

2001 Archbishop's Election Synod

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

Introduction

1. The Standing Committee has authorised the booking of the Wesley Centre from Monday 4 June 2001 to Friday 8 June 2001 for a special session of the Synod to elect the next Archbishop.

The Timetable

2. The See of Sydney will become vacant when the present Archbishop retires on 19 March 2001. The election of a new Archbishop takes place at a special session of the Synod (the "Election Synod") convened under the Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance 1982 (the "Ordinance").

3. Under clause 5(2) of the Ordinance, the Election Synod must be held not less than 8 weeks nor more than 16 weeks after the See becomes vacant. Thus, if the See becomes vacant on 19 March 2001, the Synod must be held during the period 14 May 2001 to 9 July 2001.

4. It is expected that the Standing Committee will resolve at its February 2001 meeting that the vacancy in the See be filled in accordance with the Ordinance (under clause 2(2) of the Ordinance this resolution can be made before the See actually becomes vacant). If the Standing Committee so resolves, then the Administrator must summon the Synod to elect a new Archbishop within 21 days of the vacancy in the See. Thus, the summons must be sent to Synod members by 9 April 2001.

5. By clause 7(2) of the Ordinance, nominations for Archbishop close 35 days before the first day of the Election Synod. Thus, if the first day of the election Synod is 4 June 2001, the closing date for nominations will be 30 April 2001. This means that there will be a period of at least 3 weeks (but more likely about 5 weeks) between the sending of the summons and the close of nominations. This seems adequate to the Standing Committee.

6. There are other dates and times in the Ordinance which do not concern Synod members at this stage.

The Procedure

7. Under the Ordinance the procedure for electing the Archbishop is, in general terms, as follows -

Formal Matters	President's address, tabling of documents, election of officers etc. This occurs on Day 1.
Compilation of Select List	Each nominee is proposed and seconded, after which the Synod considers whether the name of each nominee is to be placed on the Select List. In 1993, there were 9 nominations and the compilation of the Select List took the balance of Day 1 and most of Day 2.
Compilation of Final List	Each nominee whose name appears on the Select List is again proposed and seconded, after which the Synod considers whether the name of each nominee on the Select List is to be placed on the Final List. Additional steps occur if, on the first attempt, there are less than, or more than, 3 names on the Final List. In 1993, the compilation of the Final List took the balance of Day 2 and part of Day 3.
Final Selection	If there is only 1 nominee on the Final List, the Synod considers a motion that the nominee be invited to be Archbishop. If there are 2 or 3 nominees on the Final List each is proposed and seconded. Speeches in respect of each nomination then take place. Under the Ordinance the Synod must then adjourn to the next day. When the Synod resumes a ballot takes place. If one candidate receives an absolute majority of votes, he is declared to be elected. Otherwise the Synod must adjourn. When the Synod resumes it has several options about how to proceed. In 1993, debate about the nominees on the Final List took the balance of Day 3. The Synod adjourned to Day 4, when the final ballot took place.

8. The Standing Committee considers that the Wesley Centre should be booked for 5 days for the 2001 Election Synod recognising that we will be liable for the cost of hiring the Centre for 5 days if the session concludes after a fewer number of days.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARK PAYNE
Diocesan Secretary

12 August 1999