

Enhancing engagement of Synod members

40/18 Synod business rules

(A report of the Standing Committee.)

Key Points

- By resolution 40/18, the Synod requested the Standing Committee to consider ways to enhance engagement of Synod members and to provide recommended amendments to the Synod business rules. This report addresses the first request, a separate report ('Synod Standing Orders') addresses the second request.
- In response to feedback received, including a survey of Synod members, among other things –
 - The ordinary session of Synod in 2021 will commence in September (during the last two weeks of school term) rather than in October (Synod is asked to endorse this change going forward)
 - Printed Synod materials will be posted to Synod members on an opt-in basis, following the August Standing Committee meeting; and all materials available to that point will be made available online.
 - A short report will be prepared by the Diocesan Secretary for each session of Synod, listing each matter that is included in Synod materials by the request of the Standing Committee which contains a substantive recommendation.
 - The format of Synod reports has been modified slightly following the advice of a communications consultant, to aid ease of readership and use at Synod.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to address the request of Synod resolution 40/18 regarding the increase in engagement of Synod members.

Recommendations

2. Synod receive this report.
3. Synod endorse by resolution the decision to hold its ordinary sessions in the final weeks of School Term 3, rather than the first weeks of School Term 4, from 2021.

Background

4. At its ordinary session in 2018 the Synod resolved as follows –

40/18 Synod business rules concerning moving amendments to motions

'Synod –

- (a) encourages Members to provide comments regarding the trial arrangements concerning moving amendments to motions, and any other matters concerning the conduct of Synod business, to the Diocesan Secretary by 30 November 2018, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee, in light of comments received from Synod Members, to consider bringing a Bill to amend the *Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000* to the next ordinary session of Synod,

and requests the Standing Committee to identify training needs and provide resources to further equip members in their understanding of, and engagement with, the business of Synod.'

5. This report addresses the request of the rider of the resolution, regarding training needs and resources to equip members in their understanding of, and engagement with, the business of Synod. The request of paragraph (b) is addressed in a separate report, 'Synod Standing Orders'.
6. In preparing this report, the following resources were referred to –
- the *Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000* (the Ordinance),
 - the feedback provided by Standing Committee members during its meeting on 10 December 2018 meeting,
 - feedback received by Synod members,
 - the attached summary results of a Survey of Synod members regarding engagement, conducted from late February 2019 (Appendix 1), and
 - the attached summary of time spent across types of business at Synod, 2017-2018 (Appendix 2).

Synod Survey on Engagement

7. At the request of Standing Committee, a survey was circulated on 22 February 2019 to Synod members regarding engagement at Synod. The questions in the survey incorporated suggestions received directly from Synod and Standing Committee members related to the issue of engagement. A total of 309 Synod members responded to the survey.
8. The following paragraphs present summary results of four key questions (questions 2, 3, 4 & 10), using a weighted average.¹ Summary results on all questions are attached as Appendix 1.
9. **Question 2:** To what extent did each of the following factors make it more difficult for you to meaningfully engage with the business of Synod prior to the session?

Q2. Factors making it more difficult to engage prior to Synod	Weighted Avg.
Other commitments resulting in not enough time	58%
Volume of materials (didn't know where to start)	48%
Softcopy Synod Books hard to follow	30%
Format of reports (hard to understand / follow)	30%
Didn't feel the need to pre-read (willing to rely on debates/research while at Synod)	24%
Materials not available early enough	24%
Printed Synod Books too hard to pickup from the city	21%

10. **Question 3:** To what extent did each of the following resources make it easier for you to confidently engage with the business of Synod?

Resources that made it easier to confidently engage	Weighted Avg.
Reading particular reports from the Synod books prior to Synod	66%
Having the Synod Books available in softcopy (to read on tablets, phones, etc)	64%
SDS webpage with Synod advice	37%

¹ Where a respondent indicated "no impact" or "N/A", their score for that factor translated to 0. Where the respondent indicated a "slight" impact, the resulting score was a 1. Similarly, a "moderate" impact resulted in a 2, between 'moderate' and 'great' resulted in a 3; and a "Great impact" resulted in a 4. This score was then divided by four times the total number of responses to that question.

Resources that made it easier to confidently engage	Weighted Avg.
Accessing the SDS Pre-Synod briefing online	36%
'How to survive Synod' guide	31%
Attendance at the SDS Pre-Synod briefing	18%
Regional pre-Synod meetings	10%
Mission-Area based pre-Synod gatherings	8%

11. **Question 4:** To what extent would each of the following initiatives help you to more meaningfully engage with the business of Synod prior to the session?

Initiatives that would help to more meaningfully engage	Weighted Avg.
A brief (2 pages) covering report, listing the matters of business with short commentary and page references to guide pre-reading	83%
Short printable guide explaining key rules and processes of Synod	61%
Materials available earlier in the year / as they are finalised	53%
Short online videos explaining key rules and processes of Synod	51%
Printed form of materials posted to you	39%
Expansion of SDS Pre-Synod briefing to include more topics	35%
Synod books or reports presented in different format (please describe in 'other' below)	23%

12. **Question 10:** To what extent do each of the following factors make it harder to engage with the business of Synod (voting with confidence, asking a question, moving an amendment etc)?

Q10. Factors making it more difficult to engage during Synod	Weighted Avg.
Complexity of business rules	52%
Complexity of business paper	45%
Not confident that my question / concern is valid / valued	43%
Pace of business	37%
Dislike of public speaking	27%
Willing to trust that someone else will raise my issue, so don't stand up	37%
Not called upon by the President	18%

Engagement prior to Synod

Timing of Synod – commencing in School term 3

13. The survey results contained a strong trend of open-ended comments indicating a desire not to commence Synod on the first day of school term 4 (Synod typically commences in either the first or second week of school term 4). After noting –
- that each of the ordinary sessions in 2019, 2020 and 2022 were booked to commence on the first day of term 4 and could not be moved back to the second week, and
 - the general undesirability of moving Synod closer to Christmas,
- the Standing Committee considered the costs and benefits of moving the timing of Synod forward to finish prior to the end of school term 3 and found as follows –
- there is not expected to be a material variation in the costs involved if Synod moved to the end of Term 3, from venue hire, parking, printing, or hotels,

- (ii) any organisations that have July-June Financial Year will have one month less to get their reports to Synod; but still should have enough time, and
 - (iii) the significant implications will be on the flow of the work in-between Synod sessions, the program for Standing Committee and the work of ad-hoc committees preparing reports for Synod (this is further discussed below).
14. Currently we may broadly characterise the flow of Synod work as follows: Synod meets in October, the Standing Committee digests and delegates the work coming out of Synod in November-December; existing committees may start work over summer, but ad-hoc committees will typically not meet to address a Synod resolution until February or March the following year. Reports to be promoted to Synod need to be dealt with by the Standing Committee preferably by July, with August and September progressively less desirable. This provides a realistic window of approximately 4-5 months in which to complete the work of ad-hoc committees (those typically addressing specific requests of the Synod).
15. Moving the ordinary sessions of Synod to September (with one less meeting prior to Synod, and one extra meeting post-Synod in the calendar year) will place increased pressure on those few months, February to July to produce the work for Synod. However, if the pattern of meeting in September is established, the additional month prior to Christmas should allow ad-hoc committees and existing subcommittees much greater opportunity to meet and begin their work. Crucially, this will allow ad-hoc committees to have their first and possibly their second meetings prior to Christmas, and assign work to its members to address over summer. Conceivably, this is a more efficient approach, allowing a greater period for the work of Synod to be progressed.
16. The recent survey to Synod members strongly supported the current format of Synod meetings (three midweek afternoon and evenings, followed by two midweek afternoon and evenings). It is assumed that this preference will translate to an earlier month.
17. The Standing Committee ultimately recommended to the Archbishop that he instruct the Diocesan Secretary to reschedule ordinary sessions of Synod to commence in the final weeks of term 3, from 2021. The Synod is asked to endorse this pattern by resolution.

Format of Synod materials

18. The open-ended responses of Synod members in the Survey carried a very strong theme of desiring all related materials to be grouped together. There was also an oft-repeated theme requesting all materials to be included in one softcopy file. Both of these suggestions are intended to prevent the need to switch between different files in softcopy.
19. Regarding the suggestion to keep all related materials together: given the change in printing times outlined below, it now makes little sense to separate out principal legislation into a separate book (as has been our practice), and so the suggestion in the feedback will be taken up where logical to do so.
20. Regarding the single softcopy file suggestion: in 2018, a single softcopy file of all materials was provided alongside the individual files. This option received uniformly positive feedback when mentioned in the survey, although it seems that more attention needs to be drawn to its availability in future years. It is intended that this approach (providing both individual files and a single consolidated file of all materials) continue in the foreseeable future.
21. Further feedback received focused on making the format of the materials more helpful. Suggestions included –
- (a) use of hyperlinks within the business paper and reports where possible,
 - (b) increased 'whitespace' to allow the taking of notes,
 - (c) revised approach to layout and headings (sizes, spacing, bold, underline etc), and
 - (d) colour coding of materials.
22. Standing Committee encouraged the Diocesan Secretary to review the format of reports for Synod in light of the feedback received and to consult with a communications consultant regarding any improvements to the layout and format of standard reports in light of increased use on tablets. Ultimately the advice included –

- (a) Use of colour in headings can be helpful if the document, in particular the header on the first page, has several colourful aspects. However, since that is typically not the case in reports to Synod and these reports will be printed in black and white for about half of Synod members, it is best to plan not to use colour, using increased spacing to compensate. (For example, the inclusion of colour only on some subheadings results in distraction unless there are other colour elements on the page.)
 - (b) To ease navigation of reports, greater emphasis should be given to sub-headings throughout the document, by both increasing the font size of subheadings and increasing the amount of white space above the subheadings. This allows the eye to more naturally identify a block of information and relate it to its heading.
 - (c) Standard Synod reports currently use two levels of subheading. Introducing a third level of subheading, ensuring there is noticeable difference between the three, will aid efficient navigation of the document and give the appropriate visual cues to aid implicit understanding of the content.
23. Standing Committee requested the Diocesan Secretary to transition future Synod reports to a format implementing the advice above. (This report, and others printed for Synod this year, adopt the new format.)
24. Feedback from members also included the desire from some for additional whitespace in reports – giving room to write notes or speeches. Current practice in preparing reports for Synod often sees SDS staff condensing text, and shrinking the space between lines in order to reduce the occurrence of reports finishing one quarter of the way down a page and leaving three quarters of a page of whitespace. Where possible (to fit within the limits of document size that can be printed and stapled) this practice will be avoided in future.

Production of a summary document

25. The results from Q2 of the survey indicated that the volume of Synod materials is a significant factor hindering the ability of members to engage, while the results of Q4 provided an overwhelming response in support of the initiative of providing a brief (approximately 2 pages) covering report, listing the matters of business with short commentary and page references to guide reading.
26. Accordingly, the Standing Committee requested the Diocesan Secretary to trial the provision of such a report having the following characteristics: For each matter included in Synod materials that includes a substantive recommendation —
- (a) utilise the summary statements or key points included in reports or explanatory material to describe the purpose of the matter being brought to Synod,
 - (b) clearly link related matters (such as ordinances to explanatory reports and principal versions of the ordinance), and
 - (c) provide page references and links to soft-copies of the reports.

Posting printed Synod materials

27. The detailed results of question 4 indicate that Synod members have polarised views on receiving a printed copy of the materials: a majority indicated absolutely no desire to receive posted printed materials, while 131 out of 302 respondents indicated that having the printed materials posted to them would have helped them to more meaningfully engage with the business of Synod prior to the session. We assume that this would translate to approximately 350 of the total Synod membership desiring a printed form of materials to be posted to them.
28. There are other relevant factors to consider in this matter –
- (a) Synod, by resolution 14/13 expressed its desire to operate on an “essentially paperless” basis by 2017.
 - (b) The approximate total cost to print and send Synod materials is \$18 per person, not including the labour involved to print and send the packs.
29. At its meeting on 18 March 2019 the Standing Committee requested the Diocesan Secretary to make the necessary arrangements to allow Synod members to ‘opt in’ to receive printed Synod materials by post and allocated up to \$10,000 from Synod Fund Contingencies for 2019 to cover this additional expense, while seeking sources of funding for future years in order to continue this arrangement.

Timing of Synod materials

30. The results of Question 2 indicate the factors that make it harder to engage with Synod *prior to* the session, while Question 4 suggests initiatives that may best address these factors. From a comparison of the results of the two questions, we see –
- (a) from Question 2, the most significant factor making it harder to engage was lack of available time (58%), which is taken to refer to busy schedules making it difficult to find time for pre-reading as the option “materials not available early enough” was demonstrably less impacting (24%).
 - (b) the Question 4 responses indicated a strong desire that materials are released earlier in the year (53%) nevertheless.
31. The following timetable records the key dates for release of Synod materials in 2018 –
- (a) Book 1 (all reports available at the conclusion of the August Standing Committee meeting) and provisional form of Book 3 (available Bills for ordinances and proposed policies) were released on Wednesday 5 September,
 - (b) the final meeting of Standing Committee prior to Synod was held Monday 24 September,
 - (c) the remainder of the materials, including Book 2 (reports available following the September Standing Committee meeting), the final form of Book 3 (all Bills for ordinances and proposed policies) and Book 4 (principal ordinances and background materials) were made available online on Friday 28 September, and
 - (d) Synod commenced on 15 October 2018.
32. The timeline in 2018 (which is consistent with prior years) resulted in Synod members having almost six weeks to read Book 1 and the provisional form of Book 3, but only 2 weeks to read the remainder of the materials.
33. At its meeting in May 2019, the Standing Committee encouraged the Diocesan Secretary to make arrangements for the printing of Synod materials as follows –
- (a) Following the penultimate Standing Committee meeting prior to Synod (currently August), compile all material that has been authorised by the Standing Committee to be printed for the forthcoming session of Synod (along with corresponding principal legislation) into ‘books’, and –
 - (i) publish the books online,
 - (ii) arrange a printer or mailhouse to distribute printed forms to those Synod members who have ‘opted in’ to receiving a printed copy by post,
 - (iii) make sufficient quantities available for those members who indicated a desire to have a printed copy, and
 - (iv) promote the expectation that no further printed copies of these books will be provided at the theatre or for pickup.
 - (b) Following the final Standing Committee meeting prior to Synod (currently September), any material then authorised for printing to be collected into a supplementary book (or books) and —
 - (i) published online, and
 - (ii) suitable quantities printed and made available for pickup from St Andrew’s House prior to Synod, and
 - (iii) suitable quantities printed and made available for pickup from the Wesley Theatre during Synod.
34. In this fashion, a significantly larger portion of Synod materials will be made available approximately six weeks prior to Synod, with only those materials finalised by Standing Committee at its final meeting prior to Synod being supplied in a supplementary pack, approximately two weeks prior to Synod.

Engagement during Synod

Production of a printable ‘Guide to Synod’ and online video

35. The results of Q10 of the Survey indicated that both the business rules and the business paper are viewed as the most significant factors of those listed that hinder engagement at Synod. The Standing Committee is promoting an ordinance to the Synod aimed at improving the business rules, including

where possible simplifying those that are most often misunderstood. The ordinance is described in the separate report, 'Synod Standing Orders'. This is only expected to partially address the engagement problem, so to ensure the rules are better understood, the Standing Committee –

- (a) encouraged the Diocesan Secretary to continue an existing initiative to produce a short (4 x A5 page) Guide to Synod, bringing the key rules and processes together in a single sheet, and
- (b) requested the Diocesan Secretary to provide an overview of key processes and rules at the next pre-Synod briefing, and make the recording of that segment available on the SDS website for the benefit of future sessions of Synod as well as the forthcoming session.

Location and forum of Synod

36. Matters related to the location and forum of Synod are addressed in a separate report, '14/17 Forum of Synod'. For the purposes of this report, the Standing Committee simply noted that 77% (234 of the 302) of respondents indicated that there were no changes which could be made to the Synod (meeting days, times, locations) which would increase their attendance in the future.

Other feedback

37. The largest volume of feedback from the open-ended responses noted that debates are dominated by the same group of people, and it can be both imposing and frustrating trying to participate in that environment. On the other hand, the view was expressed in a few of the open-ended responses that standing up and speaking doesn't equate to 'engagement' – you can be engaged and only ever vote, leaving the speeches up to others. One response that sums up this feeling while elegantly including a variety of views on the matter, follows –

"It feels like the regular speakers have it all under control. I don't want to waste the time of synod, or my time in preparing (the amount of energy required to engage with an issue, prepare a speech etc is not worth the effort given that others are doing it and it may not even get anywhere). I thank God for those who do serve us so well by preparing great speeches. I am a keen and mostly confident voter, and pleased to engage at that level. I find it pretty discouraging when some speakers imply that those who don't speak up front aren't really participating/engaging in Synod. The vast majority of us are there to vote – and to be honest if we all wanted to speak it would become very unmanageable and reduce the quality of debate. I am content with how it is now (although I think we'd benefit if some speakers spoke less often)."

Complexity of Synod

38. While we can try to simplify and help people understand the processes and rules of Synod, there needs to be recognition that it is in fact a reasonably complex process. Some considerations –
- (a) Other comparable bodies are orders of magnitude smaller: parliament has similar rules of debate but Synod has five times the people; and members of parliament are necessarily involved in speaking and debating regularly, becoming accustomed to the rules and process through forced involvement, and many more sitting days per year than Synod. Sydney Synod is also significantly larger than General Synod or the synod of any other diocese in this country.
 - (b) Because of the membership turnover, every Synod triennium will always include a significant portion of lay people (not to mention new clergy) in their first Synod – 24% of respondents to the survey had been members for 2 years or less; with a further 23% having been members for 3-5 years.
 - (c) There is also the problem of public speaking to 550 people: many Synod members do not expect to speak, but contribute by voting conscientiously.
39. Saying all that, we need to acknowledge that we will never get to a point where everybody is highly engaged and adept at participating in the meeting of Synod.

On behalf of the Standing Committee.

Appendix 1

Synod Engagement - Survey Results Summary

Q1. How much time did you spend reading the materials prior to the most recent session of Synod?

Answer Choices	Responses	
< 1 hour	12%	38
1-3 hours	42%	129
3-7 hours	34%	103
7 hours+	12%	37
Answered		307
Skipped		2

Q2. To what extent did each of the following factors make it more difficult for you to meaningfully engage with the business of Synod prior to the session?

	No impact				Moderate impact				Great impact		N/A		Total	Avg.
Other commitments resulting in not enough time	11%	34	11%	34	33%	98	16%	49	27%	80	1%	4	299	3.36
Printed Synod Books too hard to pickup from the city	52%	157	7%	22	8%	23	6%	18	11%	34	16%	47	301	2.02
Softcopy Synod Books hard to follow	41%	124	17%	51	19%	57	9%	26	10%	31	4%	13	302	2.27
Format of reports (hard to understand / follow)	36%	109	22%	67	25%	75	9%	27	5%	16	2%	6	300	2.23
Volume of materials (didn't know where to start)	23%	70	15%	46	22%	68	19%	57	19%	57	2%	6	304	2.95
Didn't feel the need to pre-read (willing to rely on debates/research while at Synod)	32%	97	18%	55	25%	76	7%	20	2%	7	16%	49	304	2.16
Materials not available early enough	45%	135	21%	62	13%	40	8%	23	7%	21	7%	21	302	2.05
Other (please specify)													31	
Answered													307	
Skipped													2	

Q3. To what extent did each of the following resources make it easier for you to confidently engage with the business of Synod?

	No impact				Moderate impact				Great impact		N/A		Total	Avg.
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count		
Reading particular reports from the Synod books prior to Synod	6%	19	8%	25	26%	80	24%	73	33%	99	2%	6	302	3.7
Having the Synod Books available in softcopy (to read on tablets, phones, etc)	10%	31	12%	38	18%	54	18%	56	38%	116	3%	10	305	3.64
Attendance at the SDS Pre-Synod briefing	27%	82	8%	23	12%	36	5%	16	7%	20	41%	125	302	2.26
Accessing the SDS Pre-Synod briefing online	21%	64	7%	21	19%	59	11%	35	16%	49	25%	77	305	2.93
Regional pre-Synod meetings	33%	100	7%	20	5%	15	4%	12	3%	10	48%	146	303	1.8
Mission-Area based pre-Synod gatherings	36%	109	8%	23	3%	10	3%	8	3%	9	48%	146	305	1.65
'How to survive Synod' guide	28%	84	9%	26	17%	52	15%	45	9%	28	22%	66	301	2.6
SDS webpage with Synod advice	19%	59	14%	44	23%	71	15%	47	10%	31	17%	53	305	2.79
Answered													308	
Skipped													1	

Q4. To what extent would each of the following initiatives help you to more meaningfully engage with the business of Synod prior to the session?

	No impact				Moderate impact				Great impact		N/A		Total	Avg.
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count		
Materials available earlier in the year / as they are finalised	18%	53	14%	41	25%	75	20%	61	23%	68	1%	4	302	3.17
Printed form of materials posted to you	42%	126	11%	32	10%	30	9%	27	25%	74	4%	13	302	2.62
Synod books or reports presented in different format	43%	127	17%	49	13%	38	5%	15	9%	26	13%	38	293	2.07
A brief (2 pages) covering report, listing the matters of business with short commentary	3%	9	3%	8	12%	38	20%	60	62%	189	1%	3	307	4.36
Short online videos explaining key rules and processes of Synod	23%	70	11%	32	20%	61	18%	56	25%	75	3%	9	303	3.12
Short printable guide explaining key rules and processes of Synod	12%	35	13%	39	20%	62	21%	64	31%	95	3%	8	303	3.49
Expansion of SDS Pre-Synod briefing to include more topics	28%	85	17%	52	21%	63	11%	34	12%	37	10%	31	302	2.58
Other (please specify)													51	
Answered													307	
Skipped													2	

Q5. Which sessions of Synod do you typically find it hard to attend?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Afternoon	27%	82
Evening	6%	18
Both may be particularly difficult	5%	16
Neither are particularly difficult	62%	190
	Answered	306
	Skipped	3

Q6. If you did not attend all sittings of the last session of Synod, what was your main reason for not attending?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Work commitments	46%	102
Family/carer commitments	10%	22
Poor health	3%	7
Absent from Sydney (work or holidays)	5%	12
Too far to travel	4%	8
Too difficult to participate	1%	3
Business not relevant/interesting	6%	13
Other (please specify)	25%	55
	Answered	222
	Skipped	87

Q7. Please indicate below which formats of Synod would suit you and your availability.

Answer Choices	Responses	
(current practice) Meeting three days one week, two the next, with afternoon and evening sessions	64%	195
Meeting on a Saturday instead of, say, two of the mid-week evenings	17%	50
Meeting Friday afternoon and evening, and all day Saturday; then repeated two weeks later	20%	60
Compressing the current five days to four days	24%	72
Other suggestion	11%	32
	Answered	303
	Skipped	6

Q8. Are there any changes which could be made to the Synod (meeting days, times, locations) which would increase your attendance in the future?

Answer Choices	Responses	
No	77%	234
Yes (please elaborate)	23%	68
	Answered	302
	Skipped	7

Q9. How often have you spoken at (move motion, ask question, etc) at Synod?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Never	48%	146
Usually don't speak at a Synod (but have at least once)	35%	105
Usually do speak, usually on only one or two issues	14%	44
Always speak, often on multiple issues	3%	9
	Answered	304
	Skipped	5

Q10. To what extent do each of the following factors make it harder to engage with the business of Synod (voting with confidence, asking questions, moving amendments)?

	No impact								Great impact		Total	Avg.
Complexity of business rules	18%	53	19%	57	19%	57	23%	68	21%	61	296	3.09
Pace of business	28%	83	27%	80	19%	55	18%	52	8%	23	293	2.49
Complexity of business paper	21%	60	25%	73	21%	60	23%	68	11%	31	292	2.78
Dislike of public speaking	44%	131	23%	69	16%	48	10%	29	6%	18	295	2.1
Not called upon by the President	61%	177	21%	60	10%	29	5%	15	4%	11	292	1.71
Willing to trust that someone else will raise my issue,	29%	88	24%	73	22%	65	18%	55	6%	18	299	2.47
Not confident that my question / concern is valid / valued	29%	86	19%	56	19%	55	18%	52	16%	48	297	2.73
Other (please specify)											55	
Answered											302	
Skipped												7

Q11. In what capacity were you a member in October 2018?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Rector	27%	81
Parish lay representative	61%	184
Other clergy member	6%	17
Other lay member	6%	19
Answered		301
Skipped		8

Q12. For how many years have you been a member of Synod?

Answer Choices	Responses	
0-2	24%	73
3-5	23%	69
6-11	28%	84
12-25	22%	66
26+	3%	10
Answered		302
Skipped		7

Q13. In which Region is your parish?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Georges River	13%	40
Northern	25%	75
South Sydney	18%	55
Western	21%	64
Wollongong	22%	67
Answered		301
Skipped		8

Time spent across types of business at Synod, 2017-2018

	Activity	Formal matters / procedural motions	Ordinances	Resolutions (incl. notice of motions, callover)	Policies	Questions	Presentations	Bible Study / Hymns etc	Mission hour	Presidential Address	TOTAL
2017	Minutes	48	390	389	130	145	138	95	60	45	1440
	Hours	4/5	6.50	6.48	2.17	2.42	2.30	1.58	1	3/4	24
	% of total time	3%	27%	27%	9%	10%	10%	7%	4%	3%	100%
2018	Minutes	87	283	675	80	77	73	110	64	45	1494
	Hours	1 4/9	4.72	11.25	1.33	1.28	1.22	1.83	1	3/4	24 8/9
	% of total time	6%	19%	45%	5%	5%	5%	7%	4%	3%	100%
Total / Average	Tot. Mins	135	673	1064	210	222	211	205	124	90	2934
	Tot. Hrs	2.25	11.22	17.73	3.50	3.70	3.52	3.42	2.07	1.50	48.90
	Avg Hrs	1 hr 08	5 hrs 37	8 hrs 52	1 hr 45	1 hr 51	1 hr 46	1 hr 43	1 hr 02	0 hr 45	23 hrs 20
	Avg. %	5%	23%	36%	7%	8%	7%	7%	4%	3%	100%

Average timings (2017-2018)

