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Circular to the Members of the 45th Synod

Re: Special Session of the Synod to appoint an Archbishop

Contents

14. Still more on Terms and Conditions of Appointment

The first circular dated 28 March 2001 contains items 1 to 7 and the second circular dated 16 May contains items 8 to 13. The item in this circular supplements that material.

Mark Payne, the Diocesan Secretary, is pleased to answer any questions about this session of the Synod.

14. Still more on Terms and Conditions of Appointment

14.1 In item 5.3 of the Circular of 28 March 2001, members were advised that the package to be offered to the next Archbishop was to include a house, which could be the present Bishops court, suitable (or capable of being made suitable) for the Archbishop and his family. Such house was to be approved by the Standing Committee after consultation between the next Archbishop and the Property Trust.

14.2 The Standing Committee has recently appointed a committee to investigate and report within 3 months on the question of the future use of Bishops court and alternative accommodation for the Archbishop. The investigation and report is to cover all the financial, logistical and practical implementation issues.

14.3 There are several factors which make it opportune to now consider the matter. For example, Bishops court is a large, heritage listed property which is expensive to operate and maintain. Significant expenditure on the buildings needs to be undertaken in the next few years. Can the Archbishop be accommodated in other suitable premises at a lower ongoing cost? Another issue results from Bishops court being a large, stately nineteenth century property. Is it appropriate to continue to house the Archbishop and his family in such a property? A third issue is whether it remains necessary for the Archbishop's residence to include guest accommodation and meeting facilities.

14.4 The report has been asked for in order that the issues might be explored. *The Standing Committee has expressly resolved to recognise that a final decision on the matter of the future accommodation of the Archbishop will be for the Synod to make.* A report will be provided to the Synod in due course.

14.5 In the interim, the Standing Committee has determined that alternative accommodation be offered to the next Archbishop.