

Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

2nd Session of the 46th Synod Business Paper: Tuesday 14 October 2003

(Page references are to the Standing Committee's Report - see Part 5 of the Synod Business Rules for ordinance procedures.)

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

1. **Devotions will be led by the Rev Ray Galea: see attached**
2. **Minutes of 13 October 2003**
3. **Answers to questions**

3.1 Mr Keith Smith to ask -

In view of the need to assess growth with regard to our Diocesan Mission Policy and in view of the large number of parishes that have not returned complete information regarding average Sunday attendances and the number of baptisms and confirmations, what steps have been taken or will be taken to ensure that a more accurate picture of annual surveys will result?

3.2 Dr Rod James to ask -

- (a) What is the status of a church plant in a building other than a licensed building in relation to –
 - (i) the involvement of members in a vestry meeting (clauses 7, 11 and 12 of the Church Administration Ordinance 1990) - do they hold a separate meeting or take part in the vestry meeting of the principal church?
 - (ii) clauses 11, 12 and 23 of the Church Administration Ordinance 1990 - is such a church entitled to churchwardens, and if not, who performs their functions?
 - (iii) clauses 6 and 7 of the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance 1990 - what activities are permitted, and who is allowed to conduct services and preach in such a church?
 - (iv) any other ordinances which may affect such a church and of which the questioner may be aware.
- (b) Is it the intention of the Policy 4 committee to bring legislation before this Synod to deal with such matter?

3.3 Mr Graeme Marks to ask -

In relation to the circular to parishes on Mission Property - availability of community buildings for use by parishes issued on behalf of the Mission Property Committee in May 2003 to "encourage churches to consider how they can use community buildings for church planting and other and other ministry purposes in fulfillment of the 2nd of the Mission policies recently adopted by the Synod" -

- (a) How many copies of this circular were issued?
- (b) What comments and feedback, as requested by the Mission Property Committee in the circular, have been provided?
- (c) How many churches have requested information from the database referred to in the circular containing information about 516 community facilities

controlled by local councils in the Diocese in order to assess the suitability of such facilities for church planting purposes?

(d) How can churches obtain access to the database?

Are the modifications, set out in the circular, to the Department of Education's standard "Community Use Agreement" procured by the Mission Property Committee to facilitate Anglican use of school buildings still current, and if not, what has changed?

3.4 Mr Graeme Marks to ask -

In relation to Synod resolution 10/02 which is reproduced on page 397 of the 2003 Year Book -

- (a) what has happened in making available information that -
 - (i) is publicly available in the Year Book, and
 - (ii) is not publicly available such as non-ordained licensed but employed persons, and
- (b) when is it expected that this information will be available?

3.5 Mr Richard Lambert to ask -

In relation to Synod resolution 25/02 which in part reads -

"Synod recommends to the Standing Committee that priority be given.....to resourcing Indigenous Peoples' Ministry by directing that a percentage of the proceeds from all sales of church trust property be added to the Indigenous Peoples' Trust Fund..."

can the President please inform the Synod for the period 1 January 2003 to 30 September 2003 -

- (a) how many ordinances did the Standing Committee pass to enable the sale of church trust property?
- (b) how many of those ordinances provided for a percentage of the proceeds to be paid to the Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Trust Fund?

3.6 Mr Richard Lambert to ask -

In relation to Synod resolution 25/02 which in part reads "Synod...urges each parish of the diocese to generously support Indigenous ministry in the diocese any way it can, for example by giving a percentage of any land sales to the Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Trust Fund or by giving 1% of their income to the fund..."

can the President please inform the Synod for the period 1 January 2003 to 30 September 2003 -

- (a) How many parishes are there in the Diocese?
- (c) How many ordinances for sale of property held in trust for a parish contained a provision for a percentage of a land sale to be paid to the trust fund?

3.7 Mr Donald McPhail to ask -

Noting item 14.1 on the Business Paper for Monday 13 October 2003 concerning the bill for the General Synod - Holy Communion Canon 2001 Adopting Ordinance 2003, what are the current circumstances under which an Anglican minister can refuse Holy Communion to a confirmed member of any Anglican Church and, in particular, to a member of the minister's own church?

If that minister does so refuse, what steps can be taken to direct that minister to give Holy Communion to all confirmed members of the Anglican Church?

- 3.8 The Rev Ian Millican to ask -
- (a) How many students are currently enrolled in Moore College?
 - (b) How many of the students referred to in (a) are currently Anglican candidates?
 - (c) Of the Anglican candidates referred to in (b), how many are catechists in churches within a 20km radius of Moore College?
- 3.9 The Rev Ian Millican to ask -
- (a) How many parishes in the Diocese now have cheque accounts with the Glebe Income Accounts? How does this compare with 12 months ago?
 - (b) How much is invested with the Glebe Administration Board, in any accounts, by parishes within this Diocese? What percentage of the total funds of the Glebe Board is this? How do both these figures compare with 12 months ago?
- 3.10 The Rev Ross Nicholson to ask -
- (a) How many meetings did the Special Session of Synod of June 2001 sit for the Archbishop's Election?
 - (b) How many hours did each of those sittings run for?
 - (c) How many members of Synod attended each of those sittings?
 - (d) Was there a call by Standing Committee, the regional councils or regional bishops before this Synod for the diocese and parishes to pray for the decisions of that Special Synod?
 - (e) Did the movers of motion 17.3 on the business paper for Monday 13 October call their regions to pray for the decision to be made by the Standing Committee which extended the retirement age of the Archbishop?
 - (f) Did any bishops call their regions to pray for the decision to be made by the Standing Committee?
 - (g) Was a motion moved at that Standing Committee that requested debate on the extension of the retirement age of the Archbishop be adjourned until the parishes of the Diocese could be called together to pray for those deliberations?
- 3.11 Ms Alik Darlow to ask -
- (a) What were the circumstances which prevailed upon the Standing Committee to pass the Prohibited Persons (Church Administration) Ordinance 2003 which disqualified prohibited persons from holding positions as churchwardens or parish councillors?
 - (b) How many prohibited persons were churchwardens or parish councillors before the legislation was passed?

4. Petitions

5. Notices of questions

6. Procedural motions from members

7. Notice of other motions

8. Calling of motions on the business paper

9. Motions

To be taken today from 3:30 pm

9.1 Reclassification of West Ryde as a parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of West Ryde as a parish with effect from 1 January 2004.

(Page 87)

(The Rev Richard Mills/Miss Kath Balnaves)

9.2 Reclassification of Oakhurst as a parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Oakhurst as a parish with effect from 1 January 2004.
(Page 96) (The Rev Trevor Ackman/Archdeacon Ken Allen)

9.3 Reclassification of Rooty Hill as a parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Rooty Hill as a parish with effect from 1 January 2004.
(Page 98) (The Rev Ray Galea)

9.4 Reclassification of St John's Park as a parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of St John's Park as a parish with effect from 1 January 2004.
(Supplementary Report - Page 33) (Archdeacon Geoff Huard)

To be taken today from 4:30 pm

9.5 Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2003: introduction

Synod permits the introduction of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2003.
(Page 143) (Bishop Glenn Davies)

9.6 Synod and Standing Committee (Membership) Amendment Ordinance 2003: introduction

Synod permits the introduction of the Synod and Standing Committee (Membership) Amendment Ordinance 2003.
(Page 150) (Mr Robert Tong)

To be taken today at 7:00 pm

9.7 Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2003: approval in principle

That the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2003 be approved in principle.
(Page 119) (Bishop Peter Tasker/Mr Peter Kell)

To be taken on Wednesday 15 October after the Mission Property Committee's presentation

9.8 Mission property strategic plan

Synod, endorses the Mission Property Committee's strategic plan and encourages parishes and organisations to consider how they can support the implementation of that plan.
(Mr Peter Kell)

To be taken on Monday 20 October 2003 from 4:30 pm

9.9 General Synod - Holy Communion Canon 2001 Adopting Ordinance 2003

That the General Synod - Holy Communion Canon 2001 Adopting Ordinance 2003 be approved in principle.
(Page 113) (Bishop Glenn Davies)

9.10 Anglican Provident Fund Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2003

Synod permits the introduction of the Anglican Provident Fund Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2003.
(*Supplementary Report - Page 9*) (Mr Robert Tong)

To be taken on Monday 20 October at 8:00 pm

9.11 Act of Uniformity (Section 10) Repeal Ordinance 2003

Synod permits the introduction of the Act of Uniformity (Section 10) Repeal Ordinance 2003.
(*Supplementary Report - Page 6*) (Canon John Woodhouse)

To be taken on Tuesday 21 October at 7:00 pm

9.12 Anglican Communion

Synod reaffirms its commitment to the authority of Scripture and recognises that the Anglican Communion has traditionally maintained its adherence to that authority and that of the 39 articles of religion.

It notes the departure from biblical authority in the actions of -

- (a) the Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster by agreeing to bless same-sex unions, and
- (b) the Diocese of New Hampshire, endorsed by the Convention of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America, in electing a practising homosexual as a bishop.

Synod therefore dissociates itself from such actions which are contrary to biblical teaching, and calls on those involved to repent, and to reverse their decisions.

Synod also commends our Archbishop for his public comments on these issues and for standing with other leaders of like mind in their desire to maintain the truths of Scripture.

(Bishop Glenn Davies/Dr Laurie Scandrett)

Motions for which no particular time has been specified for consideration

9.13 Synod Elections Amendment Ordinance 2003: introduction

Synod permits the introduction of the Synod Elections Amendment Ordinance 2003.
(*Page 139*) (Mr Mark Payne)

9.14 General Synod - Constitution of a Diocese Alteration Canon 1995 Adopting Ordinance 2003: introduction

Synod permits the introduction of the General Synod - Constitution of a Diocese Alteration Canon 1995 Adopting Ordinance 2003.
(*Page 110*) (Mr Robert Tong)

9.15 Church Administration (Heritage Property) Amendment Ordinance 2003: introduction

Synod permits the introduction of the Church Administration (Heritage Property) Amendment Ordinance 2003.
(*Page 102*) (Mr Mark Payne)

9.16 Reappointment of the Stipends and Allowances Committee

Synod hereby reappoints the Stipends and Allowances Committee, with power to co-opt and directs that it report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee for action.

(Page 79)

(Mr Philip Gerber)

9.17 Freemasonry

Synod, noting the 1988 Report to Synod entitled "Freemasonry Examined" and subsequent resolution 9/88 of that Synod -

- (a) affirms that Freemasonry and Christianity are fundamentally and irreconcilably incompatible, and
- (b) affirms that Freemasonry teaches and upholds a system of false religious and spiritual beliefs that are contrary to biblical Christianity.

Synod encourages all Christians who are members of a Masonic Lodge to demonstrate their commitment to Jesus Christ as the divine Son of God and as the sole way of salvation, by withdrawing from the Lodge.

Synod encourages ministers not to participate in, nor allow in their church buildings, any religious services or activities that uphold, condone, promote or encourage adherence to Freemasonry.

Synod requests the Councils of all Anglican Schools to consider any association that their school may have with any Masonic Lodge, and to withdraw from any such association. Synod further requests that Anglican Schools neither participate in any activity that may uphold, condone, promote or encourage adherence to Freemasonry, nor give publicity to any such activity, nor allow the name of the school to be used in association with any such activity.

Synod requests Standing Committee to undertake the preparation, production and distribution of a clear and unambiguous booklet suitable for wide distribution, examining the key rites, teachings and beliefs of Freemasonry and explaining why they differ from Biblical Christianity, and explaining why it is wrong for a Christian to belong to the Lodge.

(The Rev Bill Winthrop)

9.18 Assistance to other dioceses

(Motion marked up to show amendments to the form printed yesterday)

Considering the ~~difficult and even parlous states of some~~ *difficulties faced by some* of the *other* dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia, and especially in the Province of New South Wales, Synod agrees to set up a Commission under the leadership of the Archbishop (*or one deputised by him*) which would report to the Mission Taskforce to investigate ways by which this Diocese can bring help to another Diocese that may request it. Such help could include the possibility of sending *subsidised* clergy and/or other pastoral workers along with *subsidised* pastoral "tools" to that Diocese for the specific furtherance of Gospel ministry and outreach.

And

That such Commission be empowered to contact selected diocesan bishops to discuss this proposal ~~and/or possibilities of sending help~~.

The Commission is to consist of the Archbishop (*or his appointed deputy*) as *Chairman* (~~ex officio as President/Chairman~~), Mr Warwick Olson, the Rev John Cornford, and Bishop Glenn Davies, ~~the Chief Executive Officer of Anglican Youthworks, Deaconess Margaret Rodgers~~ and the mover, with power to co-opt.

The Commission is to report to the Synod no later than October 2005 when it will conclude its work unless reappointed by the Synod.

(The Rev Neil Flower/Canon John Cornford)

9.19 **Extension of the retirement age of the Archbishop**

Synod welcomes the Standing Committee's decision to extend the retirement age of the Archbishop and gives thanks to Almighty God for the Archbishop's leadership of the Mission.

(Bishop Glenn Davies/Bishop Reg Piper)

9.20 **Protocol regarding inheritances from parishioners**

Synod requests that the regional archdeacons draft a protocol regarding the propriety of clergy, employees of parishes, Diocesan officials, and employees of Diocesan organisations, receiving inheritances from parishioners.

(The Very Rev Phillip Jensen)

9.21 **Commitment to the Authority of Scripture (1)**

Noting that the second Fundamental Declaration in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia states -

2. 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.

and that the 1998 Lambeth Conference of Bishops of the Anglican Communion passed the following Resolution I.10 -

This Conference -

- (a) commends to the Church the subsection report on human sexuality;*
- (b) in view of the teaching of Scripture, upholds faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union, and believes that abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage;*
- (c) recognises that there are among us persons who experience themselves as having a homosexual orientation. Many of these are members of the Church and are seeking the pastoral care, moral direction of the Church, and God's transforming power for the living of their lives and the ordering of relationships. We commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and we wish to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ;*
- (d) while rejecting homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture, calls on all our people to minister pastorally and sensitively to all irrespective of sexual orientation and to condemn irrational fear of homosexuals, violence within marriage and any trivialisation and commercialisation of sex;*
- (e) cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions nor ordaining those involved in same gender unions;*
- (f) requests the Primates and the ACC to establish a means of monitoring the work done on the subject of human sexuality in the Communion and to share statements and resources among us;*
- (g) notes the significance of the Kuala Lumpur Statement on Human Sexuality and the concerns expressed in resolutions IV.26, V.1, V.10, V.23 and V.35 on the authority of Scripture in*

matters of marriage and sexuality and asks the Primates and the ACC to include them in their monitoring process.

Synod -

- (a) reaffirms its commitment to the authority of Scripture, and
- (b) confirms its unqualified support for and endorsement of Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference, and
- (c) urges all Bishops of the Anglican Communion, in view of the teaching of Scripture, to neither ordain, nor propose for consecration, those involved in same gender unions.

Synod further requests the Diocesan Secretary communicate a copy of this resolution to the Archbishop of Canterbury and all other Bishops of the Anglican Communion.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett/the Rev Alan Stewart)

9.22 Commitment to the Authority of Scripture (2)

Synod, noting both the text of the second Fundamental Declaration in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia and the text of Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference of Bishops of the entire Anglican Communion, requests that all other Australian Diocesan Synods -

- (a) reaffirm, by resolution, their commitment to the authority of Scripture, and
- (b) affirm, by resolution, their unqualified support for and endorsement of 1998 Lambeth Conference Resolution I.10,
- (c) communicate their response to the requests in (a) and (b) to the Diocesan Secretary by Friday 24 September 2004.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett)

9.23 Use of the word "Priest"

Synod -

- (a) reaffirms the terms of resolution 20/97-
"Synod considers -
 - (a) that the good reason for our reformers retaining the word 'Priest' in the Book of Common Prayer is its derivation from the Greek 'presbuteros', (which means a senior person, and 'elder', or a mature leader), and
 - (b) that much of this meaning has been lost, because modern English has come to use 'Priest' to mean a person who mediates between man and God, and therefore encourages all involved in liturgical revision, in place of the word 'Priest', to use words like 'elder', 'president', 'presbyter' or 'minister'." and
- (b) considers that our continued use of the word "priest" in legislation and formularies describing New Testament ministers is unhelpful, confusing and dangerous, and
- (c) asks that the Standing Committee bring to the next session a report on the action needed to replace the word "priest" with "presbyter" in all our legislation and formularies and, if possible, legislation to effect this.

(The Rev Chris Clerke/The Rev Joseph Thiem)

9.24 The Rev Howard Dillon

In view of the projected retirement of the Rev Howard Frederick Dillon in August 2004, Synod gives profound thanks to Almighty God for the public ministry of Howard Dillon in this Diocese and beyond over the past 40 years, and especially

for his leadership of the Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society (Anglicare Diocese of Sydney) since his appointment as Executive Director from the beginning of 1996.

Synod expresses its appreciation of his service and ministry and prays for Howard and Aileen a satisfying and fruitful retirement.

(The Rev Martin Robinson)

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Indicative Timetable for Synod Business

References to items and motions are references to items and motions in the business paper for Tuesday 14 October 2003.

Tuesday 14 October 2003	
3:15 - 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter - Reclassification of West Ryde as a parish: Motion 9.1 Reclassification of Oakhurst as a parish: Motion 9.2 Reclassification of Rooty Hill as a parish: Motion 9.3 Reclassification of St John's Park as a parish: Motion 9.4 Thereafter, other motions: From motion 9.16
4:30 - 5:45 pm	Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2003: Motion 9.5 Synod and Standing Committee (Membership) Amendment Ordinance 2003: Motion 9.6
7:00 pm +	Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2003: Motion 9.7

Wednesday 15 October 2003	
3:15 - 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other motions: From motion 9.16
4:30 - 5:45 pm	Ordinances Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 pm	Anglican Youthworks: Waterslea presentation
7:10 pm +	Mission Property Presentation Mission property strategic plan: Motion 9.8

Monday 20 October 2003	
3:15 - 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other motions: From motion 9.16
4:30 - 5:45 pm	General Synod - Holy Communion Canon 2001 Adopting Ordinance 2003: Item 9.9 Anglican Provident Fund Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2003: Motion 9.10 Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Missionary Hour
8:00 pm +	Act of Uniformity (Section 10) Repeal Ordinance 2003: Motion 9.11

Tuesday 21 October 2003	
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other motions: From motion 9.16
4:00 - 5:45 pm	
7:00 pm	Anglican Communion: Motion 9.12

Bible Reading, Hymn & Prayers: 14 October 2002

Bible Reading: Isaiah Chapter 6

Isaiah's Commission

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

⁹He said, "Go and tell this people:

"Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
be ever seeing, but never perceiving."

¹⁰Make the heart of this people calloused;
make their ears dull
and close their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed."

¹¹Then I said, "For how long, O Lord?"
And he answered:

"Until the cities lie ruined
and without inhabitant,
until the houses are left deserted
and the fields ruined and ravaged,
¹²until the LORD has sent everyone far away
and the land is utterly forsaken.

¹³And though a tenth remains in the land,
it will again be laid waste.
But as the terebinth and oak
leave stumps when they are cut down,
so the holy seed will be the stump in the land."

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version

Hymn: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.
2. Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crown around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
God everlasting through eternity.
3. Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy, there is none beside thee
perfect in power, in love and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

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Pianist: The Rev Jackie Stoneman

The Mission Prayer

Our Gracious God, we pray that you will help us to proclaim our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, so that everyone around us will hear his call to repent, trust and serve Christ in love, and be established in the fellowship of his disciples while we await his return.

May we continue to pray, to depend on your Holy Spirit, and to glorify you.

Amen.