another faith to practise their faith in the privacy of their own residence, but it would be a contravention if the retirement village were to allow a service of public worship for those of that faith to be held.”

Seconded and carried

16.8 The nature of marriage

The Rev Dr Mark Thompson moved –

'Synod welcomes the Doctrine Commission's report *The Implications of Domestic Abuse for Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage* and commends it to ministers and parishes for their careful consideration.'

Seconded and carried

16.9 'An Introduction to Teaching in an Anglican School'

Dr John Collier moved –

'Synod welcomes a new online course designed and developed by Anglican Education Commission (EdComm) entitled "An Introduction to Teaching in an Anglican School", and notes that –

- (a) the course was designed to assist teachers who are new to an Anglican school to reflect on and consider how they can best participate in and support the Christian foundations and ministry of the particular school they are joining,
- (b) the course is accredited as 10 hours of professional learning by the New South Wales Education Standards Authority,
- (c) to date 109 teachers and chaplains have enrolled in the course,
- (d) the course was funded by the Synod, Anglican Schools that subscribe to EdComm and the Genesis Charitable Foundation, and

- (e) development of a more generic course "An Introduction to Teaching in a Christian School" should be completed later this year.'

Seconded and carried

16.10 Induction into administrative requirements for new rectors

The Rev Mike Begbie moved –

'Synod requests Standing Committee to investigate and implement routine measures that will enable new rectors to be better and formally inducted into the range of administration requirements for rectors and parishes.'

Seconded and carried

16.11 30th Anniversary of women ordained as deacons in the Diocese of Sydney

Archdeacon Kara Hartley moved –

'Synod, noting the 30th anniversary of women ordained as deacons in the Diocese –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the ministries of women in the Diocese, both ordained and lay,
- (b) gives thanks to God for the long history of gospel partnership between women and men in this Diocese,
- (c) praises God for the multitude of opportunities women have to exercise their teaching and pastoral gifts,
- (d) commends churches, schools and diocesan organisations employing women for ministry roles, and
- (e) asks God to continue to raise up women for gospel ministry, whether full-time or part-time, so every parish may have theologically trained women on their staff team.'

Seconded and carried

16.12 Mrs Margaret Fuller

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

'Synod expresses its profound thanks to Ms Margaret Fuller for her 23 years of faithful and diligent serving as a Contact Person for the Professional Standards Unit. In this role Margaret has tirelessly provided care, outstanding support and wise advice to complainants.

As well as her Professional Standard's responsibility, over the last 40 years Margaret has provided advice and counsel to many in Parish ministry across the Diocese.

As Margaret retires from her PSU work, Synod prays for continued health as she involves herself in many other ministry areas, especially at St Mark's West Wollongong.'

Seconded and carried

Bishop Hayward led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Mrs Fuller.

16.13 Authorised Lay Ministers

The Rev Scott Newling moved –

'Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the heritage of significant lay participation and lay ministry in our Diocese,
- (b) affirms the appropriate employment of Authorised Lay Ministers as one expression of promoting lay ministry in our parishes,

- (c) notes the *Anglican Church of Australia Constitution Act 1961*, as a Fundamental Declaration, commits the Church to “preserve the three orders of bishops, priests, and deacons” in the ministry, and
- (d) requests the Standing Committee appoint a taskforce of six persons, three ordained and three lay, with power to co-opt, to –
 - (i) examine the types of ministry carried out in parishes under the employment category of Lay Minister,
 - (ii) determine if the ministries for which some Lay Ministers are employed are either actually, or perceived by the local church to be functionally, identical to ordained ministers, and
 - (iii) report to the ordinary session of Synod in 2020 with recommendations on any legal, theological, or practical implications emerging from this examination.’

Seconded and carried

17. Motions

17.1 The Church of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa/New Zealand

Dean Kanishka Raffel moved –

‘In light of the May 2018 decision of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia to pass a resolution that authorises bishops to allow clergy in New Zealand to bless same-sex relationships, this Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for –
 - (i) the establishment of the authentically Anglican and biblically faithful Church of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa/New Zealand,
 - (ii) the godly and courageous leadership of the Church of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa/New Zealand and the parishes they represent,
 - (iii) the leadership of the Gafcon Primates in supporting biblically faithful Anglicans in New Zealand and other parts of the world for the glory of Christ and the extension of his kingdom, and
 - (iv) the leadership of our Archbishop and other senior clergy in participating in the consecration of the bishop-elect,
- (b) commits to pray –
 - (i) for the consecration and installation of Bishop-elect Jay Behan on Saturday, 19 October in Christchurch, New Zealand,
 - (ii) for the numerous parishes that have taken the courageous and costly decision to join the Church of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa/New Zealand, and
 - (iii) for those parishes who hold to the clear teachings of the Bible but have remained within the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, and
- (c) encourages parishes within the Diocese of Sydney, as practical expressions of our fellowship in the gospel and a recognition of our full fellowship with the Church of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa/New Zealand as an authentically Anglican and biblically faithful Church, to generously support them through prayer, financial support and ministry partnership.’

Dean Raffel’s motion was carried.

The Rev Andrew Bruce led the Synod in prayer for the Rev Jay Behan and the Church of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa/New Zealand.

18. Presidential Address

The President delivered his address to the Synod.

Adjournment

At 5.42 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.

19. Motions

19.1 Archbishop Election Amendment Ordinance 2019

Dr Robert Tong moved –

‘That the Archbishop Election Amendment Ordinance 2019 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 for or 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.

Dr Tong moved –

‘That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the proposed ordinance.’

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.

Dr Tong moved –

‘That the report of the Chair of Committees be adopted.’

Seconded and carried

Dr Tong moved –

‘That Synod agree to consider on a future date a motion that the proposed ordinance pass as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

19.2 General Synod – Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973 Repeal and Exclusion Ordinance 2019

Mr Doug Marr moved –

‘That Synod agree to consider passing the General Synod – Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973 Repeal and Exclusion Ordinance 2019 formally.’

Seconded

Mr Marr spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The President asked –

‘Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?’

There was a time for questions.

8 members stood in their place to object to the ordinance being considered formally.

Mr Marr moved –

‘That the General Synod – Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973 Repeal and Exclusion Ordinance 2019 be approved in principle.’

Seconded

The President asked –

‘Does any member wish to speak for or 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.

Mr Marr moved –

‘That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the proposed ordinance.’

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 Marr moved –

'That the report of the Chair of Committees be adopted.'

Seconded and carried

Mr Marr moved –

'That Synod agree to consider on a future date a motion that the proposed ordinance pass as an ordinance of the Synod.'

Seconded and carried

19.3 Human Sexuality Pastoral Guidelines

The Rev Dominic Steele moved –

'Synod, noting the report Human Sexuality Pastoral Guidelines –

- (a) encourages rectors to provide the guidelines "Same-Sex Attraction: A pastoral guide" to people who are involved in pastoral care in their parishes, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to consider how the guidelines might be published in a form that would be helpful to a wider audience.'

Seconded

The Rev Nigel Fortescue moved as an amendment –

'Omit all the matter following 'Pastoral Guidelines' and insert instead, ', requests feedback from Synod members on the guidelines before they are brought back to Synod next year'.'

Seconded

The Rev Nigel Fortescue moved as a procedural motion –

'That this matter be deferred until Tuesday 15 October 2019.'

Seconded and carried

Adjournment

At 9.11 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

15 October 2019

51st Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

3rd Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Tuesday 15 October 2019

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. Bible study

The Rev Matthew Yeo led the Bible study.

4. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Monday 14 October 2019.

5. Answers to Questions

5.1 Tied Synod votes

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

- (a) What happens if there is a tied vote at Standing Committee or at a Session of Synod?
- (b) Does the President have a casting vote?
- (c) If so, does the President by convention cast it in favour of the *status quo ante*?
- (d) Will the passing of the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897 Amendment Ordinance 2019 alter the position?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) A motion is passed only if a majority of the persons present and voting vote in favour of the motion. Therefore if there is an equality of votes there is no majority in favour and the motion is lost.
- (b) No.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) No.

5.2 Report of the ‘Composition, Purpose and Role of Synod’

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

- (a) What types of changes was the Committee (set up by Standing Committee to look at the “Composition, Purpose and Role of Synod”) proposing in its Report to the Standing Committee, which was considered by the latter at its meeting in August 2019?
- (b) Are they all referred to in pages 94 to 115 of the Standing Committee Reports dated 30 July 2019 and 29 August 2019?

- (c) If not, what other changes were that Committee proposing?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The report of the Committee is in the minutes of the Standing Committee for its August 2019 meeting. These minutes are available for viewing by Synod members at the front table. In summary, the changes recommended by the Committee in its report were to:
- (i) Increase the Synod representation for CEOs of ‘nominated organisations’ under Part 6 to include the CEOs of all Diocesan Organisations that receive funding from the Synod to pursue the diocesan mission. This would currently require the number to be increased from 7 to 9.
 - (ii) Modify the current arrangements for providing ‘alternate’ representatives for Parochial Ministers so that a locum tenens who holds a general licence may be appointed as the alternate.
 - (iii) Simplify the calculation for determining the number of places for members under Part 7 and 8 by basing it on the number of parishes (instead of ‘Parochial Ministers’), and that any fraction of 0.5 or above be rounded up to the next whole number.
 - (iv) Provide for another ex-officio position for a woman in addition to the Archdeacon for Women’s Ministry, leading to both Synod membership and membership of the Standing Committee.
- (b) No. Those reports concern Synod Resolution 40/18 ‘Synod business rules concerning moving amendments to motions’ and Synod Resolution 14/17 ‘Review of the arrangements for the Diocesan Synod’.
- (c) The changes proposed by the Committee are those set out in its report to the Standing Committee in August 2019, as summarised in the answer to paragraph (a) of the question.

5.3 Alternate Synod Members

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

How many Alternate Members were entitled to be present at Synod in 2017 and 2018 and how many are entitled to attend this year (2019)?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows -

2017 – 14

2018 – 17

2019 – 17

5.4 Provisional Parishes

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

- (a) How many Provisional Parishes are there currently in the Diocese?
- (b) How many have been created or reclassified since 2016 and by which Diocesan body/bodies?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) 34.
- (b) Since 2016:
The Archbishop has created one new ecclesiastical district.
The Synod has reclassified eight provisional parishes to full parishes.
One parish has been reclassified as a provisional parish for failing the local revenues test.

5.5 Nominated Diocesan Schools

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

For the purposes of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019:

- (a) What are the names and localities of the “Nominated Diocesan Schools”?
- (b) In which Regions and Diocese are they all located?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Bill does not contain any provision for “Nominated Diocesan Schools” to have representation at Synod.

Paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Report on page 356 of Synod Book 2 explains that this was considered by the Northern Regional Council, but that the Council decided against it. The Council has recommended instead that the members of Synod elected by the Standing Committee include at least three heads of Diocesan Schools, with the Standing Committee to consider any names recommended by the Heads of Diocesan Schools in consultation with the Archbishop.

As the Bill has not yet been passed by the Synod, there have not been any consultations or decisions in respect to these members.

5.6 Maximum Synod attendance in 2017 and 2018

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

What was the maximum attendance at the Synod Sessions in 2017 and 2018?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

2017 - 610

2018 - 601

On both occasions the maximum was reached in the evening of the first day of the session.

5.7 Synod membership 2019

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

How many Members are entitled to attend this 2019 Session of Synod and by which separate Part numbers (4 to 9 inclusive) are they entitled to do so?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

TOTAL – 827

Part 4 – Rectors and Acting Rectors – 257

Part 5 – Parish Lay Reps – 500

Part 6 – CEOs of Nominated Organisations – 7

Part 7 – Clergy nominated by the Archbishop – 25

Part 8 – Lay members elected by Standing Committee – 25

Part 8A – Indigenous – 1

Part 9 – Ex Officio - 12

5.8 **Sale of church trust property in Eastwood**

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

Besides what is mentioned in Ordinance number 49/2018, what were the reasons for selling certain land (being church trust property) in Eastwood?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The land in question was not adequately suited to address the needs of a large ministry family. For example, holding large group meetings and adequately supervising children were difficult due to the configuration of the house and the size of the rooms. The proceeds were applied to purchase a replacement residence, better suited to ministry needs.

5.9 **Sale of church trust property in Narellan**

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

Besides what is mentioned in Ordinance numbers 41/2012 and 1/2019, what were the reasons for selling certain land (being church trust property) in Narellan?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The land in question was purchased in 1997 as part of an 18 acre block with the intention that in the future, the land would be subdivided and the surplus land would be sold to provide funds for expanding the church centre. In 2012, the land in question was considered to be surplus to the ministry needs of the Parish, and sold. The proceeds will be applied to, among other things, the cost of construction and renovation of new and existing ministry facilities.

5.10 **Effect of Ordinance 32/2019**

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

Please clarify what is to become of the land (being church trust property) (in particular the church buildings themselves) at Bondi and Waverley following the passing of Ordinance number 32/2019?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The land known as 34, 34A and 36 Ocean St North Bondi (church building, rectory, hall and childcare centre), is proposed to be sold to Montessori East Primary & Pre School Bondi. The Land known as 60 Wairoa Ave, Bondi Beach (St Andrew's Church) is to be developed to build a new ministry centre and residences. The land known as 240 Birrell St, Waverley (St Mary's Church) is to be renovated to meet current and future ministry needs.

5.11 **Sale of church trust property under Ordinance 39/2019**

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

Where is the land (being church trust property), currently held for the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee, that is authorised for sale by Ordinance number 39/2019?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Barrington Street, Ruse.

5.12 Northern Regional Council membership

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

Who currently serves on the Northern Regional Council?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Bishop Chris Edwards (Chairman)

Mr Bruce Ginn

The Rev Ian Millican

Mr Fred Chilton

Mr Ian Steward (Secretary and Treasurer) (OAM)

Miss Stephanie Cole

Vacancy (arising on the resignation of the Rev Robin Kinstead)

5.13 Nominated Diocesan School members of Synod

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

How many episcopal, clerical and lay members of the Boards of Governors of the “Nominated Diocesan Schools” referred to in the proposed *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019* are currently on Synod?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

There are no “Nominated Diocesan Schools” referred to in the Bill for the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019*. See the answer to question 5.

5.14 Vacant Parishes

The Rev Dr Raj Gupta asked the following question –

In regard to the number of vacant parishes:

- (a) How many vacant parishes are there at this point in time?
- (b) How many vacant parishes were there at year-end (31 December) for each of the last five years?
- (c) In the last two years, how many rectors have resigned, without the reasons being retirement or the taking up of another rector role in the Diocese of Sydney?
- (d) How many deacons are at some stage of the Presbyter application process at this point in time?
- (e) What steps are being proactively taken, by any and all organisations related to the Diocese of Sydney, to recruit more to serve as rectors in the Diocese of Sydney?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) There are currently 44 parishes without a Rector. Of these, 4 parishes have long term arrangements/partnerships in place and 11 have a new Rector who has accepted the appointment but not yet started.
- (b) This part of the question would require significant staff hours to research, which is not possible in the time available.

- (c) Between 1 January 2017 and 14 October 2019, 55 Rectors resigned. Of these, 33 did not retire or take up another role as rector. Most of the 33 subsequently obtained a licence for another appointment in the Diocese.
- (d) There are 28 applicants and 25 accepted candidates.
- (e) It is difficult to speak on behalf of “all organisations”, however, the Ministry Training and Development staff:
 - (i) explain the needs and discernment process to assistant ministers in our Ministry Development training program,
 - (ii) attend regional conferences to speak with potential candidates and their rectors,
 - (iii) meet with enquirers, and
 - (iv) are currently developing a new strategy to address the need to recruit more men to seek ordination as a presbyter to serve as a rectors and more generally, to help current rectors encourage suitably gifted men and women in our parishes to seek ordination for full-time Anglican ministry.

5.15 General Synod Assessments

The Rev Dr Max Wood asked the following question –

Is the Diocese up to date with payments of our General Synod Assessments?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Yes. The assessments are invoiced at the end of each quarter and payments have been made for the first, second, and third quarters this year.

5.16 Annual statistics returns

The Rev Gavin Parsons asked the following question –

Which parishes have not lodged annual statistics for -

- (a) 2016
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2018

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

There are 59 parishes that have not lodged statistics for one or more of the years 2016, 2017 and 2018. A list of these parishes will be posted on the notice board in the foyer and on the SDS website.

Attachment to Question 16 – Parishes that have not lodged annual statistics in the period 2016 to 2018

Parish	Years missing
Auburn - St Thomas	2018
Balgowlah	2018
Bankstown	2017
Barrenjoey	2017
Bayside	2018
Beecroft	2017
Bellevue Hill	2018
Berala	2018

Parish	Years missing
Beverly Hills	2018
Blackheath	2018
Blakehurst	2018
Bomaderry	2018
Brighton	2018
Campsie	2018
Cherrybrook	2018
Chester Hill with Sefton	2018
Christ Church Northern Beaches	2018
Church Hill	2016, 2017, 2018
Coogee	2018
Cronulla	2018
Dapto	2018
Darling Point	2018
Dee Why	2016, 2018
Fairy Meadow	2018
Gerringong	2018
Gladesville	2016, 2017
Glenhaven	2018
Gordon	2016
Hoxton Park	2018
Kiama	2018
Lindfield	2018
Liverpool	2018
Liverpool South	2018
Lower Mountains	2018
Mosman - St Clements	2018
Mulgoa	2018
Naremburn/Cammeray	2017
Neutral Bay	2018
Northmead & Winston Hills	2018
Oak Flats	2018
Petersham	2018
Philadelphia Anglican Church	2018
Ryde	2018
Sadleir	2018
Seven Hills	2018
Soul Revival Church, Sutherland Shire	2018
South Carlton	2018
South Hurstville	2018
St Clair	2018
St Ives	2018
Summer Hill	2018
South Sydney	2018
Surry Hills	2016, 2018

Parish	Years missing
Sussex Inlet	2018
The Oaks	2018
Wahroonga - St Paul	2018
West Lindfield	2018
Wilberforce	2018
Willoughby	2016

5.17 Funds for work outside the Diocese

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked the following question –

With respect to funds for work outside the Diocese, please provide a list of projects funded from this source, and amounts granted for the 2018 year, and for 2019 to date.

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The answer to this question has been prepared in tabular form and will be posted on the notice board in the foyer and the SDS website.

		Year to Dec 2018	9 mths to Sep 2019	Comment
Within Australia				
Support for other dioceses in Australia –				
	Armidale	4,000	5,000	
	North West Australia	40,000	60,000	
	Tasmania	4,000	5,000	
	Northern Territory	40,000	50,000	
	Northern Territory (travel assist. for Bishop)	10,000		
	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC)	1,000	1,000	
	Funding for the Diocese of Bathurst		180,000	\$250k pa
Outside Australia				
Strategic travel –				
	Bishops Tasker & Richards' overseas visits	30,870	20,220	
	Sponsored visitors to Sydney		2,710	
Training and support of leaders –				
	Albert Lamoureux (Mauritius) diploma at Youthworks	7,000		
	Sammy Shehata (Principal of Alexandria School of Theology)	8,000	1,416	+\$8k
Moore College PTC related training –				
	Madagascar	7,260	1,943	
	Papua New Guinea		3,000	
Gafcon related –				
	Subsidies for delegates	81,000	2,019	
	Travel by Archbishop	15,884	2,121	
	Gafcon Primates meeting Sydney 2019		2,978	
	Support for Gafcon	20,000		+\$20k
	Other	1,131	626	
Other –				
	Christchurch ministry wives	697		
	Travel insurance	116	241	
	Travel to provide FCA NZ with legal support	1,000		
	Direct support for FCA NZ	25,000	60,000	
Total		296,958	398,274	

5.18 Anglican Schools

Mr Garry Allen asked the following questions –

- (a)
 - (i) Following the passage of the amendment to the *Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2016* last year, have there been any chaplains dismissed by an Anglican school?
 - (ii) If there have been, how many have been dismissed and what reasons were given?
 - (iii) Were any of these Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation schools?
- (b)
 - (i) Are there any Anglican schools who have regular activities programmed on a Friday night or Sunday? (such as competitive sports competitions including rowing regattas, athletics)? If so how many
 - (ii) How are these schools looking to support local churches in their youth ministry?
- (c)
 - (i) Following the passage of the Resolution 23/14 and the governance policy for diocesan organisations, how many schools still have alumni representatives that cannot sign the statement of personal faith?
 - (ii) What steps are they taking to meet Resolution 23/14 by July 2020?
- (d)
 - (i) How many Anglican schools currently have principals that cannot sign the statement of personal faith?
 - (ii) How many have been appointed following the passage of the governance policy for diocesan organisations in 2014?
- (e)
 - (i) What statistics exist for the number of school students active in youth groups within local churches across the diocese?
 - (ii) Are there any statistics available reflecting school background such as percentage attending Anglican schools, other CAS or GPS schools, systemic catholic schools, independent Christian schools and state schools? If so what is the breakdown of students in youth groups in the different schooling systems?
 - (iii) Are there any statistics tracking school students continuing to attend Christian churches 5 years after graduation or enrolment into Moore College? If there are, what changes have been seen in the past 20 years?
- (f) For the most recent reporting year -
 - (i) What was the excess of revenue to expenses (that is, the profit or surplus) of the Anglican Schools Corporation?
 - (ii) What was the excess of revenue to expenses (that is, the profit or surplus) of other Anglican Schools that report to this Synod?
 - (iii) What was the excess of assets to liabilities (that is, the equity or net assets) of the Anglican Schools Corporation?
 - (iv) What was the excess of assets to liabilities (that is, the equity or net assets) of other Anglican Schools that report to this Synod?

- (v) How many students attend Anglican School Corporation Schools and other Anglican Schools that report to this Synod?
- (vi) How have these figures changed since 2018?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows -

- (a) No chaplains have been dismissed in the period.
- (b) and (c) These parts of the question would require a survey of all Anglican Schools to be conducted and the results analysed. This is not possible due to the staff resources required and the time available.
- (d) The Diocesan Registry does not maintain records of the statements of faith provided by the Principals of Anglican schools. These records would be maintained by the council of the relevant school.
- (e) There are no such statistics.
- (f) The answers to this part of the question are contained in the annual reports of the schools, which are available for inspection on the front table at Synod. The financial aspects of the question could also be ascertained from the financial reports of the schools that are publicly accessible on the register of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

5.19 Effect of Statements of Faith

Ms Tiffany Davy asked the following question –

Has the Standing Committee received any legal advice about the role played by statements of faith in determining an organisation's doctrines?

If so, is it possible to advise the Synod what the legal advice suggested – at least in general terms – about the merits or otherwise of adding a clear statement into the statement of faith as to an organisation's view on gender identity, marriage and/or sexuality?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The advice is subject to legal privilege. However, what can be said is that the Standing Committee, having considered the matter, appointed a subcommittee and requested that proposed draft motions be prepared and moved at this Synod at the request of the Standing Committee.

5.20 The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid's Community Care Fund

The Rev Joseph Wiltshire asked the following question –

In relation to the Community Care Fund of the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid (henceforth, Anglican Aid), and in light of the work of the Ministry in Socially Disadvantaged Areas Committee (MiSDAC) created as part of the commitment of our Diocese to see ministry in socially disadvantaged areas financially supported –

- (a) how much is currently in the Community Care Fund currently?
- (b) how much was in this Fund at the end of 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018?
- (c) What is this fund used for by Anglican Aid?
- (d) Which Parishes in the Diocese have benefited from contributions from this fund over the past 5 years and for what ministry or activity was each grant given?
- (e) How many Sydney Anglican Parishes and Recognised Churches have Necessitous Circumstances Funds, or other similar tax deductible funds, for charitable giving?
- (f) Does the Diocese have any existing mechanism by which churches with Necessitous Circumstances Funds or similar funds may be informed and encouraged to give towards ministries and activities identified by MiSDAC in a co-ordinated fashion?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The balance in the Community Care Fund at 30 June 2019 was \$17,562.
- (b) A table showing the fund balance on 30 June for each of the years will be posted on the notice board in the foyer and the SDS website.

2010 \$374,579

2011 \$539,417

2012 \$542,130

2013 \$498,755

2014 \$670,664

2015 \$542,182

2016 \$420,056

2017 \$233,356

2018 \$221,356

- (c) The Community Care Fund has supported churches, mainly in socio-economically challenging areas to support ministries which allow local parishes to care for and support people in their local communities. Ministries include traditional poverty alleviation activities, as well as other innovative activities to care for the vulnerable in society.
- (d) Beneficiaries include asylum seekers, refugees and new migrants, single parents, ex-offenders on supervision with Corrective Services, teenagers at risk, indigenous Australians, boarding house residents and people with chronic mental illness.
- (e) So far as we can ascertain in the time available, there are currently 7 parishes with necessitous circumstances funds. In addition, there are 3 parishes that operate public benevolent institutions.
- (f) No.

5.21 FEE-HELP for study at Moore Theological College

The Rev Anthony Douglas asked the following question –

- (a) For each of the years 2010 to 2019, what fees would have been payable by a BD student undertaking the first year of full-time study at Moore Theological College (**MTC**)? What were the major drivers of any increases or decreases?
- (b) From which year did the use of FEE-HELP attract the 25% levy referred to in the report "11/18 Steps to encourage ordination" at paragraph 14(c)?
- (c) What is the current maximum amount of FEE-HELP available to a BD student in comparison to the expected cost of tuition over four years at the College?
- (d) How many current students are known to have insufficient FEE-HELP funds available to complete their degree? Is it anticipated that the new scholarship fund will be able to address this shortfall completely?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The fees payable by a BD student undertaking the first year of full-time study at MTC for each of the years 2010 to 2019 will be set out in a table that will be posted on the noticeboard in the foyer and the SDS website.

Major drivers for changes to fees were general cost of living in Sydney, cost of education and general increases in MTC expenses relating to tuition.

Year	Fee (\$)	Year	Fee (\$)
2010	15,000	2015	19,600
2011	15,800	2016	19,992
2012	16,540	2017	20,392
2013	17,400	2018	20,800
2014	18,600	2019	21,200

- (b) The use of FEE-HELP attracted the 25% levy from 1 January 2005 when College students became eligible for FEE-HELP.
- (c) In 2019, the FEE-HELP limit is \$104,440. It increases by CPI each year. In comparison, the expected cost of tuition over four years at College to 2019 is \$82,384.
- (d) No current students are known to have insufficient FEE-HELP funds to complete their degree. However, in 2018 the Federal Government introduced the HELP limit which combines a student's HECS (Higher Education Contribution Scheme) loan and the amount of FEE-HELP incurred by a student at College. This will have an impact potentially from 2025 but the impact will depend on individual circumstances.

At this stage, given these uncertainties, any shortfall cannot be reliably estimated. As such, it is not possible to determine whether the new scholarship fund will be able to meet any shortfall.

5.22 Resourcing non-parochial forms of Anglican Ministry

The Rev Bruce Stanley asked the following question –

With regards to the 2016 resolution “3/16 Non-parochial forms of Anglican ministry”, noting the report, “Alternative forms of Anglican Church”:

- (a) What progress has Evangelism and New Churches made in reporting to Synod suitable recommendations to support and promote non-parochial forms of Anglican ministry?
- (b) What recommendations, if any, did the Strategic Research Group provide to the Diocesan Resources Committee as to the value and importance of potentially increasing funding for the ENC in the next triennium to provide for the employment of staff to –
 - (i) develop existing and new non-parochial forms of Anglican ministry, and
 - (ii) identify, develop and support their leadership?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) ENC does not yet have particular recommendations to bring to the Synod. The Board of ENC has been developing models for non-parochial forms of Anglican Ministry. There has been strong consideration of how this may apply in areas of social disadvantage, ethnic ministry and community chaplaincy. Given the consideration that any new models need to align and be suitable for existence in a ministry matrix that includes parochial structures, the Board has been trialling these models before making any recommendations to the Synod. It is anticipated a report will be ready for the Synod at the first session of the 52nd Synod.
- (b) In the meantime, ENC continues to work with various groups on ministries to communities not reached by our current parochial structures.
- (c) The Strategy and Research Group has not make any such formal recommendations. However, following consideration of information provided by ENC, the Diocesan Resources Committee recommended, and the Standing Committee approved, a special allocation of \$100,000 to ENC as part of the *Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2018* as a contribution towards the cost of funding the new position of Assistant Director (Parish Evangelism). This allocation is a response to paragraph (b) of Synod Resolution 5/18.

5.23 Safe Ministry Assessment procedures

Mrs Stacey Chapman asked the following question –

Regarding the new Safe Ministry Assessment procedures:

- (a) Will non-coordinating adults engaged in ministry to those below 13 years still be required to undertake the Assessment, if there are junior leaders (i.e. under 18) involved in that ministry whom they might minister alongside and towards?
- (b) For crystal clarity, are the new Safe Ministry Assessment procedures retrospective, i.e. do they apply to existing leaders or only to new leaders?
- (c) What guidance has been or will be provided to rectors to assist them in assessing responses to the information in the person's completed Safe Ministry Check and the responses from the referees before deciding whether to appoint the person to undertake ministry to children?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Yes, if the person will be undertaking ministry to the junior leader. This would usually be the case since even if the person is not directly ministering to the junior leader, the definition of "ministry to children" in the Ordinance extends to supervising the ministry of another person.
- (b) The Safe Ministry Check must be completed before a person in the relevant category undertakes ministry to children. The requirement does not apply in relation to appointment to a position. Therefore it applies to existing leaders since after 1 January 2020 they must undergo a Safe Ministry Assessment before they can undertake ministry to children.
- (c) Rectors have always had the responsibility of approving appointments to all ministry positions in the parish, including confirming the suitability of a person for appointment and talking through any concerns in a pastoral way. As such, Rectors should already have the necessary skillset to assess Safe Ministry Checks. However it is recognised that implementation of the new Safe Ministry Assessment may raise new information about an applicant that may not have previously been considered and that the assessments will involve significant work. Some Rectors may not feel adequately equipped. The PSU is developing resources to assist Rectors as they consider these issues and these will be made available to Rectors once they have received the necessary approval.

5.24 Gap Analysis of the Diocesan implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations

The Rev Tim Mildenhall asked the following question –

Regarding item 43/18, p133ff:

- (a) Is there a single diocesan entity or person responsible for coordinating the many different diocesan organisations identified in the Prolegis gap-analysis review of the Diocesan implementation of the Royal Commission Recommendations?
- (b) Where are the compliance measures identified in the Prolegis review centrally published?
- (c) What plans are there for compliance reviews regarding the effectiveness of the Royal Commission recommendations going forward?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The Standing Committee will oversee implementation of the actions set out in the Appendix to the report by the relevant bodies of the Diocese.
- (b) The "Advice/Next Steps" recommended by Prolegis is not centrally published.
- (c) At this stage the focus is on implementation. The Standing Committee will be communicating with the bodies that have been allocated implementation responsibilities to ensure the work is completed within a reasonable timeframe having regard to the task at hand.

The Safe Ministry Board regularly reviews diocesan safe ministry policies and procedures. This will include the measures introduced as a result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

5.25 Royal Commission Gap Analysis

The Rev Tim Mildenhall asked the following question –

Regarding matter 43/18 –

Regarding Recommendation 16.1, p.140, how was the conclusion No action required reached given that according to the general synod website <https://anglican.org.au/governance/tribunals/tribunals-episcopal-standards-commission-244/> the following dioceses have excluded the Episcopal Standards Commission's power to promote a charge against a Diocesan Bishop as at 27 June 2019:

- Bendigo
- Perth
- Sydney
- Tasmania
- Wangaratta

and that the Commission's functions and the implementation of determinations made by the Episcopal Standards Board of questions which the Commission has referred to it are circumscribed if a relevant Diocese has not adopted either or both the Episcopal Standards Canon 2007 and the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Royal Commission recommendation 16.1 is directed at the Anglican Church of Australia. The General Synod has limited jurisdiction. Uniformity depends on diocesan synods adopting the canons.

According to information provided by the General Synod office, 21 dioceses have adopted the *Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017*. It is expected that the remaining 2 dioceses have not yet adopted the canon due to the timing of their synods rather than due to a decision not to adopt the canon.

The Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017 incorporates the provisions of the Episcopal Standards Canon 2007 in so far as they relate to examinable conduct under the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017. It would be otiose to adopt the 2007 Canon in so far as child sexual abuse matters are concerned.

5.26 Cost of Gap Analysis

The Rev Tim Mildenhall asked the following question –

Regarding item 43/18 –

- (a) What was the cost of the external Prolegis review and gap analysis?
- (b) What was the in house cost of preparing the scope of work for the Prolegis review and gap analysis?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows -

- (a) \$22,000 + GST.
- (b) The dollar cost is unknown. Approximately 12-15 staff hours were spent.

5.27 Confucius Classrooms

The Rev Martin Kemp asked the following question –

- (a) Have any of those schools established by or under an ordinance of this Synod hosted a Confucius Classroom, and if so, which schools?
- (b) Do these schools plan to continue hosting these classrooms beyond 2019?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that we do not have the information necessary to answer this question and that it would require a survey of schools, which is not possible in the time available.

5.28 **Assessing candidates for ordination for personality disorders**

The Rev Martin Kemp asked the following question –

- (a) Are those applying to be candidates for ordination assessed in any way for Narcissistic Personality Disorder, Histrionic Personality Disorder, and Borderline Personality Disorder?
- (b) If so, what happens to the application if one of these disorders is identified?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) All candidates for ordination undertake a psychological assessment. A series of self-administered inventories are completed followed by a detailed interview with a psychologist who completes a psychological report for Ministry Training and Development to assist with the selection process. It is expected that there would be indications of the disorders mentioned in this assessment.
- (b) If potential disorders are identified, depending on the disorder, the application would either be paused to enable the applicant to seek further information and probably medical/counselling assistance or decline.

5.29 **Safe Ministry requirements for working with vulnerable adults**

Mrs Sue Radkovic asked the following question –

Is there any requirement, or if not, any wisdom, in using the new Safe Ministry requirements applicable from 1 January 2020 for vetting those who work with vulnerable adults, e.g. those in our ESL classes, with a disability and the elderly?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

There is no requirement for the Safe Ministry Check to be used for vetting those who work with vulnerable adults. However, it may be beneficial to use the Safe Ministry Check as a further screening tool for those who minister in this way.

5.30 **Strengthening theological education across Gafcon member dioceses**

The Rev Tim Swan asked the following question –

Following the Gafcon 2018 conference in Jerusalem, what role, if any, has the Diocese of Sydney been asked to play in strengthening theological education across Gafcon member dioceses, and what progress is being made in this regard?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Bishop Peter Jensen leads the Gafcon theological education network. He is aiming to co-operate with Moore College, especially the Centre for Global Mission in pursuing its aims. The collaboration between Moore College and dioceses within the Gafcon network has been difficult to organise, but books have been provided to a College in Nigeria, and a faculty member of the college in Egypt has been given some postgraduate theological education. Moore College has been involved in Gafcon from the beginning and has built strong relationships with theological leaders in other Gafcon provinces.

5.31 **Anglican Aid's overseas ministry fund**

The Rev Tim Swan asked the following question –

In the last 5 years, how many people have received theological training sponsored by Anglican Aid's overseas ministry fund?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

At least 780.

6. Questions

Questions were asked by the following members –

- (1) Mr Peter Young
- (2) Dr Robert Tong AM
- (3) Dr David Oakenfull
- (4) The Rev Shaun McGregor
- (5) The Rev David Clarke
- (6) The Rev David Clarke
- (7) The Rev David Clarke
- (8) The Rev Steve Gardner
- (9) Mr Eddie Ozols
- (10) Mr Eddie Ozols

7. Notices of motions

Notices of motions were given by the following members –

- (1) Bishop Michael Stead
- (2) Ms Lyn Bannerman
- (3) Dr Laurie Scandrett
- (4) Mr James Balfour
- (5) The Rev Joseph Wiltshire
- (6) Mr Jonathan Miller
- (7) Bishop Chris Edwards
- (8) Bishop Chris Edwards
- (9) The Rev Simon Flinders

8. Procedural motions

8.1 **Arrangements for the consideration of motion concerning nine motions for General Synod in 2020**

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

'Synod requests the Order of Business Committee to consider scheduling the motion regarding Nine motions for General Synod in 2020 directly after M28.'

Seconded and carried

9. Calling of motions

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.

9.1 **Recommendations from the Order of Business Committee**

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod agrees to reschedule items of business as shown in marked form on the Timetable for Synod Business.'

Seconded and carried

9.2 Further arrangements for consideration of amendments to the Governance Policy

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod agrees –

- (a) to consider M48 (Amendment to membership requirements in the Governance Policy) and M59 (Acknowledgment of board member duties and responsibilities), as the next unscheduled items of business following consideration of M46 (Amendment to the Statement of Personal Faith in the Governance Policy), and
- (b) that these arrangements should not prevent M48, M59 or M46 being taken on the callover of motions.'

Seconded and carried

9.3 Arrangements for resuming consideration of the motion regarding human sexuality pastoral guidelines

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod, noting that the motion at M17 (Human Sexuality Pastoral Guidelines) has been moved, and an amendment to the motion has also been moved, agrees –

- (a) to allow the mover of the amendment (The Rev Nigel Fortescue) to withdraw his amendment, and move instead the amendment in his name listed at M17 amendment (2),
- (b) to allow the mover of the motion (The Rev Dominic Steele) to speak for up to five minutes to the motion, and the mover of the amendment to speak for up to five minutes to the amendment, prior to resuming debate on the matter,

and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

9.4 Arrangements concerning the motion regarding Mission 2020

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod agrees that, for the purposes of considering the motion at M20 (Mission 2020), the mover and seconder may combine to provide a joint presentation (including visuals) instead of making separate speeches.'

Seconded and carried

9.5 Arrangements for consideration of motion M35 Anglican National Superannuation Board

Mr Malcolm Purvis moved –

'Synod requests the order of business committee to consider scheduling the motion at M35 following the formal matters on Monday 21 October 2019.'

Seconded and carried

9.6 Human Resources Partner

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'Synod, noting item 7.20 in the Standing Committee report to Synod –

- (a) agrees that Bishop Chris Edwards may provide a presentation of up to two minutes (with visuals) regarding the Human Resources Partner,
- (b) authorises the circulation of a one-page notice to Synod members seeking applications for this position, and
- (c) requests that a relevant notice be included among the slides on rotation during Synod breaks.'

Seconded and carried

9.7 Amendment to the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

'Synod agrees to amend its Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations by omitting paragraph 37 in the Policy Guidelines in Appendix 2 and inserting instead the following –

“37. The diocesan organisation should comply with all applicable ordinances and policies of the Synod (as amended from time to time) including, as applicable –

- (a) the *Investment of Church Trust Property Ordinance 1990*,
- (b) the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*,
- (c) the *Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2016*,
- (d) the *Sydney Anglican Use of Property Ordinance 2018*, and
- (e) the *Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2018*.”

Seconded and carried

9.8 Freedom of Religion

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

'Synod welcomes the Federal Government's proposed Religious Discrimination Bill as an important first step towards protecting the right of all Australians to hold and manifest religious beliefs, but expresses grave concerns about a number of drafting issues in the Exposure Draft of the Bill which profoundly threaten the Christian mission and purpose of Anglican religious institutions, including –

- (i) the exclusion of bodies such as Anglicare Sydney and Anglican Youthworks from the definition of 'religious bodies' because of fees charges for goods and services,
- (ii) the requirement that schools and other religious bodies would have to employ only Christian staff, and not be allowed to merely preference the employment of Christian staff, and
- (iii) the undefined term "vilify" undercuts the protection that the Bill gives to statements of belief.

Accordingly Synod –

- (a) urges diocesan bodies, ministers and lay people to continue to pray for, and engage respectfully with, our political leaders to improve this Bill to ensure that Australia is a place where people of all faiths and none can freely practice their beliefs with mutual respect,
- (b) calls on the Government to amend the Bill to address the concerns identified above, to ensure that no body established for religious purposes will be prevented from acting in accordance with its religious beliefs or in the furtherance of its religious purpose because of this Bill, and
- (c) noting that Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) has been asked by the Attorney-General to propose legislative reforms to "limit or remove altogether (if practicable) religious exemptions to prohibitions on discrimination, while also guaranteeing the right of religious institutions to reasonably conduct their affairs in a way consistent with their religious ethos", and that the Attorney-General has altered the terms of reference and deferred the reporting timetable for the ALRC until the end of 2020 –

- (i) declares that the implementation of such reforms that guarantee the right of religious institutions to reasonably conduct their affairs in a way consistent with their religious ethos is a necessary next step towards protecting freedom of belief in Australian law, and
- (ii) respectfully requests the Attorney-General to expedite the ALRC reporting timetable, to ensure that the recommendations from the ARLC can be considered during the current Parliamentary term.'

Seconded and carried

9.9 Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 (NSW)

Archdeacon Kara Hartley moved –

'Synod, in view of the NSW Parliament passing the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 –

- (a) affirms a biblical view of the sanctity of life acknowledging that all people are created by God in his image,
- (b) thanks all of those Anglicans who wrote to their local members, provided submissions, signed petitions or attended public rallies as expressions of opposition to these proposed reforms,
- (c) notes with regret that amendments were rejected which would have –
 - (i) required counselling for the mother (or her legally authorised representative) when her pregnancy is less than 22 weeks,
 - (ii) required the informed consent of the mother (or her legally authorised representative) about her disabled unborn child,
 - (iii) required an expert panel to assess the appropriateness of a late-term abortion given the health of the woman and her unborn child,
 - (iv) ensured that sex-selection is unlawful,
 - (v) acknowledged that it is a “woman”, not merely a “person”, who bears the pregnancy,
 - (vi) exempted any medical practitioner or health professional from any participation in a termination on the basis of a conscientious objection to abortion,
 - (vii) required a medical practitioner to act to save a child born after a failed abortion,
 - (viii) lowered the threshold for a late-term abortion to 20 weeks,
 - (ix) required analgesia to be administered to the unborn child so as not to experience pain during the abortion,
 - (x) prohibited the sale or supply of foetal tissue,
- (d) notes with thankfulness the amendments passed by the Legislative Council which –
 - (i) changes the name of the Bill to honestly reflect what it is: the “Abortion Law Reform Act 2019”,
 - (ii) provides that nothing in the Bill prevents a medical practitioner from exercising any duty to provide medical care to a child born after a failed termination,
 - (iii) requires informed consent for mothers (or her legally authorised representative) for pregnancies over 22 weeks,
 - (iv) requires information about access to counselling to be provided to mothers (or her legally authorised representative) for pregnancies over 22 weeks,
 - (v) provides a partial concession for a medical practitioner or health professional with a conscientious objection to abortion from participating in a termination by requiring them only to refer patients to a general government service directory,
 - (vi) makes it a criminal offence to use intimidation to coerce a person into having an abortion,
 - (vii) requires medical practitioners, after performing an abortion, to notify the Secretary of the Minister of Health with information about the termination, and

- (viii) requires a review on whether abortions are being performed for the purpose of sex-selection and a report on how to prevent terminations for the purpose of sex- selection,
- (e) calls on Christians to stand alongside women who wish to pursue options not to abort a child, with genuine care and encouragement and to love and support those women who have had an abortion, and
- (f) calls on Christians and Christian institutions to –
 - (i) continue to petition the NSW government to review the abortion law to better protect the unborn child, mothers, and medical practitioners or health professionals with a conscientious objection to abortion; and
 - (ii) advocate for further reforms to laws, policies or guidelines relating to adoption and fostering so as to make adoption and fostering an easier and more realistic option for women who are contemplating the termination of a pregnancy and a safe and nurturing environment for children.’

Seconded and carried

9.10 Amendment to the Statement of Personal Faith in the Governance Policy

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

‘Synod agrees to amend the Statement of Personal Faith set out in Appendix 3 of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations by amending paragraph 2 of that statement by addition of the following subparagraph as follows –

- “(d) that this faith produces obedience in accordance with God’s word, including sexual faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman, and abstinence in all other circumstances.”

Seconded and carried

9.11 Parental Leave Policy

Mr Doug Marr moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) notes lay ministers and other employees of parishes are entitled to parental leave in accordance with government legislation,
- (b) notes the *Parental Leave Ordinance 2016* was passed by Synod in 2016 to provide guidelines for parishes considering the provision of parental leave for ordained parish ministers and that the Standing Committee will be arranging a review of the policy during 2020,
- (c) notes the ordinance requires a Parish Council which adopts the standard policy or the policy with amendments to notify the Registrar and provide a copy of any amendments to the standard policy,
- (d) notes as at 1 October 2019 only 6 parishes had notified the Registrar of the adoption of a Parental Leave Policy,
- (e) encourages Parish Councils to consider the ordinance and determine whether it would be appropriate to adopt a Parental Leave Policy,
- (f) asks parishes which have adopted any form of Parental Leave Policy to contact the Diocesan Registry to confirm that this has been recorded.’

Seconded and carried

9.12 Amendment to membership requirements in the Governance Policy

Canon Phillip Colgan moved –

‘Synod agrees to amend the Policy Guidelines accompanying the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations by omitting the current paragraph (5) and inserting instead –

“The membership of the board should include –

- (a) at least two clergy licensed in the Diocese of Sydney, and

- (b) at least two members with (at minimum) a three year theological degree from Moore Theological College or another college that is endorsed by the Archbishop for the purpose of this clause,

noting that the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) may be met by the same two people.”

Seconded and carried

9.13 Definition of “mentally ill”

The Rev Dr Raj Gupta moved –

‘Synod requests Standing Committee to expeditiously amend the definition of “mentally ill” in the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008* to clarify that those with commonly recognised, treatable and manageable mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression, can serve as wardens and parish councillors.’

Seconded and carried

9.14 The Fountain of Public Prosperity: Evangelical Christians in Australian History 1740–1914

The Rev Michael Armstrong moved –

‘This Synod congratulates Stuart Piggin and Robert D. Linder on receiving the “Australian Christian Book of the Year 2019” for their book “The Fountain of Public Prosperity: Evangelical Christians in Australian History 1740–1914”.

Synod notes that the judges described the book as “a seminal and epic contribution to Australian Christian history, thoroughly researched, deeply insightful and a pleasure to read” and as having a “critical function in correcting the general ignorance of the enormous influence of evangelical Christians in the development of Australia.”

Synod wishes Stuart and Robert well as they launch the second volume, “Attending to the National Soul: Evangelical Christians in Australian History, 1914-2014”, on 12th December 2019.’

Seconded and carried

9.15 Prioritisation of Synod Requests

The Rev Simon Flinders moved –

‘Synod, noting the report from Standing Committee entitled “Prioritisation of Synod Requests” (Book 1, page 149) expresses its support for the Standing Committee handling the requests of the Synod in exactly the way the report describes.’

Seconded and carried

9.16 Thanksgiving for St Luke’s Liverpool

Dr Bryan Cowling moved –

‘This Synod gives thanks to God that Saturday October 19 marks 200 years of continuous Christian ministry at St Luke’s Liverpool. It acknowledges the vision of Governor Lachlan Macquarie in choosing a strategic site and setting aside land and money to construct the church. It thanks God for the involvement of Thomas and Rachel Moore within the parish and the growing town of Liverpool. It recognises the desire of its first rector, Rev Robert Cartwright, to begin preaching the Word of God before the building was finished and furnished.

Synod gives thanks to God for his goodness in providing seventeen godly incumbents to teach and preach the gospel for such a long period of time. It acknowledges the impact

which many parishioners have had and are continuing to have in ministering to people of all ages and from a multiplicity of ethnic and social backgrounds.

Synod sends its good wishes to the people of St Luke's and prays that they will continue to see Christ honoured as Lord and Saviour throughout the bustling city of Liverpool and its surrounding areas.'

Seconded and carried

Bishop Peter Lin led the Synod in prayer for St Luke's Liverpool.

9.17 **The Rev John Lavender and Evangelism and New Churches**

The Rev Phil Wheeler moved –

'Synod gives thanks for the ministry of the Rev John Lavender over the last 23 years at Glenmore Park Anglican Church and especially for his commitment to evangelism and leading the parish for mission and reaching lost people with the good news of salvation through Christ. We rejoice that God has called many in the area to repentance and faith over the years through this ministry.

Synod gives thanks that John will commence a new role in 2020 with Evangelism and New Churches seeking to help parishes across the Diocese sharpen their evangelistic focus and be oriented for mission to reach the thousands without Christ and hope in our suburbs and regions of the Diocese. We give thanks for the additional funds available from Synod for this crucial work through ENC to ensure evangelism is the priority in the work of all our parishes and organisations.

Synod encourages all parishes to pray for John as he brings his passion, experience and wisdom to this new work. Church leaders are encouraged to contact ENC for consultation to develop effective evangelistic plans in every parish and for coaching, support and resources to execute these plans to see many, by God's grace, saved while there is still time across the diocese.'

Seconded and carried

The Rev Craig Schafer led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for the Rev John Lavender.

9.18 **Synod Resolution 22/18 and Doctrine Commission Report on Reconciliation**

Mr Tony Willis moved –

'Synod –

(a) noting that the terms of Synod resolution 22/18 (regarding Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese) include a request that the Diocesan Doctrine Commission bring a report to this session of Synod concerning a theology of reconciliation, and

(b) noting that such a report has not been tabled,

requests the Doctrine Commission to provide a report to the Standing Committee addressing this request no later than the Standing Committee meeting in March 2020.'

Seconded and carried

9.19 **Review of Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017**

The Rev Anthony Douglas moved –

'Synod, noting recommendation (f) of the report, 'Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019', together with the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019, requests the Standing Committee to additionally undertake a further review of the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* and its operation, drawing on submissions to be invited from members of Synod, to determine –

- (a) the degree to which the ordinance has been successful in overcoming the perceived weaknesses in the *Discipline Ordinance 2006*, as outlined in the report *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* presented to Synod during its 2017 session,
- (b) whether any further weaknesses remain in the ordinance (in its amended form), and
- (c) whether the Professional Standards Unit is sufficiently resourced for its role in the operation of the ordinance,

and to bring any appropriate recommendations to the next session of Synod.'

Seconded and carried

9.20 Mr Steven Woods

The Rev Neil Fitzpatrick moved –

'Synod gives thanks for the life and ministry of Steven Woods who represented the parish of Jannali in our sessions from 1996 until his sudden death in January 2019. We thank God for his sharp mind, deep faith, generous heart and for his participation in this Synod over 23 years. We grieve our loss, yet rejoice that he is now at home with the Lord.'

Seconded and carried

9.21 Canon Simon Manchester

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'Synod gives thanks to God for the ministry of Canon Simon Manchester at St Thomas' Church North Sydney over the past (almost) 30 years, for his faithful and clear Bible teaching, for his gracious and compassionate proclamation of the gospel and for his sensitive pastoral care, not only for the parishioners of the parish but also many of the clergy of this Diocese. We commend Simon and Kathy to the Lord as they commence the next chapter of their ministry, which we are certain will be to continue to faithfully serve their Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.'

Seconded and carried

The Rev Nigel Fortescue led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Canon Manchester.

9.22 Circulation of updated Property Use and Governance Policies

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

'Synod –

- (a) requests that the amended Property Use Policy be circulated to all applicable diocesan bodies together with the amended Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations,
- (b) requests that diocesan bodies ensure they continue to comply with the requirements of applicable ordinances and policies of the Synod, and
- (c) requests further feedback from diocesan bodies to ensure the Property Use Policy remains an effective tool for ensuring our doctrines, tenets and beliefs are consistently upheld across the whole of the undertaking of the Diocese.'

Seconded and carried

10. Procedural motions

10.1 Arrangements for resuming consideration of the motion to defer consideration of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019

Mr Daniel Glynn moved as a procedural motion –

'Synod, noting that –

- (i) The following procedural motion was moved by the Rev Joseph Wiltshire –
 - “Synod defers the consideration of the Bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019 until the next ordinary session of the Synod, and requests the Standing Committee to present a form of the Bill along with its report regarding 43/17 Composition, Purpose and Role of Synod for Synod’s consideration at that time.”, and
- (ii) Mr Wiltshire’s motion was deferred until today,
- (a) agrees to allow Mr Wiltshire to speak again to his procedural motion for up to five minutes and the mover of the Bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019 to speak again to this procedural motion for up to five minutes, before resuming debate on this matter, and
- (b) suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.’

Seconded and carried

11. Human Resources Partner

Bishop Chris Edwards gave a presentation regarding the Human Resources Partner.

12. Safe Ministry presentation

A video presentation was given regarding the development of Safe Ministry training courses.

Bishop Peter Hayward led the Synod in prayer for the work of the Professional Standards Unit.

13. Motions

13.1 Human Sexuality Pastoral Guidelines

Debate on the Rev Dominic Steele’s motion, which had commenced on Monday 14 October 2019, resumed.

Having been granted leave, the Rev Nigel Fortescue moved as an amendment –

‘Omit paragraphs (a) and (b), and insert instead the matter –

- “(a) gives thanks for the work of all those involved in developing Same-Sex Attraction: A Pastoral Guide,
- (b) encourages Rectors to provide the Guide to their staff and others who are involved in pastoral care in their parishes and seek feedback on the Guide, and
- (c) requests Standing Committee to seek feedback on the Guide from Rectors and after considering such feedback, to bring a revised Report and Guide to a future session of Synod.”

Seconded

Ms Lyn Bannerman moved as an amendment to Mr Fortescue’s amendment –

‘In paragraph (c), following the word, “Rectors”, insert, “and laypeople”.’

Seconded and carried

Having been granted leave, the Rev Jeremy Tonks moved as a procedural motion –

'That the Synod agree to reopen consideration of Ms Bannerman's amendment to Mr Fortescue's amendment, and suspends so many of the standing orders as would prevent this.'

Seconded and carried

Bishop Stead moved as an amendment to Ms Bannerman's amendment to Mr Fortescue's amendment –

'Prior to the word "and", insert the matter, ", other ministers,".'

Seconded

The Rev Simon Flinders moved as an amendment to Mr Fortescue's amendment –

'In paragraph (c), omit the word, "Rectors", and insert instead, "Synod members".'

Seconded

Bishop Peter Lin moved as an amendment to Mr Fortescue's amendment –

'In paragraph (c), omit the words, "from Rectors".'

Seconded

The Rev Dr Mark Thompson moved as an amendment to Mr Fortescue's amendment –

'In paragraph (c), omit the word, "Rectors" and insert instead "churches".'

Seconded

Bishop Lin's amendment was put and carried. As a consequence, the amendments of Bishop Stead, Mr Flinders, and Dr Thompson lapsed.

Mr Fortescue's amendment, as amended, was put and was carried.

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

'Synod, noting the report *Human Sexuality Pastoral Guidelines* –

- (a) gives thanks for the work of all those involved in developing Same-Sex Attraction: A Pastoral Guide,
- (b) encourages Rectors to provide the Guide to their staff and others who are involved in pastoral care in their parishes and seek feedback on the Guide, and
- (c) requests Standing Committee to seek feedback on the Guide and after considering such feedback, to bring a revised Report and Guide to a future session of Synod.'

13.2 **Deferral of the Bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019**

Debate resumed on the following procedural motion moved by the Rev Joseph Wiltshire –

'Synod defers the consideration of the Bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019 until the next ordinary session of the Synod, and requests the Standing Committee to present a form of the Bill along with its report regarding 43/17 Composition, purpose and role of Synod for Synod's consideration at that time.'

Mr Wiltshire's motion was put but was not carried.

14. Parish classification presentations

Bishop Peter Lin, the Rev Zac Veron and the Rev Dr Stephen Shead made a joint presentation regarding the classification of the provisional parishes of Bayside and Fairfield with Bossley Park as parishes.

15. Motions

15.1 **Bayside: Classification as a Parish**

Bishop Peter Lin moved –

‘Synod assents to the classification of Bayside as a parish with effect from 1 January 2020.’

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Bishop Lin led the Synod in prayer for the parish of Bayside.

15.2 **Fairfield with Bossley Park: Classification as a Parish**

Bishop Peter Lin moved –

‘Synod assents to the classification of Fairfield with Bossley Park as a parish with effect from 1 January 2020.’

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Bishop Lin led the Synod in prayer for the parish of Fairfield with Bossley Park.

Adjournment

At 6.15 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

‘That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.30 pm tonight.’

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.30 pm.

16. Motions

16.1 **Archbishop Election Amendment Ordinance 2019**

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

‘That the Archbishop Election Amendment Ordinance 2019 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

16.2 **Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019**

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'That Synod agree to consider passing the Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019 formally.'

Seconded and carried

Bishop Edwards 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 Edwards moved –

'That the proposed ordinance pass formally as an ordinance of the Synod.'

Seconded and carried

16.3 **Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019**

Mr Michael Easton moved –

'That the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019 be approved in principle.'

Seconded

The President asked –

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

There was a time for questions.

After a time for questions the President asked –

'Does the Synod consider that sufficient time has been allowed for questions?'

The majority of members present answered in the affirmative.

The President asked –

'Does any member wish to speak for or 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.

Mr Easton moved –

'That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the proposed ordinance.'

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 Committee moved –

‘That the Chair of Committee leaves the chair and reports progress.’

Seconded and carried

The Chair of Committee reported progress to the Synod.

Mr Easton moved –

‘That the report of the Chair of Committee be adopted.’

Seconded and carried

Mr Easton moved as a procedural motion –

‘That this matter be deferred until a suitable time.’

Seconded and carried

16.4 **General Synod – Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973 Repeal and Exclusion Ordinance**

Mr Doug Marr moved –

‘That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider further amendments to the text of the proposed ordinance.’

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 Committee reported the proposed ordinance with amendments.

Mr Marr moved –

‘That the report of the Chair of Committee be adopted.’

Seconded and carried

Mr Marr moved –

‘That Synod agree to consider on a future date a motion that the proposed ordinance pass as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

16.5 **Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019**

Mr Michael Easton moved –

‘That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the proposed ordinance.’

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 Committee reported the proposed ordinance with amendments.

Mr Easton moved –

‘That the report of the Chair of Committee be adopted.’

Seconded and carried

Mr Easton moved –

‘That Synod agree to consider on a future date a motion that the proposed ordinance pass as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

16.6 **Standing Committee Ordinance 1897 Amendment Ordinance 2019**

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

‘That Synod agree to consider passing the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897 Amendment Ordinance 2019 formally.’

Seconded and carried

Dr Tong spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The President asked –

‘Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?’

There was a time for questions.

After a time for questions the President asked –

‘Does the Synod consider that sufficient time has been allowed for questions?’

The majority of members present answered in the affirmative.

Dr Tong moved –

‘That the proposed ordinance pass formally as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

16.7 **Compliance with the Children’s Guardian Bill 2019 (NSW)**

Mr Michael Easton moved –

‘Synod requests the Standing Committee to make amendments to the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* to facilitate compliance with the *Children’s Guardian Bill 2019*, if it is passed by the NSW Parliament.’

Seconded and carried

Adjournment

At 9.10 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

‘That the Synod adjourn and resume at 3.15 pm tomorrow.’

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 2019

51st Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

3rd Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Wednesday 16 October 2019

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. Bible study

The Rev Matthew Yeo led the Bible study.

4. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Tuesday 15 October 2019.

5. Answers to Questions

5.1 Ordination status of Heads of Diocesan Schools

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

Regarding the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019 –

- (a) How many current Heads of the “Nominated Diocesan Schools” referred to in the Ordinance are ordained?
- (b) Since 1945, how many Heads of the “Nominated Diocesan Schools” referred to in the Ordinance have been ordained?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) There is no category of “Nominated Diocesan Schools” in the Bill for this Ordinance. The Bill provides for the members of Synod elected by the Standing Committee to include at least three heads of Diocesan Schools, where the Standing Committee is to consider any names recommended by the Heads of Diocesan Schools in consultation with the Archbishop.
- (b) Not applicable.

5.2 General Synod Assessments

Dr Robert Tong AM asked the following question –

In the light of the motion concerning General Synod assessments, as at 31 December 2018, what funds are at the disposal of the General Synod to meet any short fall in receipts of statutory assessments?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The financial statements of the General Synod for the year ended 31 December 2018 show the General Synod held the following net assets in the relevant funds at that date –

Trust Fund	\$100
Statutory Assessment Account	\$832,127
Special Assessment Account	\$228,170
General Synod Endowment Fund	\$743,065
Reserve Fund	\$3,073,402
Business Account	\$276,717
Total Net Assets of the General Synod per audited financial statements as at 31 December 2018	\$5,153,580

5.3 Church attendance statistics

Dr David Oakenfull asked the following question –

Parishes are required to supply the Diocese with church attendance statistics on a regular basis:

- (a) What was the aggregate church attendance across the Diocese in the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018?
- (b) What does this data reveal about the progress of Mission 2020?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Diocesan statistics for the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 are available on pages 80 to 83 of the *2016 to 2019 Year Book (Year Book)*.

Fifty-nine parishes have not yet submitted all requested statistics for 2018. The Year Book lists the number of churches that did not submit a return for the relevant year.

Based on the details submitted by parishes to date, the total church service attendance for 2018 is 40,820. The figure for 2018 is considerably lower than 2017 (46,776) as a number of parishes have not submitted data.

- (b) As the data is incomplete, it is unreliable for drawing conclusions regarding the progress of Mission 2020.

5.4 Age of previous Archbishops at the date of their election

The Rev Shaun McGregor asked the following question –

Given our discussion of the willingness of Synod to elect an Archbishop younger than 58, and our decision not to limit the term of the Archbishop to 12 years:

- (a) When was the last time Synod elected a man young enough to serve more than 12 years before his 70th birthday?
- (b) How many current Synod members were part of that Synod which elected a man younger than 58?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Peter Jensen was elected as Archbishop on 5 June 2001. He served a total term of 12 years and 6 days.

- (b) There is a substantial number of members of current Synod who were part of the 2001 Synod which elected Peter Jensen as Archbishop.

5.5 Diocesan Yearbook

The Rev David Clarke asked the following question –

- (a) What is the future of the Diocesan Yearbook?
 (b) Will future online and printed updates at some point return to being yearly or will they be much less frequent such as in 2019?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The Diocesan Year Book is produced in printed form and copies are sent to all members of Synod plus others. An electronic version is also available on the SDS portal and access is being progressively rolled out to all those who appear in the Year Book as well as Wardens, Synod Representatives and other parish office holders.
 The usefulness and cost of each version is evaluated each year. It is currently planned to produce a printed and an electronic 2020 Year Book in early 2020.
- (b) Production of the most recent Year Book (2016 to 2019) was delayed because of the time and effort involved in changing from one database to another.
 It is expected that future year books will be produced annually.

5.6 Service benchmarks of SDS and other Synod-funded organisations

The Rev David Clarke asked the following question –

- (a) Does Sydney Diocesan Services have benchmarks or KPIs it is aiming for in services provided to parishes in areas such as:
 (i) percentage of emails and phone enquiries responded to;
 (ii) length of time taken to respond to enquiries; and
 (iii) reliability of the information provided?
- (b) Do any other parts of the Diocese funded by the Synod that provide services (such as Registry, PSU, Archives) have service benchmarks?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Yes. Sydney Diocesan Services (**SDS**) provides various services to parishes on behalf of the Synod and other diocesan bodies under service agreements. These service agreements include detailed key performance indicators (**KPIs**) for each of the services delivered.

From 2019, SDS has also started measuring more directly various aspects of the quality, timeliness and frequency of the support it provides to parishes. During 2019, these measures included –

- average number of business hours for an initial response to a parish enquiry;
- percentage of parish enquiries which indicate satisfaction with the support given; and
- percentage of parish enquiries which indicate matters such as delay or lack of respect in the support given.

The results of a more limited range of measures previously used by SDS during 2018 for this purpose are summarised on page 21 of SDS's 2018 Annual Report to Synod.

- (b) Yes. Other diocesan agencies which receive funds from the Synod to support parishes measure their support in various ways.
 Agencies such as the Professional Standards Unit (**PSU**), Registry and Archives largely exercise "statutory" functions in relation to parishes. The measures used by these agencies are generally set by reference to the ordinances that describe these functions, and the

timeframes within which such functions are performed are usually dependent on third parties. In the case of the PSU, a summary of the key metrics associated with complaints being managed by the PSU under the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* is regularly provided to the PSU Oversight Committee to ensure an appropriate level of accountability in the discharge of the PSU's functions.

- (c) Outside St Andrew's House, Anglicare's delivery of the Synod funded Clergy Assistance Program uses a number of KPIs contained in a service agreement. These cover matters such as the periods during which Anglicare provides an intake service, and timeframes within which Anglicare provides face to face counselling and urgent online or telephone counselling. Similarly, Youthworks has multiple measures of their engagement with parishes which they track weekly, monthly, quarterly and annually, depending on the metric.

5.7 Residence for the Archbishop

The Rev David Clarke asked the following question –

- (a) What progress on constructing a residence for the Archbishop of Sydney has been made since Synod passed the *Bishopscourt Sale Ordinance 2012* in 2012?
- (b) Will the new residence be ready for use by the time of the election of the new Archbishop in 2020?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Synod has previously been advised that a site has been secured to enable the construction of a residence for the Archbishop. A presentation about the new residence was made to Synod in October 2018. The final proposals for the new residence are essentially the same as was presented to Synod last year.

In December 2018 a Development Application (**DA**) was lodged with the Council of the City of Sydney (**City Council**). In subsequent months, City Council staff have sought clarification of a number of matters and we have responded to all their requests.

It is understood that the only outstanding issue of significance is the DA proposal to remove a large camphor laurel tree currently on the site. To date, our professional advisors have handled our contact, although on 2 October 2019 I met with the City Council's Head of Planning and his staff for a briefing on the current status of the DA.

It is hoped that a determination on the DA will be made by the City Council in the near future.

- (b) As recently as the second quarter of 2019, it was hoped that the residence would be available by the time the next Archbishop takes up his role. This is no longer possible due to the delays with the City Council, but the EOS Corporation will continue to take all reasonable action to have the residence available as soon as possible.

5.8 Church plants

The Rev Stephen Gardner asked the following question –

In his presidential address the Archbishop referred to plans to plant two new churches in each mission area:

- (a) How many churches have been planted during the Mission 2020 period?
- (b) What mission areas were these planted in?
- (c) What plans are in place to continue to resource and recruit church planters in the future?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) In total, there are 18 'new churches' which have been planted during the Mission 2020 period. Unless otherwise specified, 'new churches' include new congregations.

For the Georges River region – there will have 5 new churches by the end of 2019: 2 in the Bankstown mission area, 1 in the Liverpool mission area, 1 in the Marrickville mission area, and 1 in the St George mission area (planned for November 2019).

For the Northern region – there is 1 new church, in the Lower North Shore mission area.

For the South Sydney region – there are 8 new churches: 4 in the Inner West mission area; 3 for the Sydney City mission area, and 1 in the Eastern Suburbs mission area.

For the Western region – there is 1 new church at a new site in the Hills mission area. The information is not available for new congregations, but it is estimated that the number is very small.

For the Wollongong region – there are 3 new churches: 1 in the Macarthur mission area, and 2 in the Shire mission area.

- (b) See above answer to (a).
- (c) All parishes in the Diocese are encouraged to recruit and encourage suitable gifted leaders to be trained and assessed for possible church planting in the Diocese.

In Sydney, there are at least three active church planting organisations working across the denominations, including with the Diocese to raise up, assess and help deploy church planters (Geneva Push, City to City, Acts 29).

Evangelism and New Churches (**ENC**) has worked closely with Geneva Push to identify possible planters wanting to plant Anglican churches. This involves networking with Moore College students across all year groups to recruit planters and evangelists. Students are coached and supported as plans are developed over several years.

In most cases possible planters are assessed by an external planting agency. Help is provided for suitable planters to obtain assistant minister positions in planting or mission-minded training locations, and the planters would serve in those roles for several years after College before deployment as planters within the Diocese.

Other planters emerge from parishes as churches decide to plant or repot. In these cases, a current staff member would be selected by the church and deployed for the task.

5.9 General Synod expenses

Mr Eddie Ozols asked the following question –

- (a) What is the total budget for the General Synod?
- (b) Did Sydney Diocese have any input into the decision to increase the 2019 expenditure, requiring Sydney's assessment to increase by \$79,250?
- (c) What is the staffing at General Synod office by FTE (full-time equivalent)?
- (d) How many staff at the General Synod Office work directly on matters related to the Royal Commission?
- (e) What are the positions at the General Synod Office?
- (f) How many staff are ordained clergy?
- (g) What guidelines are used in determining staff remuneration?
- (h) What is the total employee cost for the General Synod office?
- (i) What are the line items for the non-employee costs?
- (j) How long has the General Synod office been based in Sydney?
- (k) When was the last organisational review of the General Synod undertaken?
- (l) Apart from the annual assessments, what was the total cost of Sydney Diocese in participating in the General Synod, including meetings, travel costs and any other resources required?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The total income budget of the General Synod for all funds for the 2019 year is \$3,008,250.
- (b) No. The various Australian dioceses are not consulted by the General Synod when it prepares budgets, and the Diocese of Sydney did not have any input into the increase in the 2019 assessments.

Although there are members of the Diocese of Sydney on the General Synod Standing Committee, they do not serve as representatives of their diocese.

- (c) This information is not available. The question is also out of order as it does not relate to a matter connected with the business of Synod (rule 6.3, *Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000*).
- (d) See above answer to (c).
- (e) See above answer to (c).
- (f) See above answer to (c).
- (g) See above answer to (c).
- (h) See above answer to (c).
- (i) See above answer to (c).
- (j) See above answer to (c).
- (k) See above answer to (c).
- (l) Ordinary sessions of the General Synod are usually held every 3-4 years, and the total cost of the Sydney Diocese participating in the General Synod is best understood in terms of these periods. For the period 2015-2017, which included the most recent session of the General Synod, \$113,350 was expended from Fund 130 (the fund used to support General Synod representatives attending the General Synod). This amount comprises the costs of accommodation for representatives at sessions, support from SDS staff and other SDS resources, parking expenses and operational expenses such as room hire and printers at the session.

Travel costs for Sydney representatives attending sessions of the General Synod are paid by the General Synod, and are recovered by the General Synod through the statutory assessment. It is worth mentioning that the value of the representatives' time in attending sessions and participating in General Synod committees and other matters in between sessions – being time away from family, work, and other ministries – is a significant additional cost. Some Sydney representatives are paid personnel of the Diocese and generally receive their usual remuneration for participation in General Synod affairs. Many representatives, however, need to take annual leave from their employment or forego income earning opportunities to do so.

5.10 Appellate Tribunal reference in respect to affiliated churches

Mr Eddie Ozols asked the following question –

Noting the conclusion of the Appellate Tribunal *Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005* matter:

- (a) How many people from SDS and others were involved in preparation of work for this matter?
- (b) How long did the Appellate Tribunal sit in deciding this matter?
- (c) Were any resources required to appear before the Tribunal? If so, what resources were required by the Diocese of Sydney?
- (d) Was any payment other than staff time required to represent the Diocese of Sydney at the Tribunal?
- (e) If people provided services pro-bono, is there an estimated quantum value of these services?
- (f) How many members sat on the Tribunal?
- (g) Who were they?
- (h) Was the judgement unanimous? If not how many members concurred with the majority?
- (i) How long is the judgement by the Tribunal?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Two staff members of SDS were involved, along with four others.
- (b) The period from the date of the Primate's referral to the Tribunal to the date the Tribunal issued its opinion was approximately 16 months. There was a preliminary conference with

the President of the Tribunal, the Honourable Keith Mason AC QC, but the matter proceeded by way of written submissions.

- (c) The Chancellor, Mr Michael Meek SC, appeared in the proceedings for the Diocese of Sydney, and was assisted by Mr Steve Lucas, SDS Senior Legal Counsel.
- (d) No.
- (e) It is difficult to give an accurate figure as no timesheets were kept. A rough guide would be \$25,000. In addition, the proceedings would have involved approximately 50 hours of SDS staff time.
- (f) Seven.
- (g) The Hon Keith Mason AC QC (President), Justice Richard Refshauge (Deputy President), the Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall, the Rt Rev'd John Parkes AM, the Rt Rev'd Garry Weatherill, Mrs Gillian Davidson and the Hon Justice Clyde Croft AM.
- (h) The opinion was unanimous, signed on behalf of the Tribunal by the President, Mr Mason.
- (i) Twenty-one pages (including the cover sheet).

6. Questions

Questions were asked by the following members –

- (1) Ms Lyn Bannerman
- (2) Mr Matthew Robson
- (3) Mr Matthew Robson
- (4) Mr Dave Short
- (5) The Rev Shaun McGregor
- (6) The Rev Greg Burke
- (7) Mr Chris Hamam
- (8) Mr Chris Hamam
- (9) Mr Chris Hamam
- (10) Mr Chris Hamam
- (11) The Rev Stuart Maze
- (12) The Rev David Morgan
- (13) Dr Karin Sowada

7. Notices of Motions

Notices of motions were given by the following members –

- (1) Canon Sandy Grant
- (2) Bishop Peter Hayward
- (3) Mrs Stacey Chapman
- (4) Mr Andrew McLachlan
- (5) The Rev Archie Poulos
- (6) Mr Chris Hamam
- (7) The Rev James Warren
- (8) The Rev James Warren
- (9) Dr Robert Tong AM
- (10) The Rev Matthew Heazlewood
- (11) Mr Peter Stewart
- (12) Bishop Peter Tasker
- (13) The Rev Nigel Fortescue
- (14) The Rev Craig Roberts

8. Procedural motions from members

8.1 Arrangements for consideration of motion regarding Youthworks students seeking ordination

The Rev Craig Roberts moved the following procedural motion –

'That the Synod agrees to consider forthwith the motion for which notice was given today, regarding Youthworks students seeking ordination.'

Seconded and carried

9. Motions

9.1 Youthworks students seeking ordination

The Rev Craig Roberts moved –

'Synod, noting the resolution passed by this Synod on 14 October 2019 regarding steps to encourage ordination, acknowledges the presence in the visitors' gallery, of 6 Youthworks College students together with their lecturers, Dr Ruth Lukabyo and the Rev Mike Dicker. Each of these 6 students are pursuing ordination, so we thank God for each of them and for their desire to serve his Son in our Diocese through effective youth and children's ministry.'

Seconded and carried

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 Recommendations from the Order of Business Committee

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod agrees to reschedule items of business as shown in marked form on the Timetable for Synod Business.'

Seconded and carried

10.2 Arrangements for consideration of the motion M40 Increasing the Newstart allowance warranted

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

'Synod asks the Order of Business Committee to consider scheduling M40 (Increasing the Newstart allowance warranted) immediately following consideration of M20 (Mission 2020) on Tuesday 22 October 2019, unless M40 is passed on Wednesday 16 October 2019.'

Seconded and carried

10.3 Arrangements for consideration of the motion regarding Safe Ministry Assessment

The Rev Tom Melbourne moved –

'Synod –

- (a) requests that the Order of Business Committee consider scheduling the motion regarding Safe Ministry Assessment, given notice of today by Canon Sandy Grant and Seconded by the Rev Tom Melbourne, at a suitable time on Tuesday 22 October,
- (b) agrees that the matter may nevertheless be taken on the callover prior to that time, and
- (c) suspends so many Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

10.4 **Acknowledgment of board member duties and responsibilities**

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'Synod encourages the Board of Anglican Schools Corporation, the Board of Anglican Community Services (Anglicare), the Governing Board of Moore Theological College, the Board of Youthworks, and the Board of the Anglican National Superannuation Fund, to consider pursuing amendments to their constituting ordinances to require the following –

- (a) Any person who wishes to be elected, appointed or reappointed as a board member of that organisation must sign an acknowledgement of duties and responsibilities, in a form prepared by the organisation and approved by the Standing Committee (an Acknowledgement), including a confirmation that they are able and willing to devote the time required to be spent by a board member to properly fulfil those duties and responsibilities.
- (b) When a person nominates another person (the nominee) for election to that organisation, that person is required to certify that the nominee is willing to sign the relevant Acknowledgement if elected, and will do so before attending any meeting.'

Seconded and carried

10.5 **Archbishop's Letter regarding Domestic Abuse and Remarriage**

Ms Lyn Bannerman moved –

'This Synod notes and gives thanks to the Archbishop for his letter regarding Domestic Abuse and Remarriage, dated 29 July 2019, which is his response to Resolution 50/18 on this matter.'

Seconded and carried

10.6 **Appreciation for the thirty-four Heads of Anglican Schools**

Dr Laurie Scandrett moved –

'This Synod notes that on 25 October 2018 thirty-four Heads of Anglican Schools signed an open letter to all members of the Commonwealth Parliament of Australia encouraging that Parliament to codify religious freedom in legislation, and, until that happens, to maintain the existing exemptions under the Sex Discrimination Act 1984.

This Synod also notes that as a result of their willingness to sign that letter many of them were vilified not only in the public media and but also in their local communities.

Therefore, this Synod thanks with all its heart these thirty-four Heads of Anglican Schools for their courage and boldness in standing publicly for Biblical truth in this way and assures them of our continued prayers and support as they continue as the spiritual leaders of their respective schools.'

Seconded and carried

Bishop Chris Edwards led the Synod in prayer for the thirty-four Heads of Anglican Schools.

10.7 **Thanksgiving for St James' Church, King Street, Sydney**

Mr James Balfour moved –

'Synod gives thanks to God that 7 October 2019 marked 200 years since the foundation stone of the church building was laid by Governor Lachlan Macquarie as a key part of his plan for Sydney's future.

Synod thanks God for the ministry that has been provided by St James' since the early days of the colony and for the sixteen incumbents who have faithfully served Him in this city.

Synod recognises and values that the mission of St James' reaches many who seek to worship and to serve God in an open and welcoming spirit.

Synod sends good wishes to the people of St James' as they commence a period of four and a half years of celebrations leading up to the bicentenary of the consecration of the church by the Rev Samuel Marsden in 1824.'

Seconded and carried

Bishop Michael Stead led the Synod in prayer for St James' Church, King Street, Sydney.

10.8 **Bishop Keith Dalby**

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the election of Bishop Keith Dalby to the Diocese of the Murray, a diocese which includes some of the fastest-growing suburbs of Adelaide as well as the State's richest rural regions, and
- (b) prays he might set the diocese on a course for mission, encouraging the diocese to engage the community with the good news of Jesus Christ.'

Seconded and carried

Mr Robert Happer led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Bishop Keith Dalby.

10.9 **Bishop Malcolm Richards**

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'Synod gives thanks to God for the appointment of a guardian of the faith, Bishop Malcolm Richards, to the roles of –

- (a) Bishop for International Relations, and
- (b) Director of Moore College's Centre for Global Mission,

praying that as he represents the Diocese and the College throughout Africa, Asia, South America and the rest of the world, church leaders and principals of colleges will partner with us so we might together support and develop Anglican ministry for Christian leaders to continue the proclamation of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the making of disciples among the nations.'

Seconded and carried

The Rev Dr Mark Thompson led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Bishop Malcolm Richards.

10.10 **Bishop Mark Short**

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'Synod gives thanks to God for the appointment of another guardian of the faith, Bishop Mark Short, to the role of Bishop for Canberra and Goulburn and we pray that as he serves that diocese God would use him as a faithful and godly example of Christ and that he might watch over those committed to his care in humble submission to the Holy Spirit.'

Seconded and carried

Mr Fred Chilton led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Bishop Mark Short.

11. Procedural motion

11.1 **Arrangements for consideration of the motion regarding Membership of Synod by Heads of Schools**

The Rev Nigel Fortescue moved –

'Synod agrees to consider as soon as possible after the conclusion of debate on B10 (Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amending Ordinance 2019) the motion given notice of today by Mr Fortescue if the amendment to the text of the ordinance at B10 proposed by the Rev Zac Veron passes.'

Seconded

Prior to voting on the procedural motion, the Synod deferred debate on this matter.

11.2 Arrangements for consideration of motions received within the notice period

Dr David Oakenfull moved –

'Synod requests the Order of Business Committee to allocate a time for debate of members' motions received by the Secretary of the Synod within the notice period.'

Seconded and carried

12. Anglican Church Growth Corporation presentation

A video presentation was given regarding the work of the Anglican Church Growth Corporation.

The Rev Dr Raj Gupta led the Synod in prayer for the Anglican Church Growth Corporation and its CEO, Mr Ross Jones.

13. Motions

13.1 General Synod – Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973 Repeal and Exclusion Ordinance 2019

Mr Doug Marr moved –

'That the General Synod – Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973 Repeal and Exclusion Ordinance 2019 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.'

Seconded and carried

13.2 Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'That the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 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 for or 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.

Prior to consideration of the text of the ordinance, the Synod adjourned debate on this matter.

14. Parish classification presentations

Mr Malcolm Purvis, the Rev Michael Doyle, Mr Mitchell Currell and the Rev Greg Peisley made a joint presentation regarding the classification of the provisional parishes of Berala and Pitt Town as parishes.

15. Motions

15.1 **Berala: Classification as a Parish**

Mr Malcolm Purvis moved –

‘Synod assents to the classification of Berala as a parish with effect from 1 January 2020.’

Seconded and carried by acclamation

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

15.2 **Pitt Town: Classification as a Parish**

Mr Mitchell Currell moved –

‘Synod assents to the classification of Pitt Town as a parish with effect from 1 January 2020.’

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Mr Currell led the Synod in prayer for the provisional parish of Pitt Town.

Adjournment

At 6.01 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

‘That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.15 pm tonight.’

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.18 pm.

16. Motions

16.1 **Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019**

Mr Michael Easton moved –

‘That the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

16.2 **Doctrine of Marriage**

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

'This Synod –

- (a) affirms that the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia is that marriage is a union between one man and one woman,
- (b) affirms that this doctrine of marriage is the “doctrine” of Christ (Matthew 19:3-12), is part of the “rule and standard of faith” established by the Scriptures, and is therefore the unalterable doctrine of this Church (in accordance with Section 66 of the Constitution),
- (c) notes that this doctrine of marriage is also a “principle of doctrine” of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), and that Section 4 of the Constitution prohibits that which would “contravene any principle of doctrine or worship laid down” in BCP,
- (d) declares that a blessing of a civil same-sex marriage is both inconsistent with the doctrine of Christ and the teaching of the Scriptures and also a contravention of the principles of doctrine established by the Order for the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony in the BCP,
- (e) declares that the blessing or other affirmation of a same-sex marriage is contrary to the Scripture’s teaching about human sexuality which calls for faithfulness in marriage between a man and woman and chastity in singleness in all other circumstances,
- (f) notes that the blessing of same-sex marriages in Anglican jurisdictions overseas was a key catalyst for the “tear in the fabric of the Anglican Communion” that has widened over the past two decades,
- (g) declares that the Diocese of Sydney is in a state of impaired fellowship with any diocese that, or bishop or other minister who, has allowed or participated in the blessing or solemnisation of a marriage that is contrary to the doctrine of marriage of Christ and this Church, and with any bishop who fails to take disciplinary action against a minister holding a licence in that bishop’s diocese, in regards to blessing same-sex marriages solemnised by non-Anglican celebrants, or for entering a same-sex marriage via a non-Anglican celebrant,
- (h) respectfully asks the Archbishop to decline any request to exercise ministry in the Diocese of Sydney from any bishop or other minister who has unrepentantly allowed or participated in a blessing or purported solemnisation of a marriage, which is contrary to the doctrine of Christ and of this Church,
- (i) asks the Standing Committee to consider not providing financial support, whether directly or indirectly, to any Anglican diocese or body which has acted, or has allowed others to act, in a way that is contrary to the Church’s doctrine of marriage, and
- (j) requests the Diocesan Secretary to send this motion to the meeting of the General Synod Standing Committee in November 2019.'

Seconded

Professor Bernard Stewart AM moved as an amendment -

'Amend the motion as follows –

- (a) At the beginning of the motion, omit the words “This Synod”, and insert instead the following matter –
 - “Recognising that our Lord, together with the prophets and apostles, are not recorded in scripture as directly addressing the status or ramifications of a committed relationship between two adult people of the same sex, and that all doctrine on this matter involves some degree of extrapolation and interpretation, this Synod”, and
- (b) In clause (f), after the words “two decades”, insert the matter –
 - “as a steadily increasing number of national Anglican churches, relying on the scripture, BCP and comparable relevant authorities as specified in this motion, provide for blessing or other affirmation of a same sex marriage.”

Seconded

The Rev Dominic Steele moved as an amendment –

'Insert a new paragraph (j), with consequential re-lettering, as follows –

“asks the Standing Committee to bring a report to the Synod in 2020 giving recommendations of further appropriate changes in our Diocese’s relationship with the national church, and any Anglican diocese, body, bishop or minister who has allowed or participated in a blessing or purported solemnisation of a marriage, which is contrary to the doctrine of Christ and of this Church (noting the Apostle’s teaching in 1 Corinthians 5).”

Seconded

The Rev Michael Armstrong moved as an amendment –

'Amend the motion as follows –

- (a) In clause (d), omit the words, ‘a blessing of’ and insert instead the matter – ‘any ritual ceremony or worship that affirms (including "Blessings")’,
- (b) In clause (e), omit the words, ‘the blessing or other affirmation of’ and insert instead the matter – ‘any ritual ceremony or worship that affirms (including "Blessings")’,
- (c) In clause (f), omit the words, ‘the blessing’ and insert instead the matter – ‘ritual ceremonies and/or worship (including "Blessings")’,
- (d) In clause (g), omit the words ‘the blessing’ and insert instead the matter – ‘any ritual ceremony or worship that affirms (including "Blessings")’,
- (e) In clause (g), omit the words, ‘solemnization of’ and insert instead, ‘solemnizes’
- (f) In clause (g), following ‘in regards to’, omit the word ‘blessing’ and insert instead the matter – ‘any ritual ceremony or worship that affirms (including "Blessings")’,
- (g) In clause (h), omit the words, ‘a blessing’ and insert instead the matter – ‘any ritual ceremony or worship that affirms (including "Blessings")’, and
- (h) Omit clause (i).’

Seconded

Professor Stewart’s amendment was not carried.

Mr Steele’s amendment was carried.

Clauses (a), (b), (c), (d), (f) and (g) of Mr Armstrong’s amendment were put and were lost.

Clause (h) of Mr Armstrong’s amendment was put and was lost.

Consequently paragraph (e) of Mr Armstrong’s amendment lapsed.

Bishop Stead’s motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

'This Synod –

- (a) affirms that the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia is that marriage is a union between one man and one woman,
- (b) affirms that this doctrine of marriage is the “doctrine” of Christ (Matthew 19:3-12), is part of the “rule and standard of faith” established by the Scriptures, and is therefore the unalterable doctrine of this Church (in accordance with Section 66 of the Constitution),
- (c) notes that this doctrine of marriage is also a “principle of doctrine” of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), and that Section 4 of the Constitution prohibits that which would “contravene any principle of doctrine or worship laid down” in BCP,
- (d) declares that a blessing of a civil same-sex marriage is both inconsistent with the doctrine of Christ and the teaching of the Scriptures and also a contravention of the principles of doctrine established by the Order for the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony in the BCP,
- (e) declares that the blessing or other affirmation of a same-sex marriage is contrary to the Scripture’s teaching about human sexuality which calls for faithfulness in

marriage between a man and woman and chastity in singleness in all other circumstances,

- (f) notes that the blessing of same-sex marriages in Anglican jurisdictions overseas was a key catalyst for the “tear in the fabric of the Anglican Communion” that has widened over the past two decades,
- (g) declares that the Diocese of Sydney is in a state of impaired fellowship with any diocese that, or bishop or other minister who, has allowed or participated in the blessing or solemnisation of a marriage that is contrary to the doctrine of marriage of Christ and this Church, and with any bishop who fails to take disciplinary action against a minister holding a licence in that bishop’s diocese, in regards to blessing same-sex marriages solemnised by non-Anglican celebrants, or for entering a same-sex marriage via a non-Anglican celebrant,
- (h) respectfully asks the Archbishop to decline any request to exercise ministry in the Diocese of Sydney from any bishop or other minister who has unrepentantly allowed or participated in a blessing or purported solemnisation of a marriage, which is contrary to the doctrine of Christ and of this Church,
- (i) asks the Standing Committee to consider not providing financial support, whether directly or indirectly, to any Anglican diocese or body which has acted, or has allowed others to act, in a way that is contrary to the Church’s doctrine of marriage,
- (j) asks the Standing Committee to bring a report to the Synod in 2020 giving recommendations of further appropriate changes in our Diocese’s relationship with the national church, and any Anglican diocese, body, bishop or minister who has allowed or participated in a blessing or purported solemnisation of a marriage, which is contrary to the doctrine of Christ and of this Church (noting the Apostle’s teaching in 1 Corinthians 5), and
- (k) requests the Diocesan Secretary to send this motion to the meeting of the General Synod Standing Committee in November 2019.’

Dean Kanishka Raffel led the Synod in prayer regarding this matter.

16.3 Special session of the General Synod

Having been granted leave, the Rev Jason Ramsay moved –

‘Synod –

- (i) noting the proposal to postpone the scheduled 2020 ordinary session of General Synod and, by resolution of the Standing Committee of General Synod, the proposal to replace it with a special session restricted to responses to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and
- (ii) noting that a special session of General Synod ‘shall be convened by the Primate’ at the request of one third of the House of Clergy or one third of the House of Laity,

calls upon the Standing Committee, in the event that the 2020 General Synod ordinary session is postponed, to take the necessary steps to gather one third of the clergy or one third of the lay members of General Synod to request a special session of General Synod to be held alongside the special session currently proposed for 2020, to consider motions concerning the blessing of same sex unions, including services of blessing for persons married according to the *Marriage Act 1961*.’

Seconded and carried

16.4 Nine Motions for General Synod 2020

Having been granted leave, Bishop Michael Stead moved –

‘In the event that an ordinary session, or a further special session, of General Synod is called in 2020, Synod requests that the following 9 motions be promoted to the next session of the General Synod at the request of the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney –

I. Apology

General Synod apologises to, and seeks forgiveness from, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI), whom we have hurt by words or behaviour that have not displayed the love of God. We are deeply sorry for any harm we have done, and repent of such ungodly behaviour.

II. Safe Churches

General Synod –

- (a) Deplores and condemns any behaviour that is disrespectful, bullying or abusive, and recognises and rejoices in the image of God as reflected in every human being, regardless of race, social circumstances, creed or sexual identity.
- (b) Commits itself to fostering churches and fellowships where compassion and grace abound and where the love of God is expressed to all, so that our churches and ministries are welcoming, safe and respectful of all people, including those who identify as LGBTI.

III. Respectful Debate

General Synod –

- (a) Recognises that in our churches and in our midst there are same-sex attracted couples who wish to marry with the blessing of the church, and same-sex attracted Christians who as part of their commitment to Christ have chosen a celibate life.
- (b) Recognises that in our churches and in our midst there are those who believe that to withhold the blessing and solemnization of the marriages of same-sex couples is a denial of the gospel (which entails inclusion), and there are those who believe that to change our doctrine of marriage to allow this would be a denial of the gospel (which entails repentance).
- (c) Conscious of the potential for division and dissension, prays for, and commits ourselves to, a spirit of humility and respect in our discussions and debate, willing to have our own views challenged by the teaching of Scripture. We will seek to respect difference and to understand the struggles that others endure as we walk together in humble, faithful discipleship in obedience to the word of God.

IV. Affirming Singleness

General Synod –

- (a) Notes that the standard of behaviour for clergy and church workers established by *Faithfulness in Service* (our national code of conduct) is “You are to be chaste and not engage in sex outside of marriage and not engage in disgraceful conduct of a sexual nature” (*FIS* 7.4).
- (b) Affirms that singleness is, like marriage, an honourable state for God’s people, in which the fullness of God’s blessings may be enjoyed. Singleness is highly commended in Scripture (1 Cor 7:8, 32-38; Matt 19:10-12).
- (c) Gives thanks for all single brothers and sisters in our churches, including those who are same-sex attracted, who model to us trust in the goodness of God and the trustworthiness of God’s word, by pursuing chaste lives of joyful obedience in a culture that relentlessly promotes sexual fulfilment as essential to happiness in life.

V. The Doctrine of Marriage of our Church

General Synod –

- (a) Continues to affirm that the doctrine of our Church is that marriage is the voluntary union of one man and one woman arising from mutual promises of lifelong faithfulness. (cf. GS 48/17).

- (b) Continues to affirm that the doctrine of our church is based on the teaching of Christ that, in marriage, “a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh” (Matt 19:6).
- (c) Continues to affirm that any action that would allow clergy to solemnise a marriage between a same-sex couple would be contrary to the doctrine of our Church and the teaching of Christ. (cf. GS 51/17).

VI. Support for Those Who Have Left their Churches

General Synod –

- (a) Notes that the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia (ACANZP) has amended its Canons to allow bishops to authorise clergy to bless same-sex unions in their dioceses.
- (b) Notes that this step is contrary to Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference and is not in accordance with the teaching of Christ in Matthew 19:1-12.
- (c) Notes that some relationships within ACANZP and throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion, including Australia, have been impaired in the wake of this change, and prays that such relationships will be healed.
- (d) Expresses our support for all Anglicans in Aotearoa, NZ and Polynesia, including those who have left the ACANZP, those who feel the need to leave, and those who remain. We commit ourselves to pray for all who continue to suffer as a result of this decision.
- (e) Notes the Australian Bishops’ recognition in March 2018 of the complexity of these issues and affirms the need for humility and graciousness in discerning the way forward.
- (f) Assures all Anglicans in Aotearoa, NZ and Polynesia of our prayers and our desire to continue dialogue.

VII. Blessing Civil Same-sex Marriages

General Synod –

- (a) Notes that Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference advised that it “cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions”.
- (b) Notes that the Diocesan Synod of Wangaratta has approved a regulation pursuant to section 5(2) of the *Canon Concerning Services 1992* that purports to authorise a service that could be used to bless a civil same-sex marriage.
- (c) Notes that the blessing of same-sex marriages in Anglican jurisdictions overseas was a key catalyst for the “tear in the fabric of the Anglican Communion” that has widened over the past two decades, and is likely to have the same dire and potentially irreversible consequences for the Anglican Church of Australia.
- (d) Continues to affirm GS Resolution 62/04, that
 - “this General Synod does not condone the liturgical blessing of same sex relationships”.
- (e) Declares that a blessing of a civil same-sex marriage is both inconsistent with the doctrine of Christ and the teaching of Scripture and also a departure from the principles of doctrine established by the Order for the Solemnisation of Holy Matrimony in the *BCP*.
- (f) Declares that the blessing or other affirmation of a same-sex marriage is contrary to Scripture’s teaching about human sexuality which calls for faithfulness in marriage between a man and woman and chastity in singleness in all other circumstances.

VIII. Entering into a Same-sex Marriage

General Synod –

- (a) Notes that Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference advised that it “cannot advise ... ordaining those involved in same gender unions”.
- (b) Recalls GS Resolution 63/04, that "this General Synod does not condone the ordination of people in open committed same sex relationships".
- (c) Declares that it is contrary to the doctrine of our Church (that marriage is between a man and woman) for a member of the clergy to enter into a same-sex marriage.
- (d) Respectfully asks all diocesan bishops to advise their clergy that entering into a same-sex marriage may render them liable before the Diocesan Tribunal to a charge of unchastity and/or sexual misconduct under section 54(2A) of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

IX. Call for Repentance

General Synod –

- (a) Heeds the command of our Lord to repent and believe the gospel.
- (b) Fervently prays
 - Most gracious Father,
 - we pray for your holy catholic Church:
 - fill it with all truth
 - and in all truth with all peace;
 - where it is corrupt, purge it;
 - where it is in error, direct it;
 - where anything is amiss, reform it;
 - where it is right, strengthen and confirm it;
 - where it is in want, furnish it;
 - where it is divided, heal it
 - and unite it in your love;
 - through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [APBA p.210]
- (c) Calls on those who have departed from the teaching of Christ and the doctrine of this Church to repent and bring their teaching and practice into conformity with sound doctrine.’

Seconded

Miss Tiffany Davy moved as an amendment –

‘In clause IV, omit clause (a), with consequential relettering.’

Seconded and carried

Having been granted leave, the Rev Joseph Wiltshire moved as a procedural motion –

‘That the Synod agree to reopen consideration of Miss Davy’s amendment, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent this.’

Seconded and carried

The Rev Dominic Steele moved as an amendment to Bishop Stead’s motion –

‘If the amendment of Miss Davy passes, insert the omitted clause IV(a) as a new clause V(b), with consequential relettering.’

Seconded

The Rev Dr Mark Thompson moved as an amendment to Mr Steele’s amendment –

'Omit the matter "clause V(b)" and insert instead, "clause V(c)".'

Seconded and carried

The Rev James Warren moved as an amendment –

'In the new clause V(c), following the word, "marriage", insert the matter, "[as traditionally understood between a man and a woman]".'

Seconded

Professor Sue Wright moved as an amendment –

'In clause IV(b), omit the matter, ", like marriage,".'

Seconded

The Rev Nathan Walter moved as an amendment –

'In the heading of clause VIII, omit the words "Entering into a Same-sex Marriage" and insert instead, "Same-sex Marriage and the Clergy".'

Seconded

The amendments of Miss Davy and Mr Walter were carried.

Mr Steele's amendment, as amended, was carried.

The amendments of Professor Wright and Mr Warren were not carried.

Bishop Stead's motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

'In the event that an ordinary session, or a further special session, of General Synod is called in 2020, Synod requests that the following 9 motions be promoted to the next session of the General Synod at the request of the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney –

I. Apology

General Synod apologises to, and seeks forgiveness from, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI), whom we have hurt by words or behaviour that have not displayed the love of God. We are deeply sorry for any harm we have done, and repent of such ungodly behaviour.

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III. Respectful Debate

General Synod –

- (a) Recognises that in our churches and in our midst there are same-sex attracted couples who wish to marry with the blessing of the church, and same-sex attracted Christians who as part of their commitment to Christ have chosen a celibate life.

- (b) Recognises that in our churches and in our midst there are those who believe that to withhold the blessing and solemnization of the marriages of same-sex couples is a denial of the gospel (which entails inclusion), and there are those who believe that to change our doctrine of marriage to allow this would be a denial of the gospel (which entails repentance).
- (c) Conscious of the potential for division and dissension, prays for, and commits ourselves to, a spirit of humility and respect in our discussions and debate, willing to have our own views challenged by the teaching of Scripture. We will seek to respect difference and to understand the struggles that others endure as we walk together in humble, faithful discipleship in obedience to the word of God.

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- (b) Gives thanks for all single brothers and sisters in our churches, including those who are same-sex attracted, who model to us trust in the goodness of God and the trustworthiness of God's word, by pursuing chaste lives of joyful obedience in a culture that relentlessly promotes sexual fulfilment as essential to happiness in life.

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- (a) Continues to affirm that the doctrine of our Church is that marriage is the voluntary union of one man and one woman arising from mutual promises of lifelong faithfulness. (cf. GS 48/17).
- (b) Continues to affirm that the doctrine of our church is based on the teaching of Christ that, in marriage, "a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh" (Matt 19:6).
- (c) Notes that the standard of behaviour for clergy and church workers established by *Faithfulness in Service* (our national code of conduct) is "You are to be chaste and not engage in sex outside of marriage and not engage in disgraceful conduct of a sexual nature" (FIS 7.4).
- (d) Continues to affirm that any action that would allow clergy to solemnise a marriage between a same-sex couple would be contrary to the doctrine of our Church and the teaching of Christ. (cf. GS 51/17).

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General Synod –

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- (b) Notes that this step is contrary to Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference and is not in accordance with the teaching of Christ in Matthew 19:1-12.
- (c) Notes that some relationships within ACANZP and throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion, including Australia, have been impaired in the wake of this change, and prays that such relationships will be healed.
- (d) Expresses our support for all Anglicans in Aotearoa, NZ and Polynesia, including those who have left the ACANZP, those who feel the need to leave, and those who remain. We commit ourselves to pray for all who continue to suffer as a result of this decision.

- (e) Notes the Australian Bishops' recognition in March 2018 of the complexity of these issues and affirms the need for humility and graciousness in discerning the way forward.
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- (c) Notes that the blessing of same-sex marriages in Anglican jurisdictions overseas was a key catalyst for the “tear in the fabric of the Anglican Communion” that has widened over the past two decades, and is likely to have the same dire and potentially irreversible consequences for the Anglican Church of Australia.
- (d) Continues to affirm GS Resolution 62/04, that
 - “this General Synod does not condone the liturgical blessing of same sex relationships”.
- (e) Declares that a blessing of a civil same-sex marriage is both inconsistent with the doctrine of Christ and the teaching of Scripture and also a departure from the principles of doctrine established by the Order for the Solemnisation of Holy Matrimony in the *BCP*.
- (f) Declares that the blessing or other affirmation of a same-sex marriage is contrary to Scripture’s teaching about human sexuality which calls for faithfulness in marriage between a man and woman and chastity in singleness in all other circumstances.

VIII. Same-sex Marriage and the Clergy

General Synod –

- (a) Notes that Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference advised that it “cannot advise ... ordaining those involved in same gender unions”.
- (b) Recalls GS Resolution 63/04, that “this General Synod does not condone the ordination of people in open committed same sex relationships”.
- (c) Declares that it is contrary to the doctrine of our Church (that marriage is between a man and woman) for a member of the clergy to enter into a same-sex marriage.
- (d) Respectfully asks all diocesan bishops to advise their clergy that entering into a same-sex marriage may render them liable before the Diocesan Tribunal to a charge of unchastity and/or sexual misconduct under section 54(2A) of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

IX. Call for Repentance

General Synod –

- (a) Heeds the command of our Lord to repent and believe the gospel.
- (b) Fervently prays
 - Most gracious Father,
 - we pray for your holy catholic Church:
 - fill it with all truth
 - and in all truth with all peace;
 - where it is corrupt, purge it;

where it is in error, direct it;
 where anything is amiss, reform it;
 where it is right, strengthen and confirm it;
 where it is in want, furnish it;
 where it is divided, heal it
 and unite it in your love;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [APBA p.210]

- (c) Calls on those who have departed from the teaching of Christ and the doctrine of this Church to repent and bring their teaching and practice into conformity with sound doctrine.'

16.5 Deferral of General Synod Assessments

Dr Laurie Scandrett moved –

'Synod, noting –

- (a) that in his recent Presidential Address to the Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta on 30 August Bishop John Parkes stated in regard to the blessing of same-sex marriages that '... the Church is hopelessly split, indeed paralysed', and
- (b) that at the same Synod the Diocese of Wangaratta adopted Regulations pursuant to Section 5(2) of the *Canon Concerning Services 1992* that purportedly authorises 'A Service of Blessing for persons who have been married according to the *Marriage Act 1961*', and
- (c) that the Primate has referred these Regulations and associated matters to the Appellate Tribunal, and
- (d) that the Primate has written to both Bishop John Parkes (the Bishop of Wangaratta) and Archdeacon Clarence Bester (the Vicar General), asking that the service of blessing not be used while the Appellate Tribunal reference is under consideration, and
- (e) that while Bishop Parkes has responded by stating publicly that he won't proceed with the blessing if the Appellate Tribunal finds it violates church law, he has also said –
- "Although, we won't wait forever. My advice is that this is legitimate and lawful, and unless the Appellate Tribunal finds that it isn't, then what we have at the moment is a delay rather than a backtrack.", and
- (f) in conjunction with the Special Session of General Synod to be held in May next year there is to be a conference involving some or all General Synod members and possibly others to consider the range of issues this Church is facing in relation to human sexuality, same-sex relationships and marriage, and possible ways forward for this Church,

requests Standing Committee at its December meeting to decide whether to defer payment of any General Synod statutory assessment levies not yet paid in 2019 and any levied in 2020 until this matter is revisited at the 1st Ordinary Session of the 52nd Synod in October 2020, and asks the Standing Committee to ensure that until this matter is resolved the relevant expenses of Sydney representatives attending any sessions of General Synod are suitably provisioned from the funds which would otherwise be used to pay General Synod Assessments.'

Seconded

Professor Bernard Stewart AM moved the following as an amendment –

'Delete all the matter following the phrase 'requests Standing Committee', and insert instead a new subclause (g) and new rider as follows –

- '(g) that despite sharp differences of opinion – including between members of the General Synod Doctrine Commission – publication of *Marriage, Same-sex marriage and the Anglican Church of Australia; Essays from the Doctrine Commission*, which includes multiple contributions from Sydney Anglicans Bishop

Michael Stead, The Rev Dr Mark Thompson and Dr Claire Smith, identifies the path of respectful dialogue, and also noting the challenge in the Introduction to these essays:

“Given that we all pray to the same God, read the same Bible, recite the same Creeds and belong to the same church—given that it is the same Lord Jesus Christ who encounters each of us— then how is it that we come to such differing views on what Christ wants for us and his Church?”,

requests the Archbishop, in collaboration with the Assistant Bishops, Principal of Moore College and those recognised to exercise theological leadership within the Diocese, to continue to engage with corresponding leaders from other Anglican Dioceses, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ to resolve the present disagreement. Relying on that same faith, Synod requests Standing Committee to accord low priority to initiatives calculated to financially disadvantage General Synod as a means of exerting pressure in the present context.’

Seconded

Dr Karin Sowada moved –

‘Omit all the matter after the words, “requests Standing Committee”, and insert instead, “to seek appropriate legal and other advice regarding deferring payment of any General Synod statutory assessment levies for 2019, 2020 and future years, and bring to the Synod in 2020 a report on the matter with recommendations.”’

Seconded

Prof Stewart’s amendment was not carried.

Dr Sowada’s amendment was carried.

Prof Stewart moved as a procedural motion –

‘That a secret ballot of the whole Synod be taken on Bishop Stead’s motion’.

8 members stood in their place to request the vote be taken by secret ballot.

The Rev Stephen Cook moved as a procedural motion –

“That the motion be not be voted on.”

Seconded

Mr Cook’s motion was not carried.

Dr Scandrett’s motion, as amended, was taken by secret ballot.

Prior to the notice of the result of the vote by secret ballot, the Synod adjourned this matter.

Adjournment

At 10.05 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

‘That the Synod adjourn and resume at 3.15 pm on Monday 21 October 2019.’

Seconded and carried

Members joined in the words of the Grace.

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

21 October 2019

51st Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

3rd Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Monday 21 October 2019

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.17 pm.

2. Prayers

Prayers were read by the Registrar, Mr Doug Marr.

The President welcomed Archdeacon Paul Spackman and Dr Khim Harris, Registrar, of the Diocese of North West Australia in Geraldton.

3. Bible study

The Rev Matthew Yeo led the Bible study.

4. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Wednesday 16 October 2019.

5. Answers to Questions

5.1 Female representation on Standing Committee and Synod

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked the following question –

- (a) How many Standing Committee members and Synod representatives are there, broken down between clergy and laity in both cases?
- (b) What percentage of these, for both Standing Committee and Synod, split between clergy and laity, are women?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The answer to this question is shown in tabular form, and will be posted on the noticeboard in the foyer and on the SDS website.

The percentages are:

	Female	Male	Total	Women%
SYNOD				
Clergy	8	286	294	3%
Laity	154	378	532	29%
Total	162	664	826	20%
STANDING COMMITTEE				
Clergy	1	21	22	5%
Laity	10	21	31	32%
Total	11	42	53	21%

Note. The Synod figures do not include alternates.

Note: The Standing Committee figures do not include the Archbishop, and there is one vacancy.

5.2 Safe Ministry Check

Mr Matthew Robson asked the following question –

- (a) Noting that the NSW Working with Children Check already has identification confirmation in its process:
 - (i) What is the purpose of requesting identification for indefinite retention by a parish?
 - (ii) What action (if any) is required by parishes to ensure that identification is not fraudulent, noting that parishes do not have access to such a mechanism to confirm this?
 - (iii) What standard of secure storage is expected for these documents? Is a digital format acceptable?
 - (iv) With the retention of identification documents now required, are there any additional privacy regulations parishes will have to comply with?
- (b) Noting that the Safe Ministry Check states one referee must be an “employer” and that the purpose of the reference check is “give a report on... good character and suitability for ministry”:
 - (i) What is the purpose of asking a secular employer for an opinion on an applicant’s ‘suitability for ministry’?
 - (ii) What should parishes do if a secular employer declines to give a reference on ministry grounds?
 - (iii) Are the requirements discussed in (a) and (b) outcomes of the recommendations of the Royal Commission?
- (c) Noting that the Safe Ministry Check does not apply to some children’s leaders:
 - (i) Will the Safe Ministry Check expand to leaders of children?
 - (ii) If yes, when is this expected?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a)
 - (i) There is no requirement to retain identification documents. It is sufficient to retain the Safe Ministry Check form. The “Office use only” section will confirm the identification process that was undertaken.
A recent safe ministry circular to parishes recommended securely storing the completed forms and referee responses indefinitely since the material could be important to demonstrate that reasonable steps were taken to prevent child abuse, noting that there is no longer any statutory time limit applicable to such legal proceedings.
 - (ii) There are no specific requirements regarding checks for fraudulent documents. Standard practice is to sight the original or a certified copy.
 - (iii) Not applicable.
 - (iv) Not applicable.
- (b) The Safe Ministry Check presently requires one referee to be an employer or a former employer. It is apparent that this requirement is problematic. A proposal will be put to the Standing Committee to amend the Safe Ministry Check so that the second referee can be any adult person who is not a relative who has known the applicant for at least 3 years.
- (c) At this stage, no. The equivalent screening assessment in the Safe Ministry Canon 2017 of the General Synod applies to all volunteers who undertake ministry to children who are 13 years of age or over. In the case of our Diocese this is a very large number of people. As a guide, there are over 15,000 volunteers in our churches with working with children checks. The Standing Committee has indicated that it will review the arrangements for the Safe Ministry Assessment in 3 years. This will include an examination of whether the categories of person it applies to remain appropriate. Any expansion of the Safe Ministry Assessment will depend on the outcome of that review.

5.3 High School SRE

Mr Matthew Robson asked the following question –

- (a) Noting the importance of High School SRE both across the Diocese and the Province, why did Anglican Youthworks give up two Board Seats in Generate Ministries, an organisation supporting SRE in half the Public High Schools in NSW, to Scripture Union (Queensland), an organisation without history in Religious Education in Queensland Public Schools?
- (b) What is being put in place to support High School SRE now?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) This part of the question is out of order under Business Rule 6.3(4)(a) as it contains an assertion. In actual fact under the Constitution of Generate, Youthworks has never had “two Board seats”.
- (b) High School SRE is currently supported by hundreds of volunteer and employed SRE teachers from local churches across NSW, together with their churches. Generate is expected to continue its administrative support of SRE in NSW High Schools.

Currently, the Synod provides \$484,000 each year to Youthworks by way of contribution to less than half the costs of running Youthworks’ SRE Office and Ministry Support Team of eight full-time ministry advisors.

Youthworks’ Ministry Support Team is available on-call for free to all parishes and Anglican SRE teachers in the Diocese, who are encouraged to ask Youthworks for help in nurturing faith where it is found in students in NSW schools.

5.4 Bishopscourt

Mr Dave Short asked the following question –

- (a) Please advise the final net proceeds from the sale of the old (Darling Point) Bishopscourt?
- (b) Please advise (with broad headings) the expenditure of these proceeds so far towards the land acquisition, designing, building and furnishing of the new Bishopscourt?
- (c) Please advise the anticipated residue of funds once the new Bishopscourt is ready for occupation and to what purpose that residue might be applied?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) A report was presented to Synod in 2016 providing details of the sale and associated finances relating to the sale of Bishopscourt at Darling Point. The sale price was \$18 million and sale expenses totalled \$504,689 resulting in net proceeds of \$17,495,311.
- (b)
 - Payment to the parish of Broadway in accordance with the Broadway Variation of Trusts for Archbishop’s Ordinance 2017 - \$3,250,000.
 - Fees paid to architects, project managers and other consultants for design and documentation of new residence - \$632,459.
 - DA fee paid to the Council of the City of Sydney - \$12,623.
 - Rent paid for temporary residence of the Archbishop, storage of furniture and related costs - \$591,629.
 - Other costs including fees paid to SDS for additional support, site clean-up and pest control - \$47,304
- (c) The Bishopscourt Sale Ordinance 2012 provides for the sum of \$7 million, plus income on this amount, to be made available for the provision of a new residence for the Archbishop and specified expenses. Due to the time delay and other issues, at this time it is not possible

to estimate the residue of funds from the sale which will be available and it is expected the total cost will exceed \$7 million. It is hoped that the Development Application will be approved in the near future and tenders will then be obtained for construction. All surplus money will be invested to provide income for the Endowment of the See Corporation.

5.5 Termination of the appointment of Assistant Ministers

The Rev Shaun McGregor asked the following question –

How many Assistant Ministers or Senior Assistant Ministers received notices of the termination of their appointment under the provisions of the Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 during the following years –

- (a) 2017
- (b) 2018
- (c) 2019?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 requires the written statement provided to an Assistant Minister by the Minister and Wardens to be lodged with the Diocesan Registrar. The Registrar has only received one statement in accordance with the Ordinance. However, anecdotally we are aware that more assistant ministers have received notices of termination. Based on this information the answers are as follows --

2017: 6
2018: 5
2019: 2

5.6 Safe Ministry Assessment

The Rev Greg Burke asked the following question –

Can the President please advise the Synod if the introduction of Safe Ministry Assessment procedures to assess the suitability of ministry volunteers working with youth was based wholly or in part on the existence of evidence that shows that such assessments will significantly reduce the incidence of sexual abuse of youth? If such evidence was taken into account, can the President please advise the Synod as to where it may be found?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse conducted an evaluation of pre-employment screening practices for child-related work that aim to prevent child sexual abuse. This was published as a research paper of the Commission and was outlined in the Royal Commission's Final Report, most relevantly in Volume 16 concerning religious institutions.

The Royal Commission identified that historically, selection and screening of ordination candidates and lay church workers in the Anglican Church had been inadequate. It observed that this contributed to the occurrence of child sexual abuse by members of clergy and lay people, and to poor institutional responses. The Commission recommended that institutions, including the Anglican Church, implement further pre-employment screening measures for clergy and church workers.

The Safe Ministry Assessment is a type of pre-employment screening that is based on the equivalent procedures in the Safe Ministry Canon 2017. No screening procedure can eliminate sexual abuse. The Safe Ministry Assessment is one part of a system that aims to prevent child sexual abuse.

5.7 Ordinance Procedures

Mr Chris Hamam asked the following question –

- (a) Are there any provision(s) to vary the 3 weeks objection period provided under the *Ordinance Procedure Ordinance 1973*?
- (b) If so, what are those provisions, and how were they applied to ordinance 32/2019 (“Bondi and Waverley Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2019”) before it was passed at the 23/9/2019 Standing Committee meeting?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Clauses 9 and 13(6) of the *Ordinance Procedure Ordinance 1973* allow the notice period to be shortened in cases of special urgency and when the notification requirements are considered to be impossible or unduly onerous. The provisions weren't applied to the Bondi Ordinance.

Further details about the notification undertaken in respect of the Ordinance can be found in Bishop Stead's amendment to motion M76, regarding the Parish of Bondi and Waverley.

5.8 Sale of Church Sites

Mr Chris Hamam asked the following question –

How many sales of Sydney Diocese properties which include church buildings have been approved since 1/1/2014, and how many such sales have been completed since 1/1/2014?

Please list such approvals and sales, including brief details including number of years each such church building had been used for worship services and other ministry.

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

14 have been authorised for sale.

12 have been sold.

It should be noted that:

- 3 of these sales involved applying the proceeds to acquire a replacement site that is better suited to the ministry needs of the parish,
- 2 involved the construction of a new ministry centre on existing land,
- 1 involved the sale of land to the Mission Property Committee,
- the remainder (with one exception) included the application of proceeds to upgrade ministry facilities.

Further details about the approvals and sales is set out in a table that will be posted on the notice board in the foyer and the SDS website.

Attachment to question 8 – details of approvals and sales

Ordinance and Property Sold	Year of Sale	Date building licensed for use as a church	Comments
Dundas/Telopea Land Sale Ordinance 2014	2016	St Andrew's: 5 June 1955	No further information available about when ministry activities stopped.

Ordinance and Property Sold	Year of Sale	Date building licensed for use as a church	Comments
St Andrew's Rydalmere and St Stephen's, Telopea		St Stephen's: 25 November 1962	
Strathfield and Homebush Land Sale Ordinance 2015 St Columba's, Homebush West	2016	12 March 1906	Regular services discontinued from 2004 Between 2004 – 2015 church used by other denominations for worship services
Glenquarie Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2015 Holy Trinity	2017	26 November 1933	Regular services discontinued from 2010. Between 2004 – 2015 church used by other denominations for worship services
South Creek Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2015 Holy Innocents	2016	7 November 1850	The site has not been used for church activities since 2006.
Mulgoa Land Sale Ordinance 2016 All Saints Silverdale	2016	10 October 1906	Bi-monthly weekday services held until early 2012. 2012-2016 it served as a storage for pews.
Bulli Land Sale Ordinance 2015 St Paul's, Woonona	2016	18 December 1906	Formal services ceased on unknown date. 2015, church was used occasionally by other Christian groups.
Hunters Hill Land Sale Ordinance 2016 St John's, Woolwich	2017	27 August 1908	No clear dates as to when use as a church ceased. 1995 – 2016; church was used by the Hunters Hill Theatre Company Inc.
Parramatta Land Sale Ordinance 2017	2018	No date identified.	No clear dates on when use as a church ceased. In 2017 church was leased to a Christian organisation.

Ordinance and Property Sold	Year of Sale	Date building licensed for use as a church	Comments
Brighton/Rockdale Land Sale Ordinance 2017 St John's, Rockdale.	Sale and development did not proceed	16 May 1897 1 January 2012	Regular church services and ministry of the parish has continued in St John's Church.
Huskisson Land Sale Ordinance 2017 St Peter's, Sanctuary Point and Holy Trinity, Huskisson.	Contracted exchanged. Settlement in August 2020	St Peter's: 29 November 1992 Holy Trinity: 25 March 1931	St Peter's: until 2017 a Sunday 9 am traditional service Holy Trinity: until 2017 a Sunday 8 am traditional service
Moss Vale Land Sale Ordinance 2018 Emmanuel Church, Fitzroy Falls.	2018	No date identified.	Church has not been used for ministry purposes for many years.
Bondi and Waverley Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2019 St Matthew's, Bondi.	N/A	11 February 1968.	The facilities on the land have been used by third parties under licence agreements in recent years.

5.9 Ratios for the supervision of children

The Rev Stuart Maze asked the following question –

Noting the report tabled in the Synod papers 'Children serving in ministry leadership to other children,' that points 11 & 12 recommend 2 adult leaders to supervise all children and youth activities, and specifically excludes junior leaders under 16 years from fulfilling this ratio, are junior leaders aged 16 or 17 considered 'adults for the purpose of recommended leader supervision ratios'?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

If the Minister is satisfied that the person has sufficient maturity and training (including safe ministry training), a 16 or 17 year old can be included in the ratio. It would not otherwise be appropriate for the person to be included in the ratio.

5.10 Mission team to support Diocese of Bathurst

The Rev David Morgan asked the following question –

In light of the motion this house passed in 2018 that Synod request Moore College to make a mission team available to the Diocese of Bathurst over the 6 years of our current financial commitment to support the Bishop and Registrar of that diocese; what was Moore College's response to our request?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Moore College sends teams to assist in the mission of parishes and regions at the request of the Rector.

In 2020 a Moore College mission team is going to Bathurst at the request of the Rev Bryson Smith and will be based at Bathurst Presbyterian. The College hopes that once Bishop-elect Mark Calder is installed, it may receive invitations from him, which it would be delighted to accept.

5.11 Clergy Tenure

Dr Karin Sowada asked the following question –

- (a) Has the Synod or the Standing Committee ever established a committee for the purpose of examining clergy tenure?
- (b) If so, when did it report and who were its members?
- (c) Can the terms of reference and the final report be made available to members of Synod?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Yes
- (b) In 1997 the Synod appointed a committee to review all aspects of clerical tenure in the Diocese and examine alternative tenure and employment practices for clergy. The committee reported to the Synod in 1999.

The persons on the committee at time of its report were (using their present titles, where applicable) – Mr G Blake SC, Dr B Newman, Dr R Tong, the Hon P W Young QC, The Rev H Cox, Archdeacon T Edwards, Bishop P Jensen, Archdeacon D Nicolios, Bishop R Piper, the Rev B Southwell, The Rev P Taylor, Ms R Whittle, Dr L Scandrett and Miss A Watson.

- (c) The Synod reports are available on the SDS website. The titles are -
14/97 Synod Committee on Clerical Tenure - 12 August 1999
38/99 Clerical Tenure - 1 August 2000

6. Calling of Procedural motions

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

6.1 Recommendations from the Order of Business Committee

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod, noting that at its session on Wednesday 16 October, it requested the Order of Business Committee –

- (i) to consider scheduling M40 (Increasing the Newstart allowance) immediately following consideration of M20 (Mission 2020) on Tuesday 22 October 2019,
- (ii) to consider scheduling the motion regarding M71 (Safe Ministry Assessment) at a suitable time on Tuesday 22 October, and
- (iii) to allocate a time for debate of members' motions received by the Secretary of the Synod within the notice period,

agrees –

- (a) to reschedule items of business as shown in marked form on the Timetable for Synod Business,
- (b) that the following items may be taken on the callover notwithstanding they have been scheduled for consideration at specific times in the timetable –
 - (i) M19: Gender representation on Diocesan boards and committees,
 - (ii) M29: Fellowship with Anglicans outside the Diocese,
 - (iii) M36: Ministry of Women,

(iv) M38: Participation in debate by women members of Synod, and suspends so many Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

6.2 Adoption of expedited time limits

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod adopts the expedited time limits specified at Standing Orders 4.19(1) for the remainder of this session.'

Seconded and carried

6.3 Notice of withdrawal of motions

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod notes that the following motions have been withdrawn by the request of their movers –

- (a) B5: Provincial Synod – Provincial Tribunal Ordinance 2018 Accepting Ordinance 2019 (notice regarding the withdrawal provided to the Synod on 14 October 2019 by Mr Doug Marr),
- (b) M44: Scientist in Residence at Moore Theological College (withdrawn by Dr David Oakenfull), and
- (c) M78: Archbishop Glenn Davies (withdrawn by the Rev James Warren).'

Seconded and carried

6.4 Arrangements for consideration of the Bill for the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2019

Mr Michael Meek SC moved –

'Synod agrees, for the purposes of considering the text of the proposed ordinance at B6 (Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2019), to substitute the form of ordinance circulated along with today's business paper incorporating amendments accepted by the mover, for the form of the ordinance shown at page 284 of Book 2, and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

6.5 Arrangements for consideration of motions regarding Gender Identity

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod –

- (a) agrees that following the speeches moving and seconding the motion at B8 (Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity), there will be a time for questions regarding B8, following which consideration of B8 will continue in the usual way,
- (b) notes that the matters at B9 and B9A involve a proposed policy, and will accordingly include a time for questions pursuant to Standing Orders 4.18(3) and 5.5(2), and
- (c) agrees that the questions in relation to B8, B9 and B9A may be answered by the mover or seconder, or other members of the Synod at the request of the mover, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

6.6 Further arrangements for consideration of the matters regarding Gender Identity

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) accepts the notice of motion for the motions at B9 and B9A,
- (b) accepts the following notice of motion –

“Synod amends the Property Use Policy of the Synod by –

- (a) replacing the third bullet point in paragraph 9 with the following –

“Gender Identity Policy for Churches, Schools and Organisations”, and “Gender Identity – Issues for Parish Councils”;

- (b) inserting a new paragraph after existing paragraph 16 as follows –

‘A detailed statement of the doctrines, tenets, beliefs and teachings of the Diocese with respect to gender identity is set out in the Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity affirmed and adopted by the Synod at its session in 2019.’ and

- (c) inserting a new subparagraph 17(i) as follows –

‘Events which advocate for expressions of gender identity contrary to our doctrine that gender manifests biological sex.’”

- (c) agrees to consider the motion in (b) following conclusion of consideration of the Proposed Policy at B9A, and
- (d) suspends so many Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.’

Seconded and carried

6.7 Arrangements for consideration of B10 (Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019)

Dr Laurie Scandrett moved –

‘Synod, noting –

- (i) that there are 28 laypersons elected by the Synod to the Standing Committee, comprising 52% of the voting members of Standing Committee, and
- (ii) that under the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897 these 28 laypersons hold office until the first day of the first session of the next Synod, and
- (iii) the resultant urgency to clarify at this Synod the day that Lay Synod Members elected under Part 5 and Part 8 of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 hold office to,

agrees during the committee stage of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019 to consider the sub-clauses of Clause 2 of this ordinance (and the previously-advised amendments) in the following order –

1. 2(b) and the consequential 2(d) [the clarification of the end date of Parochial Representatives and Nominated Laypersons];
2. 2(a) [the insertion of the Statement of Faith]; and
3. 2(c) and the consequential 2(e) [the addition of a minimum number of Heads of Diocesan Schools to Synod]; and
4. the insertion of new sub-clauses not related to any of the above.’

Seconded and carried

6.8 Arrangements for consideration of M83 (Membership of Synod by Heads of Schools)

The Rev Nigel Fortescue moved –

'Synod, noting that –

- (i) the Rev Nigel Fortescue moved the following procedural motion on Wednesday 16 October 2019, which was deferred prior to being voted upon –
 - “Synod agrees to consider as soon as possible after the conclusion of debate on B10 (Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amending Ordinance 2019) the motion given notice of today by Mr Fortescue if the amendment to the text of the ordinance at B10 proposed by the Rev Zac Veron passes.”
- (ii) the motion to which Mr Fortescue’s procedural motion refers is M83 (Membership of Synod by Heads of Schools), and amendments to M83 have been accepted by the mover (shown in tracked form),

agrees –

- (a) that Mr Fortescue may withdraw his procedural motion moved on 16 October, and
- (b) if the Bill at B10 (Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019) is amended to omit paragraph 2(c), to consider the motion at M83 following the conclusion of Synod’s consideration of the text of the Bill in Committee.’

Seconded and carried

6.9 Consideration of a motion regarding a review of the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897*

Dr Laurie Scandrett moved –

'Synod –

- (a) accepts the following notice of motion –

“Synod requests that the Standing Committee review the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897* (and other relevant ordinances) particularly in relation to the existing references in that ordinance to –

- (a) the use of the expression "the previous form of the Synod Elections Ordinance 2000";
- (b) the day that Elected Members hold office to;
- (c) whether the term "the first session of the next Synod" should be clarified (where it occurs) as being "the first ordinary session of the next Synod"; and
- (d) related matters;

and to bring a report, and if necessary an amending ordinance, to the first ordinary session of the 52nd Synod.”

- (b) agrees to consider the motion following the conclusion of Synod’s consideration of the text of the Bill at B10 (Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019) in Committee,

and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent this.’

Seconded and carried

6.10 Consideration of a motion regarding *Faithfulness in Service*

Mr Matthew Robson moved –

'Synod accepts the following notice of motion –

“Synod, noting the debate on 16 October 2019 during consideration of the motion regarding *Nine motions for General Synod 2020*, which revealed that *Faithfulness in Service* presently has no definition of marriage, requests the Standing Committee to consider amending *Faithfulness in Service* to include a definition of marriage.”

and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent this.’

Seconded and carried

6.11 Consideration of a motion regarding Bishop Ray Smith

Mr Jim Morgan moved –

‘Synod accepts the following notice of motion –

“Synod gives thanks to God for the Kingdom work of Bishop Ray Smith and his wife Shirley.

Ray and Shirley have faithfully served Christ for more than 60 years. They have had a wonderful ministry in the New England area of NSW; in the USA; in Canberra; as the first Bishop for the Georges River region; in the Parish of Mosman; and now with the Parish of Church Hill in the CBD of Sydney.

We have been blessed. They have sown wisdom and love into these communities; they have been true to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and they have (and will remain) friends and mentors to many.

Over 2019, Ray and Shirley have decided that they need to begin to retire properly (for the second time in 18 years!).

Ray will be formally thanked for his ministry on Sunday 24 November 2019 at St Philip’s, Church Hill at the 8:30 am and 10:15 am congregations, with lunch to follow for all who are able to attend.”

and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent this.’

Seconded and carried

6.12 Consideration of a motion regarding the Rev John Bales and Ministry to Muslims

Mr Samuel Terry moved –

‘Synod accepts the following notice of motion –

“Synod gives thanks to our great and glorious God for the wide-ranging and far-reaching ministry of the Reverend John Bales and his wife Jan as they retire from parish life after 9 years in Greenacre and a total of 39 years. Their love of the Lord and people from other cultures and faiths has led them to preach Christ in Pakistan, Redfern, Rockdale, Greenacre and North Sydney.

Synod also thanks God for growing CMS’ ministry through John’s work, first as General Secretary in the NSW Branch from 2005-2010, but also for the establishment of the cross-cultural training programme MENTAC in 2011 with the Rev Dr Margaret Powell.

As John continues to work in this city under Evangelism and New Churches’ Ministry to Muslims, Synod encourages parishes, schools and other organisations throughout Sydney to draw on his gentle wisdom and deep experience to develop new ways to hold out the gospel of life to an everchanging society. May all the nations join us around the throne of our risen Saviour, Jesus Christ, on that final day.”

and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent this.’

Seconded and carried

6.13 Consideration of a motion regarding welcoming churches

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

‘Synod accepts the following notice of motion –

“Synod, in light of the way that this year’s Presidential Address has been misrepresented or misunderstood, affirms –

- (a) that all people are made in the image of God, are loved by God and are welcome to join the community of God's people;
- (b) that when Jesus invites all people to "come to him", we are all invited to come just as we are (with all our sins and failings), yet he does not leave us as we were;
- (c) that grace, forgiveness and repentance are gifts which God gives to those he calls to himself as he begins a long work of transforming us into the people that he wants us to be;
- (d) that our churches, therefore, should be places where compassion and grace abound and where the love of God is expressed to all, regardless of their background or struggles; and
- (e) that, in particular, we desire our churches to be places where LGBTI people are welcome as God welcomes them."

and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent this.'

Seconded and carried

6.14 Motions of thanks

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod accepts the following notice of motions –

"Leadership of Bible studies

Synod records its appreciation for the preaching of the Rev Matthew Yeo at the Synod Service and for his encouraging Bible studies during this session.

Committees and Officers of the Synod

Synod records its appreciation for –

- (a) the President and his chairmanship, and
- (b) the Chair and Deputy Chairs of Committee and their work in the consideration of the text of ordinances, and
- (c) the members who helped during the session by giving advice and serving the Synod, especially the Order of Business and Minute Reading Committees, and
- (d) the services given by the Secretary, the staff of SDS and the Archbishop's Office, Anglican Media, the music team and all those who have helped facilitate this session of Synod.

Minutes of 22 October 2019

Synod authorises the President to sign the minutes of 22 October 2019 upon the production to the Standing Committee of the certificate of any 2 members of the Minute Reading Committee."

and agrees to consider these motions at a suitable time on Tuesday 22 October 2019, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

7. Procedural motions

7.1 Notice of motion regarding Tears and Hope service

Bishop Stead moved as a procedural motion –

'Synod accepts notice of a motion of thanks to the Rev Ed Vaughan for the annual service "Tears and Hope - A Service of Healing for Survivors of Abuse".'

Seconded and carried

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 Fellowship with Anglicans outside the Diocese

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

'Synod requests the Standing Committee to –

- (a) review the operation of the *Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005* (the Ordinance) and bring a report to the next session of synod with any recommendations for amendment,
- (b) draft, for consideration by the next ordinary session of Synod, amendments to the Ordinance or other measures, which will provide a basis for practical fellowship to be offered to congregations outside this diocese who are theologically Anglican in belief and polity, and
- (c) draft, for consideration by the next ordinary session of Synod, amendments to the Ordinance or other measures, which will provide a basis for more deliberate engagement with Gafcon as that movement seeks to support faithful, biblical Anglicans who are marginalised by the unorthodox actions of others.'

Seconded and carried

8.2 Amendment to the Nomination Ordinance 2006

Mr Jonathan Miller moved –

'Synod requests the Standing Committee to consider amending the *Nomination Ordinance 2006* and any other ordinance as required, to ensure that any person remunerated for any work within a Parish (other than where incidental), or related to such a person, is not eligible to be elected as a parish nominator in that parish. Furthermore, Synod asks the Standing Committee to consider inserting a definition of 'layperson' to clarify the eligibility of persons, such as clergy in other denominations, to serve as parish nominators. Parish Synod representatives are invited to provide feedback about this request to Standing Committee no later than 30 March 2020 for their consideration.'

Seconded and carried

8.3 Establishing apprenticeship training pathways

The Rev Simon Flinders moved –

'Synod, noting the resolution passed by this Synod on 14 October 2019 regarding Steps to encourage ordination, and noting in particular the encouragement to rectors (in paragraph (a)(iii)) to develop an apprenticeship training model to prepare people for future ministry –

- (a) encourages Rectors to remember, with thanks to God, the way the Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) has helped many in our Diocese over the past forty years to take important steps towards ordination, and
- (b) encourages Rectors to contact MTS for help in establishing an apprenticeship training pathway in their church.'

Seconded and carried

8.4 **New Safe Ministry Assessment process and timing**

Having been granted leave, the Rev Tom Melbourne moved –

‘Synod respects the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and the work done in responding to them represented by the Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2018.

Synod thanks the Professional Standards Unit, Safe Ministry Board, the Royal Commission Steering Committee and others for their tireless work in making us an increasingly safer diocese, and enabling our compliance with the recommendations from the Royal Commission.

Synod notes that the PSU's "Circular to Parishes: New Safe Ministry Requirements from 1 January 2020", dated 10 October 2019, has concentrated the attention of parish leadership as to the significant workload required in a short space of time.

Therefore Synod requests that Standing Committee pass an amending ordinance to defer the start date of operation of the *Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2018* by four months, until 1 May 2020.

Synod also invites members of Synod and parish Safe Ministry Representatives, to send concise feedback and suggestions about further streamlining or simplifying the new Safe Ministry Assessment process, in a way that honours our desire to protect children by conducting ministry as safely as possible. Such feedback should be sent to the Standing Committee via the Diocesan Secretary by 30 November 2019.’

Seconded and carried

8.5 **The Rev Stephen Semenchuk**

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

‘Synod gives thanks for the life and ministry of the Rev Stephen Semenchuk who served with faithfulness and distinction in the Diocese from 1987 until his sudden death in May 2019. Stephen’s ministry at Merrylands and South Granville, from 1990 to 2002 and Dapto Anglican from 2002 until 2019, bore testimony to his leadership skills and evangelistic heart that was used by God to bring many to saving knowledge of his Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Stephen also contributed to the wider life of the Diocese with his service on numerous strategy groups and Standing Committee.

Synod prays for God’s comfort for his wife Leigh-anne and family as they grieve in their loss and undertake many changes in their life.’

Seconded and carried

Bishop Peter Hayward led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Mr Semenchuk.

8.6 **Further review of the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017**

Mr Andrew McLachlan moved –

‘Synod, noting the Biblical imperative in 1 Timothy 5 and Matthew 18 outlining how to resolve disputes, grievances and complaints between brothers and sisters in Christ, requests Standing Committee consider –

- (a) a further review of the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* to consider including an encouragement for parties to consider resolving a grievance, complaint or dispute under the Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour, and
- (b) a further review of the intersection of the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* and the Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour to consider if a further mechanism would be preferable to support the resolution of grievances, complaints and disputes.’

Seconded and carried

8.7 Congregational support for leadership

The Rev Archie Poulos moved –

‘Synod, recognising that the Ordinal’s charge to presbyters –

- (i) describes the high dignity and importance of the office of presbyter,
- (ii) calls for the utmost care, diligence, duty and action, study, prayer and development in wisdom, and
- (iii) recognises the mediation of Christ and the assistance of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling this office;

and noting that –

- (iv) the office is becoming more complex in each succeeding generation,
- (v) the respect in which the office is held continues to be challenged,

affirms the honour of the ministry of all congregation shepherds and praises and thanks God for the godly, competent and sacrificial leadership of the vast majority of rectors, and calls on all parishes and congregations to –

- (a) at least once a quarter, in public prayers and more regularly in private prayers, to call upon Almighty God to strengthen, surround and sustain the clergy who shepherd the churches of our Diocese, and
- (b) make whatever recommendations from whatever financial and other resources are available to enhance the wellbeing and resilience of rectors, with the goal that rectors may recognise the congregational support for their leadership (1 Tim 5:17-20), and in our ordinances acknowledge and give due concern for the competing pressures under which they find themselves.’

Seconded and carried

Mr Poulos led the Synod in prayer of thanks for rectors.

8.8 Bishop-elect Mark Calder

The Rev James Warren moved –

‘Synod wishes to –

- (a) express our thanks to our gracious God for his provision of faithful harvesters for the plentiful harvest field, and as Anglicans, for his provision of “guardians of the faith” in the office of diocesan bishops,
- (b) thank the previous Bishop of Bathurst, Ian Palmer, and the Diocese for Bathurst for their ongoing work in making Christ known in such hard times, and their bold decisions to make the best of the limited resources available to them,
- (c) thank God for Mark and Susan Calder in being open to, and accepting of, the incredible responsibility of Mark becoming the next bishop of Bathurst,
- (d) continue to express excitement at the prospect developing any practical ministry assistance to the Diocese of Bathurst, in the common work of making Christ known, readily appreciating even just a few of the challenges of such a task in rural Australia,
- (e) note that the bishop-elect will be consecrated in St Andrew’s Cathedral, Sydney, at 7pm on 21 November 2019,
- (f) note that the bishop-elect will be installed in All Saints Cathedral, Bathurst, at 11am on 23 November 2019.’

Seconded and carried

The Rev David Morgan led the Synod in prayer of thanks for bishop-elect Calder.

8.9 Dr Timothy Wright

The Rev Matthew Heazlewood moved –

'This Synod gives thanks to God for Dr Timothy Wright after 17 years of distinguished service as the Headmaster of Shore School.

It acknowledges that Dr Wright's leadership at Shore, and his wider influence in a rapidly changing educational context, has been characterised by a clarity of vision, an application of formidable intellect and a constancy of Christian purpose.

Synod recognises the long and notable relationship of Shore School to our Diocese and Dr Wright's commitment to deepen that connection and provide humble leadership among our Anglican schools.

Synod sends its good wishes to Timothy and Sue as they enter retirement and as Timothy continues to support and mentor future Christian leaders in schools throughout our Diocese.'

Seconded and carried

Bishop Chris Edwards led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Dr Wright.

8.10 The Rev David Mansfield

Bishop Peter Tasker moved –

'Synod gives thanks to God for the Rev David Mansfield and his clear commitment to making Christ known as Saviour and Lord through his ministries at Fairy Meadow, Kiama, the Department of Evangelism, York St and in the last 10 years as CEO of the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid.

Under David's leadership, the Archbishop's Appeals Unit was transformed into Anglican Aid. He has been able to assist Anglican Aid to adjust to the ever changing landscape of the Anglican Communion. During his leadership Anglican Aid has broadened relationships with Gafcon partners, especially in the area of theological training. This has meant partnering with churches in Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific as well as Africa.

During his time as CEO, David has championed Anglican Aid as the aid agency of choice for Sydney Anglicans and their friends, working in partnership with parishes to promote and support their overseas links. David always maintained that aid is not delivered in a relational vacuum. He emphasised close partnership, with local leadership, through the local church.

He is passionate, humble, visionary and tireless in giving of himself professionally and personally to see the gospel proclaimed both in Sydney and internationally. David always encouraged everyone to let grace flow, to keep the gospel central and to see the fruit of the gospel thrive along with it.

As CEO he has seen donations and projects increase three-fold along with an increase of staff.

As David retires in the next few weeks as CEO of Anglican Aid, we pray for him and Helen that the Lord would continue to use them to His honour and glory.'

Seconded and carried

Mrs Amanda Garlato led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Mr Mansfield.

9. Motions

9.1 Deferral of General Synod Assessments

The President announced the results of the vote held by secret ballot on Wednesday 16 October 2019.

For	353
Against	87
Informal	2

Dr Laurie Scandrett's motion was therefore declared carried in the following form –

'Synod, noting –

- (a) that in his recent Presidential Address to the Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta on 30 August Bishop John Parkes stated in regard to the blessing of same-sex marriages that ‘... the Church is hopelessly split, indeed paralysed’, and
- (b) that at the same Synod the Diocese of Wangaratta adopted Regulations pursuant to Section 5(2) of the *Canon Concerning Services 1992* that purportedly authorises ‘A Service of Blessing for persons who have been married according to the *Marriage Act 1961*’, and
- (c) that the Primate has referred these Regulations and associated matters to the Appellate Tribunal, and
- (d) that the Primate has written to both Bishop John Parkes (the Bishop of Wangaratta) and Archdeacon Clarence Bester (the Vicar General), asking that the service of blessing not be used while the Appellate Tribunal reference is under consideration, and
- (e) that while Bishop Parkes has responded by stating publicly that he won’t proceed with the blessing if the Appellate Tribunal finds it violates church law, he has also said –
 - ‘Although, we won’t wait forever. My advice is that this is legitimate and lawful, and unless the Appellate Tribunal finds that it isn’t, then what we have at the moment is a delay rather than a backtrack.’, and
- (f) in conjunction with the Special Session of General Synod to be held in May next year there is to be a conference involving some or all General Synod members and possibly others to consider the range of issues this Church is facing in relation to human sexuality, same-sex relationships and marriage, and possible ways forward for this Church,

requests Standing Committee to seek appropriate legal and other advice regarding deferring payment of any General Synod statutory assessment levies for 2019, 2020 and future years, and bring to the Synod in 2020 a report on the matter with recommendations.’

9.2 Anglicare: The first 3 years; the next 10 years

Mr Greg Hammond OAM moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) notes the report from Anglican Community Services entitled *Anglicare: The first 3 years; the next 10 years* covering the three years following the merger of Anglican Retirement Villages Diocese of Sydney and Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society in 2016;
- (b) gives thanks to God for the work and ministry of Anglicare and its 3,500 staff and 2,000+ volunteers across the Diocese and in the Diocese of Armidale;
- (c) praises God for –
 - (i) the alignment of Anglicare’s mission of serving people in need, enriching lives, sharing the love of Jesus with the Diocesan mission;
 - (ii) the growth in programs and the number of people served by Anglicare across its aged care and community services;
 - (iii) the expanding number of partnerships and other connections with the parishes of the Diocese;
 - (iv) the renewed focus on evangelism and the increased number of chaplains and pastoral care workers;
 - (v) the increased financial commitment for the delivery of services to socially disadvantaged people, particularly through the new Social and Affordable Housing Fund; and
 - (vi) the continuing work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples;
- (d) prays for wisdom and discernment for Anglicare’s board and executive leadership as Anglicare continues to implement its 2018-2028 Strategy, noting the significant challenges arising from the changes in the regulatory environment and funding for both aged care and community services, the Royal Commissions into Aged Care

Quality and Safety and Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability and the proposed changes to religious freedom laws; and

- (e) seeks God's continued blessings on Anglicare's staff and volunteers as they proclaim Jesus Christ in word and deed in the Diocese and beyond.'

Seconded and carried

Bishop Chris Edwards led the Synod in prayer for the work of Anglican Community Services.

9.3 Anglican National Superannuation Board

Mr James Flavin moved –

'Synod notes the intention of the Anglican National Superannuation Board –

- (i) to transition the Anglican National Super plan from AMP to Mercer in the coming months, and
 (ii) to operate the fund under the name 'Anglican Super' as of that date,

and –

- (a) encourages members with questions to email Mercer at Anglican@Mercer.com, and
 (b) requests the Diocesan Secretary to include this information in the circular to parishes following Synod.'

Seconded and carried by acclamation

9.4 Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2019

Mr Michael Meek SC moved –

'That the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2019 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 for or 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.

Mr Meek moved –

'That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the proposed ordinance.'

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 Meek moved –

‘That the report of the Chair of Committees be adopted.’

Seconded and carried

Mr Meek moved –

‘That Synod agree to consider on Tuesday 22 October 2019 a motion that the proposed ordinance pass as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

10. Parish classification presentations

Bishop Peter Hayward, the Rev David Barrie and the Rev Stuart Starr made a joint presentation regarding the classification of the provisional parishes of Cobbitty and Oran Park as parishes.

11. Motions

11.1 **Cobbitty: Classification as a Parish**

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

‘Synod assents to the classification of Cobbitty as a parish with effect from 1 January 2020.’

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Bishop Peter Hayward led the Synod in prayer for the provisional parish of Cobbitty.

11.2 **Oran Park: Classification as a Parish**

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

‘Synod assents to the classification of Oran Park as a parish with effect from 1 January 2020.’

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Bishop Peter Hayward led the Synod in prayer for the provisional parish of Oran Park.

Adjournment

At 6.02 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.10 pm tonight.”

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.11 pm.

12. Missionary Hour

Bishop Malcolm Richards and the Rev Alan Lukabyo led Missionary Hour, with the theme: Sydney Diocese International Partnerships focussing on Theological Education and how lives and churches are being transformed.

The presentation included –

- Video from the Rev Lin Khee Vun Principal of the Anglican Training Institute, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia and its link with Sydney Diocese.
- A video interview with Bishop Samy Shehata and Mr Shady Anis concerning Alexandria School of Theology and their link with Sydney Diocese.
- Bishop Richards shared what was happening concerning Theological Training in Tanzania having just attended the Bishop's and wives' Retreat organised by Sydney Diocese and CMS Australia.
- Mr Lukabyo introduced a video of the Rev Eric Ma Fat from Mauritius explaining how Sydney Diocese and the Province of the Indian Ocean built a relationship that opened the door to the use of Moore College External Studies material.
- Mr Lukabyo introduced and interviewed the Rev Berthier Lainirina from Madagascar. Mr Berthier is the trainer for Taomasina Diocese and also holds the position of Provincial Secretary of the Anglican Province of the Indian Ocean.

Following the presentations, Mr Lukabyo led the Synod in prayer for the continuing mission of the gospel.

13. Motions

13.1 Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

'Synod, noting the report, "Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity" –

- (a) affirms and adopts the Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity in Annexure A of the report ("Doctrine Statement") as the principal statement of the doctrines, tenets, beliefs and teachings propagated by the Anglican Church, Diocese of Sydney with respect to gender identity;
- (b) recommends that the relevant governing body of each diocesan school and of each diocesan organisation which exercises pastoral care for, or otherwise engages with, people who struggle with gender identity issues –
 - (i) affirm the Doctrine Statement as the principal statement of the doctrines, tenets, beliefs and teachings with respect to gender identity, and
 - (ii) develop and implement a publicly accessible policy on Gender Identity which is consistent with the Doctrine Statement; and
- (c) requests the Archbishop-in-Council to consult with and consider providing further advice to organisations concerning the implementation of the recommendations referred to in paragraph (b).'

Seconded

Mr Philip Brandon moved as an amendment to the Doctrine Statement in Annexure A –

'In paragraph (a), insert the following matter immediately prior to the semi-colon –

“, subject to amending clause 4, following the words “has given to us”, by inserting the matter “; gender identity is not a social construct”.'

Seconded

Canon Sandy Grant moved as a procedural motion –

'That Synod refer the matters at B8, B9 and B9A to the Standing Committee.'

Seconded

Mr Robert Wicks moved as an amendment to Canon Grant's procedural motion –

'Following the word, "Committee", insert the matter, "and request Synod members to submit comments about the Doctrine Statement to the Diocesan Secretary by 30 November 2019.'"

Seconded

Mr Wicks' amendment was carried.

Canon Grant's procedural motion, as amended, was not carried.

Dr Karin Sowada moved as a procedural motion –

'That debate on this matter be adjourned until after Bible study on the afternoon of Tuesday 22 October 2019.'

Seconded

Dr Philip Britton moved as an amendment to Dr Sowada's procedural motion –

'Omit the words "after Bible study on the afternoon of" and insert instead the matter, "7.00 pm on".'

Seconded

Dr Robert Tong AM moved as a further amendment to Dr Sowada's procedural motion –

'Omit the words "this matter", and insert instead the matter, "motions B8, B9, and B9A".'

Seconded

Dr Britton's amendment to Dr Sowada's motion was put but was not carried.

Dr Tong's amendment was carried.

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

'That debate on motions B8, B9, and B9A be adjourned until after Bible study on the afternoon of Tuesday 22 October 2019.'

Adjournment

At 9.50pm, 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

22 October 2019

51st Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

3rd Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Tuesday 22 October 2019

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.17 pm.

2. Prayers

Prayers were read by the Registrar, Mr Doug Marr.

3. Bible study

The Rev Matthew Yeo led the Bible study.

4. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Monday 21 October 2019.

5. Calling of Procedural motions

The President called the procedural motions in order in which they appeared on the business paper.

5.1 Recommendations from the Order of Business Committee

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) agrees to reschedule items of business as shown in marked form on the Timetable for Synod Business,
- (b) agrees that the motion at M85 (Review of the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897*) may be taken on the callover,
- (c) allows the President, at his discretion, to callover the motions during the evening session in addition to the scheduled callover held during the afternoon session, and
- (d) suspends so many Standing Orders as may prevent these arrangements.’

Seconded and carried

5.2 Arrangements for consideration of the matters at B8, B9 and B9A

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

‘Synod agrees –

- (a) for the purposes of considering the text of the matters at B8, B9 and B9A, to substitute the form of the ‘Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity’, the ‘Pastoral Guidelines for Churches, Schools and Organisations’, and ‘Gender Identity – Practical Guidelines for Parish Council’ circulated along with today’s business paper incorporating amendments accepted by the mover, for the form of the documents shown from page 443 of Book 4,

- (b) that the mover may speak for up to three minutes to explain the amended form of documents, and
- (c) suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

5.3 Consideration of motion concerning Mrs Maryanne Davis

The Rev Dr Stephen Anderson moved –

'Synod –

- (a) accepts the following notice of motion –

"Synod gives thanks to God for the faithful and sacrificial labours, witness and leadership of Mrs Maryanne Davis through her ten years as Principal at Danebank School.

Synod acknowledges her wise and gracious influence upon staff, students, and their families; upon the senior staff of like schools, particularly within the Anglican Schools Corporation; and upon the long-term health and impact of Danebank in Christ's name. As she retires, Synod prays that Maryanne and her husband Tim will continue walking with their Saviour, gladly serving him all their days."

- (b) agrees to take the motion forthwith, and
- (c) suspends so many Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

6. Motions

6.1 Mrs Maryanne Davis

The Rev Dr Stephen Anderson moved –

'Synod gives thanks to God for the faithful and sacrificial labours, witness and leadership of Mrs Maryanne Davis through her ten years as Principal at Danebank School.

Synod acknowledges her wise and gracious influence upon staff, students, and their families; upon the senior staff of like schools, particularly within the Anglican Schools Corporation; and upon the long-term health and impact of Danebank in Christ's name. As she retires, Synod prays that Maryanne and her husband Tim will continue walking with their Saviour, gladly serving him all their days.'

Seconded and carried

Bishop Peter Lin led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Mrs Maryanne Davis.

7. Further calling of Procedural motions

The President called the procedural motions in order in which they appeared on the business paper.

7.1 Consideration of motion regarding Parish of Bondi and Waverley.

Mr Chris Hamam moved –

'Synod agrees to schedule consideration of M76 (Parish of Bondi and Waverley) immediately following the dinner break tonight.'

Seconded

8 members stood in their place to object the motion being passed formally.

7.2 Notice of motion regarding adjourning the Synod

Mr Doug Marr moved –

'Synod –

- (a) accepts the following notice of motion –
 - “Synod adjourns without appointing another day of meeting.”,
- (b) agrees to consider the motion at a suitable time during the evening session today, and
- (c) suspends so many Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.

Seconded and carried

8. 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.

8.1 Gender representation on Diocesan boards and committees

Archdeacon Kara Hartley moved –

'Synod, noting the report 27/17 Gender representation on Diocesan boards and committees (Revised 2019) –

- (a) requests the Standing Committee to ask the members of the 2019 Committee to oversee the implementation of the following initiatives –
 - (i) a survey of Synod members to determine logistical arrangements (such as times and locations) that should be considered by boards and committees,
 - (ii) analyse the responses to the survey, and convey relevant information to the boards and committees of the Diocese including –
 - (A) an outline of the value of increasing women's participation, and presenting the case for reconsideration of the skills matrix, if appropriate, to include broader competencies and life experiences in addition to traditional professional competencies,
 - (B) a suggestion that they give fresh consideration to their meeting logistics (such as times and locations) to ensure that any possible obstacles to serving are removed,
 - (C) encouragement to foster a culture of mentoring by appointing existing members as mentors for new members (or those considering membership),
 - (D) encouragement to develop a one-page overview of the work of their board or committee, to be made available to potential new members,
 - (E) a request that when vacancies need to be filled, to include information on gender composition along with any recommendations regarding skills desired in a person to fill a vacancy,
 - (iii) seek publication of articles in print and online media to stimulate interest in serving on boards and committees, and
- (b) encourages its members who are experienced as board or committee members to consider a ministry of mentoring women newly appointed to, or considering a position on, boards and committees in the Diocese,
- (c) requests SDS to –
 - (i) produce a short guide to participating on boards and committees in the Diocese,
 - (ii) provide annual statistics of gender composition on boards and committees to the Standing Committee,
- (d) encourages the Standing Committee in its existing practice of considering gender composition when filling casual vacancies.'

Seconded and carried

8.2 The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid

The Rev Joseph Wiltshire moved –

'Synod –

- (a) thanks God for the work of the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid, which has been a tremendous blessing to many in socially disadvantaged areas of our Diocese over many years as well as many in need internationally,
- (b) encourages Anglican Aid to continue working alongside local ministries in charitable and humanitarian work in socially disadvantaged areas as well as internationally,
- (c) endorses Anglican Aid as a key agency in helping donors and churches with Necessitous Circumstances Funds, or other similar funds, find potential recipients in Ministry in Socially Disadvantaged Areas Committee (MiSDAC) identified areas,
- (d) encourages churches of the Diocese to support the work of Anglican Aid by either encouraging church members to make tax-deductible donations directly to Anglican Aid's Community Care Fund, or by establishing a tax-deductible Necessitous Circumstances Fund for generous giving towards support for the socially disadvantaged areas of our Diocese,
- (e) encourages churches with existing Necessitous Circumstances Funds, or similar funds, to seek the guidance of Anglican Aid to help identify donor recipients in MiSDAC identified areas as part of their process of deciding where such funds might be distributed.'

Seconded and carried

8.3 Fixed term appointment for the Archbishop

Mrs Stacey Chapman moved –

'Synod requests the Standing Committee to report to the next session of Synod on the merits and difficulties of a fixed term of appointment for the Archbishop of Sydney, with or without the possibility for extension of that term, including providing clarification on whether a change in ordinance would apply to the sitting Archbishop. Synod members are invited to send succinct submissions on the proposal to the Standing Committee via the Diocesan Secretary by 30 November 2019.

Synod further requests that the report provide information of the tenure arrangements in the dioceses of Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth for incumbents, assistant bishops and deans.'

Seconded and carried

8.4 Guidelines for partnerships and amalgamations between parochial units

Mr Peter Stewart moved –

'Synod requests Standing Committee to consider formulating guidelines and policies to assist parishes in the process of investigating and implementing partnerships or amalgamations with other parochial units.'

Seconded and carried

8.5 Review of the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

'Synod requests that the Standing Committee review the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897* (and other relevant ordinances) particularly in relation to the existing references in that ordinance to –

- (a) the use of the expression "the previous form of the Synod Elections Ordinance 2000";
- (b) the day that Elected Members hold office to;

- (c) whether the term "the first session of the next Synod" should be clarified (where it occurs) as being "the first ordinary session of the next Synod"; and
 - (d) related matters;
- and to bring a report, and if necessary an amending ordinance, to the first ordinary session of the 52nd Synod.'

Seconded and carried

8.6 Faithfulness in Service

Mr Matthew Robson moved –

'Synod, noting the debate on 16 October 2019 during consideration of the motion regarding *Nine motions for General Synod 2020*, which revealed that *Faithfulness in Service* presently has no definition of marriage, requests the Standing Committee to consider amending *Faithfulness in Service* to include a definition of marriage.'

Seconded and carried

8.7 Bishop Ray Smith

Mr Jim Morgan moved –

'Synod gives thanks to God for the Kingdom work of Bishop Ray Smith and his wife Shirley.

Ray and Shirley have faithfully served Christ for more than 60 years. They have had a wonderful ministry in the New England area of NSW; in the USA; in Canberra; as the first Bishop for the Georges River region; in the Parish of Mosman; and now with the Parish of Church Hill in the CBD of Sydney.

We have been blessed. They have sown wisdom and love into these communities; they have been true to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and they have (and will remain) friends and mentors to many.

Over 2019, Ray and Shirley have decided that they need to begin to retire properly (for the second time in 18 years!).

Ray will be formally thanked for his ministry on Sunday 24 November 2019 at St Philip's, Church Hill at the 8:30 am and 10:15 am congregations, with lunch to follow for all who are able to attend.'

Seconded and carried

The Rev Justin Moffatt led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Bishop Ray Smith.

8.8 The Rev John Bales and Ministry to Muslims

Mr Samuel Terry moved –

'Synod gives thanks to our great and glorious God for the wide-ranging and far-reaching ministry of the Reverend John Bales and his wife Jan as they retire from parish life after 9 years in Greenacre and a total of 39 years. Their love of the Lord and people from other cultures and faiths has led them to preach Christ in Pakistan, Redfern, Rockdale, Greenacre and North Sydney.

Synod also thanks God for growing CMS' ministry through John's work, first as General Secretary in the NSW Branch from 2005-2010, but also for the establishment of the cross-cultural training programme MENTAC in 2011 with the Rev Dr Margaret Powell.

As John continues to work in this city under Evangelism and New Churches' Ministry to Muslims, Synod encourages parishes, schools and other organisations throughout Sydney to draw on his gentle wisdom and deep experience to develop new ways to hold out the

gospel of life to an everchanging society. May all the nations join us around the throne of our risen Saviour, Jesus Christ, on that final day.'

Seconded and carried

The Rev Dr Margaret Powell led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for the Rev John Bales.

8.9 **Appreciation for "Tears and Hope - A Service of Healing for Survivors of Abuse"**

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

'Synod –

- (a) notes that the annual Tears and Hope Service for survivors of Child Sexual Abuse by clergy and church workers commenced in 2012 at the initiative of the Reverend Ed Vaughan, and has run annually with the support and involvement of the parish of St John's Darlington,
- (b) notes that this service includes an apology from the Archbishop to survivors on behalf of the church for abuse, carefully chosen music and liturgy and opportunity for prayer and engagement for survivors, their families and loved ones and those supporting them, and that this service has been very helpful for many survivors of abuse over the years,
- (c) notes that the Reverend Vaughan will be concluding his ministry at St John's Darlington in November 2019, and that the Professional Standards Unit will be working with others to ensure that the legacy of this work will be able to continue, and
- (d) gives thanks to God for the Reverend Ed Vaughan, for the initiative of an annual Tears and Hope Service, and for his care and compassion for survivors of abuse, which was heightened as a result of his experiences with the Irish Commission of Inquiry into Abuse while Ed was serving in ministry in Ireland.'

Seconded and carried

Bishop Michael Stead led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for the Rev Ed Vaughan.

8.10 **Leadership of Bible studies**

Mr Doug Marr moved –

'Synod records its appreciation for the preaching of the Rev Matthew Yeo at the Synod Service and for his encouraging Bible studies during this session.'

Seconded and carried by acclamation

8.11 **Committees and Officers of the Synod**

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'Synod records its appreciation for –

- (a) the President and his chairmanship,
- (b) the Chair and Deputy Chairs of Committee and their work in the consideration of the text of ordinances,
- (c) the members who helped during the session by giving advice and serving the Synod, especially the Order of Business and Minute Reading Committees, and
- (d) the services given by the Secretary, the staff of SDS and the Archbishop's Office, Anglican Media, the music team and all those who have helped facilitate this session of Synod.'

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Bishop Edwards led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for those who serve the Synod.

8.12 Minutes of 22 October 2019

Mr Doug Marr moved –

‘Synod authorises the President to sign the minutes of 22 October 2019 upon the production to the Standing Committee of the certificate of any 2 members of the Minute Reading Committee.’

Seconded and carried

9. Procedural motions from members

9.1 Consideration of motion regarding thanks and appreciation of the Church of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa New Zealand

Dean Kanishka Raffel moved as a procedural motion –

‘Synod –

(a) accepts the following notice of motion –

“Synod receives the thanks and appreciation of the Church of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa New Zealand for the support, encouragement and prayers of the Diocese of Sydney including this Synod’s motion 12/19 and the attendance at the consecration service of the Right Rev Jay Behan on Saturday 19 October 2019 of the Archbishop, Bishops Edwards, Stead and Lin, Archdeacon Kara Hartley and several other Sydney clergy and lay people.”

(b) agrees to take the motion forthwith, and

(c) suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.’

Seconded and carried

10. Motions

10.1 Thanks and appreciation of the Church of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa New Zealand

Dean Kanishka Raffel moved–

‘Synod receives the thanks and appreciation of the Church of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa New Zealand for the support, encouragement and prayers of the Diocese of Sydney including this Synod’s motion 12/19 and the attendance at the consecration service of the Right Rev Jay Behan on Saturday 19 October 2019 of the Archbishop, Bishops Edwards, Stead and Lin, Archdeacon Kara Hartley and several other Sydney clergy and lay people.’

Seconded and carried

11. Procedural motions from members

11.1 Consideration of motion regarding Parish of Bondi and Waverley

Mr Chris Hamam moved as a procedural motion –

‘Synod agrees to schedule consideration of M76 (Parish of Bondi and Waverley) immediately following the dinner break tonight.’

Seconded

The Rev Craig Schaefer moved as an amendment –

‘Omit the words, “immediately following the dinner break” and insert instead “immediately prior to M40”.’

Seconded

Mr Schafer’s amendment was not carried.

Mr Hamam’s motion was put and was not carried.

11.2 Consideration of motion regarding General Synod assessments

Having been granted leave, Bishop Michael Stead moved as a procedural motion –

‘Synod agrees that –

(a) the motion at M79 may be moved in an amended form, as follows -

“Synod requests that the following motion be promoted to the next session of the General Synod at the request of the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney –

‘Synod requests that Rule XV of the Rules made pursuant to the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia be amended so that General Synod expenses of the costs of holding the General Synod and the maintenance of the registry of the Primate are apportioned among the dioceses on the basis of the number of diocesan representatives and all other expenses apportioned equally between the dioceses.’”

(b) this motion may be taken on the call-over in its amended form, and suspends so many of the business rules that would prevent this.’

Seconded

Bishop Stead’s procedural motion was put and was carried.

12. Further calling of motions on the business paper

12.1 General Synod assessments

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

‘Synod requests that the following motion be promoted to the next session of the General Synod at the request of the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney –

“Synod requests that Rule XV of the Rules made pursuant to the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia be amended so that General Synod expenses of the costs of holding the General Synod and the maintenance of the registry of the Primate are apportioned among the dioceses on the basis of the number of diocesan representatives and all other expenses apportioned equally between the dioceses.’”

Seconded and carried

13. Personal Explanation

With the permission of the President given under Standing Order 6.4, Bishop Peter Hayward made a personal explanation regarding public opposition to the sale of certain land at Huskisson.

14. Motions

14.1 Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity

Bishop Peter Hayward moved -

'Synod, noting the report, "Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity" –

- (a) affirms and adopts the Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity in Annexure A of the report ("Doctrine Statement") as the principal statement of the doctrines, tenets, beliefs and teachings propagated by the Anglican Church, Diocese of Sydney with respect to gender identity;
- (b) recommends that the relevant governing body of each diocesan school and of each diocesan organisation which exercises pastoral care for, or otherwise engages with, people who struggle with gender identity issues –
 - (i) affirm the Doctrine Statement as the principal statement of the doctrines, tenets, beliefs and teachings with respect to gender identity, and
 - (ii) develop and implement a publicly accessible policy on Gender Identity which is consistent with the Doctrine Statement; and
- (c) requests the Archbishop-in-Council to consult with and consider providing further advice to organisations concerning the implementation of the recommendations referred to in paragraph (b).'

Seconded

The Rev Dr Andrew Katay moved –

'Synod agrees to allow Dr Katay to speak again to this motion by moving an amendment, and suspends so many Standing Orders as would prevent this.'

8 members stood in their place to object to the suspension of the Standing Orders without notice.

Canon Phil Colgan moved as an amendment –

'In paragraph (a), insert the following matter immediately prior to the semicolon –

“, subject to amending –

- (a) clause 5 to omit the word, "favouritism", and insert instead the words, "privileged status", and
- (b) clause 6, following the word "wholeness", to insert the matter, "and sharing with them the good news of the Saviour through whom he will make all things new (Revelation 21:5)".'

Seconded

Canon Colgan's amendment was carried.

Bishop Hayward's motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

'Synod, noting the report, "Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity" –

- (a) affirms and adopts the Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity in Annexure A of the report ("Doctrine Statement") as the principal statement of the doctrines, tenets, beliefs and teachings propagated by the Anglican Church, Diocese of Sydney with respect to gender identity, subject to amending –
 - (i) clause 5 to omit the word, "favouritism", and insert instead the words, "privileged status", and
 - (ii) clause 6, following the word "wholeness", to insert the matter, "and sharing with them the good news of the Saviour through whom he will make all things new (Revelation 21:5)";

- (b) recommends that the relevant governing body of each diocesan school and of each diocesan organisation which exercises pastoral care for, or otherwise engages with, people who struggle with gender identity issues –
 - (i) affirm the Doctrine Statement as the principal statement of the doctrines, tenets, beliefs and teachings with respect to gender identity, and
 - (ii) develop and implement a publicly accessible policy on Gender Identity which is consistent with the Doctrine Statement; and
- (c) requests the Archbishop-in-Council to consult with and consider providing further advice to organisations concerning the implementation of the recommendations referred to in paragraph (b).’

14.2 Gender Identity – Pastoral Guidelines for Churches, Schools and Organisations

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

‘That the “Pastoral Guidelines for Churches, Schools and Organisations” annexed to the report to the Synod on Gender Identity be approved in principle as a policy of the Synod for parishes, schools and organisations of the Diocese.’

Seconded

The President asked –

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

There was a time for questions.

After a time for questions the President asked –

“Does the Synod consider that sufficient time has been allowed for questions?”

The majority of members present answered in the affirmative.

The President asked –

“Does any member wish to speak for or 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?”

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

Bishop Hayward moved –

“That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the proposed policy.”

Seconded and carried

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

Bishop Hayward moved –

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

Seconded and carried

Bishop Hayward moved –

‘That –

- (a) the “Pastoral Guidelines for Churches, Schools and Organisations” pass as a policy of the Synod for the parishes, schools and organisations of the Diocese, and
- (b) the Standing Committee be authorised to make amendments to the policy from time to time, provided that any amendments are reported to the next ordinary session of Synod.’

Seconded

Mr Ross Smith moved as an amendment –

‘In clause (b), omit all the matter following “Standing Committee”, and insert instead, “be authorised to bring amendments to the policy to the next ordinary session of Synod for consideration”.’

Seconded

Mr Daniel Glynn moved as an amendment to Mr Smith’s amendment –

‘Omit the matter ‘authorised to bring’ and insert instead ‘requested to bring any proposed’.

Seconded

Bishop Michael Stead moved as a further amendment –

‘In clause (b), omit all the matter following “be authorised”, and insert instead, “to propose amendments to the policy from time to time, provided that any amendments are approved by the Synod at the next ordinary session”.’

Seconded

Mr Doug Marr moved as a further amendment –

‘Omit all the matter following, “Diocese” and insert instead “.”.’

Seconded

Having been granted leave, Mr Smith withdrew his amendment. As a consequence, Mr Glynn’s amendment lapsed.

Mr Marr’s amendment was carried. As a consequence, Bishop Stead’s amendment lapsed.

Bishop Hayward’s motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

‘That the “Pastoral Guidelines for Churches, Schools and Organisations” pass as a policy of the Synod for the parishes, schools and organisations of the Diocese.’

14.3 Gender Identity – Practical Guidelines for Parish Councils

Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

‘That the “Practical Guidelines for Parish Councils” annexed to the report to the Synod on Gender Identity be approved in principle as a policy, “Gender Identity – Practical Guidelines for Parish Councils”.’

Seconded

The President asked –

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

There was a time for questions.

After a time for questions the President asked –

“Does the Synod consider that sufficient time has been allowed for questions?”

The majority of members present answered in the affirmative.

The President asked –

“Does any member wish to speak for or 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.

Adjournment

At 5.52 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

‘That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.00 pm tonight.’

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.00 pm.

15. Mission 2020 presentation

Bishop Peter Lin and Mr Peter Mayrick gave a presentation regarding *Mission 2020*.

Bishop Peter Lin moved –

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for *Mission 2020* and the opportunities it has created to see Christ honoured as Lord and Saviour in every community, and
- (b) agrees to continue to utilise the vision, mission, values and priorities of *Mission 2020* until the Strategy and Research Group (SRG), under the chairmanship of the next Archbishop, has had opportunity to consider any recommendations for any new iteration of our mission of making and maturing disciples of Christ.

Seconded and carried

16. Motions

16.1 Gender Identity – Practical Guidelines for Parish Councils

Bishop Peter Hayward moved as a procedural motion –

‘Synod –

- (a) defers consideration of the matter at B9A (Gender Identity – Practical Guidelines for Parish Councils),
- (b) requests Parish Councils to provide feedback on the proposed policy to the Diocesan Secretary by Friday 28 February 2020, and
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to bring the proposed policy, with any recommended changes, to the 1st ordinary session of the 52nd Synod.’

Seconded

Mr James Flavin moved as an amendment –

‘Omit the matter, “28 February”, and insert instead, “6 March”.’

Seconded

Mr Flavin’s amendment was carried.

Bishop Hayward’s motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

‘Synod –

- (a) defers consideration of the matter at B9A (Gender Identity – Practical Guidelines for Parish Councils),
- (b) requests Parish Councils to provide feedback on the proposed policy to the Diocesan Secretary by Friday 6 March 2020, and
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to bring the proposed policy, with any recommended changes, to the 1st ordinary session of the 52nd Synod.’

16.2 Amendment to the Property use Policy following the adoption of Gender Identity policies

Having been granted leave, Bishop Peter Hayward moved –

‘Synod amends the Property Use Policy of the Synod by –

- (a) replacing the third bullet point in paragraph 9 with the following –
 - ”Gender Identity Policy for Churches, Schools and Organisations”,
- (b) inserting a new paragraph after existing paragraph 16 as follows –
 - “A detailed statement of the doctrines, tenets, beliefs and teachings of the Diocese with respect to gender identity is set out in the Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity affirmed and adopted by the Synod at its session in 2019.”, and
- (c) inserting a new subparagraph 17(i) as follows –
 - “Events which advocate for expressions of gender identity contrary to our doctrine that gender manifests biological sex”.’

Seconded and carried

The Synod expressed its appreciation for all who worked on the Gender Identity documents.

16.3 Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2019

Mr Michael Meek SC moved –

‘That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the proposed ordinance.’

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 Committee reported the proposed ordinance with amendments.

Mr Meek moved –

‘That the report of the Chair of Committee be adopted.’

Seconded and carried

Mr Meek moved –

‘That the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2019 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

16.4 **Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019**

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

‘That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the proposed ordinance.’

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 the Synod agrees to consider later this evening a motion that the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

16.5 **Heads of Schools**

Having been granted leave, the Rev Nigel Fortescue moved –

‘This Synod gives thanks to God for the Heads of Anglican Schools who have and continue to stand for the authority of the Scriptures, the uniqueness of Christ and the doctrine of our church in their schools.’

Seconded and carried

17. Further calling of motions on the business paper

17.1 **Welcoming churches**

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

‘Synod welcomes the Archbishop’s public comments on the role of a Bishop as guardian of the faith and the nurturing role of our churches as Christians struggle to follow Jesus and commit themselves to him in faith and obedience, and affirms –

- (a) that all people are made in the image of God, are loved by God and are welcome to join the community of God’s people;

- (b) that when Jesus invites all people to “come to him”, we are all invited to come just as we are (with all our sins and failings), yet he does not leave us as we were;
- (c) that grace, forgiveness and repentance are gifts which God gives to those he calls to himself as he begins a long work of transforming us into the people that he wants us to be;
- (d) that our churches, therefore, should be places where compassion and grace abound and where the love of God is expressed to all, regardless of their background or struggles; and
- (e) that, in particular, we desire our churches to be places where LGBTI people are welcome as God welcomes them in truth and love.’

Seconded and carried

18. Motions

18.1 Archbishop Glenn Davies

Bishop Peter Lin moved as a procedural motion –

‘Synod suspends whatever standing orders and soooo many business rules that we are about to transgress, cheif of which is to allow Bishop Lee to assume the presidency of this, House until said pre-arranged business rule transgressions have been exhausted, and we duly return to what is pedantically lawfull in the eyes of the current, yet soon to be ousted President, The Moist Reverend Dr Glen Davis.

Synod invites Mrs Di Davies to join the Archbishop in the front row, that she might significantly improve the quality of its inhabitants.’

Seconded

The President declared Bishop Lin’s procedural motion to be out of order.

The Synod dissented from the declaration of the President by way of a motion moved without notice pursuant to Standing Orders 6.8(1).

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

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

‘Synod notes that this is the last session of Synod before our President, Archbishop Glenn Davies retires in July 2020. Synod thanks Dr Davies for the way he has presided over this and preceding synods during his term of office. The Archbishop’s wide ranging Presidential Addresses were always anchored in the Scriptures and his management of the daily Business Paper and mastery of the Standing Orders will long be remembered by Synod members.

Synod gives thanks to Almighty God for the life and witness of the President, his evangelical faith, his quick mind, his wise counsel to clergy and lay and his representation of the Christian gospel to the secular world. Dr Davies’ leadership in the national Anglican Church and in international Anglican forums has given encouragement to “maintain the faith once delivered”.

Synod prays for God’s blessing on Glenn and Di Davies for the years which are to come, trusts that there will be more time for rest and enjoyment of their children and grandchildren, and assures Glenn of our prayers as he no doubt will continue to proclaim Christ in season and out of season, correcting, rebuking and encouraging, with great patience and careful instruction, as he has so ably been doing as our Archbishop.’

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Bishop Michael Stead moved as an amendment to the motion –

‘Following the first instance of “Davies”, insert “,”.’

Seconded and carried

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

‘Synod notes that this is the last session of Synod before our President, Archbishop Glenn Davies, retires in July 2020. Synod thanks Dr Davies for the way he has presided over this and preceding synods during his term of office. The Archbishop’s wide ranging Presidential Addresses were always anchored in the Scriptures and his management of the daily Business Paper and mastery of the Standing Orders will long be remembered by Synod members.

Synod gives thanks to Almighty God for the life and witness of the President, his evangelical faith, his quick mind, his wise counsel to clergy and lay and his representation of the Christian gospel to the secular world. Dr Davies’ leadership in the national Anglican Church and in international Anglican forums has given encouragement to “maintain the faith once delivered”.

Synod prays for God’s blessing on Glenn and Di Davies for the years which are to come, trusts that there will be more time for rest and enjoyment of their children and grandchildren, and assures Glenn of our prayers as he no doubt will continue to proclaim Christ in season and out of season, correcting, rebuking and encouraging, with great patience and careful instruction, as he has so ably been doing as our Archbishop.’

The Rev Dr Mark Thompson led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Glenn and Di Davies.

The Rev Neil Atwood led the Synod in prayer for Bishop Ivan Lee.

The Archbishop made some personal concluding remarks to this session of the Synod.

18.2 **Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019**

Bishop Edwards moved –

‘That the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

19. Closure

19.1 **Hymn and Benediction**

Members joined in the singing of the hymn “The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended” after which the President gave the Benediction.

19.2 **Adjournment**

At 9.40 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

18 November 2019