

Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

3rd Session of the 48th Synod Business Paper: Monday 18 October 2010

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

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

1. Devotions will be led by the Rev Kanishka Raffel

2. Minutes of 13 October 2010

3. Answers to questions

3.1 The Rev Andrew Kukulka to ask –

What is there in Standing Orders or other provisions that would prevent the distribution of these materials [the emerald book, supplementary report, additional materials, principal ordinances, annual reports of diocesan organisations] by email to those Synod members who indicated their willingness to receive these materials in this way?

3.2 The Rev Craig Roberts to ask –

Has the Endowment of the See Committee, as distinct from the Archbishop's Strategic Commission, this year sought to spend over \$17,000 on renting artworks to display in the non-residential areas of Bishops court?

3.3 Ms Lyn Bannerman to ask –

- (a) Are the losses by the Diocesan Endowment on share investments this year so far (\$3.375 million to end August 2010) in line with market movements in the same period?
- (b) What is the estimated shortfall in Synod's appropriations for 2011 of \$249,000 caused by?
- (c) What is an estimate of the shortfall in the appropriations in 2012, and what are the major contributing factors to that?
- (d) Did the Glebe Administration Board, as trustee of the St Andrew's House Corporation, receive quarterly and/or annual financial reports from the Corporation? Was it the Archbishop's Strategic Commission who first alerted the Glebe Administration Board to the "over distribution" of St Andrew's House Corporation Funds and if not when did the Glebe Administration Board first recognise the problem?

3.4 The Rev Peter Lin to ask –

At present, how many ordained clergy are there in ministry positions in the Diocese and of these, how many are of non-Anglo background?

3.5 The Rev Nigel Fortescue to ask –

With regard to the vacant unimproved property on Menangle Road, Menangle, owned by Anglican Retirement Villages –

- (a) How much is the site worth?
- (b) Is the ARV able to sell it?

- (c) Is the ARV able to give it away?
- (d) Could the site be sold and any proceeds given to the Endowment of the See? and, if not, why not?
- (e) If the ARV is unable to sell or give the property away, what can be done with this "lazy asset"?

3.6 Miss Joanna Warren to ask –

What was the average age of men at the time they were made presbyters in 2000, 2005 and 2010?

3.7 The Rev Richard Blight to ask –

- (a) Would you please provide a tabulated summary of grants by the Wollongong and North Sydney Regions for 2009 – or provide information about where those amounts differed from the budget allocations reported in their last report – in order to ensure consistency of reporting with the other regions?
- (b) Would it be possible in future for those regions which report budgeted amounts rather than actual amounts to also report any differences between the budgeted amounts and the grants actually made or to report that there was no difference?
- (c) Would it be possible in future for all regions to report budgeted amounts for the year in which their report is received by Synod to ensure reasonably up-to-date information?

3.8 The Rev Richard Blight to ask –

- (a) Is there a reason that questions and answers from the 2009 session of Synod are not available on the SDS website as they are for previous years?
- (b) Would it be possible to place the 2009 questions and their answers on the website and to ensure that questions and answers from this year and all subsequent years are placed on the website to honour the hard work of the Archbishop and his staff in answering the questions of the Synod?

3.9 Deaconess Margaret Rodgers to ask –

Noting that once again we have spent half an hour in the asking and answering of questions, while noting also the importance of openness and transparency to all members of Synod, what actions can be taken in the ordering of business to ensure less time is taken over the asking and answering of questions?

4. Petitions

5. Procedural motions from members

5.1 Facilitation of Synod's business

Synod, for the purposes of facilitating its business –

- (a) refers the Solemn Promises Ordinance 2010 to its ordinary session in 2011 and requests the Standing Committee to review the form of this ordinance in light of the proposed amendments and other comments made at this session, and
- (b) agrees to further consider the text of the Archbishop of Sydney (Election and Retirement) Amendment Ordinance 2010 immediately before consideration of the motion at item 7.4 on today's business paper for the purposes only of considering the omission of the provisions relating to the solemn promises to be made by the Archbishop upon his election,
- (c) requests that the Standing Committee bring to its ordinary session in 2011 the omitted provisions referred to in paragraph (b) in the form of a bill to further amend the Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982,

- (d) agrees to a motion that an ordinance pass as an ordinance of the Synod or a motion that the grievance policy and procedure pass as a policy of the Synod being considered on the last scheduled day of meeting notwithstanding that the text of the ordinance or grievance policy and procedure has been considered by the Synod in Committee on that day, and
 - (e) agrees to meet today until 10pm or the completion of consideration of the items of business scheduled to be considered today, whichever is the earlier,
- and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.

(Mr Robert Wicks)

5.2 **Motions concerning the Diocesan Education Policy**

That motions 7.16 and 7.17 on today's business paper being moved by Mr Alan Watson be referred to the Anglican Education Commission for its consideration.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett/Mr Ian Wing)

5.3 **Revised arrangements for considering the Diocesan Corporate Governance Policy**

Synod agrees to the following revised arrangements for the purposes of considering the motion at item 7.13 on today's business paper concerning Diocesan Corporate Governance –

- (a) after the time for questions (as previously agreed), the President will invite members to participate in a debate, using the rules that apply in Committee, on a series of in-principle questions about the draft policy which have been prepared by the movers of the motion and are included on today's Amendment Sheet (as previously agreed), and
- (b) after each in-principle question has been sufficiently considered, the President (or one of the Deputy Chairmen of Committees if the President asks him or her to chair the in-principle debate) shall ask the Synod to vote on whether or not it agrees with the principle in each question,
- (c) members will thereafter consider the motion at item 7.13 which will be moved in the following amended form –

"Synod, noting the report on Diocesan Corporate Governance and the draft Diocesan Corporate Governance Policy attached to the report –

- (a) refers the draft policy to the Standing Committee to be revised in a manner which reflects the in-principle decisions made by the Synod in 2010 concerning the draft policy, and
- (b) requests that a copy of the revised form of draft policy together with any explanatory report be sent to each member of the Synod and to the board of each diocesan organisation for comments back to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 March 2011 (or such later time as the Diocesan Secretary permits), and
- (c) requests that a further revised form of the policy be brought back to the Synod in 2011 incorporating, as appropriate, comments made by Synod members and the boards of diocesan organisations, and the work of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission on Structure, Funding and Governance, and
- (d) requests that draft guidelines on the role and functioning of boards of diocesan organisations also be brought to the Synod in 2011."

- (d) before this motion is voted on (whether or not with amendments), the mover may exercise a right of reply for up to 5 minutes, and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett)

6. Calling of motions on the business paper

7. Motions

To be taken today immediately after the formal matters

7.1 Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid

Synod, noting the launch of the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid –

1. Gives thanks for the work of the Archbishop of Sydney's Appeals Unit and the generosity of God's people over many years.
2. Commends the ministry of the Anglican Aid and its funds, the Archbishop's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund (ORAF), the Archbishop's Overseas Ministry Fund (OMF) and the Archbishop's Community Care Fund (CCF) to the people and parishes of the Diocese of Sydney and beyond.
3. Encourages the parishes and people of the Diocese to consider the strategic importance of the ministry of Anglican Aid and to pray for and give generously to our Christian partners through Anglican Aid.
4. Extends to the Archbishop, the Board and the staff of Anglican Aid an assurance of its prayerful support for an ever expanding ministry that brings glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and the blessing of the Gospel to many people throughout the world and in our own back yard.

(The Rev Peter Rodgers/Archdeacon Narelle Jarrett)

7.2 Amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917

Synod, noting the explanatory report about the proposed amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917 –

- (a) endorses the promotion to the New South Wales Parliament of the amendments proposed to be made by the insertion into the Act of new sections 6AA, 10A and 11A, and
- (b) requests that any proposal to seek further amendments to the Act to address the concerns which prompted the drafting of the new section 48 of the Act be brought to the Synod for approval before being promoted to the New South Wales Parliament.

(Additional materials page 1)

(Mr Robert Tong/The Rev Craig Roberts)

To be taken today from 4.30 pm

7.3 Solemn Promises Ordinance 2010

Synod permits the introduction of the Solemn Promises Ordinance 2010.

(Page 292)

(Dr Philip Selden/Dean Phillip Jensen)

7.4 Archbishop of Sydney (Election and Retirement) Amendment Ordinance 2010

That the Archbishop of Sydney (Election and Retirement) Amendment Ordinance 2010 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.

(Page 212)

(Mr Peter Kell)

7.5 Clergy Retirements Amendment Ordinance 2010

That the Clergy Retirements Amendment Ordinance 2010 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.

(Page 222) (Bishop Robert Forsyth/The Rev Robert Cameron)

7.6 Department of Evangelism (New Churches) Reconstitution Ordinance 2010

That the Department of Evangelism (New Churches) Reconstitution Ordinance 2010 be approved in principle.

(Page 232) (Bishop Robert Forsyth/The Rev Archie Poulos)

7.7 Grievance Policy and Procedure

That Synod resolves itself into Committee to consider the text of the Grievance Policy and Procedure for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour by clergy and church workers in parishes.

(Page 110) (Canon Sandy Grant/Mr Clive Ellis)

To be taken only if a motion that the Grievance Policy and Procedure pass as a policy of the Synod is carried

7.8 Implementation of the Grievance Policy and Procedure

Synod –

- (a) determines that the Grievance policy and procedure is to commence on 1 July 2011, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to approve up to 15 persons as the initial pool of regional conciliators for the purposes of the policy and procedure, being persons who have demonstrated competence in conflict resolution and conciliation or who have the capacity and willingness to acquire such competence, and
- (c) requests the Safe Ministry Board to oversee appropriate training and education in relation to the policy and procedure, and
- (d) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the procedure which are consistent with the terms of the policy, and
- (e) requests the Standing Committee to undertake a review of the policy and procedure after a period of 3 years from its commencement on 1 July 2011, and
- (f) requests that the parish risk management program address issues of abusive behaviour in the parish context, with a particular focus on responsibilities for providing a safe work place for parish staff.

(Page 110) (Canon Sandy Grant/Mr Clive Ellis)

7.9 Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2010

Synod permits the introduction of the Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2010.

(Page 287) (Canon Sandy Grant/Mr Clive Ellis)

7.10 General Synod – Long Service Leave Canon 2010 Assenting Ordinance 2010

Synod permits the introduction of the General Synod – Long Service Leave Canon 2010 Assenting Ordinance 2010.

(Page 249 and Additional materials page 7) (Mr Doug Marr/Mr Geoff Kyngdon)

To be taken today from 8.00 pm

7.11 Bishops court

Synod, noting the report from the Standing Committee about Bishops court –

- (a) supports the sale of Bishops court and requests the Standing Committee to pass a suitable ordinance and take such further action as is necessary to facilitate the sale, and
- (b) requests the Endowment of the See Committee to make arrangements to provide suitable alternative accommodation for the Archbishop in consultation with the Archbishop and Mrs Jensen, having regard to the matters raised in the report.

(Supplementary Report page 7)

(Bishop Robert Forsyth/Mr Peter Kell)

If this motion is not carried, the motion at item 7.19 is to be taken immediately

To be taken on Tuesday 19 October 2010 from 4.30 pm

7.12 Euthanasia

This Synod, in response to the Greens' notice of motion to introduce into the NSW Parliament a Bill to legalise voluntary euthanasia and the Greens' Bill in Federal Parliament to overturn Commonwealth prohibitions against euthanasia legislation in the Territories –

1. notes that when adequate palliative care, symptom control and psychosocial support is available and accessible, only a tiny minority of those accessing such support express a preference for euthanasia,
2. observes that the outcome of legalised voluntary euthanasia will include the insertion of mistrust into patient-carer and patient-relative relationships, a creeping expansion of candidates for euthanasia, and reduced funding for terminal care;
3. notes that recent reports of community support for euthanasia fail adequately to distinguish the deliberate killing of people from the morally acceptable practice of not prolonging life with burdensome treatment, and
4. notes that most supporters for euthanasia are young and healthy, but that euthanasia legislation is not well supported among people with disability and by people who are old, infirm or vulnerable.

Accordingly, this Synod –

- (a) reaffirms that all human life is precious in God's sight, and that the Bible's clear prohibition of killing innocent humans has the positive effect of creating communities that love and care for others at their weakest and move vulnerable;
- (b) reiterates its opposition to voluntary euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide;
- (c) calls upon the Premier and the Prime Minister to oppose these initiatives;
- (d) calls on the NSW State and Federal parliamentarians to request referral of these bills to parliamentary committees, and to inform themselves of the alternatives to euthanasia and of its negative consequences in jurisdictions that have adopted it; and
- (e) calls on these governments to increase funding to pain management and palliative care services.

(Dr Karin Sowada/Dr Stephen Judd)

To be taken on Tuesday 19 October 2010 from 7.00 pm

7.13 Diocesan Corporate Governance

Synod receives the report on Diocesan Corporate Governance and, noting the draft Diocesan Corporate Governance Policy attached to the report –

- (a) requests that Synod members provide comments on the draft Diocesan Corporate Governance Policy to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 March 2011, and
- (b) requests that a copy of the report and draft policy be sent to the board of each diocesan organisation for comments back to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 March 2011, and
- (c) requests that a revised form of the Diocesan Corporate Governance Policy be brought to the Synod in 2011 incorporating, as appropriate, comments made by Synod members and the boards of diocesan organisations, and
- (d) requests that draft guidelines on the role and functioning of boards of diocesan organisations also be brought to the Synod in 2011.

(Page 60)

(Dr Laurie Scandrett/Mr Peter Kell)

Motions for which no particular time has been specified for consideration

7.14 Equal representation of women

That this Synod in responding to Anglican Consultative Council Resolution 13.31 requesting member churches to work towards the goal of equal representation of women in decision making at all levels –

- (a) recognises and celebrates the multitude of ministries in which women, as well as men, participate, and the gifts they bring to these ministries,
- (b) requests Standing Committee, Regional Councils, and other diocesan organisations to apply the principle of equal representation of women when making appointments or nominating candidates for election, wherever legislatively and practically possible and report progress to the Synod in 2012, and
- (c) encourages each parish to adopt this principle in elections and appointments to Parish Councils and other parochial committees.

(The Rev Philip Bradford/Ms Lyn Bannerman)

7.15 Affirming Biblical marriage

Synod welcomes and endorses the affirmation of the recent General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia that marriage is the life long union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, as taught by God in Scripture, and calls on all levels of government to maintain and protect this definition of marriage for the good of society.

(Dr Claire Smith/The Rev Nigel Fortescue)

7.16 Global vision in education

That in the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education another dot point be added under “A Christian approach to education....education that is fully Christian will promote teaching and learning that” –

- “● promotes a global vision that spans curriculum subjects and moves from classroom instruction to practical action.”

(Mr Alan Watson)

7.17 Transformation of culture

That in the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education another dot point be added under “A Christian approach to education....education that is fully Christian will promote teaching and learning that” –

- “● seeks the transformation of culture in the visual and performing arts, in music, and in the media.”

(Mr Alan Watson)

7.18 Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

Synod –

- (a) notes the report of the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (TEMOC) (at pages 184 to 191 of the Standing Committee report to Synod) and thanks the committee for its initial work,
- (b) endorses the vision to grow Bible-based ministries on each University and VET (Vocational Education and Training) campus in the diocese that are –
 - (i) evangelistic
 - (ii) preparing students for a lifetime of Christian service, and
 - (iii) particularly concerned to raise up future generations of vocational Christian ministers,
- (c) commits to ongoing financial support of TEMOC within the constraints of the Diocesan budget,
- (d) notes the financial challenges in establishing and supporting such ministries and that the initial policy of the committee to focus on growing new ministries is likely to have a negative financial impact on established University chaplaincies,
- (e) urges parishes and individuals to generously support Tertiary ministries, and
- (f) encourages parishes and Mission Area Teams to initiate and support such ministries on local VET campuses in consultation with TEMOC.

(The Rev Richard Blight/Mr Andrew Frank)

7.19 Parish levy towards the operating costs of the Endowment of the See

Synod requests that the Standing Committee –

- (a) pass an ordinance to levy parishes to contribute \$900,000 per annum towards the operating costs of the Endowment of the See (EOS) (1.14% of 2009 Estimated Total Net Operating Receipts as detailed on page 151 of the 2010 Synod book), and
- (b) report to the Synod in 2011 about whether this levy should be abolished for future years and what financially viable steps can be taken to ensure the EOS is placed on a sustainable footing.

(The Rev Craig Roberts)

7.20 Anglican Communion Covenant

Synod notes that General Synod 2010 received the text of the Anglican Communion Covenant and resolved to request the synods of all dioceses to consider the question of the Anglican Church of Australia adopting the Covenant by resolution and report the results of their consideration to the General Synod Standing Committee by December 2012. Synod asks Standing Committee to take any necessary steps to enable synod to consider the question at the 2011 session of Sydney Synod.

(Mr Robert Tong/The Rev Dr Mark Thompson)

7.21 **Mr Warwick Olson AM**

Synod notes that this is Warwick Olson's last session of Synod and wishes to record its thanks for Warwick's 50 years of service to this Diocese.

Synod notes that Warwick has been a member of Synod since 1961; during the episcopate of Archbishop Loane was variously editor of Southern Cross, Director of the Archbishop's Appeals and media officer for the Archbishop, the Diocese as well as General Synod; and was heavily involved in the organisation of the 1968 and 1979 Billy Graham Crusades.

Warwick served as a member of Standing Committee for over 30 years to 2005, and as a member of the Glebe Board and Sydney Diocesan Secretariat for over 25 years to 2009.

Warwick was actively involved internationally, notably as a member of the Board of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association for 34 years, including 15 years as Chairman, as full-time Director of Communications of the Lausanne Congress on Evangelization, as well two years as Vice President in charge of Communications for World Vision International based in the US.

Synod thanks God for such loyal, distinguished and selfless service to the work of His church in the Sydney Diocese and throughout the world and wishes Warwick and Maureen God's richest blessings as they serve in the parish of St Paul's Carlingford and particularly at a church plant at Baulkham Hills North.

(Dr Stephen Judd/Bishop Robert Forsyth)

7.22 **The Rev Maureen Cripps**

Synod gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of the Rev Maureen Cripps who died last month on 4 September 2010 at the age of 75 from the debilitating effects of Motor Neurone Disease. Throughout this illness Maureen's commitment to the Lord Jesus was clear to all. Her confidence in Christ was clear evidence of her belief in the resurrection of believers to eternal life.

This year Maureen celebrated the 45th anniversary of becoming a Deaconess and the 21st anniversary of being ordained as a Deacon. Her ministry responsibilities included 8 years as a Deaconess in the parishes of Penrith, Yagoona, Lithgow and Lurnea. From 1971-1973 she served as the Deaconess in Charge of the parish of Ashford, Delungra and Tingha in the Armidale Diocese. She then served on the staff of Deaconess House as the Assistant Principal 1974-5, before resuming parish ministry for another 13 years as a Deaconess at Penshurst, and then at Sadlier where she was the Assistant Minister for 2 years.

Maureen was appointed by Archbishop Goodhew to a position in the Diocese that was the precursor to the position of the "Archdeacon for Women's Ministry". When she retired from stipendiary ministry, she was appointed as the Chaplain to the Mothers' Union a position she held for 6 years. In her retirement Maureen also ministered in the capacity of a locum minister in this diocese.

People had a profound respect for Maureen. She was a devoted servant of Christ and a dedicated leader of women in ministry. Her humour, hard work and good sense made her an effective minister of the Gospel. Maureen expressed her love for Christ by serving others in his Name. In the last stage of her life she displayed the same courage, faithfulness, determination, and good humour that were characteristic of her throughout her ministry.

(The Rev Trevor Young/Archdeacon Narelle Jarrett)

7.23 Christchurch New Zealand Earthquake

Synod thanks God that there was no loss of human life during the powerful earthquake that hit the area of Christchurch New Zealand on 4 September 2010, and continues to pray that God will provide for the individuals and businesses that have suffered great loss. In particular, Synod prays for the staff and members of St John's Latimer Square as they meet in alternative locations over at least the next couple of years due to extensive damage to their church building and hall, asking God to grant them trust and patience in Christ and the resources they need to rebuild.

(Bishop Ivan Lee/The Rev Geoffrey Bates)

7.24 The Jerusalem Declaration

Synod welcomes the 2010 General Synod's resolution –

“That General Synod notes the publication of the Jerusalem Declaration and acknowledges the particular context in which it has arisen. The General Synod encourages its study by dioceses and parishes in this Church to assist our understanding of some of the current issues facing the Anglican Communion.”

Synod therefore reaffirms its commitment to such study of the Jerusalem Declaration.

(The Rev Gavin Poole/The Rev Mark Rundle)

7.25 Fair trade with producers in developing countries

This Synod –

- (a) acknowledges that Christian love includes paying a fair price for our neighbour's labour and produce,
- (b) notes that organisations such as Fair Trade and Rainforest Alliance seek to give a better return in profits and working conditions to primary producers in developing countries, and
- (c) asks Standing Committee to develop and implement a policy to encourage diocesan organisations and parishes to serve tea, coffee, chocolate and such consumables certified by Fair Trade or similar organisations, as the preferred option.

(The Rev Michael Robinson/Mr Ian Wing)

7.26 Printing of Synod proceedings in Diocesan Yearbook

Synod requests the Standing Committee to have the Proceedings of Synod for each year printed in the Diocesan Yearbook, or as some alternative form of hard copy, and to set aside sufficient funds annually to make this possible.

Synod also requests the Standing Committee –

- (a) to print the Proceedings for the 2nd Session of the 48th Synod (2009) together with the Proceedings of the 3rd Session of the 48th Synod (2010), and
- (b) if thought fit, to examine other ways of funding such annual printing.

(Mr Donald McPhail/Mr Robert Tong)

7.27 Access to annual reports and financial statements of diocesan organisations

That this Synod resolve with immediate effect that –

- (a) a copy of the annual report and annual audited financial statement of each diocesan organisation be made available to any member of Synod on request made to the Diocesan Secretary, and
- (b) a costed proposal for the placement of all these reports on the SDS website, including a password protected site if required, be brought to Synod in 2011.

(Ms Lyn Bannerman/Dr Laurie Scandrett)

7.28 Environmental initiatives in the Diocese

Synod –

- (a) thanks the Standing Committee for its report on environmental initiatives being taken by parishes and diocesan organisations,
- (b) congratulates those parishes and organisations which have taken significant initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint (and notes that some parishes are aiming to go carbon neutral),
- (c) notes that a number of parishes have installed solar panels to generate electricity back to grid,
- (d) notes that there are good reasons for installing solar panels on the roofs of our non-heritage listed buildings, namely –
 - (i) it is a way of being good stewards of our environment,
 - (ii) it is a way we can easily lead (not follow) public opinion, and
 - (iii) at the moment there is a window of opportunity where it is likely to be a significant financial advantage,
- (e) noting the rapid rate in which government policy in this area is changing, asks the Property Trust as a matter of priority to provide an accessible guide for parishes on how they easily sign up to participate in government schemes to encourage renewable energy (indicating several options showing costs now and financial returns later), and
- (f) asks the Finance and Loans Board to work with the Property Trust and to develop some guidelines to facilitate parishes installing solar panels.

(The Rev Dominic Steele/Dr Karin Sowada)

7.29 Special Religious Education

Synod requests that the report “Trial of Ethics Lessons” dated 30 July 2010 be sent electronically to every rector, where possible, and that it be distributed to and discussed at parish councils and where practical distributed electronically to members of parishes.

(The Rev Nigel Fortescue)

7.30 Policy concerning divorced persons and ordination

Synod respectfully requests the Archbishop to inform the Synod as to the biblical grounds for the policy in this Diocese, that divorced persons and those married to a divorced person are not ordained in the Diocese of Sydney, along with any other considerations relevant to this policy.

(The Rev Robert Cameron)

7.31 The Rev Andrew Nixon and the Year 13 program

Synod gives thanks to God for the blessings that have flowed from the Connect09 ministries and initiatives, and for the leadership of Connect09’s Executive Director, the Rev Andrew Nixon, over the last three years.

Synod also congratulates the Rev Andrew Nixon on his appointment as Director of Youthworks’ Year 13 program, commencing in January 2011, following Synod’s

provision for the Year 13 program to be expanded, and assures him of our prayers and support.

Synod also welcomes the aim expressed in the Archbishop's Presidential Address on Monday 11 October 2010 and encourages all Anglican school leavers to consider doing Year 13, to build upon our Diocese's rich tradition of large numbers of mature and well-trained lay men and women who are true partners in the gospel.

(The Rev Zac Veron/The Rev Phillip Colgan)

7.32 General Synod's resolution concerning alcohol abuse

This Synod welcomes the General Synod's recent resolution on alcohol abuse which –

- (a) notes the right of adult persons to enjoy alcohol in moderation,
- (b) expresses regret for the damaging consequences of our nation's drinking culture,
- (c) encourages all Christian leaders and teachers to proclaim scriptural truths concerning the use of alcohol and to set a godly example in regard to any personal use of alcohol,
- (d) requests the NSW Government to consider research highlighting the relationship between crime and extended liquor trading hours, and the experience of police, paramedics and hospital staff who daily face the consequences of this problem,
- (e) requests the Archbishop to write to the Premier and Leader of the Opposition outlining this Synod's request for firmer action to facilitate a legal and community change in our drinking culture.

(The Rev Zac Veron/Mr Ian Minnett)

7.33 Survey about alternate ministry review mechanism

Synod notes the pending publication of a web-based survey of parish rectors, seeking their advice about alternate ministry review mechanisms available to ministers and parishes. Synod encourages all rectors to participate in order to aid greater understanding of the resources available to encourage a culture of review within our Diocese.

(Canon Sandy Grant/Mr James Jack)

7.34 Authorized services

In its present session, when addressing the "Archbishop of Sydney (Election and Retirement) Amendment Ordinance 2010", Synod has been made aware of the primacy of the "General Synod – Canon Concerning Services 1992 Adopting Ordinance 1998" (the Services Ordinance) as underpinning the solemn promise which an Archbishop of Sydney must make to only conduct services of public worship which are authorized or consistent with Anglican Church of Australia doctrine. Synod notes that, considered with reference to regular Sunday worship, a plain reading of the Services Ordinance including the Schedule thereto, suggests that the Ordinance provides for nothing apart from prayer book services or services involving non-substantial variations of prayer book services.

Synod, specifically in relation to the Mission, is aware of the necessity to provide opportunities for innovative and creative worship which is biblically-based and which may meet the needs of longstanding congregations but particularly those of, amongst others, communities which include young people and/or people not identified with an Anglo or longstanding Australian heritage, including heritages from various European, Asian or African countries or that of indigenous Australia, to the glory of God. Thus, non-traditional expressions of public worship merit consideration and may be adopted for public worship in some parish churches.

Accordingly, Synod requests Standing Committee to seek oversight from the Archbishop and to consult with as wide a cross section of rectors and other relevant persons as practicable concerning public worship practice within the Diocese as being authorized and as meeting congregational needs. Standing Committee to then provide a preliminary assessment of relevant matters which may include reference to (in no particular order) any or all of the following –

- (a) the provision of explanatory materials describing the scope of available or potentially available prayer book services and indications of the extent to which such services may be varied consistent with authority,
- (b) the need to place before the General and/or this Synod any matters arising from the assessment and the scope of work required to address such matters in formal terms,
- (c) the extent of lay leadership in public worship, and any corresponding requirement for Diocesan recognition or scrutiny of the qualifications of persons so involved comparable to that which applies under the “General Synod – Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973 Adopting Ordinance 1973”,
- (d) such other matters thought relevant.

The preliminary assessment to be available for consideration at the 2011 session of this Synod.

(Professor Bernard Stewart)

7.35 Lausanne Conference on World Evangelism

Synod, particularly in light of the Diocesan Mission –

- (a) praises God for the desire to take the gospel to the ends of the earth and make disciples of all nations that has led to the organisation of the Third Lausanne Conference on World Evangelism being held in Capetown from 16 to 23 October 2010, and
- (b) prays that the conference would be an agent for encouraging and equipping the church around the world to clearly and faithfully proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Canon Mark Williamson)

7.36 Late-term abortions

Synod –

- (a) expresses its grief at recent media reports concerning the practice of late-term abortions,
- (b) opposes any changes to current legislation in New South Wales that might extend or promote or decriminalize the practice of abortion,
- (c) affirms that all human life is a precious blessing given by God, that bears his image and accordingly should enjoy the dignity and protection of a just society.

(The Rev Robin Kinstead/Dr Michelle Gajus)

7.37 Mrs Judith Long

This Synod gives thanks to God for the recent appointment of Mrs Judith Long as the new Principal of Nungalinya College in Darwin and assures the College of its prayers and good wishes as it continues the important work of training indigenous people for Christian ministry.

(Dr Karin Sowada/Deaconess Margaret Rodgers)

Indicative Timetable for Synod Business

References to items and motions are references to items and motions in the business paper for Monday 18 October 2010.

Monday 18 October 2010	
3.15 – 4.30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters 7.1 Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid 7.2 Amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917 Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4.30 – 5.45 pm	7.3 Solemn Promises Ordinance 2010 7.4 Archbishop of Sydney (Election and Retirement) Amendment Ordinance 2010 7.5 Clergy Retirements Amendment Ordinance 2010 7.6 Department of Evangelism (New Churches) Reconstitution Ordinance 2010 7.7 Grievance Policy and Procedure 7.8 Implementation of Grievance Policy and Procedure 7.9 Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2010 7.10 General Synod – Long Service Leave Canon 2010 Assenting Ordinance 2010 Thereafter, other business as per business paper
7.00 – 8.00 pm	Missionary Hour
8.00 pm +	7.11 Bishopscourt Thereafter, other business as per business paper

Tuesday 19 October 2010	
3.15 – 4.30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4.30 – 5.45 pm	7.12 Euthanasia Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7.00 pm +	7.13 Diocesan Corporate Governance Policy Thereafter, other business as per the business paper