

8/92 Evangelical Anglicanism

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

Synod-Committee Recommendations

1. In 1992, a Synod committee made the following recommendations.
 - "55. That Synod affirm the need to repent of the failings in our life and witness, and to urge continual prayer in our congregations for spiritual renewal, as an essential preparation for effective evangelism.
 56. That following Synod resolution 6/90 on the Decade of Evangelism, continuing priority be given to evangelism in parish and diocesan life, including training in personal evangelism.
 57. That more emphasis in parish teaching be given to the doctrine of sanctification and the principles of a Christian lifestyle.
 58. That in pre- and post-ordination training of clergy the following must hold an important place -
 - (a) Reformed theology as expressed in the 39 Articles.
 - (b) Church history, with special reference to evangelical Anglicanism.
 - (c) Anglican church order and structures, including the conduct of services.
 - (d) A strong commitment to pastoral work, alongside evangelism and teaching.
 59. That care be taken to maintain co-operation and trust between clergy and laity in the Diocese, and that laypersons be better represented in its theological deliberations.
 60. That in matters where Christians take different views eg about the ministry of women, and the charismatic movement, the Christian obligation of love and mutual forbearance be always recognised and practised, and the areas of agreement be given due weight.
 61. That the Diocese keep all its agencies and institutions under constant review, in order to judge how well they are serving the Gospel.
 62. That Sydney evangelicals maintain fellowship with evangelicals elsewhere, through the Evangelical Fellowship of the Anglican Communion and other avenues."

Synod Actions in 1992

2. The Synod adopted the recommendations and referred recommendations 55, 56, 59, 60 and 61 to the Archbishop and Regional Bishops.
3. The Synod referred recommendations 57, 58 and 60 to the Moore Theological College Council, to the Committee for Continuing Education for Ministers and to Deaconess House.
4. The Synod asked the Standing Committee to report on the implementation of the recommendations as a whole to the 1994 Synod.
5. The parties were asked to respond by 15 June 1994.

Response from the Archbishop

6. The Archbishop responded -

"May I now report that those recommendations have been referred to the Regional Bishops and Archdeacons for their consideration as matters to be borne in mind as they carry out their responsibilities."

Response from the Deaconess House

7. The Principal of Deaconess House, the Rev Narelle Jarrett, said -

"I found the report helpful in drawing attention to our historical development and Biblical roots. I am sure it will be a helpful resource paper as well as a continuing challenge to the shaping of courses and ministerial formation through Deaconess House.

Before responding to recommendations 57 and 58 let me say that a very said oversight of the report was its failure to acknowledge the role played by Deaconess House in training women for ministry in the Anglican Church from 1891. For a long time (over 60 years) it was the only training college for women in Australia. In more recent years it has been more closely linked with Moore but it still offers three foundational courses -

1. The Ministry Programme for students in full-time theological study.
2. The Diploma of Theology as an accredited college of the Australian College of Theology.
3. Biblical Foundations - one year part-time course.

We have a total of 100 students enrolled in these courses.

With regard to recommendation 57 the courses developed by Deaconess House have a strong emphasis on the doctrine of sanctification and the principles of Christian lifestyle. A one year subject *The Personal Life of Those in Leadership* particularly addresses these issues. As well as this, Deaconess House maintains a staff student ratio of 1:8 so that the chaplains can get to know students well and can interact with the student individually re christian growth to maturity.

Parts (a), (b) and (c) of recommendation 58 are directly addressed in the B.D., Dip Min offered by Moore Theological College. These are also addressed in the Diploma of Theology through courses in Doctrine (based on the 39 Articles), Church History and Christian Worship.

With regard to part (d) of recommendation 58, Deaconess House specifically developed the *Ministry Programme* in order to examine the theory and practice of Pastoral Care.

I hope the Standing Committee is encouraged to see that Deaconess House courses deal with some of the concerns expressed in these recommendations. This is not to say we are doing everything to perfection - far from it and *Evangelical Anglicanism* will continue to be a stimulus to our planning and curriculum development."

Response from the Moore Theological College Council

Recommendation 57

8. During their time at College, students experience -
 - (a) a full-scale treatment of Christian ethics and an elective on Social Ethics;
 - (b) a doctrinal treatment of the subject of sanctification at least twice in the career of our students;
 - (c) the continual preaching and application of the word of God to the lives of Christian people which occurs in the extensive preaching ministry of the College chapel;
 - (d) a course entitled "Spiritual Life of the Pastor" which is taught in part by Archbishop Goodhew; and
 - (e) regular days of prayer, and a special series of sermons, usually preached in Holy Week.
9. Given that the Committee has isolated a need for further emphasis on this subject, the Principal has undertaken to discuss the matter with the Head of the Department of Ministry, Dr D.G. Peterson, and also Canon J.C. Chapman who is largely responsible for the tuition in preaching. It is also worth noting that the Faculty has decided to take as its subject for the next School of Theology "Aspects of the Christian Life", and Dr Peterson has delivered the 1994 Moore College Lecture on the general subject of sanctification. Publications will ensue from both occasions.

Recommendation 58

10. Reformed theology as expressed in the 39 Articles already holds in honoured place in the curriculum of the College and we do not believe there is any need to strengthen it. Our students study the Articles in their theology course in 2nd and 3rd year.
11. Church history is also strongly taught at the College, especially in comparison with similar institutions. No course has been available in 18th and 19th Century English Church History for a number of years, although Australian Church History is taught and studied. The Board of Studies is examining a proposal to include such a course for 1995.
12. As well as theological consideration of church order and structure, the College and Deaconess House have given close attention over many years to the proper conduct of services. There is an extensive course in Christian worship undertaken in third year. The principles and rules of ministerial duty as touching Anglican ministry are discussed at various points and attention is being give to bringing this material together towards the end of the College course.
13. In recent years the College has developed the Diploma of Ministry which enables it to give careful consideration to the pastoral ministry. While public teaching and evangelism are essential elements of the pastoral ministry, they do not exhaust its scope. The Principal and the Department of Ministry will review the work of the College in this connection with special reference to the ordinal of the Book of Common Prayer.

Response from the Standing Committee

14. The original report was widely circulated to Synod members and organisations, and was printed in the 1993 Year Book (pages 416 to 429).
 - (a) The Synod responded to recommendations 54 and 55 in 1992.

- (b) Recommendations 56, 59 and 60 state ideals which are ever before us. Special emphasis has been given to the Decade of Evangelism in parish life, Synod grants for the support of parish work are at record levels, and funds are provided to several diocesan organisations for the training and equipping of people in different areas of evangelism.
- (c) Recommendation 57 was drawn to the attention of parishes in 1992.
- (d) We have no argument with recommendation 58, although it is more for comment by the theological institutions.
- (e) Recommendation 60 is for individual Christians: it has now been printed for 2 separate Synods and was drawn to the attention of parishes in 1992.
- (f) We have tried through our Synod budgeting procedures to keep all diocesan agencies and institutions under review (recommendation 61).
- (g) Recommendation 62 is as much for individuals as for the Standing Committee. In recent times of tension at the General Synod level we have determined to maintain fellowship with evangelicals in Australia and elsewhere. This year we have given \$81,357 to the Diocese of North West Australia for Gospel Purposes.

Response from Continuing Education for Ministers

15 There was no response from this body.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

W.G.S. GOTLEY
Diocesan Secretary

29 September 1994