

Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

3rd Session of the 47th Synod Business Paper: Wednesday 19 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 18 September 2007.

3. Answers to questions

3.1 Ms Caroline Bowyer to ask –

Are there any schools associated with the Anglican Church in this Diocese, which teach Creation Science and/or Intelligent Design –

- (a) as well as the contemporary understanding of the theory of evolution, as taught in secular universities, or
- (b) to the exclusion of the contemporary understanding of the theory of evolution, as taught in secular universities?

If there are such schools, would the Archbishop please advise the Synod of the names of the schools in each category?

3.2 Ms Caroline Bowyer to ask –

In the list of parishes in accordance with clause 4(4) of the Parishes (Special Administration) Ordinance 2004 (as at 13 August 2007), under the heading of the Parish of Naremburn/Cammeray, the Naremburn Asian Anglican Church is shown to have changed its congregational name to the Naremburn Asian Australian Church.

Could the Archbishop please advise the Synod –

- (a) whether the Naremburn Asian Australian Church is an Anglican Church, and
- (b) the reason for the change in name?

3.3 Deaconess Margaret Rodgers to ask –

Is it true that phone calls have already been received at St Andrew's House from people who are seeking a copy of the Bible for themselves?

If this is the case, have arrangements been made for those people to receive a Bible immediately, so they will not have to wait until 2009?

3.4 Dr Karin Sowada to ask –

Will the Sydney Diocese and its consolidated organisations have to comply with the reporting framework for carbon and energy consumption under the new National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Bill when it commences from 1 July 2008?

3.5 Mr Peter Denham to ask –

- (a) How many church groups are currently meeting within the Diocese who fit the proposed criteria for becoming a Provisional Recognised Church?
- (b) How many of those church groups are meeting in consecrated Anglican buildings of other parishes?
- (c) How many of those church groups are meeting in buildings that are owned by the group, but not consecrated Anglican buildings?
- (d) How many of those church groups are meeting in rented or hired buildings?

3.6 Mr Peter Denham to ask –

- (a) Does the Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007 fully fund the administrative costs and production costs of the Connect 09 initiative?
- (b) Why does the Archbishop's Mission Partnership Fund have listed, as its initial focus, the furthering of the already funded Connect 09 initiative?
- (c) Will funds from the Archbishop's Mission Partnership Fund be used to reduce any of the following –
 - Interest payments incurred on the production of Bibles and other materials,
 - Parish contributions to the costs of Connect 09, or
 - Synod's contribution to the costs of Connect 09?
- (d) Does the Archbishop also intend to use the Archbishop's Mission Partnership Fund to assist with funding major capital projects including the redevelopment of Moore Theological College or the purchase and redevelopment of land for church use?

3.7 Ms Jan Liddiard to ask –

Regarding the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation, what procedures are in place for community consultation when new ventures are planned?

3.8 The Rev Paul Dew to ask –

I acknowledge we notified our Aboriginal Crossroads congregation as an associated congregation under the Church Administration Ordinance. But we also applied under the Parishes (Special Administration) Ordinance after the parish AGM. Is it possible that my letter of 30 May 2007 has not been received?

3.9 The Rev Richard Humphrey to ask –

- (a) Over the past 5 years of Synod (2002-2006) what percentage of total time has been available for decision making, removing all presentations including the Presidential Address, Mission Report, Missionary Hour, Devotions, Reclassification of Parishes, and the Synod Service since moving into Synod time, as well as reports from Anglicare, Moore College, New Capital Project, etc?
- (b) In the same period how many (substantive) debates have been prematurely ended due to lack of time?

3.10 The Rev David Zhang to ask –

- (a) Regarding Connect 09, are there strategies and provisions to help the non-English-speaking Anglican congregations reach out to the hundreds of thousands non-English-speaking people living in our diocese who still prefer to read, to hear and to understand the Good News about the Lord Jesus in their own languages?
- (b) Have any steps been taken to ensue that all the promotional and resource materials of Connect 09 are available in languages other than English, so that Connect 09 is truly to connect everyone living in our diocese to Jesus, and not Connect 09 only if you can read and understand English?
- (c) Will the Archbishop be able to give an undertaking that, in future, when launching important initiatives, or making important statements and press releases, the non-English-speaking Anglican congregations and indeed the wider non-English-speaking communities are automatically included in the communication process, so that similar questions as those above will no longer be necessary?

3.11 The Rev David Zhang to ask –

- (a) On 8 August 2008, the eyes of the world will be focused on the Beijing Olympics, and on China, a vast, populous and fast developing country with more than 100 million Christians and with ever closer ties with Australia, may I ask, does our Diocese have any formal links with the Christian church in China? And if not, why not?
- (b) Does our Diocese which had, in the past, an active and fruitful relationship with the Chinese Church, still have a China policy for the future?
- (c) Will the Archbishop go to visit China if he is invited by the leaders of the Chinese Church be it at the national or provincial level?

3.12 Mr Ian Mottram to ask –

- (a) In view of our Lord's instructions to make disciples and the increased number of 'new Christians' as a result of the Mission, is there any reason why a graduated ongoing program of discipleship training should not be offered and promoted consistently to all members of congregations as complementary to or integrated in Confirmation and as a permanent part of the local Church program coming under the heading of Equipping and Nurture as in the outline of Connect 09 and implemented by qualified Church members and Pastors?
- (b) If such a program is considered to be beneficial for all Churches and the Mission, can this be presented (later) as a motion?

4. Petitions

5. Notices of questions

6. Procedural motions from members

7. The President will invite members to give notice of other motions

8. Calling of motions on the business paper

9. Motions

To be taken today after the formal matters

9.1 **Menangle: Reclassification as a Parish**

Synod assents to the reclassification of Menangle as a parish with effect from 1 January 2008.

(Page 173) (The Rev Craig Fulton/Miss Michele Willsmore)

9.2 **Newtown with Erskineville: Reclassification as a Parish**

Synod assents to the reclassification of Newtown with Erskineville as a parish with effect from 1 January 2008.

(Page 160) (The Rev Peter Rodgers/Archdeacon Deryck Howell)

To be taken today at 4:30 pm

9.3 **Diocesan Policy Statement on Education**

That Synod resolves itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education.

(Page 52) (Dr Bryan Cowling/The Rev Dr Mark Thompson)

9.4 **Asbestos Inspection (Special Charge) Ordinance 2007**

Synod permits the introduction of the Asbestos Inspection (Special Charge) Ordinance 2007.

(Page 177) (Mr Robert Tong/Bishop Glenn Davies)

To be taken today after the Anglicare presentation at 7:00 pm

9.5 **Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007**

That the Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007 be approved in principle.

(Supplementary Report page 6)
(Canon Jim Ramsay/The Rev Stephen Semenchuk)

9.6 **Climate change**

Synod accepts the emerging scientific consensus that climate change is occurring and supports the need for Christian responses to the potential problems and opportunities that arise from climate change including –

- (a) praying for our world and using every opportunity to speak of the Lordship of Jesus Christ;
- (b) Christian ministry to those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as farmers, rural communities, the homeless and refugees;
- (c) the setting of a godly example of good stewardship in our personal and communal lives;
- (d) education of our children about a biblical understanding of creation and our role as its stewards and carers;
- (e) the development and implementation of an environmental policy within each Parish and Diocesan organisation which expresses principles of good environmental stewardship and care; and

- (f) encouraging governments at all levels to take climate change seriously and to make wise policy decisions to deal with its effects.

(*Supplementary Report page 25*)

(Mr Darren Mitchell/Dr Karin Sowada)

9.7 **Government intervention on child abuse**

Synod welcomes recent moves by the Federal Government to address problems of child abuse, violence and substance abuse in Indigenous Communities in the Northern Territory. Synod wishes to express the following –

- (a) remorse that there has been inaction about these matters for so long and inadequate support for our Christian brothers and sisters in the affected areas;
- (b) concern at the lack of consultation with Aboriginal communities over the Federal Government's legislative package, when so many instances of lack of consultation in the past have led to good intentions being ineffective and damaging, when it is clear that many communities are in fact not dysfunctional;
- (c) commendation of the Bishop of the Northern Territory for his initiative in calling a conference of indigenous Christian leadership on the matter of the intervention;
- (d) support for the stance taken by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian Alliance, of which our own Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee is a member, as outlined in NATSICA's policy statement released following a national conference held in Alice Springs in July;
- (e) acknowledgment that child abuse is happening in all communities across Australia and should be addressed as a matter of high priority by the Federal Government and State Governments;
- (f) calls upon the New South Wales Government to give a high priority to addressing the problem of child abuse in this State, and in particular urges the Government to address the issues raised by the report into child abuse in NSW Aboriginal communities entitled *Breaking the Silence* as a matter of urgency;
- (g) commendation of this whole matter to the prayers of all members of the Diocese.

(see NATSICA policy statement circulated on 17 September)

(Archdeacon Deryck Howell/Pastor Ray Minniecon)

To be taken on Monday 24 September 2007 after the formal matters

9.8 **Coogee: Reclassification as a Parish**

Synod assents to the reclassification of Coogee as a parish with effect from 1 January 2008.

(*Supplementary Report page 45*)

(The Rev Craig Segart/Archdeacon Deryck Howell)

To be taken on Monday 24 September 2007 at 4.30 pm

9.9 **Recognised Churches (Provisional Status) Amendment Ordinance 2007**

Synod permits the introduction of the Recognised Churches (Provisional Status) Amendment Ordinance 2007.

(*Page 193*)

(Bishop Robert Forsyth/Mr Robert Wicks)

To be taken on Monday 24 September 2007 at 8.00 pm

9.10 Theology of Christian assembly

That this Synod,

Thankful to Almighty God for the inheritance of the Book of Common Prayer, and mindful of the biblical injunction for believers to gather together regularly as the Body of Christ –

- (a) asks the Doctrine Commission to prepare a report for the next Synod presenting a theology of Christian assembly which can help shape authentic, biblical and Anglican ~~expressions of Sunday services~~ orders of service suitable for the contemporary church, and
- (b) asks the Archbishop's Liturgical Panel to review its Sunday Services in consultation with the Doctrine Commission and the Diocese as a whole, and
- (c) requests the Archbishop to appoint a committee to investigate and report on the architecture of buildings for contemporary church with special attention to the impact of technological changes.

(The Rev Canon Sandy Grant)

To be taken on Tuesday 25 September 2007 at 4:30 pm

9.11 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)

To be taken on Tuesday 25 September 2007 after the Mission funding presentation at 7:00 pm

9.12 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

9.13 Use of raffles or other games of chance

Synod considers that parishes and diocesan organisations should not use raffles or other games of chance as methods of raising funds.

(Mr Richard Lambert)

9.14 Bishop Martyn Minns

The Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney congratulates Bishop Martyn Minns on his installation as presiding bishop in the Convocation of Anglicans in North America on 5 May 2007 and assures him of our prayers as he, along with many other faithful men and women, seeks to encourage faithfulness to God and his word amongst American Anglicans.

(Mr Robert Tong)

9.15 Biblical teaching on Jesus Christ

Synod notes with concern recent public comments denigrating a penal substitutionary understanding of the atoning death of Christ, for example during Easter 2007 from the Dean of St Alban's in England, and affirms the biblical teaching that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son truly incarnate as a human being, died in our place, bearing the curse of the Law and paying the penalty for our sin, and by so doing he reconciled us to God, expressed God's determined love for us and together with his resurrection accomplished a complete victory over the principalities and powers.

(The Rev Dr Bill Salier)

9.16 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)

9.17 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)

9.18 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)

9.19 Publishing of ordination lists

Synod requests that the Diocesan Registry publish lists in Southern Cross or on the diocesan website of those proposed to be ordained as deacons or presbyters at least 1 month before the ordination is scheduled to take place. Guidelines are to be provided for appropriate means to respond by those who wish to raise concerns about any of those candidates.

(The Rev David Clarke)

9.20 Responsibilities of Synod members

Synod requests that –

- (a) the Standing Committee be asked to produce a brief paper outlining the role and responsibilities of lay Synod members to be read at each parish service 2 weeks before the vestry meeting electing Synod representatives, and
- (b) Mr Robert Tong's booklet be sent out to those subsequently elected to Synod, and
- (c) within one month of Synod's completion a written summary of Synod's work be presented to all church members attending services over a 2 week period.

(Mr Brian Flower)

9.21 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
- (e) 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)

9.22 **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)

9.23 **Reporting of diocesan organisations**

Synod, noting that Anglican Retirement Villages and Anglicare are not due to submit their annual reports until 30 September 2007, affirms the principle of diocesan organisations reporting to the Synod and asks that these reports be made available, when available, in the most cost effective way.

(The Rev Martin Robinson/Dr Stephen Judd)

9.24 **Kriol Bible**

Synod gives thanks to God for the release of the Kriol Bible. We also offer encouragement and our prayers to the producers and other translation teams who are working together to put God’s Word into other Indigenous languages.

(Miss Jennifer Flower)

9.25 **Church membership**

Synod –

- (a) notes that the last report into Anglican Church membership was delivered in 1975 ("31/73 Church Membership", pp361-379, 1976 Year Book), and
- (b) asks Standing Committee to convene a committee to investigate the theology and practice of church membership and to make recommendations to Synod as to what changes to our ordinances and structures, if any, would best strengthen and deepen church life and promote the meaningful involvement of members in "partnership in the gospel".

(The Rev Canon Sandy Grant)

9.26 Parish reviews

Consistent with resolution 26/06 passed by this Synod last year, and noting Standing Committee’s report on the matter at item 8.9 of its report to this session, Synod again –

- (a) urges the filling of vacancies in the membership of the Parish Review Monitoring Panel and the rapid convening of that Panel, and
- (b) requests the Panel to develop, and publish by 31 March 2008, guidelines as to the process and best practice for the conduct of parish reviews, along with a list of suitably trained, experienced and gifted review group facilitators and members, which it has accredited, and
- (c) encourages every parish to undergo a development review utilising the terms of the Parish Development Review Ordinance 2001, within the next 5 years.

(The Rev Canon Sandy Grant)

9.27 Resourcing Christians in Africa

Synod, mindful of the estimate that by 2050 there will be over 1 billion Christians in Africa, asks the Archbishop to convene a committee/taskforce to investigate ways our Diocese can support and help resource these brothers and sisters in Christ. This taskforce would comprise at least one representative from Moore Theological College and one representative from the Church Missionary Society and make their recommendations available to Synod and churches in our Diocese.

(The Rev Philip Wheeler)

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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 Wednesday 19 September 2007.

Wednesday 19 September 2007	
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters 9.1 Menangle: Reclassification as a Parish 9.2 Newtown with Erskineville: Reclassification as a Parish Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4:30 – 5:45 pm	9.3 Diocesan Policy Statement on Education 9.4 Asbestos Inspection (Special Charge) Ordinance 2007 9.5 Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007 Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 pm +	Anglicare presentation on parish partnerships 9.6 Climate change 9.7 Government intervention on child abuse Thereafter, other business as per business paper

Monday 24 September 2007	
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters 9.8 Coogee: Reclassification as a Parish Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4:30 – 5:45 pm	9.9 Recognised Churches (Provisional Status) Amendment Ordinance 2007
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Missionary Hour
8:00 pm +	9.10 Theology of Christian assembly Thereafter, other business as per business paper

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	9.11 National Register Canon Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 pm +	Presentation on Mission funding strategy 9.12 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: 19 September 2007

Bible Reading: Galatians 1: 1-10

Bible Reader: Miss Julie Philpott

Bible Study Leader: The Rev Dr Mark Thompson

¹Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— ²and all the brothers with me,

To the churches in Galatia:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! ⁹As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

¹⁰Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version

Hymn: We have a gospel to proclaim

1. We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.
2. Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the Word made flesh, a light for all.
3. Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suffering on the cross
for all he loved, his life he gave.

4. Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.
5. Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified;
he sends his Spirit on his church
to live for him, the lamb who died.
6. Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Words: Edward Burns © E Burns, UK

Music: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies* 1815

Last verse arrangement and descant © John Barnard/Jubilate Hymns

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Pianist: The Rev Jackie Stoneman

Prayer: Dr Philip Selden

The Lord's Prayer

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.