

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

Recommendation

1. That Synod pass a resolution to amend paragraph 7.4 of *Faithfulness in Service* to insert the words 'and not engage in disgraceful conduct of a sexual nature' at the end of the paragraph before the full stop.

Explanation

2. Paragraph 7.4 of the version 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 states:

'7.4 You are to be chaste and not engage in sex outside of marriage.'

3. This was, at one time, the wording in the national standard of *Faithfulness in Service* authorised by the General Synod. In October 2006, the General Synod Standing Committee amended paragraph 7.4 of *Faithfulness in Service* to add in the following words at the end –

'and not engage in disgraceful conduct of a sexual nature'

4. The report of the Professional Standards Commission to the 2007 session of the General Synod explained that the amendment was made "to encompass disgraceful conduct of a sexual nature within marriage, such as rape".
5. For reasons unknown the amendments to 7.4 made by the General Synod Standing Committee in 2006 have not been adopted by our Synod. It was most likely an oversight. It is proposed that the amendment now be adopted, so that the version of *Faithfulness in Service* in use in Sydney is in conformity to the national standard.
6. *Faithfulness in Service* already includes standards against abuse (including sexual abuse and assault) against a spouse (paragraph 6.6). The amendment to paragraph 7.4 will therefore not materially change the overall standards expected of clergy and church workers. Nonetheless it is helpful to maintain consistency with the national standard of *Faithfulness in Service*.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

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Diocesan Secretary

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