

General Synod 2017 Session

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

Introduction

1. The 17th General Synod was held in Maroochydore from 3-8 September 2017.
2. The 17th General Synod consisted of 259 members of whom 71 were from the Diocese of Sydney. A number of resolutions, canons and rules were passed at the session. A number of elections also took place for General Synod boards and committees.

Resolutions

3. Many of the resolutions related to formal matters concerning the business of General Synod, while others were of more significance. The resolutions that may be of particular interest are extracted in the Appendix. The resolutions recorded are those passed on Days 1-4, as the Minutes from Day 5 are not yet available.

Canons

4. The following canons were passed –
 - Appellate Tribunal Amendment (Qualification) Canon 2017*
 - Appellate Tribunal Amendment (Reserve List) Canon 2017*
 - Constitution (Appellate Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017**
 - Special Tribunal Amendment Canon 2017***
 - Special Tribunal (Limitation Period) Canon 2017*
 - Long Service Leave (Revision of Entitlement) Canon 2017*
 - Long Service Leave (Notification of Participating Organisation) Canon 2017*
 - Canon to Ratify the Amended New South Wales Provincial Synod Constitution*
 - Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017***
 - Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017***
 - Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Persons) Canon 2017***
 - Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017***
 - NATSIAC Amendment Canon 2017*
 - Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2017*
 - Missionary Dioceses (Amendment Canon) 2017*
 - Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017***
 - Disclosure of Information Canon 2017*
 - National Register Amendment Canon 2017*
 - National Register (Access to and Disclosure of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017*
 - National Register (Inclusion of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017*
 - Episcopal Standards (Child Protection Canon) 2017***
 - Constitution (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017**
 - Offences Amendment Canon 2017***
 - Redress for Survivors of Abuse Canon 2017*
5. Some of these canons have already taken effect, others will not take effect unless the requisite number of diocesan synods report their assent by ordinance (marked *), and still others will not take effect in Sydney until they are adopted by our Synod (marked **). The canons are, or will be, the subject of a further report prepared for the Synod.

Rules

6. The following rules were passed –
 - A Rule to amend Rule I - Standing Orders (Formal Motions)*
 - A Rule to amend Rule III - Rules for the Conduct of Elections*
 - A Rule to amend Rule I - Standing Orders (Electronic Voting)*
 - A Rule to Amend Rule II – Rules for the Appointment of a Standing Committee of General Synod and Defining its Powers and Duties*

Elections

7. The following persons from Sydney were elected to the following General Synod boards and committees –

Council of the Australian College of Theology

Mr Garth Blake SC
 Archbishop Glenn Davies
 Dr Louise Gosbell
 The Rev Dr David Hohne
 Mrs Susan Hooke
 Dr Stuart Piggitt
 Dr Claire Smith
 The Right Rev Michael Stead
 Ms Jane Tooher

Defence Force Board

The Rev Andrew Nixon

Standing Committee

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford
 Dean Kanishka Raffel
 The Right Rev Michael Stead
 Mr Garth Blake SC
 Dr Karin Sowada
 Dr Robert Tong AM
 The Hon Peter Young AO QC

Panels Of Electors of the Primate

The Right Rev Michael Stead
 Dean Kanishka Raffel
 Mr Garth Blake SC
 Dr Karin Sowada
 Dr Robert Tong AM
 The Hon Peter Young AO QC

Elected as a Reserve

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford
 The Rev Nigel Fortescue
 The Right Rev Ross Nicholson
 The Rev Dr Mark Thompson
 Dr Claire Smith

Long Service Leave Board

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford
 Mr Doug Marr

The Board of Assessors (Appellate Tribunal)

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford
 The Rev Dr Mark Thompson

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

ROBERT WICKS
Diocesan Secretary

20 September 2017

General Synod 2017 – Selected resolutions

R20/17 A Motion relating to the Professional Standards Commission Report

The General Synod:

- (a) receives the report of the Professional Standards Commission;
- (b) recommends that each diocese:
 - (i) publish a list of appropriately qualified people as professional supervisors for those in pastoral ministry and promote the use of their services;
 - (ii) include a component for professional supervision in recommended financial packages for those in pastoral ministry;
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to explore with the dioceses the development of a nationally consistent approach to professional standards legislation with particular reference to its application to child abuse;
- (d) requests the Safe Ministry Commission:
 - (i) to measure and review the Church's progress towards being a child safe institution in the light of the elements identified in the report of the Royal Commission Creating Child Safe Institutions issued in July 2016;
 - (ii) to analyse the final report of the Royal Commission and make recommendations as to actions to be taken;
 - (iii) to develop an audio visual resource for use in dioceses that provides information to ministers, churchwardens and parish councils about the implementation of the Policy for Safe Ministry in a parish where there is a risk of sexual abuse by a Person of Concern and the issues raised by the participation of a Person of Concern in the life of a parish;
 - (iv) to develop a resource for use in dioceses for providing care for families who have experienced premature death of a family member due to child sexual abuse;
 - (v) to identify and recommend resources for use in dioceses for responding to family and domestic violence;
 - (vi) to report to the 18th General Synod as to the progress of the Church in the development and implementation of safe ministry policies and structures.

R21/17 A Motion relating to Safer Ministry

That the General Synod:

- (a) welcomes resolutions 16.25, 16.26, 16.27 and 16.28 passed by the Anglican Consultative Council in April 2016 (ACC-16) and requests the General Secretary to convey this resolution to the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion and the Archbishop of Canterbury;
- (b) commends the National Council of Churches in Australia for organising the *Safe as Churches? 7* and *the Safe as Churches? 8* conferences on sexual misconduct and abuse in the Australian churches, and supports ongoing joint action by member churches and other participating Australian churches to promote the welfare and safety of all people within their communities. The General Synod requests the General Secretary to convey this resolution to the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia;
- (c) recommends that the Commonwealth Government promote a national system for child protection, and that State and Territory governments as a matter of urgency enact legislation for a national system for child protection that provides for:
 - (i) the mandatory reporting of child abuse by persons including ministers of religion to the police and the government child protection authorities;
 - (ii) the screening of all persons seeking to work with children in a paid or voluntary capacity;
 - (iii) the mutual recognition of clearances for persons to work with children in all States and Territories: and
- (d) that the General Secretary forward the terms of this resolution to the Prime Minister, the Premier or Chief Minister of each State and Territory and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse forthwith.

R22/17 A motion relating to The Global Goals for Sustainable Development

That, celebrating the success of the Millennium Development Goals and noting that the number of people living in extreme poverty has more than halved since 1990, the General Synod:

1. welcomes the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development which aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and pursue the common good;
2. encourages theological engagement with the goals, and missional commitment to their achievement;
3. commends the work of Anglicare Australia, the Anglican Board of Mission, Anglican Overseas Aid, Anglican Aid and other Anglican organisations in striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; and
4. renews our call for a fair share of Australia's national budget (0.7% of Gross National Income) to be dedicated to Overseas Development Assistance that aims to reduce poverty.

R23/17 A motion relating to Domestic Violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

We the members of NATSIAC

- a) Note with grave concern the rate of domestic and family violence in our communities;
- b) Call upon the government both federal and state to continue to invest in educational and family support programs;
- c) Call upon the Anglican Church of Australia to develop a national response via greater education among clergy and church workers with regard to domestic and family violence; and,
- d) Call upon General Synod to encourage dioceses to develop domestic violence policies, with advice for good pastoral practice, consistent with Faithfulness in Service, and in consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

R24/17 A motion relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Issues

The General Synod recognises and shares the deep concern of NATSIAC members in regard to:

1. The appalling number of youth suicides in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; ten times higher than the wider Australian community and notes that suicides touch 95% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This Synod calls upon the government, both state and federal, to investigate the causes of these horrific statistics, and requests appropriate continuing funding to finance functional programs in consultation and negotiation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;

2. The sad and undeniable facts concerning the disproportionate rate of incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in gaols and detention centres all over Australia.

This Synod strongly urges all governments, federal and state to end mandatory sentencing and to actively investigate and examine 'best practice' from other jurisdictions, utilise resources such as diversionary programs and changes to policies that would seek to have gaol as the last resort.

R25/17 A motion relating to Equal Representation of Women

The General Synod -

1. Notes with disappointment that the resolution of the 2007 fourteenth Session of General Synod in regard to the equal representation of Women on General Synod Bodies (GS85/07) has not been effectively implemented, with equal representation of women on only three of the General Synod's current 27 Bodies.
2. Requests the next General Synod Standing Committee to
 - a) Re-commit to the principle of equal representation of women in membership of its bodies and to ensure that this goal is met the Standing Committee agree to a target that all General Synod bodies (General Synod commissions, task forces and working groups) have 50% equal representation of women in their membership by 1st December 2019 wherever legislatively and practically possible.

- b) Apply the principle of equal representation of women in membership of organisations where Standing Committee make appointments to other bodies wherever this is legislatively and practically possible.
- c) Review annually the progress of this target.
3. Encourages each diocese to adopt the target of 50% equal representation of women in elections and appointments wherever legislatively and practically possible and to report back to the next General Synod.
4. Requests Standing Committee to report progress on this matter to the 18th Session of General Synod.

R26/17 A motion relating to Mission to Seafarers

The General Synod –

- a) Receives the report of the Mission to Seafarers.
- b) Recognises and seeks to include the celebration of Sea Sunday annually as a way to support the ministry of the Mission to Seafarers and highlight the plight of Seafarers.
- c) Calls on the Federal Government to take seriously its responsibility under the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 and fully fund land based welfare for seafarers in this country.
- d) Respectfully requests the Primate to convey the above terms of this resolution to the Prime Minister and Federal Transport Minister.

R28/17 Church Agencies Network Disaster Operation (CAN DO)

The General Synod commends the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operation (CAN DO) consortium as a significant and welcome demonstration of ecumenical collaboration, in an important area of global ministry and mission, and urges the Anglican Church of Australia to support the work of Anglican Board of Mission and Anglican Overseas Aid through CAN DO.

[] *First Nation's Voice*

The General Synod:

1. Supports the recommendation of the Referendum Council for a constitutionally-entrenched First Nations' Voice to the Commonwealth Parliament;
2. Encourages the governments in Australia to seek to negotiate in good faith with First Nations' Peoples towards treaties or other similar forms of agreement;
3. Requests the General Secretary to convey this resolution to the Prime Minister, State Premiers, and Leaders of the Opposition;
4. Requests the Public Affairs Commission in consultation with NATSIAC to prepare resources, including summaries and theological reflections for use by Anglican parishes, schools and organisations, on the Referendum Council Report on any subsequent referendum questions and on the progress of treaty or similar negotiations.

R29/17 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Issues

The General Synod,

1. Acknowledges that NATSIAC, as the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglicans in Australia, is committed to the preservation of God's creation; and
 - a) joins with NATSIAC in recognising the implications of Climate Change upon the entire nation, its land, sea and waters but especially in the Torres Strait; and
 - b) forwards the findings and recommendations of the Symposium on Indigenous Perspectives on Climate Change held in Darwin 2016 to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, State Premiers, and relevant ministers.
2. Acknowledges that NATSIAC has been expressing concern over the use of fracking on traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands for many years, and joins with NATSIAC in condemning practices which seek to pressure elders to submit their traditional homelands and waterways to fracking and other practices that risk destroying hunting and fishing grounds and areas of major cultural significance.

R35/17 Bishop Greg Thompson

This General Synod gives thanks to Almighty God for the courageous ministry and prophetic leadership by the 13th Bishop of Newcastle The Rt Rev'd Gregory Thompson in calling the Church and especially the Diocese of Newcastle to face their past about child sexual abuse and shape a healthy future in responses to Christ's call to protect, esteem and nurture children and vulnerable people.

Further this General Synod requests the Primate to convey these sentiments to Bishop Thompson.

R36/17 Church Law Commission Membership

That having regard to:

- (a) The history of clergy membership on the Church Law Commission;
- (b) The fact that Church Law matters can affect the clergy in a way different to the way it affects the laity;
- (c) The desirability of theological considerations being taken into account and informing Church Law,

the Primate, when appointing members to the Church Law Commission on the advice of the Standing Committee under section 14 of the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998, give active consideration to the appointment of at least one member of the Clergy to the Church Law Commission.

R37/17 UN Conference on Nuclear Disarmament

That this General Synod urges our Australian Government to be a strong and positive contributor to the 2018 high level UN Conference on Nuclear Disarmament.

Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and aware of current instabilities, we urge that this opportunity be taken to elevate the issue of nuclear disarmament and to build pressure on nuclear-weapon States to agree to specific nuclear disarmament proposals.

R39/17 Report Content Policy

Synod requests Standing Committee to consider writing a policy that requires minimum mandatory information to be included in reports to Synod from commissions, task forces and working groups. Such information should include:

- (a) Expenses incurred compared to budget and reasons for variation;
- (b) Frequency and attendance at meetings;
- (c) Membership changes; and
- (d) Synod resolutions addressed by the group.

R40/17 World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel

That this Synod encourages members of General Synod and those within their Dioceses to consider marking in some way the World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel, 17-24 September 2017.

Synod notes that resources for liturgy and prayer are available on the World Council of Churches website.

R42/17 Australian Freedom Network

That this General Synod –

1. Notes the establishment of the Australian Freedom Network (AFN) signed by the Primate on our behalf;
2. Commends those involved in the establishment of the Global Freedom Network of which the AFN is part;
3. Acknowledges the continuing reality of human trafficking and slavery, and laments the damage that this does to all involved as a distortion of what it means to be created in God's image;

4. Commits to personal and organisational behaviour that utilises tools such as the “Ethical Fashion Guide” and information regarding corporate supply chains to inform decisions surrounding consumption so that ethical choices can be made; and
5. Requests that the General Synod network, Anglican Schools Australia, consider how it may collaborate with the AFN to explore how Anglican Schools in Australia may be supported as they educate students to be ethical leaders in the Australian community.

R43/17 Safe Ministry Implementation

1. That this Synod gives thanks for the unity of intent expressed by the unanimous resolution of this Canon.
2. That each Diocesan Bishop with the support of their Synod team commits to strive for the adoption of this Canon at the first Diocesan Synod after this General Synod with the hope that all 23 Dioceses will adopt the Canon.
3. That the General Synod embraces a Networking approach to the free exchange of resources and the drawing upon centres of excellence in safe ministry practice to enable the full implementation of the Canon by large and small Dioceses working together.

R44/17 Proclamation of the Gospel

The General Synod –

while abhorring oppression, abuse, cruelty, victimisation and all forms of violence and injustice, and while strongly supporting efforts to deal with such violence and injustice, and

while affirming its deep concern for the poor, the homeless, the lonely, the ill and all who suffer, and while strongly supporting efforts to alleviate such suffering, also

asserts its belief that God loved the world, that his righteous judgement will prevail, that he gave his Son, the Christ to suffer and die for our sins, that he raised him from the dead, that he pours out his Holy Spirit upon his people, that his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ will return in majesty and that he calls all to repent and believe in his son, and strongly supports efforts to proclaim this glorious gospel to the world.

R45/17 Working with Children Check Systems

General Synod calls upon the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to develop an age appropriate Working with Children Check system or suitable alternative for those persons aged under 18 who work with children.

R46/17 Pioneer Ministry

The General Synod:

- a) acknowledges that patterns of faith and belief in Australia are changing and that the Anglican Church of Australia’s capacity to participate in God’s mission is diminishing when too many congregations struggle with vitality and outreach;
- b) notes the ten-year anniversary of “Building the Mission- shaped Church” report in October 2006 and its call to build capacity for church planting and developing fresh expressions of church as strategies for mission and evangelism;
- c) commends dioceses for undertaking a diverse range of initiatives at revitalising parishes, planting new churches and pioneering different forms of church for people who live in a changing culture;
- d) recognises that the development of pioneer leaders capable of planting new churches or developing different forms of church remains problematic when little consensus about expectations for ordination and lay ministry exists nationally;
- e) requests that the Mission and Ministry Commission:
 - i. convene a national network of pioneer leaders engaged in revitalisation, planting and fresh expressions to meet annually;
 - ii. convene a national research network to foster the theology and practice of evangelism;

- iii. examine how community-based chaplaincy and pioneer ministry intersect to create fresh opportunities for mission in a changing society;
- iv. explore ways to provide for coaching and training support for lay and women pioneer leaders; and
- v. seek to engage the annual Bishops' Conference in discussion about mission and evangelism in a changing Australia.

R47/17 Viability and Structures Steering Group Report to General Synod

The General Synod

- 1) Recognises that all growth will come through faithful, action trusting in God's enlivening work;
- 2) Notes that the precise structural changes needed to fit the Anglican Church in Australia for the future are not yet known;
- 3) Notes the importance of children in the ministry of the Lord Jesus and requests each Diocese to construct a holistic ministry and mission plan for children and young people in conjunction with other Dioceses in their Province.
- 4) Requests Standing Committee to report to General Synod possible concrete structural changes that will aid the provision of ministry and the extension of mission across Australia noting particularly the role and requirements of Pioneer Ministry and theological formation for lay and ordained ministry;
- 5) Receives the report of the Viability and Structures Steering Group and endorses the recommendations contained in the report as follows:
 - to help ensure we develop the visionary church leaders required by the future, Bishops (and, ideally, next generation Bishops) should be intentionally equipped and enabled through the establishment of a holistic continuing leadership development program.
 - to improve the quality and consistency of knowledge and best practices across the Church, the apparatus should be established to facilitate collaboration, including the sharing and communication of ideas, resources and information.
 - to enhance the missional effectiveness of the Church, each Diocese is requested to develop a Mission Action Plan, including timelines and resource requirements for implementation, and report back to the Standing Committee.
 - because it is essential that necessary future change is constructively considered on a timely basis, the Bishops are asked to implement a process – to be endorsed at the first national Bishops' meeting following General Synod – through which, on a regular basis, they would collectively assess any need for significant change and seek to agree how to effect the necessary change.
 - to help ensure the implementation of the recommendations above, the Standing Committee should seek, receive, review and approve sensible resource and funding applications for each of these recommendations.
- 6) Asks the Standing Committee and the House of Bishops to review and facilitate the progress of implementation of these recommendations and present proposals, with actionable plans, to a meeting of Standing Committee in 2018.

R48/17 Marriage, same-sex marriage and the blessing of same-sex relationships

The General Synod –

- (i) recognises that the doctrine of our church, in line with traditional Christian teaching, is that marriage is an exclusive and lifelong union of a man and a woman, and further,
- (ii) recognises that this has been the subject of several General Synod resolutions over the past fifteen years, and also
- (iii) recognises that the nature of marriage is the subject of ongoing conversation within the church and wider community and that we need to listen to each other with care and respect, and
- (iv) acknowledges the experiences and genuine concerns of LGBTIQ+ people within the church and the community, and therefore
- (v) asks the Doctrine Commission to facilitate a respectful conversation in our church by means of a collection of essays on marriage and same-sex relationships that explores Scriptural and theological issues relating to:
 - a. The doctrine of marriage expressed in the formularies of the Anglican Church of Australia

- b. Our current Australian context, exploring the relationship between the State's definition of marriage and the church's doctrine of marriage
- c. Key Old Testament and New Testament texts on sex, marriage and friendship
- d. Scripture and hermeneutics
- e. A theology of blessing
- f. A theology of desire
- g. Godly disagreement on this issue
- h. The case for and against same-sex marriage and/or the blessing of same-sex unions.

R49/17 Condemnation and Apology for Domestic Violence

The General Synod affirms that:

1. All human beings, male and female, are created in the image of God, and are precious to him. So their value and dignity should be upheld by all, and rightly commands respect and protection.
2. In following the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, Christian relationships, families, and households are to be characterised by mutual love, respect, compassion and a commitment to the wellbeing of one another. No one should feel unsafe in their own home.
3. The Bible condemns the misuse of power to control or exploit others, and rejects all abuse, whether physical, verbal, or otherwise expressed from one person towards others. Therefore domestic violence is sin, and Scripture should never be twisted to justify or excuse any abuse.
4. No victim of domestic abuse should ever be pressured to forgive, submit to, or restore a relationship with an offender.
5. Our churches are committed to being safe places for all people, especially children and vulnerable adults, and we will therefore work to protect those experiencing domestic abuse as a first priority.
6. We grieve with victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and pray for their healing and recovery. We give thanks for those women and men, clergy and lay people, who have faithfully supported, cared for and protected such victims in our churches and communities.
7. However, we also confess with deep shame that domestic abuse has occurred among those who attend our churches, and even among some in leadership. We apologise for those times our teaching and pastoral care has failed adequately to support victims and call perpetrators to account.
8. We urge Anglican dioceses around Australia to ensure they have policies and good practice guidelines in place, along with education and training, for responding well to situations involving domestic violence within our parishes and organisations.
9. We call on all institutions preparing people for ordained or lay ministry in the Anglican Church of Australia to review curriculum and content to ensure that material which may give rise to unhealthy views about power or the marginalisation of women, are addressed.
10. We also acknowledge our responsibility to work with the police, statutory child protection authorities and specialist agencies in responding to domestic abuse, including our legal obligations in reporting abuse. This should include consideration of growing the practical trauma programmes and advocacy undertaken by our Anglicare Australia agencies in this growing area of community need.
11. Finally, this Synod again upholds Faithfulness in Service as our national code of conduct for clergy and church workers, specifically its affirmations that:
 - Abuse of power is at the heart of many relationship problems in the Church and the community. In essence, abuse is one person's misuse of power over another. Sometimes abuse will be a one off event and at other times it will be a pattern of behaviour. (§6.2)
 - It is important for clergy and church workers to be good citizens and obey the laws of the community, except where those laws conflict with Christian convictions. (§6.4)
 - You are not to abuse your spouse, children or other members of your family. (§6.6)

R50/17 Domestic Violence Longitudinal Study

That this General Synod requests the General Synod Standing Committee to investigate and if appropriate commission (using contingencies or other available sources of funding) a professionally designed and independent research study into the nature and prevalence of family violence prevalence within the Australian Anglican Church population. The General Synod Standing Committee could also explore the feasibility and practicality of inviting other denominations to consider participation in any such independent research.

R51/17 Scottish Episcopal Church

General Synod –

- a) notes with regret that the Scottish Episcopal Church has amended their Canon on Marriage to change the definition that marriage is between a man and a woman by adding a new section that allows clergy to solemnise marriage between same-sex couples as well as couples of the opposite sex;
- b) notes with regret that this step is contrary to the doctrine of our Church and the teaching of Christ that, in marriage, “a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh” (Matt 19:6), and
- c) expresses our support for those Anglicans who have left or will need to leave the Scottish Episcopal Church because of its redefinition of marriage; and those who struggle and remain and
- d) prays that the Scottish Episcopal Church will return to the doctrine of Christ in this matter and that impaired relationships will be restored.

R53/17 Liturgy Resources

The General Synod, noting the changing contexts of mission for the Anglican Church of Australia, requests the Liturgy Commission to continue to develop texts in areas including

- a. Supplementary seasonal, thematic and other material for use with APBA Holy Communion orders;
- b. Supplementary services of the Word;
- c. Supplementary orders for baptism, confirmation, marriage, funerals, commissionings and other pastoral occasions;
- d. Supplementary prayers for various occasions;
- e. A new liturgical psalter;.
- f. Additional prayers and liturgical resources drawing, upon consultation, more extensive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prayers, motifs and other media to reflect the indigenous culture of our nation’s First Peoples.

R54/17 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Noting the five-hundredth anniversary in 2017 of Martin Luther’s nailing 95 Theses of protest to the door of the castle church in Wittenburg on October 31, 1517, regarded by many as a significant catalyst in inaugurating protestant reformations in Europe, and recognising Lutherans as partners with Anglicans in ongoing reforming traditions that encompass a variety of denominations and expressions of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ;

and further noting the resolution of ACC 16:16 that:

"The Anglican Consultative Council

1. recognizes the significance of the five-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation, which will be marked in 2017; and
2. encourages Anglicans across the Communion to be a part of the commemorations by joining in shared services, undertaking study with Lutherans and other ecumenical partners, and engaging with them in mission activities; and
3. recommends that Anglicans engage with the Lutheran World Federation's focus: Liberated by God's Grace,";

The General Synod:

- a) gives thanks to our heavenly Father for the Reformation of the sixteenth century,
- b) gives thanks to Almighty God that in the grace and mercy of God, the Church continues to be reformed, and seeks ever to be so,
- c) encourages members of the Anglican Church of Australia to join with our ecumenical partners; and especially the Lutheran Church of Australia, in commemorating this occasion, through shared worship, bible study and partnership in mission and ministry projects;
- d) affirms the importance of hearing God’s Word in the common tongue, and the practice of regular public reading of the Holy Scriptures through authorised lectionaries; and

- e) affirms the regular liturgical expression of the whole and comforting doctrine that we are justified by faith only, by the merits and death of God's Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood; and
- f) recommends for study and discussion the biblical and spiritual reflections contained in *Liberated by God's Grace: Anglican-Lutheran Reflections* (LWF 2017), produced by the Anglican-Lutheran International Coordinating Committee (ALICC4).

R55/17 The Global Goals for Sustainable Development

That, celebrating the success of the Millennium Development Goals and noting that the number of people living in extreme poverty has more than halved since 1990, the General Synod:

- a) welcomes the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development which aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and pursue the common good;
- b) encourages theological engagement with the goals, and missional commitment to their achievement;
- c) commends the work of Anglicare Australia, the Anglican Board of Mission, Anglican Overseas Aid, Anglican Aid and other Anglican organisations in striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
- d) renews our call for a fair share of Australia's national budget (0.7% of Gross National Income) to be dedicated to Overseas Development Assistance that aims to reduce poverty; and
- e) encourages each diocese, through its synod, to consider 0.7% of gross diocesan income, or some other meaningful proportion, to projects supporting the Sustainable Development Goals.

[] *Models of Ordained Local Ministry*

The General Synod –

- a) receives the report of the Ministry Commission on Ordained Local Ministry (2 May 2017) and refer it to all Dioceses;
- b) encourages all Dioceses to consider the recommendations of the Ordained Local Ministry report as it relates to their local context, and
- c) requests the Ministry Commission to explore ways to facilitate further initiatives in Ordained Local Ministry.

[] *Clergy Professional Supervision*

That in the light of the increasing challenges facing clergy and lay ministers, and the heightened demand for the accountability of church workers, the General Synod:

- a) recommends that every Australian diocese takes seriously the benefits of professional supervision for its clergy and paid lay workers;
- b) supports the development of pilot projects in supervision of clergy and lay ministers particularly in rural and regional areas; and
- c) requests the Ministry Commission to undertake an audit of the extent and types of supervision already occurring across the Australian church, and develop national supervision guidelines.; and
- d) requests the Ministry Commission to consider the inclusion of Clergy Professional Supervision as an integral component of a continuing professional development framework for clergy.