

## ***Amendment to Faithfulness in Service: A national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers***

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

### **Purpose**

1. To recommend that Synod amend *Faithfulness in Service: A national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers* by substituting all references to “Director of Professional Standards” with “Director of Safe Ministry” where they appear throughout the code, and to use the term “pastoral supervision” instead of “professional supervision/consultation”.

### **Recommendations**

2. Synod receives this report.
3. Synod, noting the report ‘Amendment to *Faithfulness in Service: A national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers*’, adopts the amendments to Faithfulness in Service as set out in the report.

### **Background**

4. The Key Terms section of *Faithfulness in Service: A national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers* (**Faithfulness in Service**) adopted by the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney includes:

‘**Director of Professional Standards** means the person in a diocese who has responsibility for the maintenance of professional standards of clergy and church workers.

...

**Professional supervision/consultation** is a formal, collaborative process which a more senior or experienced person uses to develop and support a person in their ministry. This relationship is confidential, evaluative, and extends over time. It is preferable if the supervisor:

- has no other pastoral or personal relationship with the person being supervised; and
- has been trained in professional supervision.’

### **Discussion**

*Adoption of the term “Director of Safe Ministry”*

5. The *Ministry Standards and Safe Ministry Amendment Ordinance 2022* amended the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* (**MSO**) to substitute, where they appear throughout the MSO, the words “Director of Safe Ministry” for “Director of Professional Standards”.
6. It is proposed that *Faithfulness in Service* be amended consequentially to maintain consistency with the MSO and reflect the changes in terminology adopted by the Synod in 2022 by substituting the

words “Director of Safe Ministry” in place of “Director of Professional Standards” where they appear throughout *Faithfulness in Service*.

*Adoption of the term “pastoral supervision”*

7. The Standing Committee has agreed to adopt the phrase “pastoral supervision” instead of “pastoral consultation” or “professional supervision”.
8. It is proposed that *Faithfulness in Service* be amended by substituting the words “pastoral supervision” in place of “professional supervision/consultation” or “professional supervision” where they appear throughout *Faithfulness in Service*.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

BRIONY BOUNDS  
**Diocesan Secretary**

17 July 2023