

Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

3rd Session of the 47th Synod Business Paper: Tuesday 25 September 2007

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

1. **Devotions will be led by the Rev Dr Mark Thompson: see attached.**
2. **Minutes of 24 September 2007.**
3. **Petitions**
4. **Procedural motions from members**
 - 4.1 **Procedural arrangements in relation to the presentation on Mission funding strategy**

Synod agrees to the following arrangements in relation to today's presentation on Mission funding strategy –

- (a) the following motion will be taken to have been moved by Bishop Peter Tasker and seconded by Mr Peter Kell –

“Synod –

- (a) receives the report from the Mission Board Finance Committee about Appropriations and Allocations for 2009-2011, and
 - (b) agrees that the Mission Board Finance Committee, the Mission Board and the Standing Committee use the principles outlined in the report to shape the Synod allocations for the 2009 – 2011 triennium, and
 - (c) asks the Standing Committee to bring both a strategy report (including percentages by policy area) and a detailed Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance for the 2009-2011 triennium to the Synod in 2008.”, and
- (b) the mover and the seconder may speak jointly to the motion for up to 20 minutes, and
 - (c) after debate on the motion has concluded, the mover has a right of reply by speaking for up to 5 minutes,

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

(Mr Robert Wicks)

- 4.2 **Procedural motion concerning consideration of the National Register Canon**

Mr Garth Blake wants to give notice of his intention to move the following procedural motion immediately before consideration of the motion at item 6.1 on today's business paper –

“Synod agrees not to consider at this session the motion at item 6.1 on today's business paper concerning the National Register Canon.”

5. Calling of motions on the business paper

6. Motions

To be taken today at 4:30 pm

6.1 National Register Canon

Synod endorses the concept of a national professional standards register of clergy and lay persons including information about child abuse and sexual abuse of an adult but considers that any canon to establish such a register must embody the following –

- (a) if the information included on the register about child abuse and sexual abuse of an adult is not limited to persons who have admitted to or have been found to have committed such abuse, access to the register within a diocese must be limited to –
 - (i) the diocesan bishop (or delegate) and the Director of Professional Standards of the diocese in circumstances where the diocesan bishop proposes ordaining or issuing a licence to a member of clergy or a lay person, and
 - (ii) to the Director of Professional Standards of the diocese for the purposes of electing a bishop of a diocese provided that before any information on the register about a candidate in the election is disclosed by the Director of Professional Standards to the electing synod, nomination committee or Board of Electors, the candidate is given an opportunity to consider whether he wishes to proceed with or withdraw his candidacy,or, for the purposes of access within this Diocese, must be capable of being limited in this way by ordinance of the Synod or the Standing Committee, and
- (b) the definition of ‘abuse’ under the canon should be extended to include behaviour which is not ‘chaste’ within the meaning of *Faithfulness in Service*,

and directs that any canon which does not include the foregoing must not be implemented in any way unless and until the canon is approved by this Synod.

(Mr Neil Cameron/Dr Philip Selden)

To be taken today after the presentation on Mission funding strategy at 7:00 pm

6.2 Parish Administration Ordinance

Synod, noting the report from the Ordinance Reform Group about the exposure draft for the Parish Administration Ordinance –

- (a) supports in principle the approach taken in preparing the exposure draft, and
- (b) requests that members provide comments in respect of the exposure draft to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2007, and
- (c) requests that a bill for the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008 be brought to the Synod in 2008 incorporating, as appropriate, comments made by members about the exposure draft.

(Additional Materials)

(Bishop Robert Forsyth/Mr Robert Wicks)

Motions for which no particular time has been specified for consideration

6.3 Biblical pattern of marriage

Synod –

- (a) affirms that the relationship of loving, sacrificial leadership of a husband and the intelligent, voluntary submission of a wife is the Biblical pattern of marriage, and
- (b) totally rejects the use of this Biblical pattern to justify any form of domestic abuse, and
- (c) totally rejects all forms of domestic abuse, and
- (d) expresses its concern for those children, women and men, who are victims of domestic abuse, and
- (e) calls on Christian husbands and wives to use their God-given responsibilities for the good of their families, and
- (f) calls on ministers to teach congregations the Biblical model for marriage and also to teach against domestic abuse.

(Mrs Lesley Ramsay/The Rev Dr Bill Salier)

6.4 Fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death

Synod requests the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to consider the appropriateness, with respect to the teaching of Scripture and the Anglican formularies, of Anglican churches having a fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death, and to bring a report to Synod at a convenient time.

(Dr Barry Newman)

6.5 Ordination of women

Synod notes that –

- (a) within both the Anglican Church of Australia and the wider Anglican Communion there is a diversity of practice in regard to the ordination of women, and
- (b) Synods of this Diocese have consistently voted not to permit the ordination of women as priests, based on the understanding that whilst scripture encourages the ministry of women, it denies the eldership of women in the congregation.

However, Synod also notes that there is another understanding of scripture held by a small but significant minority within the diocese. This understanding holds that scripture supports and endorses women being involved in all aspects of the life and ministry of God's people including eldership of the congregation and so in Anglican Polity being ordained as priests and Bishops. Synod therefore asks the Archbishop to explore ways in which these different views can be creatively lived out in the life and practice of the diocese.

(The Rev Chris Albany/Miss Betty Allan)

6.6 Displaced persons

Synod –

- (a) notes that there are 25 million displaced persons in the world, 11.5 million of whom are uprooted refugees or asylum seekers with some 7 million of these having been "warehoused" for 10 years or more in refugee camps or urban slums, and
- (b) commends the Australian Government for increasing the humanitarian resettlement component of its immigration program after August 2001, and encourages a further significant increase in the number of displaced persons offered resettlement in Australia under that program, and

- (c) calls on the Government to offer resettlement in Australia to the group of Sri Lankan nationals currently held on Nauru whose refugee status has recently been confirmed, and
- (d) endorses a non-discriminatory approach in all aspects of Australia's immigration policy especially its humanitarian component and in particular opposes any policy promoted by any individual or political party that seeks to stop or limit the immigration or acceptance as refugees of any person on the basis of their religion, and
- (e) calls on the Australian government to ensure that Christians in countries dominated by other religions have fair and equitable access to immigration or admittance to Australia's refugee programs, and
- (f) calls on the Federal government to continue advocacy to reduce religious persecution and discrimination and to promote religious freedom in all countries with which Australia has diplomatic relations, and
- ~~(e)~~(g) requests that a copy of this motion be sent to the Parliamentary leader of all political parties represented in the Federal Parliament.

(The Rev Chris Albany)

6.7 **Ad hoc theological recitations and summations of Christian doctrine**

Synod notes occasional presentation of motions calculated to emphasise particular aspects of doctrine or affirm certain principles of faith as understood by the respective movers of the motions in question. While acknowledging that such motions are motivated by zeal, Synod respectfully reminds all members that Christian truth is adequately and wholly expressed in scripture and sound doctrine is summarised by the creeds. Again acknowledging the zeal of movers, Synod respectfully suggests that members desist from presenting *ad hoc* formulations of doctrine in the interests of unequivocal understanding, by those inside and those outside the church, that authoritative Christian teaching expressed in definitive terms is to be found in the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer and the 39 Articles.

(Professor Bernard Stewart)

6.8 **Synod debate**

Synod respectfully requests that the programming of Synod be reviewed to allow more time for debate. In particular it requests that on each day the Synod meets significant time is set aside for debate, and while recognising the value of presentations for informing the Synod asks that less total time be allocated to them.

(The Rev Richard Humphrey)

6.9 **Parish Administration Ordinance 2007**

Synod –

- (a) signifies its wish to expedite progress of the draft Parish Administration Ordinance 2007 by its introduction in the form of a bill for enactment as an ordinance in the current session,
- (b) requests Standing Committee to determine a commencement date for the ordinance, if passed, being not later than 30 April 2008 for presentation to the Archbishop-in-Council,
- (c) delegates to Standing Committee any necessary amendments to the transitional arrangements arising from the changed timetable.

(Mr Jody Trouncer)

6.10 Ministry to those impacted by the Equine Influenza outbreak

Synod expresses its concern for those in the racing industry and wider horse-related activities whose livelihoods have been impacted by the cessation of racing and the embargo on horse transport necessitated by the outbreak of equine influenza, and

- (a) appreciates the willingness of Anglicare to offer material support to those effected in this way, and
- (b) encourages the Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy to continue its ministry to those in the racing industry through visitation at the tracks and stables offering assistance and prayer support, and
- (c) prays for God's mercy upon ~~the industry, that the epidemic may abate quickly, enabling the industry to recover~~ those whose livelihood depends upon the industry and that those suffering as a consequence of this epidemic would have relief from their situation.

(The Rev Colin Watts/The Rev Jeremy Tonks)

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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 25 September 2007.

Tuesday 25 September 2007	
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4:30 – 5:45 pm	6.1 National Register Canon Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 pm +	Presentation on Mission funding strategy 6.2 Parish Administration Ordinance Thereafter, other business as per the business paper

3rd Session of the 47th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney

Bible Reading, Hymn & Prayers: 25 September 2007

Bible Reading: Galatians 2:1-16

Bible Reader: Deaconess Margaret Rodgers

Bible Study Leader: The Rev Dr Mark Thompson

¹Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. ²I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain. ³Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. ⁴This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. ⁵We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you.

⁶As for those who seemed to be important—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not judge by external appearance—those men added nothing to my message. ⁷On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews. ⁸For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. ⁹James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. ¹⁰All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

¹¹When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.

¹²Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

¹⁴When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

¹⁵"We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' ¹⁶know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version

Hymn: Servants of the gospel

1. Though we were undeserving
Christ died to wash us clean.
He bore the Father's anger
While nailed upon the tree.
In darkness and in turmoil
The Judgement fell on Him
Bringing us forgiveness
That new life might begin.

*As servants of the gospel
Christ's work we carry on
That through our prayer and witness
By grace we might win some.
We call on every nation
To turn to Christ the Lord
Refuge in his mercy
And marvel at his love.*

2. The grave could not contain him.
From death the son broke free
Exalted by his Father
To rule eternally
And in his grace he calls us
To be his chosen church
As his holy temple
His priests to all the earth

3. Marked with his Holy Spirit
And guided by his word
Christ gathers us together
Prepares us for good works
And so with grace apportioned
We serve each others needs
Sharing in each blessing
And helping in our grief.

*As servants of the gospel
Christ's work we carry on
That through our prayer and witness
By grace we might win some.
We call on every nation
To turn to Christ the Lord
Refuge in his mercy
And marvel at his love.*

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Pianist: The Rev Bob Cameron

Prayer: Dr Philip Selden

The Mission Prayer

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

Strengthen us to pray, to depend on your Holy Spirit and to glorify you.

Amen.