

Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

2nd Session of the 45th Synod Business Paper: Monday 16 October 2000

(Page references are to the Standing Committee's Report - see Standing Order 65 for ordinance procedures.)

Members of Synod are asked to identify themselves each time they speak.

1. Prayers will be read by Bishop Robert Forsyth: see attached

2. Minutes of 11 October 2000

3. Questions

(1) Ms Shareen Robinson to ask -

In the light of the President's addendum, what recommended action can a parishioner or group of parishioners take to ensure compliance with the standards of worship and doctrine set out in the fundamental declarations of our Constitution, in cases where clergy and/or authorised assistants are dispensing with the use of the Prayer Book or other approved services, or are even using services for which permission was specifically refused?

(2) Ms Shareen Robinson to ask -

In the light of the President's remarks on the preparation of candidates for Anglican Ministry by Moore College, and the Principal's response on page 20 of the printed report, what recommended action can a parishioner or groups of parishioners take to ensure that the teaching and practices of their ministers (and those authorised by them to preach and/or conduct services) comply with Anglican forms of worship and doctrine?

(3) The Rev Greg Burke to ask -

- (a) When details of each parish in the Diocese are added to the diocesan web site, will these details take the form of a separate web page for each parish?
- (b) If not, could the Synod be advised of the estimated cost of providing a simple web page for each parish linked to the diocesan web site, the Anglican Media web site and the more detailed sites already set up for some parishes.

(4) Mrs Claire Smith to ask -

- (a) Does a cross currently feature as a separate furnishing of significance inside St Andrew's Cathedral?
- (b) If not, has this always been the case?
- (c) If the answer to (b) is "yes" -
 - (i) who has been responsible for that ongoing decision?
 - (ii) what are the reasons for this decision?
- (d) If the answer to (b) is "no" -
 - (i) when did a cross cease to be a furnishing of significance in the Cathedral?
 - (ii) who was responsible for this decision
 - (iii) what were the circumstances surrounding this decision?
 - (iv) what were the reasons for this decision?

- (5) Ms Kath White to ask -
- (a) How are members appointed to committees and subcommittees of Synod and Standing Committee (other than by Synod election or by reason of office)?
 - (b) Are there any customary or legal limits to the number of such bodies any one person may be on?
 - (c) How might these responsibilities be shared amongst more people?

4. Orders of the Day

(1) **Diocesan mission teams: resumption of debate**

The Rev Neil Flower has moved -

“Synod commends to both the present as well as the incoming Archbishop the formation of a Diocesan Mission Team or teams, such team, or teams, to be utilized as follows -

- (a) to be an evangelistic and church re-planting group comprising of at least 1 person as a team leader, along with those whose ministry is in general evangelism and pastoring;
- (b) to be used at the discretion of the Archbishop after consultation with, and request from, parishes that are finding continuing viability or even existence a problem;
- (c) the finance for such team or teams to be provided as a matter of priority from whatever funds the Standing Committee chooses to use, or with what the Synod may allocate in the next triennium budget;
- (d) such team or teams would be responsible for a fixed parish or area for, say, 3 years to rebuild such an area or parish until it would be viable, and then be moved to another area of mission.

The Rev Stephen Semenchuk has moved, as an amendment -

“That the matter ‘as a matter of priority’ be deleted from paragraph (c).”

The Rev David Mansfield has moved, as an amendment, that all the matter after “teams” where first appearing on line 2 be deleted and the following inserted instead -

“to focus on evangelism and church replanting, and requests that Standing Committee appoint a committee to formulate and bring to the next ordinary sitting of Synod a strategy for the most effective utilising and resourcing of such a team or teams.”

The Rev Laurie Davies has moved, as an amendment, that the following matter be inserted at the end of the motion -

“one such team should be for ‘transition issues’ where specialist or experienced personnel might facilitate the success of subsequent mission or planting activity.”

(2) **Assistant Ministers Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading**

That the bill for the Assistant Ministers Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.

(Page 130 - to be taken at 4.30 pm)

(Mr Ian Miller)

(3) **Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000: Committee Stage (continued)**

That the Synod resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole Synod to further consider the text of the bill for the Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000.

(Page 249 and Supplementary Report - to be taken after 4(2))

(The Rev Phillip Jensen/Mr Neil Cameron)

(4) Incapacity Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading

That the bill for the Incapacity Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.

*(Page 205 - to be taken at 8.00 pm
on Monday 16th)*

(Mr Bill Nicholson/Canon Bruce Ballantine-Jones)

(5) Tribunal Ordinance 1962 Amendment Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading

That the bill for the Tribunal Ordinance 1962 Amendment Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.

(Page 211 - to be taken after 4(4))

(Dr Ann Young/Archdeacon Geoff Huard)

(6) Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000: 3rd Reading

That the bill for the Conduct of Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 be read a third time.

(Page 146)

(Mr Neil Cameron)

(Also see motions 5(23) and 5(24) which are proposed to be moved when the 3rd reading is called.)

(7) Synod Elections Ordinance 2000: 3rd reading

That the bill for the Synod Elections Ordinance 2000 be read a third time.

(Page 278)

(Mr Mark Payne)

(8) Synod 2001 (Amendment of Procedure) Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading

That the bill for the Synod 2001 (Amendment of Procedure) Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.

(Page 272)

(Mr Mark Payne)

(9) Assistant Bishops (Bishops Coadjutor) Ordinance 1947 Amendment Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading

That the bill for the Assistant Bishops (Bishops Coadjutor) Ordinance 1947 Amendment Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.

(See Supplementary Report tabled on 9 October)

(Mr Philip Gerber)

(10) Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading

That the bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.

(Page 304)

(The Rev Dr Glenn Davies)

(11) Church Discipline Ordinance 1996 Amendment Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading

That the bill for the Church Discipline Ordinance 1996 Amendment Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.

(Page 139)

(Mr Garth Blake)

(12) Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975 Amendment Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading

That the bill for the Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975 Amendment Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.

(Page 127)

(Dr Laurie Scandrett)

(13) General Synod - Constitution of A Diocese Alteration Canon 1995 Adopting Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading

That the bill for the General Synod - Constitution of A Diocese Alteration Canon 1995 Adopting Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.

(Page 184)

(Mr Robert Tong)

(14) Regional Councils Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading

That the bill for the Regional Councils Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.
(Page 267) (Dr Kim Hawtrey)

(15) Ministry Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading

That the bill for the Ministry Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.
(Page 214) (Dr Barry Newman)

(16) Parish Development Review Ordinance 2000: Committee Stage (continued)

That the Synod resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole Synod to further consider the text of the bill for the Parish Development Review Ordinance 2000.
(Page 234 - to be taken at 4.30 pm on Tuesday 17th October) (The Rev Hugh Cox)

(17) Parish Review (Monitoring Panel) Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading

That the bill for the Parish Review (Monitoring Panel) Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.
(Page 247 - to be taken after 4(16)) (The Rev Bruce Southwell)

(18) Parish Relationships Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading

That the bill for the Parish Relationships Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.
(Page 238 - to be taken after 4(17)) (Archdeacon Trevor Edwards)

(19) Doctrine and Principles of the Anglican Church

Synod supports the Sydney Standing Committee in its request to the Primates -

- (a) to affirm in the face of current denials -
 - (i) the uniqueness of Jesus as the only name for obtaining salvation;
 - (ii) our redemption through his full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world whereby he reconciled his Father to us;
 - (iii) the resurrection of Jesus in which he took again his body with flesh, bones and all things appertaining to the perfection of human nature; and
 - (iv) the sufficiency and authority of Scripture; and
- (b) to reject current advocacy of -
 - (i) heterosexual immorality; and
 - (ii) homosexual practice.

(See pages 26-28 - to be taken at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 17th) (The Rev Dr Glenn Davies/Deaconess Margaret Rodgers)

- (20) Synod respectfully requests that the Archbishop not authorise any person to preach or participate in the leadership of church services in the Diocese of Sydney who will not give assent to the doctrines and principles advocated in motion 4(19).
(See pages 26-28 - to be taken after 4(19)) (The Rev Dr John Woodhouse)

- (21) Synod respectfully requests that the Sydney representatives to the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia ask the General Synod at its 2001 meeting to ask all Australian Diocesan Bishops not to authorise any person to preach or participate in the leadership of church services in their dioceses who will not give assent to the doctrines and principles advocated in motion 4(19).
(See pages 26-28 - to be taken after 4(20)) (The Rev Dr John Woodhouse)

5. Motions

(1) Faculties

Having regard to the need to simplify and streamline procedures and to assist parishes to respond to changing circumstances, Synod requests that the Standing Committee appoint a committee to review the rationale for and procedures relating to faculties and related regulations and to prepare legislation for consideration by Synod in 2001 which will simplify and where practicable abolish requirements presently applying.

(Canon Bruce Ballantine-Jones OAM)

(2) Women bishops

Synod notes the proposal for the consecration of women as bishops in the Anglican Church of Australia, recognises its potential for further division, and requests that the Rev Dr Robert Doyle and Dr Ann Young, after consultation with the other Sydney representatives on the General Synod, prepare a report for the Synod on the theological and pastoral implications of such a development and the possible ways of meeting the needs of those who may be disaffiliated by such a move.

(Canon Peter Jensen/Canon Terry Dein)

(3) Role and function of archdeacons

In light of the appointment of a layman as Assistant to the Bishop of Wollongong, the Synod requests that the Standing Committee appoint a committee to investigate the role and function of archdeacons and to report to the Synod in 2001 with suggestions about how the office may best develop and how the identified roles and functions may best be carried out.

(Canon Jim Ramsay)

(4) Diocesan files on clergy

In keeping with contemporary understanding of fair dealing and openness, Synod requests that arrangements be made to enable a member of the clergy in the Diocese to inspect all material held on file about that member in the Diocesan records, with a view to correcting error and challenging any matters of judgement by inserting his or her own file note.

(The Rev Phillip Jensen)

(5) Homosexual "marriage" and ordination

Synod -

(a) appreciates the work done by the Faculty of Moore College in publishing a volume of *Explorations* entitled *Theological and Pastoral responses to Homosexuality* (1994); and

(b) since this matter will be frequently before the Church in the next decade - requests that the Faculty of Moore College, through the Principal, keep the Christian public informed of the matters under debate and, in particular, brief the General Synod members on the issues before the next meeting of that body.

(The Rev Stephen Gibson/The Rev Roger Kay)

(6) Office of regional bishops

Synod requests that the Archbishop and the Standing Committee give consideration to the appointment of Regional Bishops for a term of office of about 10 years, and thereafter subject to annual extensions, with a view to-

(a) appointing some younger bishops to the episcopal team; and

(b) developing a culture which facilitates the opportunity for bishops to return to parish ministry after serving their episcopal term.

(Canon Terry Dein)

(7) General Synod - Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2000 : Procedure

Synod requests that the motion to bring in the bill for the General Synod - Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2000 (motion 5(8)) be

included in the motions 'by request of the Synod' in the order of business for this session of the Synod.

(Page 187)

(Justice Ken Handley AO)

(8) General Synod - Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2000: Introduction

Synod grants leave for the mover to introduce the General Synod - Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2000.

(Page 187)

(Justice Ken Handley AO)

(9) Archbishop's power to withhold assent

Synod requests Standing Committee to -

- (a) examine the nature, basis, origin, history and development of the Archbishop's power to withhold his assent to the making of ordinances duly passed by the Synod;
- (b) prepare a report detailing its findings; and
- (c) if thought appropriate, consider the preparation of legislation relating to this matter for the next session of the 45th Synod.

(Mr Neil Ingham)

(10) Referral of matters to the Synod

Synod requires that the Standing Committee bring to the next ordinary session of the Synod a bill -

- (a) to require that any matter, or any part of a matter, being considered by the Standing Committee be referred to the Synod by the Archbishop upon -
 - (i) the written request of the Archbishop; or
 - (ii) the written request or requests of any 5 members of the Standing Committee; or
 - (iii) the written request or requests of 100 members of the Synod; and
- (b) to require that the Standing Committee take no further action about the matter, or part thereof, referred to the Synod by the Archbishop under paragraph (a), except for the production of reports on the matter;
- (c) to require that the Standing Committee prepare a report about the matter referred to the Synod and include in that report the report of any member or members of the Standing Committee who hold a minority view.

(The Rev Paul Cohen)

(11) Support for churches and parishes without a minister

Synod respectfully requests that the Archbishop set up a committee to review the effectiveness of the Diocese in supporting parishes and churches during times when they are without a minister taking into account the following principles -

- (a) The committee should review, amongst other things, the experiences of churches and ministers who have recently been involved in this process.
- (b) Matters to be investigated should include
 - The opportunity for parishes and churches to consider options for new directions for ministry, growth and change.
 - The timing of presentation board process, especially when long service leave is taken after a minister finishes.
 - The accuracy of advice from Diocesan Presentation board members to parish nominators.
 - The accuracy of advice from parishes to prospective ministers.
 - Tenure of other parish staff and the effect this can have in the parish.
 - The availability and level of episcopal support for churches without a minister.
 - Processes to deal with and resolve problems in churches and parishes.
 - The availability and level of parish administration support.

- (c) The committee should comprise both laity and clergy but exclude those that are (or have been recently) diocesan presentation board representatives.
- (d) The committee should provide a report to the next session of the Synod outlining the problems and making recommendations as to any changes that would improve our processes and support our church people at a time when they may most need it.
(Mr Ross Mitchell)

(12) Funding of Anglican sports ministries

Synod -

- (a) notes the 5th and final report of the Archbishop's Olympic Games Task Force,
- (b) acknowledges the need for a continuing Anglican Sports Ministry, as identified by the advisory board of the Task Force, and as supported by the Archbishop, and
- (c) supports an ongoing Anglican Sports Ministry to continue the work and witness of the Archbishop's Olympic Games Task Force, and
- (d) requests that the Standing Committee provide funding in the current 3 year Synod budget period of an extra \$40,000 for 2001 and \$80,000 in 2002.

(Bishop Brian King)

(13) Principles of the Book of Common Prayer

Synod, recognising that there may sometimes be a lack of awareness today of some of the important principles of the Book of Common Prayer (however narrowly or broadly interpreted), reminds church people -

- (a) that each infant or adult baptised is "regenerate and grafted into the body of Christ's Church" and thereby made "a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven", called "to lead a godly and Christian life", following "the example of our Saviour Christ, and ... made like unto him";
- (b) that candidates for Baptism who are able to answer for themselves are to be "sufficiently instructed in the principles of the Christian Religion" and exhorted to "prepare themselves with Prayers and Fasting for the receiving of this holy Sacrament";
- (c) that infant Baptism is founded upon our Lord's command "that children be brought unto him" and "his good will toward them", and the pre-existing "good will of our heavenly Father ... declared by his Son Jesus Christ";
- (d) that God who has "vouchsafed to regenerate" those baptised "by Water and the Holy Ghost" and who has given them "forgiveness of all their sins" is called upon by the bishop in Confirmation to "strengthen them ... with the Holy Ghost the Comforter";
- (e) that "the Body and Blood of Christ" are "verily and indeed taken and received by the faithful in the Lord's Supper", "that holy Sacrament", God vouchsafing to feed those who duly receive "these holy mysteries" with "spiritual food", but that none shall be admitted to the holy communion "until such time as he be confirmed or ready and desirous to be confirmed";
- (f) that "from the Apostles' time there have been these Orders of Ministers in Christ's Church; Bishops, Priests and Deacons" and that no one is to execute any of these offices unless called, tried, examined and admitted by "publick Prayer, with Imposition of Hands" according to the Prayer Book Ordinal (or authorised alternative), "or hath had formerly Episcopal Consecration or Ordination";
- (g) that the blessing of some material things of God's creation is commanded, ie. the sanctifying of water in Baptism and the consecration of bread and wine in Communion (remaining "consecrated Elements" reverently placed on the Lord's Table and covered after the administration), with alms "and other devotions of the people" earlier placed upon "that holy Table", and with the church building itself consecrated as "the house of God" in which great reverence is to be shown (BCP & Homilies).

Synod also acknowledges that the Book of Common Prayer in providing the official "standard of worship" in our Church, among other things, also bears witness to -

- (i) the rightful provision of "special confession" for those troubled in conscience especially in time of sickness;
- (ii) the rightful provision for the observance of Sundays and other feast days of the Church, together with "Vigils, Fasts and Days of Abstinence";
- (iii) the "Solemnization of Matrimony" as ordained by God and intended as the union of a man and woman so long as they both shall live.

(The Rev Dr John Bunyan)

(14) Declaration "*Dominus Iesus*"

Synod records its appreciation of the reaffirmation recently made by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of the Roman Catholic Church in the *Declaration "Dominus Iesus"* of the uniqueness and completeness of Christ for the salvation of all humanity, but expresses its sorrow that the declaration continues to deny that what are called in the document "ecclesial communities" which do not have "the valid episcopal order and the genuine and integral substance of the eucharistic mystery" (which would include us in the Anglican Church of Australia) are churches of Christ in the proper sense.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth)

(15) Foundation of our Church

Synod -

- (a) acknowledges that the constitutional foundation of our church is set forth in the fundamental declarations contained in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia and that this Church takes no power to alter or add to those declarations nor to impose any new statement of faith, the fundamental declarations being as follows -
 - (i) The Anglican Church of Australia, being a part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ, holds the Christian Faith as professed by the Church of Christ from primitive times and in particular as set forth in the creeds known as the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed;
 - (ii) This Church receives all the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as being the ultimate rule and standard of faith given by inspiration of God and containing all things necessary for salvation.
 - (iii) This Church will ever obey the commands of Christ, teach his Doctrine, administer His sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, follow and uphold His discipline and preserve the three orders of bishops, priests and deacons in the sacred ministry.
- (b) acknowledges that all licensed deacons, priests and bishops of this Church are to give such assent to the Scriptures, the Book of Common Prayer, and the Articles of Religion as the formularies of this Church require, without any additional doctrinal imposition.

(Associate Professor Michael Horsburgh)

(16) Encouraging young Anglicans to enter the teaching profession

In the light of the increasing number of Christian and Anglican Schools particularly, and the often difficult task of finding sufficient Christian teachers, Synod -

- (a) notes that the committee appointed under Synod resolution 21/96 has not been able to report on recommendations for the recruitment, training and development of Christian educators in Anglican Church schools and hereby disbands that committee; and
- (b) requests that the Standing Committee appoint an expert committee with power to co-opt to -
 - (i) investigate ways of encouraging young people in the Diocese to consider teaching as a profession,
 - (ii) examine means of providing initial training and continuing professional development for equipping teachers and chaplains specifically for service in Anglican schools, and
 - (iii) report back to Synod in 2001.

(Mr Geoff Kyngdon/Dr Grant Maple)

(17) **Anglican Counselling Centre and the Rev Michael Corbett-Jones**

Synod -

- (a) gives praise to God for the outstanding work of the Anglican Counselling Centre over half a century, and for the people whose lives have been blessed through the ministry of the Centre;
- (b) thanks the Rev Michael Corbett-Jones for his leadership of the Centre over the past 20 years, and for his part in the ongoing development of the Centre's ministry;
- (c) acknowledges that many people have been hurt as a result of the recent investigation and restructuring of the Centre, and expresses sorrow at the hurt that has been experienced;
- (d) prays for God's blessing on Michael Corbett-Jones in his future ministry, and on all who have not been able to continue their counselling ministries under the new structure; and
- (e) urges *Anglicare* to strongly support the important ministry of Christian counselling which it has taken on, and to give its full encouragement to all who are involved in this important ministry.

(The Rev Paul Weaver/Bishop Robert Forsyth)

(18) **Territorial archdeacons**

Synod recognises the need to address appropriate support for territorial archdeacons and-

- (a) requests that the Standing Committee investigate and report upon appropriate office equipment support and its provision to territorial archdeacons; and
- (b) requests that Sydney Diocesan Secretariat make available immediately any of an appropriate computer and software, fax machine, mobile telephone, and such other equipment, as requested by individual archdeacons, from the resources of the Secretariat until such time as a formal resolution is made by the Standing Committee regarding the supply of such equipment.

(The Rev Laurie Davies/Mr Ian Robertson)

(19) **Professional counsellors**

Synod requests Sydney *Anglicare*, in co-operation with the Association of Professional Counsellors, carry out a feasibility study, including an estimate of funds required, with a view to introducing a Christian based training program for counsellors, equivalent to that formerly conducted by the Anglican Counselling Centre, and report back to Synod before the 3rd session of the 45th Synod.

(Mr Bill Scott)

(20) **General Synod - promotion of canon**

Synod requests that our representatives on General Synod, at the next session of General Synod, promote a bill for a canon to permit a deacon to administer Holy Communion.

(Miss Linda Hughes/Mrs Lesley Ramsay)

(21) **Matters arising from the Presidential Address - CEFM and Ministry Assessment Centre**

Synod, noting that the Archbishop in his Presidential Address expressed his gratitude to CEFM and also the more recent work of the Ministry Assessment Centre and drew attention to the need to consider a thorough review of all in-service training offered to the clergy of the Diocese, requests that Standing Committee undertake an assessment of the relevance, adequacy and effectiveness of the training provided and report to the next session of Synod.

(The Rev Greg Olliffe)

(22) Services for Sunday

Synod commends the Archbishop's Liturgical Panel and the Doctrine Commission for the work they have undertaken to prepare suitable services for Sunday use in the Diocese and, recognising the needs of parishes to be more user-friendly, requests that Standing Committee consider -

- (a) how to expeditiously authorise the use of the service; and
- (b) how the costs of production might be met, bearing in mind that it may be possible to produce the services individually on cards and/or computer discs.

(The Rev Greg Olliffe)

(23) Suspension of Standing Orders to reconsider amendments

Synod suspends so much of the Standing Orders 49 and 50 as would preclude the consideration of the amendments to the Conduct of Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 of which the Rev Phillip Griffin has given notice.

(Intended to be moved at the 3rd reading stage - see motion 4(6))

(The Rev Phillip Griffin)

(24) Recommittal of the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000

Synod recommits the bill for the Conduct of Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 to consider amendments of which the Rev Phillip Griffin has given notice concerning the giving of notice of a motion and the procedure involving objection to a motion being passed formally

(Intended to be moved at the 3rd reading stage - see motion 4(6))

(The Rev Phillip Griffin)

(25) Cross Cultural Ministry

Synod thanks the Archbishop for his Presidential Address and notes the Archbishop's concerns about cross cultural ministry and proposed future arrangements and asks the DEB, the Standing Committee and the regional councils to attend to the questions asked by the Archbishop and report on the ways forward at the next Synod in October 2001.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth)

(26) Relationship with the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn

Synod notes from the written text of the Archbishop's Presidential Address that last month the Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn said to his Synod regarding relationships with Sydney Diocese.

"May I also suggest that theologians from our 2 dioceses discuss the vexed question of Lay Presidency? For my part Archbishop, I am not closed to the possibility, but I come to the proposition from an entirely different direction

I would like to enter dialogue that we might jointly consider the issue. While no conclusions could be assumed, we might find a common meeting place."

Synod welcomes Bishop Browning's invitation for dialogue and respectfully requests the Archbishop to continue the conversation and inform Standing Committee of progress.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth)

(27) Creche facilities for Synod

Synod requests that Standing Committee investigate the feasibility of organising creche facilities for Synod sessions in 2001 and thereafter.

(Ms Karin Sowada)

(28) Sydney and other Anglican Dioceses overseas

Synod notes the Archbishop's comments in his Presidential Address about the positive links developing between Sydney and other Anglican Dioceses overseas and sends its greetings on this occasion to -

Archbishop Peter Kwong of Hong Kong
Archbishop Yong Ping Church of Sabah
Bishop John Chew of Singapore
Bishop Alexis Bilindabayabo of Gahini, Rwanda
Bishop Pie Ntukamazina of Bujumbura, Burundi
Bishop Josiah Idowu Fearon of Kaduna, Nigeria
Bishop Derek Eaton of Nelson, New Zealand.

(Archdeacon Geoff Huard)

(29) Open meetings of the Standing Committee

In keeping with contemporary understanding of openness, Synod requests that meetings of the Standing Committee be opened to members of Synod as observers as soon as possible and that appropriate notice of meeting details and agendas be made available ahead of time.

(Ms Kath White)

(30) Censure of the Standing Committee: reconciliation

Following the Synod's decision to censure Standing Committee over its handling of the enquiry into the Anglican Counselling Centre -

- (a) Synod respectfully urges the members of the Standing Committee to carefully and prayerfully reflect on the implications of the motion to censure them over the matter of the enquiry into the Anglican Counselling Centre, and to urgently take all necessary steps to reconcile with those who have been hurt as a result of that process by the end of January 2001. The Synod further requests that Standing Committee report on the matter to them at the Synod to be held in late 2001.
- (b) Synod respectfully asks the Standing Committee to establish appropriate protocols for conflict resolution within the Diocese which would enhance relationships between individuals and structures, glorify God and further the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Synod further requests that Standing Committee report on the matter to them at the Synod to be held in late 2001.
- (c) Synod expresses its affection, support and Christian love for all members of the Standing Committee, and sincerely expresses its continuing prayerful support for the Standing Committee in its ongoing role in exercising leadership and management in our Diocese.

(The Rev David Irwin)

(31) Overseas Ministry Fund

Synod welcomes the establishment of the Archbishop's Overseas Ministry Fund that is set up specifically to assist evangelistic endeavours in Anglican dioceses in other parts of the world, and commends it to the strong support of the people of the Diocese.

(Deaconess Margaret Rodgers)

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2nd Session of the 45th Synod

Notices for Monday 16 October 2000

1. Missionary Hour and Proposed Special Debates etc

Please note the following arrangements and proposed arrangements, which are subject to confirmation in some cases -

Monday 16 October

4.30 pm

Assistant Ministers Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2000: 2nd reading (Motion 4(2))
Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000: Committee Stage (continued)
Motion 4(3)

7 pm

Missionary Hour.

8 pm

Incapacity Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading (Motion 4(4) - followed by committee stage, if necessary)
Tribunal Ordinance 1962 Amendment Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading (Motion 4(5) - followed by committee stage, if necessary)

Tuesday 17 October

7 pm

Doctrine and Principles of the Anglican Church: Motions 4(19), 4(20) and 4(21)

2. Arrangements for Meetings

The hours of meeting will be approximately 3 pm to 5.45 pm and 7 pm to 9.30 pm or 10 pm. The meeting place will be open from 2.30 pm.

Please take your belongings and papers with you each time you leave the meeting place.

3. Name Tags

Please wear your name tag to enter the Synod members' section of the meeting place.

4. Refreshments

The Wesley Restaurant will be open for meals each evening. There are several other restaurants and coffee shops in the vicinity of the Wesley Theatre.

Drinking water dispensers are located in the Theatre Foyer. The consumption of food and beverages is not permitted in the Wesley Theatre.

Hymn, Bible Reading and Prayers: Monday 16 October 2000

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
Grace and peace also to you

Let us pray

God our Father,

You judge your people with wisdom and rule them with love.

Give a spirit of understanding to the Synod of this Diocese that we may make wise decisions, that will give glory to you and be a blessing to your people.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: Jesus, lover of my soul

1. Jesu, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.
2. Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me;
all my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.
3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
more than all in thee I find,
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.
4. Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within:
thou of life the fountain art,
freely let me take of thee,
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

Charles Wesley 1707-88

Tune: Aberystwyth

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Pianist: The Rev Geoff Deutscher

Bible Reading (Romans 8.14-27):

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Surprising Texts 3 "The whole creation?"

Prayers

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, protector of all who put their trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy, so that with you as our ruler and guide, we so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

Other Prayers

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen