

General Synod – Offences Canon Amendment Canon 2007 Adopting Ordinance 2009

Explanatory Statement

1. In 2003 section 56 of the 1961 Constitution was amended to extend the jurisdiction of the Special Tribunal to include any bishop assistant to the Primate in his capacity as Primate. Presently the only bishop so affected is the Bishop to the Defence Forces.

2. Section 2 of the Offences Canon 1962 specifies the offences that may be heard by the Special Tribunal. The Offences Canon 1962 should have been amended when section 56 of the 1961 Constitution was amended to extend the offences to a bishop assistant to the Primate. The Canon rectifies that oversight.

3. The Standing Committee has made a declaration that the Canon affects the order and good government of the Anglican Church of Australia in our Diocese. The Standing Committee therefore considers that the Canon must be adopted by ordinance of the Synod before it has force and effect in our Diocese.

4. The Standing Committee considers that the Canon helpfully rectifies an oversight concerning the discipline of a bishop assistant to the Primate and should be adopted by our Synod.

Recommendation

5. The Standing Committee recommends that the Synod pass the bill as an ordinance.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

STEVE LUCAS
Manager, Legal Services

2 September 2009