

ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ORDINANCE 1974

No. 38, 1974

AN ORDINANCE to establish an Ecumenical Affairs Committee of the Church of England in Australia within the Diocese of Sydney.

WHEREAS in 1973 by resolution the Synod appointed an Ecumenical Affairs Committee and requested the Committee to prepare an ordinance to formally constitute the Committee NOW the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney HEREBY ORDAINS DELARES DIRECTS AND RULES as follows:-

PRELIMINARY

1. This Ordinance may be cited as "Ecumenical Affairs Committee Ordinance 1974".

2. (1) In this Ordinance unless inconsistent with the context or subject matter:-

- (a) "Archbishop" means the Archbishop of the Diocese of Sydney or in his absence his Commissary or if the See be vacant the Administrator of the Diocese.
- (b) "Committee" means the Committee constituted by this Ordinance.
- (c) "Diocese" means the Diocese of Sydney.
- (d) "Standing Committee" means the Standing Committee of the Synod.
- (e) "Synod" means the Synod of the Diocese.
- (f) Words importing the masculine gender include the feminine gender, words importing persons include corporations and words importing the singular number include the plural number and vice versa.

(2) The headings contained in this Ordinance have been inserted as a matter of convenience only and shall not limit or restrict the provisions of this Ordinance in any way.

NAME AND OBJECTS

3. The Committee shall be known as "Ecumenical Affairs Committee: Diocese of Sydney".

4. The objects of the Committee are:-

- (a) To serve, advise and inform the Diocese in regard to ecumenical matters and Christian co-operation and matters related thereto.
- (b) To study theological and practical issues that arise from ecumenical matters and in so doing to be a resource committee for the Diocese on matters relevant to the same.
- (c) To initiate and encourage discussions within the Diocese and with other denominations on questions of ecumenism and unity and matters related thereto.
- (d) To study implications of changing relationships affecting the Diocese, particularly regarding church union schemes in Australia.

- (e) To inform the Diocese concerning the programmes of ecumenical conciliar bodies including the:
- (i) World Council of Churches;
  - (ii) Christian Conference of Asia (formerly East Asia Christian Conference);
  - (iii) Australian Council of Churches (national);
  - (iv) New South Wales State Council of the Australian Council of Churches;
  - (v) Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission (N.S.W.);
  - (vi) Evangelical Alliance of Australia (N.S.W.);
  - (vii) Council of Churches in N.S.W.; and
  - (viii) Such other bodies as the Standing Committee may nominate from time to time by resolution thereof;
- and to encourage constructive participation in, and critical evaluation of such programmes.
- (f) To suggest to the Standing Committee the names of persons qualified to represent the Diocese on the N.S.W. State Council of the Australian Council of Churches, the Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission (N.S.W.) and other like bodies, and from among these names or such other as the Standing Committee may choose, the Standing Committee may make such appointments as it deems advisable and fix the terms of such appointments.
- (g) To make recommendations to the Standing Committee regarding the budgets of such inter-church and ecumenical agencies and the portion requested as a contribution by or on behalf of the Diocese.

#### COMMITTEE

5. (1) The Committee shall consist of:-

- (a) Ten persons elected by Synod;
- (b) Two persons who may be appointed by the Archbishop and whose appointment may be revoked by him at any time; and
- (c) Two persons who may be co-opted by the Committee.

(2) The ten persons to be elected pursuant to paragraph (a) of sub-clause (1) hereof shall be elected in the first instance by Standing Committee and shall hold office until the first ordinary session of the 37th Synod at which the said persons shall retire but be eligible for re-election. The persons elected at such session and thereafter shall hold office for terms of three years but be eligible for re-election at the first session of each succeeding Synod.

(3) A person elected or appointed pursuant to sub-clause (1) hereof shall cease to be a member of the Committee if:-

- (a) In the case of any person appointed pursuant to paragraphs (a) or (c) of sub-clause (1) hereof, he resigns by writing given or sent to the Chairman of the Committee or the Diocesan Secretary;

- (b) He becomes bankrupt or insolvent;
- (c) He is convicted of any offence punishable by imprisonment for one month or longer;
- (d) He is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Committee without leave of absence;
- (e) In the case of any person appointed pursuant to paragraph (b) of sub-clause (1) hereof if he resigns by writing given or sent to the Archbishop or if his appointment is revoked by the Archbishop.

6. (1) The Committee shall at its first meeting after this Ordinance is assented to and thereafter at its first meeting in each year, appoint one of its members to act as Chairman at all meetings during the ensuing year. In the absence of the person appointed as Chairman the members present may at any meeting appoint one of such members to act as Chairman at that meeting. The Chairman or acting Chairman of the meeting shall have a deliberative but not a casting vote.

(2) A quorum of the Committee shall consist of not less than one third of the members of the Committee.

(3) Subject to this clause and to any other provision contained herein the members of the Committee shall meet at such times and in such places and conduct the business of the Committee in such manner as the said members consider appropriate.

#### REPORT

7. The Committee shall furnish to the Synod or the Standing Committee any information which it may be requested so to do in pursuance of a resolution of Synod or the Standing Committee and shall at least once in every year report its proceedings to the Synod.

I CERTIFY that the Ordinance as printed is in accordance with the Ordinance as reported.

E.D. Cameron  
Deputy Chairman of Committees

WE CERTIFY that this Ordinance was passed by the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney this tenth day of October 1974.

W.G.S. Gotley  
R.J. Bomford  
Secretaries of Synod

I ASSENT to this Ordinance.

M.L. Loane  
Archbishop of Sydney

10/10/1974.