

## General Synod Matters

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

### Introduction

1. The 10th General Synod was held in Melbourne from 2 to 7 July 1995, the first time the General Synod has met outside Sydney. The 11th General Synod will be held in 1998 at Adelaide, Brisbane, Hobart or Perth.
2. The General Synod passed 74 resolutions, 19 Canons and 8 rules. There is a fearsome amount of detail to be sorted out, so that we as a Diocese can advise our church members and adequately respond where responses are needed.
3. Details of the legislation and resolutions were not received (and could not be received!) in time for the Standing Committee to promote appropriate matters to this session of our own Synod. The Standing Committee has not yet seen this material.

### How will the Detail be Processed?

4. We have referred the legislation to the General Synod Canons Committee for consideration and report, but further legislation for this Synod session is unlikely.
5. The resolutions will be reported to the Standing Committee as soon as possible, and a supplementary report on them may be made to the Synod this year.
6. The *Southern Cross* Newspaper (July/August edition) carried several news items on the General Synod's proceedings. But the major item of business was *A Prayer Book for Australia*.

### What About the New Prayer Book?

7. The consideration of A Prayer Book for Australia Canon 1995 took a great deal of time. The book should be available about December 1995.
8. The Archbishop sent a circular to all clergy about APBA. Before it can be used in Sydney -
  - (a) the Canon must be adopted by an ordinance of our Synod; or
  - (b) under Section 4 of the 1962 Constitution, the Archbishop must approve of it being used, or parts of it being used either generally for all parishes or specifically by those churches that seek it.
9. Next year the Archbishop proposes to call regional consultations to consider the APBA, after the parish representatives to the 44th Synod have been elected, with a view to the Canon being considered by our Synod next year. The Standing Committee has asked its Liturgical Committee to assist the Archbishop in preparation for these meetings. Earlier this year the Liturgical Committee reported that "should APBA pass through the General Synod and be adopted by the Sydney Synod, the Committee may need to offer assistance to those using the new book".
10. The Archbishop is also involving the Diocesan Doctrine Commission in preparation for these meetings and the Standing Committee has invited the Commission to report on the doctrine expressed in APBA.
11. An allocation will be sought from Contingencies next year (\$10,000?) to buy copies of APBA for our Synod members, as the adoption of the Canon cannot be considered without the text of the book being readily available.
12. Copies of the major resolutions passed were sent to Ministers and Parish Councils on 25 September. Resolutions of a "domestic" nature to the General Synod were not sent. Those resolutions likely to interest parishes and those requiring some response at a parish level were highlighted.
13. The Standing Committee has taken the following actions on these resolutions.

#### **25/95 Study of Australian History**

Referred to the Anglican Education Commission Diocese of Sydney for noting.

#### **28/95 Minimum Requirements for Ordination**

Referred to the Archbishop, Archdeacon Paul Perini, Canon Peter Jensen, the Rev Narelle Jarrett, the Moore College Council and CEFM for noting.

#### **31/95 Doctrine of *Terra Nullius***

Referred to the Social Issues Committee for report to the Synod in 1996 so that the Synod and parishes can respond to this resolution.

#### **35/95 National Anglican Media**

Referred to the Anglican Media Council for noting.

**46/95 Euthanasia**

**47/95 International Affairs Commission**

Referred to the Social Issues Committee for information.

**48/95 Evangelism Task Group**

Referred to the Department of Evangelism for information.

**50/95 Signs of Hope**

**51/95 Youth Problems**

**56/95 National Gathering of Young Anglicans**

Referred to the Anglican Youth Department Diocese of Sydney for information.

**67/95 Consecration of Women to the Episcopate**

Referred to the Diocesan Doctrine Commission for a report on the theological issues concerning the consecration of women as bishops.

**71/95 Future of Work**

Referred to HMS and the Anglican Counselling Centre for information.

**Review of the 1961 Constitution**

14. We made a submission in 1994 to the General Synod's Constitution Review Commission (page 404 of the 1995 Year Book). The General Synod received a report from its Constitution Review Commission but was unable to discuss it due to lack of time. The Commission was reappointed.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

WARREN GOTLEY

*Diocesan Secretary*

11 October 1995