

2012 Report of the Standing Committee

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1. Introduction

1.1 Charter

The Standing Committee is constituted under the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897. Its duties arise under a number of ordinances and include the following –

- (a) making arrangements for the meetings of the Synod and preparing the Synod's business,
- (b) acting as a council of advice to the Archbishop (the "Archbishop-in-Council"),
- (c) considering and reporting upon matters referred to it by the Synod and carrying out the Synod's resolutions,
- (d) deliberating and conferring upon all matters affecting the interests of the Church,
- (e) making ordinances under delegated powers,
- (f) preparing and administering parochial cost recoveries and Synod appropriations and allocations,
- (g) appointing persons to fill casual vacancies among persons elected by the Synod to boards etc, and
- (h) monitoring the finances of diocesan organisations.

1.2 Access

Meetings are held in the Chapter House, St Andrew's Cathedral. Mail should be addressed to "The Diocesan Secretary, Standing Committee of Synod, PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230" (telephone (02) 9265 1555; email rjw@sydney.anglican.asn.au). Office hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

A report on each meeting is published a few days after the meeting on the Secretariat's website at www.sds.asn.au.

1.3 Meetings and members

Since October 2011 we have met 11 times. The names of the members will be listed in the 2012 Diocesan Year Book and on the Secretariat's website at www.sds.asn.au.

During the year, the following changes took place to the membership of the Standing Committee –

- A vacancy arose in the position of a minister elected by the Northern Region upon the resignation of the Rev Philip Wheeler. The Northern Region elected the Rev Craig Roberts to fill the vacancy.

1.4 Management and structure

Each meeting of the Standing Committee is like a small Synod meeting. The major committees are –

Mission Board	Ordination Training Fund Committee
Finance Committee	Social Issues Executive
General Synod Canons Committee	Stipends and Allowances Committee
Ordinance Reviewers and Panels	Work Outside the Diocese Committee

In response to recommendations arising from the report of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission, we agreed to establish a Governance and Audit Committee to monitor the compliance, governance and risk management processes of the central diocesan organisations and the way any conflicts of interest of members of those organisations are managed. See item 8.12.

Other committees are appointed from time to time for special tasks. We thank God for the faithfulness and expertise of the people who serve on our committees.

1.5 Mr Steve McKerihan

We noted with sadness the death of Mr Steve McKerihan, former Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat and the Glebe Administration Board. We placed on record our deep appreciation of the dedicated and expert contribution Steve made to the work of the Secretariat, the Glebe Administration Board and the Diocese as a whole, especially in the events surrounding the recent financial crisis. We also recalled with gratitude Steve's godly character and resolute commitment to Jesus Christ.

1.6 Election of the Rev Rick Lewers as the next Bishop of Armidale

We noted with pleasure that the Synod of the Diocese of Armidale elected the Rev Rick Lewers, rector of Engadine, to succeed Bishop Peter Brain as the next Bishop of Armidale.

1.7 Election of the Rev Gary Nelson as the next Bishop of North West Australia

We noted with pleasure that the Synod of the Diocese of North West Australia elected the Rev Gary Nelson, Moore Theological College, to succeed Bishop David Mulready as the next Bishop of North West Australia.

1.8 Retirement of Mr Justice Peter Young AO

We acknowledged the retirement of Mr Justice Peter Young AO from his distinguished career, including most recently as an Appeal Court Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

1.9 Ms Jenni Woodhouse

We gave thanks for the tremendous contribution of Ms Jenni Woodhouse by supporting victims of abuse and promoting safe ministry in the Diocese and beyond.

2. The Diocesan Mission

2.1 Diocesan Mission Strategy

In 2002, the Synod adopted the mission strategy for the Diocese including the following Mission Statement –

To glorify God by proclaiming our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit, so that everyone will hear his call to repent, trust and serve Christ in love, and be established in the fellowship of his disciples while they await his return.

The initial goal of the Mission adopted by the Synod is –

To see at least 10% of the population of the region of the Diocese in Bible-based churches in 10 years.

The fundamental aim of the strategy is –

To multiply Bible-based Christian fellowships, congregations and churches which equip and nurture their members and expand themselves, both in the Diocese and 'in all the world'.

The Mission Strategy has directed much of the work we have undertaken during the year.

2.2 Mission Areas

Last year we approved a change of name of the Connect09 Fund to the Mission Areas Fund.

This year we passed the Synod Fund (Mission Areas) Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2011 to –

- (a) pay the amounts allocated by Synod for on-going support and assistance and training for Mission Areas as an addition to the Mission Areas Fund, and
- (b) enable the Mission Areas Fund to be applied for such purposes of the Mission Areas as we determine, including on-going support and assistance and training for Mission Areas.

During 2012 we continued making quarterly payments of \$2,500 to each of the parishes whose senior minister had been appointed as a Mission Area Leader in recognition of the work they undertake.

2.3 Mission Property

In order to start replenishing funds available to the Mission Property Committee to acquire land for church sites in greenfield areas, we supported the promotion of a bill to the Synod to raise \$2 million for this purpose in 2012 by way of a levy on parishes. See item 4.11.

We have also been working with the Mission Property Committee about broader strategies to raise funds for the acquisition of land for church sites and construction of ministry centres across the Diocese. For this purpose, we requested the Mission Property Committee to provide us with a progress report for the Synod about –

- (a) implementing the strategic priorities in acquisition of land for church sites and the

- construction of ministry centres, and
- (b) a statement of intention to cooperate among Anglican organisations, and
- (c) its fundraising activities.

The progress report is printed separately.

2.4 Review of Diocesan Mission

We requested that motions be moved at the Synod –

- to give thanks to Almighty God for our Archbishop and his leadership of our 2000 – 2010 Diocesan Mission,
- to commence a review and assessment of what has been achieved and the lessons learned in the 10 years of the Diocesan Mission, and
- to initiate a report to the Synod in 2013 with recommendations about the next phase of mission in the Diocese.

3. Actions with the Archbishop

3.1 Estate of Late M.A. Grant (Sisters' Endowment)

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$30,000 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop to assist clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

3.2 Parramatta '54 Free Fund

The income of this fund is to be distributed among the objects of the Diocese of Sydney as determined by the Archbishop-in-Council. During the year the following distributions were made –

- \$10,254 to reimburse the Endowment of the See for the costs of 5 Sydney Bishops and their wives to attend the March 2012 Australian Bishops' Conference held in Melbourne, and
- \$3,974 to reimburse the General Synod office for the "shared conference cost" and "travel equalisation adjustment" attributable to the 5 Sydney Bishops who attended the Australian Bishops' Conference.

3.3 Church of England Children's Home Burwood

The Archbishop-in-Council withdrew the authority of the Church of England Children's Home Burwood to use the name "Church of England" pursuant to the General Synod – Use of Church Names Canon 1989 Adopting Ordinance 1990.

4. Financial and Property Administration

4.1 Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995

Organisations of the Synod which manage church trust property must report annually to the Synod. These reports include audited financial statements and must be lodged, together with a liquidity report, by 30 June each year. A different lodgement date has been approved for three organisations, Anglicare, Anglican Retirement Villages and Anglican Aid whose financial year ends on 30 June.

Organisations are also required to provide us with certain internal management financial information during the year.

The annual reports and audited accounts for about 40 organisations will be tabled in the Synod. Any major problems found by the Finance Committee from a review of these accounts and the additional internal management financial information will be reported.

4.2 Annual Financial Statements for the Synod Funds and Parish Funds

The annual financial statements for the Amalgamated Synod Funds and Amalgamated Parish Funds have been prepared and the auditors have reported according to an agreed review of procedures instead of an audit.

These reports are printed separately.

4.3 Borrowing limits for organisations

We approved the extension of a reduced borrowing limit for 1 organisation.

4.4 Ordination training fund

From this Fund, bursaries are available to –

- (a) candidates studying through Moore Theological College or Youthworks College for ordination in Sydney, and
- (b) candidates studying through Moore Theological College or Youthworks College for commissioning as Diocesan Lay Workers in Sydney.

Bursaries of \$145,000 were paid in 2011 (\$245,000 in 2010).

4.5 Ordinances

The following table shows the number of ordinances passed and assented to in 2006 to 2011 and in 2012 up to 19 September –

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Standing Committee	48	45	38	27	36	40	30
Synod	5	3	6	13	4	10	0
	53	48	44	40	40	50	30

A separate report lists the ordinances passed by us since the 2011 session of the Synod. There are 12 ordinances of particular interest.

The St Philip's York Street Leasing Ordinance 2011 authorised the Property Trust to enter into a new head lease over the property known as 1 York Street, Sydney. See item 4.20.

The St James' Sydney Phillip Street Property Ordinance 1962 Further Amendment Ordinance 2011 facilitated the election of the Property Trust as the trustee of the property known as 169 Phillip Street, Sydney (St James' Hall) as a consequence of the resignation of the previous trustee, Glebe Administration Board.

The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid Ordinance 2011 reconstituted the Archbishop of Sydney's Community Care and Development Program as the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid.

The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid Incorporation and Transition Ordinance 2011 constituted the body known as the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid as a body corporate under the Anglican Church of Australia (Bodies Corporate) Act 1938.

The Synod Fund (Mission Areas) Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2011 provided for the payment of amounts allocated by the Synod for on-going support and assistance and training for Mission Areas into the Mission Areas Fund and for the Fund to be applied for such purposes of the Mission Areas as we determine.

The Diocesan Endowment Amendment Ordinance 2012 requires the Glebe Administration Board to advise us each year of the amount which may be prudently distributed from the Diocesan Endowment for spending by the Synod in the following year. See item 4.9.

The Synod Estimates and Parochial Cost Recoveries (Transition) Ordinance 2012 provides for arrangements to transition back to a triennial Synod funding cycle following a number of years of Synod funding on a yearly basis.

The 1 York Street (Special Distribution) Ordinance 2012 provided for the special distribution of the back payment of rent under the lease of the property known as 1 York Street, Sydney. See item 4.20.

The Endowment of the See Capital Ordinance 2012 and the Endowment of the See Expenditure Ordinance 2012 put in place new governance arrangements for property held for the Endowment of the See.

The Clergy Removals Fund Ordinance 2003 Amendment Ordinance 2012 restricted the payment of benefits from the Clergy Removals Fund to those parishes which the Regional Bishop determines are under financial hardship.

The Provisional Parishes (Office of Rector) Ordinance 2012 provided that the person who has charge of a separate cure of souls in a provisional parish is to be its rector rather than its curate in charge.

4.6 Parochial cost recoveries - arrears

The following table compares the arrears of cost recovery charges as at 30 June 2011 and 2012 –

	2011	2012
Beverley Hills with Kingsgrove	732	-
Cabramatta	556	3,754
Chester Hill with Sefton	1,527	1,446
Dulwich Hill	3,646	-

	2011	2012
Harbour Church	943	-
Lord Howe Island	130	-
Richmond	-	3,057
Rosemeadow	3,095	-
Rouse Hill	821	9,648
Shellharbour City Centre	-	12,710
St George	1,878	-
	<u>13,328</u>	<u>30,615</u>

4.7 Annual financial statements from parishes

Under the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008, parochial units are required to lodge their audited financial statements within 7 days after their annual general meeting of parishioners.

As at 30 April 2012, 99 parochial units (37%) had not lodged a set of prescribed financial statements. By 10 July this had improved so that only 15 parochial units (5.6%) had not lodged their financial statements.

The Finance Committee has processes in place to remind parochial units of their obligations under the Ordinance, assist with any enquiries and review the statements lodged. The Finance Committee also works with the Regional Bishops and the Archdeacon of Liverpool to investigate and report to us on the status of the audited financial statements for parochial units that are late in lodging the required information.

4.8 Local revenues test for parish status

The parish of Auburn – St Philip had local revenues below the requisite amount in 2011. The parish has been advised of the importance of ensuring its 2012 and future revenues meet the relevant threshold figures in order to retain its parish status.

4.9 Recommended distribution from the Diocesan Endowment for 2013

We noted the advice of the Glebe Administration Board for the purposes of clause 5(1) of the Diocesan Endowment Ordinance 1984 that \$3.335 million could prudently be distributed from the Diocesan Endowment in 2012 for spending by the Synod in 2013.

4.10 Synod Appropriations and Allocations for 2013

Under clause 3 of the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998 we are required to prepare for the 2nd ordinary session of the 49th Synod a statement of funding principles and priorities and a proposed ordinance reflecting the statement which contains estimates for 2013 of –

- the amount required for meeting the cost of sittings of the Synod, the maintenance of diocesan offices and the expenses of such other diocesan activities and commitments as, in our opinion, should be supported, and
- the amount which, in our opinion, should be granted to organisations under the control of Synod or to other organisations, and
- the amount of income available from endowments or other trusts for meeting the amounts referred to above in the relevant financial year.

A bill for the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2012, an explanatory report and the statement of funding principles and priorities are printed separately.

See item 8.13.

4.11 Parochial cost recoveries for 2013

Under clause 5 of the Cost Recoveries Framework Ordinance 2008, we are required to prepare for the 2nd ordinary session of the 49th Synod an ordinance which specifies the cost recoveries charge in respect of ministry costs and parochial network costs to be paid by each parochial unit in 2013.

A bill for the Parochial Cost Recoveries and Church Land Acquisitions Levy Ordinance 2012 and an explanatory report are printed separately.

See item 8.13.

4.12 Stipends, allowances and benefits for 2013

A report on stipends, allowances and benefits for 2013 is printed separately.

4.13 Work Outside the Diocese

In the 6 months to 30 June 2012, the Work Outside the Diocese Committee had applied \$158,180 from a

total Synod allocation in 2012 of \$200,000. It is expected that further amounts will be applied during the 6 months to 31 December 2012 from the 2012 allocation, and possibly also from reserves.

4.14 Allocation of Synod funds to regional councils

Under the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2011 an amount of \$300,000 was provided as an allocation to regional councils for 2012 for administration support. With the agreement of the Regional Bishops and regional councils, we allocated this amount as follows –

Georges River Regional Council	\$75,000
Northern Regional Council	\$75,000
South Sydney Regional Council	\$75,000
Western Sydney Regional Council	\$75,000
Wollongong Regional Council	\$0
Total	<u>\$300,000</u>

4.15 Parochial support for the Diocese

Under the Parochial Cost Recoveries and Support for the Diocese Ordinance 2009 the amount accruing as “parochial support for the Diocese” must be reported to us and the Synod with reference to subtotals arising under clauses 5(d) and 5(e) of the Ordinance.

As at 22 March 2012, 6 parochial units had committed to contribute a total of \$12,010 by way of “parochial support for the Diocese” under clause 5(d). A further amount of \$7,500 had been received by way of “donations” from 3 parochial units under clause 5(e) of the Ordinance.

In accordance with clause 5(h) of the Ordinance, we directed that the funds arising from the “parochial support for the Diocese” be applied to the capital of the Diocesan Endowment.

4.16 Funding for 2013 Archbishop’s Election Synod

Under clause 6 of the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2009, we approved the payment during 2012 and 2013 of up to \$53,000 in disbursements relating to the Archbishop’s Election Synod in 2013.

4.17 Bishopscourt

We requested that a bill for the sale of Bishopscourt be promoted to the forthcoming session of the Synod and recommended the passing of the bill.

The bill and an explanatory report are printed separately.

We also requested that following the passing of the bill at Synod, a motion be moved requesting the Endowment of the See Committee to make arrangements to provide suitable alternative accommodation for the next Archbishop.

4.18 Future of Parish Planned Giving

We received a report about the steps being undertaken by the Secretariat in relation to the closure of the Parish Planned Giving program.

4.19 St Andrew’s Cathedral School consent to mortgage

We consented to the St Andrew’s Cathedral School granting a mortgage over its lease of levels 6-8 and the roof top of St Andrew’s House, 474 Kent Street, Sydney. Our consent to such a mortgage is required under the Council of St Andrew’s Cathedral School Incorporation Ordinance 1978.

4.20 Lease of 1 York Street

We noted that pursuant to the St Philip’s York Street Leasing Ordinance 2011, the Property Trust had entered into a new head lease over the property known as 1 York Street, Sydney. We approved the Property Trust charging a management fee of 2.50% of the gross monthly rental received under this head lease for the remainder of its term.

We also passed the 1 York Street (Special Distribution) Ordinance 2012 to provide for the distribution between the parish of York Street and the Synod of a back payment of rent under the previous head lease of 1 York Street, Sydney.

4.21 Consultation with Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples’ Ministry Committee

We adopted a regulation under clause 6(5) of the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897 for the purposes of consulting with the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples’ Ministry Committee concerning the sale of property used for Indigenous ministry.

4.22 Greenoaks Apartments

By clause 9 of the Bishops court Back Block Development and Land Sale Ordinance 2004 (the "Ordinance"), we are required to report to each ordinary session of the Synod about –

- progress of the development authorised by the Ordinance, now called "Greenoaks Apartments", and
- application of the sale proceeds of the land the subject of the development, and
- action taken by us in response to the statement of intention under clause 8(3) of the Ordinance.

The Greenoaks development comprised a 6-storey apartment building containing 10 apartments over basement parking for 25 motor vehicles. Construction commenced in September 2005 and practical completion occurred in September 2007.

All of the apartments have now been sold.

Clause 8(3) of the Ordinance provides that when the final balance of the sale of the land, or parts thereof, is known, we intend that an appropriate sum be applied for the repair and maintenance of Bishops court. Although the final balance of the sale of the apartments has been finalised, there are no available funds to be applied for the purposes of clause 8(3). However, funds generated from the development have been applied to major roof repair and renovations undertaken at Bishops court over the last 3 years (over \$2.0m) and for other purposes permitted by the Ordinance.

As the development is now complete and all apartments sold this is the final report that is required to be made to Synod under the Ordinance.

4.23 Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre Sale Ordinance 2001

Under the Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre Sale Ordinance 2001, we are required to provide an annual report to the Synod on progress in acquiring, constructing, adapting and/or renovating a property or building to be used as a conference centre and retreat house for the Diocese.

In 2007 we agreed to release to Anglican Youthworks, upon its request to the Property Trust, the invested funds from the sale of Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre in order to purchase a new conference centre.

Anglican Youthworks has not yet been successful in acquiring another conference site but most recently has been actively pursuing camping and conferencing centre options north of Sydney. Another possible site purchase in another area of Sydney is also currently being investigated. Youthworks is not in a rush to secure another property and remains particular about the requirements for a suitable property.

4.24 Review of large receipts policy and related matters

We appointed a committee to undertake a review of our large receipts policy. The review will include a number of related matters including –

- matters arising from Synod resolution 24/09 concerning the support for regional councils, and
- the process to be followed in determining the appropriate proportion of a large receipt from parish property to be made available for diocesan purposes, including the role of the Mission Property Committee in making such a determination.

We noted a discussion paper prepared by the Mission Property Committee concerning the review of the large receipts policy and, without endorsing its content, requested that this paper be considered as part of the review.

We expect to consider the outcome of the review later this year.

4.25 Lady Alison Neville Starr Trust

We determined that an amount of \$146,787 received under a trust established by Lady Alison Neville Starr in 1974 should, in accordance with the trusts on which this amount is held, be paid to Anglicare Diocese of Sydney to be used for general welfare purposes of the Diocese.

5. General Administration

5.1 Elections

The appointment of persons to serve on committees etc. continued to be a major part of our business. Some appointments are to fill casual vacancies among Synod appointees, and these appointments fall vacant at this coming Synod session. Other appointments are made by the Standing Committee in its

own right.

From November 2011 to June 2012, 151 such positions were filled (72 for the same period in 2010 – 2011).

5.2 Reports from Regional Councils

Under clause 9 of the Regions Ordinance 1995 each regional council must give us an annual report for inclusion in our report to the Synod. The annual reports are printed separately, together with any reports for reclassification of provisional parishes under the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

5.3 Diocesan Policy Statement on Education

We noted that the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education indicates Synod's expectation that the boards of Anglican educational organisations will appoint as heads only practising Christians who have signed a statement of personal faith and support for the Christian ethos and charter of the organisation.

In order to give better effect to this expectation, we requested that an amendment to the Policy be moved at the Synod to include in the Policy a protocol that should be followed by Anglican educational organisations when selecting or appointing a person as head.

A motion to enable consideration of this matter will be moved at the Synod at our request.

See also item 8.16.

5.4 Review of the School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975

We received a report from a committee we appointed in 2009 to review the School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975. We requested that a motion be moved at Synod to enable Synod members, school councils and the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation to consider and provide comments on the report with a view to suitable amendments to the Ordinance being brought to the Synod in 2013 having regard to such comments.

The report is printed separately.

5.5 Transition to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission

In May 2011, the Federal Government announced the establishment of a regulator for the charities and not-for-profits sector, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Since this announcement, we have made a number of submissions and been represented at various discussions with the Government about the legislation and administrative arrangements for the ACNC, which is due to commence operations on 1 October 2012.

See item 6.2.

We requested the Secretariat to manage the action required to transition to this new regulatory environment, noting that the costs of undertaking this work will go beyond the Secretariat's current resources. For this purpose we –

- (a) supported the continuation of work outlined in a project plan prepared by the Secretariat covering specific transitional issues relating to central diocesan organisations, parishes and other diocesan organisations, and
- (b) allocated an amount of up to \$10,000 from Synod Fund Contingencies to assist in completing some initial transitional work.

We also expressed our support for the creation of a new full-time position within the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat for the purposes of managing further transitional and ongoing compliance work arising in relation to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

5.6 Cessation of Christ Church St George as a recognised church

On the recommendation of the Georges River Regional Council, we determined, under clause 20(1) of the Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000, that recognition of Christ Church St George as a recognised church should cease with effect from 1 January 2012. On our recommendation, the Archbishop also made the requisite declaration in the same terms.

5.7 Richard Johnson College Ltd

We received a report about activities proposed to be undertaken by Richard Johnson College Ltd following the closure of its residential college some years ago and subsequent activities to support the alumni of Richard Johnson College and to award scholarships and provide support to other colleges.

In view of the new direction proposed to be taken by the Company, we approved a number of amendments to the Constitution of the Company which would have the effect of severing its ties with the Diocese. We also recommended to the Archbishop that, in consultation with the Wollongong Regional

Council, he withdraw the Company's authorisation to use the Anglican name under the General Synod – Use of Church Names Canon 1989 Adopting Ordinance 1990.

5.8 Freedom4Faith

During the year we were informed of the work being undertaken by a group of church representatives and Christian academics known as Freedom4Faith. To date the work of Freedom4Faith has included –

- Identifying religious freedom issues and educating and sensitising churches and politicians about these issues, for example the principles for religious freedom adopted in 2010 by the Synod and, in a slightly extended form, by the General Synod.
- Contributing to background work addressing potential threats to religious freedom, for example the response to the Freedom of Religion and Belief Project commissioned by the Australian Human Rights Commission in 2008 and the current proposal from the Commonwealth Attorney General to consolidate anti-discrimination laws.
- Providing a means to network with others concerning religious freedom issues.

We expressed our support for Freedom4Faith and agreed to pay to Freedom4Faith \$10,000 from Synod Fund Contingencies as our 2012 Institution Affiliation Fee.

We also requested that Mr Robert Wicks be appointed to the Board of Freedom4Faith and Bishop Robert Forsyth be appointed as a member of its Campaign Committee.

See also item 6.3.

5.9 Discipline Ordinance 2006 Amendment Ordinance 2012

We received a report about proposed changes to procedures in the Discipline Ordinance 2006 for dealing with complaints made against unpaid lay church workers. We requested that a bill for the Discipline Ordinance 2006 Amendment Ordinance 2012 to give effect to these changes be promoted to the Synod.

The bill and an explanatory report are printed separately.

5.10 Special Religious Education

Following the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Education Amendment (Ethics Classes Repeal) Bill of 2011, we considered –

- (a) the action that should be taken over the next 10 years to respond to the challenges for Special Religious Education in Government schools, and
- (b) the steps that need to be taken to respond to these challenges, including the additional funding that would be required.

We requested that a motion be moved at the Synod to address the need for sufficient funds for SRE in Synod's 2014-2015 budget.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

See also item 6.6.

5.11 Affiliated Churches

We declared Central Evangelical Church Canberra to be affiliated with the Diocese and authorised the Diocesan Secretary on our behalf to enter into an affiliation agreement with Central Evangelical Church Canberra.

5.12 Amendments to *Faithfulness in Service*

We requested that a motion be moved at the Synod to enable the Synod to approve certain amendments to the code of conduct, *Faithfulness in Service*.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

5.13 Provisional Parishes

We passed the Provisional Parishes (Office of Rector) Ordinance 2012 to enable a person who has the charge of a separate cure of souls in a provisional parish to be called its rector rather than its curate-in-charge.

5.14 Constitution of SCEGGS Darlinghurst Limited

We were asked to consider our support for a proposed amendment to the Constitution of SCEGGS Darlinghurst Limited which would have removed a provision which currently limits to those directors appointed by the Secretariat discussion of business concerning "the instruction or practice of religion or the appointment or removal of the chaplain".

We deferred consideration of this matter until we had the benefit of discussions with the school council about the amendment. We indicated that pending the outcome of these discussions, the suggested amendments should not be supported by the Secretariat.

5.15 Half-yearly review of Secretariat's services to Synod and Standing Committee

We undertook a half-yearly review of the services provided by the Secretariat to the Synod and the Standing Committee and confirmed that the Secretariat had satisfactorily provided such services under its current service level agreement with us for the period between November 2011 and April 2012.

We intend undertaking a yearly review of the services provided by the Secretariat between November 2011 and October 2012. As part of this review we will consider whether the current service level agreement needs to be reviewed for services provided during 2013, particularly in light of the proposed reduction of funding to pay for such services next year.

5.16 Culture of review among parishes and clergy

In 2009 we appointed a taskforce to recommend alternative approaches for encouraging a culture of review among our parishes and clergy, and for facilitating actual review mechanisms where parishes and clergy wish to request a review. We agreed to the taskforce preparing an email and web-based survey of rectors in consultation with Mission Area Leaders seeking advice about what resources they had used to enable them or their parish to review and develop ministry with a view to compiling the results into an annotated list of resources available for such reviews. We also supported including in the training of Mission Area Leaders familiarity with these resources and an encouragement to facilitate a culture of review among clergy and parishes.

We asked the taskforce to prepare a suitable report for the Synod once the survey had been completed.

We understand that the survey has been completed but we have not yet received a report about the matter.

5.17 Safe Ministry Representatives

We requested that parishes that have not already done so nominate a Safe Ministry Representative (SMR) and that the Professional Standards Unit consider its policy on the appointment of a staff member as a SMR.

6. Relations with Government

6.1 Social Issues Executive

The Social Issues Executive (SIE) is one of our subcommittees. The SIE provides advice to the Archbishop on issues which are referred to it by him and provides advice on issues referred to it by us or at the request of the Synod. The SIE also identifies and initiates the study and discussion of social issues among Anglicans in the Diocese. During 2012, the SIE celebrated publishing its 100th 'Social Issues briefing', entitled 'A Look Back' which painted a picture of the many diverse issues that the SIE has written about. Other recent briefings treated various topics, including ethics classes; freedom of religion; church and state (and the Scripture Union High Court case); refugees; and disability insurance (all available at www.sie.org.au). The SIE also acts as the advisory panel of the Centre for Christian Living, a centre started in 2011 devoted to examining ethical and moral issues from the perspective of Christian theology. For more information on the Centre for Christian Living, see the Moore Theological College Annual Report to Synod, or visit www.ccl.moore.edu.au.

During the year, the SIE made submissions to the following Commonwealth Government and statutory commission inquiries –

- April 2012: Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into the *Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010*
- March 2012: Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform Inquiry into the prevention and treatment of problem gambling
- October 2011: Department of Finance and Services Review into the Shop Trading Provisions of the *Retail Trading Act 2008*

It has also raised Diocesan awareness of the proposals to extend marriage law to same sex couples and encouraged members of the Diocese to contribute to the debate through contact with their elected Member of Parliament.

6.2 Reforms to the charities and not-for-profits sector

The major focus of our interaction with Government this year has been the extensive reforms to the charities and not-for-profits sector announced by the Federal Government as part of its May 2011 Budget.

During the year, we made the following submissions –

- Submission to Treasury regarding *A Definition of Charity* – Consultation Paper (December 2011)
- Submission to Treasury regarding *The Exposure Draft for the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Bill 2012* (January 2012)
- Submission to Treasury regarding *Review of Not-for-profit Governance Arrangements* – Consultation Paper December 2011 (January 2012)
- Submission to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Taskforce regarding the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission: Implementation Design – Discussion Paper* (February 2012)
- Submission to the Treasury regarding *Charitable Fundraising Reform – Discussion Paper and Draft Regulatory Tax Statement* (April 2012)
- Submission to the Treasury regarding the Exposure Draft for the *Tax Laws Amendment (2012 Measures No. 4) Bill 2012: Tax Exempt Body “In Australia” Requirements* (May 2012)
- Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics – Inquiry into the *Exposure Draft Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Bill* (July 2012)
- Supplementary submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics – Inquiry into the *Exposure Draft Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Bill* (August 2012)
- Submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee regarding the *Tax Laws Amendment (Special Conditions for Not-for-profit Concessions) Bill 2012* (August 2012)
- Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services regarding the *Tax Laws Amendment (Special Conditions for Not-for-profit Concessions) Bill 2012* (August 2012)
- Submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee concerning the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Bill 2012* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission(Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2012* (August 2012)
- Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services regarding the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Bill 2012* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission(Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2012* (August 2012)

A copy of each of these submissions is available on the Secretariat’s website, www.sds.asn.au.

A report summarising these submissions and the implications of the reforms for the Diocese will be printed separately.

6.3 Anti-discrimination law reform and freedom of religion

Last year we expressed our in-principle support for the extension of Commonwealth anti-discrimination law to cover sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity in response to a discussion paper issued by the Australian Human Rights Commission – *Protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, sex and/or gender identity*. However, in doing so, we indicated there was a need to balance any such extension with a right to religious freedom.

This year the Commonwealth Attorney General issued a further discussion paper on the *Consolidation of Commonwealth Anti-discrimination laws* seeking submissions on a range of matters including the possible extension of anti-discrimination law to cover additional characteristics beyond sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity.

We made a submission in response to the discussion paper. In summary we submitted that –

- Commonwealth anti-discrimination law needs to better balance the legitimate right not to be unjustly discriminated against with other human rights, such as freedom of religion.
- The preamble to any consolidated anti-discrimination Act should provide that the object of the Act is to give effect to Australia’s international obligations to prevent unjustified forms of discrimination in a manner which upholds rights to freedom of religion, association and cultural expression, as well as other human rights.
- Commonwealth anti-discrimination law should be extended to cover additional attributes listed under International Labour Organisation Convention No 111, including religion.

However our support for extending the law to cover additional attributes is subject to religious bodies (broadly understood) being able to lawfully discriminate on religious grounds, particularly in the area of employment, to ensure that the ethos and values of such bodies are maintained.

- Any exception from anti-discrimination law based on the inherent requirements of a position should be sufficiently broad to ensure that positions within religious organisations, and any organisation that promotes belief or ideology, are not viewed purely in terms of their function but also in terms of their contribution to the culture and ethos of the organisation.
- The right to be free from discrimination should include an obligation on the part of an employer to make reasonable accommodation for a staff member's religious beliefs, including in relation to matters giving rise to conscientious objection on the part of a staff member. There is also a need for protections in Commonwealth anti-discrimination law to prevent individuals from being coerced into the active promotion of activities or practices that are contrary to their sincerely held religious beliefs.
- Harassment based on a protected attribute should constitute a ground of unlawful discrimination. However in order to ensure that legitimate and reasonable conduct does not constitute harassment merely because offence is taken, any limits placed on the expression of genuinely held opinions must be drawn broadly and specific protections put in place for genuine public debate on matters such as political opinion, religious belief and sexual orientation.

A full copy of our submission can be found on the Secretariat's website at www.sds.asn.au.

We also received a copy of a submission made by Freedom4Faith to the NSW Opposition in response to a consultation about religious freedom in New South Wales. We will consider whether to indicate our support of this submission.

6.4 School building funds

During the year the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) issued draft Tax Ruling TR 2011/05 about school or college tax deductible building funds. It is proposed that the draft ruling will replace the existing Tax Ruling TR 96/8 – School or College building funds.

The most significant difference between these rulings is the proportion of time that a building must be used as a school in order for it to qualify as a "school" for tax deductible purposes. Under TR 96/8 the test is the "primary and principle use" of the building. This requires the building to be used as a school for more than 50% of the time. The draft ruling TR 2011/D5 proposes that a building must be used exclusively as a school, with any other use being minor or occasional or integral to its use as a school.

In addition, the draft ruling suggests that many typical parish activities currently accepted by the ATO as school use under the existing ruling, including bible study, Sunday school, ESL and so forth, may not be regarded by the ATO as "use as a school".

We noted that the Property Trust has made a submission arguing that the draft ruling seeks to administer the meanings of "school" and "used as a school" in a manner contrary to the manner declared by the courts. The Property Trust also submitted that the transitional provisions for the draft ruling were unfair insofar as its provisions would apply to all gifts made to existing school building funds after the commencement of the draft ruling. Accordingly the Property Trust submitted that if, contrary to its submissions, the ATO persists with the draft ruling, it should only apply to school building funds endorsed after the date of its issue.

6.5 Bills to provide for same-sex marriage

We made a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs concerning the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2012 and the Marriage Amendment Bill 2012. Both these bills make provision for extending marriage to same-sex couples.

We confirmed in the submission that we are, as a matter of principle, firmly opposed to extending the definition of marriage to include same-sex relationships. However if these Bills were introduced into Parliament, we submitted that –

- The Parliament should only proceed to consider legislation if it considers it has the constitutional power to pass it and, accordingly, the House of Representatives Standing Committee should take the necessary steps to inform itself about the constitutional validity of the Bills and include in its report its findings and conclusions about the matter.
- Alternative vows should be outlined for the solemnisation of marriage involving a same-sex couple rather than amending the existing vows for heterosexual couples or allowing same-

sex couples to use the term “husband” and “wife”.

- Both Bills should include in the Marriage Act 1961 an express provision that nothing in the Act or any other law imposes an obligation on a religious body to make its property available for the solemnisation of marriage to any couple, including on the grounds that the couple is in a same-sex relationship.
- Both Bills should provide for an extension of the protections in section 47 of the Marriage Act 1961 to civil celebrants where the marriage to be solemnised is between persons of the same sex.

A full copy of the submission can be found on the Secretariat’s website at www.sds.asn.au.

Following the public consultation, the House of Representatives Standing Committee recommended a limited number of amendments to the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2012 which generally coincided with our submissions. Members of the Committee made personal comments at the end of their report which indicated that the majority (4 – 2) were not in favour of the legalisation of same-sex marriage.

6.6 Ethics classes

We received a report from the Executive Director of the Anglican Education Commission, Dr Bryan Cowling following the release of the Report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Education Amendment (Ethics Classes Repeal) Bill of 2011. Dr Cowling indicated that many of the 14 recommendations of the Inquiry were drawn from the submission made by the Anglican Education Commission to the Inquiry. In particular the Inquiry Committee recommended that –

- The NSW Government not seek to repeal section 33A of the Education Act 1990 that allows for Special Education in Ethics (SEE) classes in NSW Government schools and that it continue to facilitate the delivery of SEE in NSW Government primary schools as an option for students who do not attend Special Religious Education (SRE).
- The NSW Government maintain the current situation where neither the providers of SEE or SRE receive direct financial support from the Government; and that the Department of Education and Communities (the Department) publish on its website information advising that the provision of SEE and SRE are not government funded.
- The Department should require all providers of SEE or SRE to post their curriculum outlines and curriculum scope and sequence documents online, and that all relevant curriculum information be presented in the order in which it is taught.
- The Department collect and publish data annually on the number of students who participate in SEE, SRE and those students who do not attend either.
- The Department provide recommendations to schools regarding what constitutes adequate supervision for students and for activities that those students not attending SEE or SRE can be meaningfully engaged in during that timeslot.
- The Department require and monitor SEE and SRE providers to ensure that they have in place a system of accredited initial and ongoing training for their voluntary teachers that includes training in classroom management and child protection issues and that this information is published on the providers’ websites.
- The Department commission an independent review of both SEE and SRE in NSW Government schools to be conducted by appropriately qualified early childhood education reviewers in 2014-2015.

We also noted the Anglican Education Commission has endorsed the recommendations arising from the Inquiry and has called on the Government to accept and implement them expeditiously.

6.7 Extension of Working With Children Checks to voluntary workers

During the year, the Child Protection (Working with Children) Bill 2012 was introduced into the NSW Parliament by the Government. The Bill, if passed, will make significant changes to the screening procedure, known as the Working With Children Check, that is required of certain persons who are in child-related employment in NSW. In particular, the changes will require that a check be obtained for almost all volunteers in our parishes who directly assist with children’s and youth activities.

In anticipation of the Bill becoming law, we appointed a small committee to consider how to respond to any extension of Working With Children Checks to voluntary workers in the parish context and report back to us in due course with recommendations.

We have not yet received this report.

7. The International, National and Provincial Church

7.1 Appointment of a clergyman with a male partner in the Diocese of Gippsland

In February, we noted with concern the report in *The Gippsland Anglican* of December 2011 of the appointment of a clergyman, with a male partner, to part-time ministry in the parish of Heyfield in the Diocese of Gippsland. We considered that the appointment is contrary to the teaching of God's Word concerning appropriate Christian behaviour and the appointment of elders who are beyond reproach to serve the people of God. We also considered that it seriously diminishes the fellowship within the Anglican Church of Australia.

We conveyed these views to the Bishop of Gippsland and respectfully encouraged him to reconsider the appointment.

In March, we noted that while the Australian Bishops' Protocol on Human Sexuality (see item 7.3) addresses future actions it does not address the past action of the Bishop of Gippsland appointing a man living with a male partner to a ministry office. We therefore requested our Archbishop and bishops to continue their pastoral conversations with the Bishop of Gippsland with the goal of his public repentance and reconciliation.

In May, we noted our dismay at the Bishop of Gippsland's Presidential Address to the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland on 18 May 2012 from which it is reasonable to infer his intention to appoint, among others, practising homosexuals to ministry roles in his Diocese and support same-sex marriages. We considered that Bishop McIntyre's earlier appointment of a practising homosexual to a ministry office and his statement to the Gippsland Synod represent –

- a departure from the teaching of Scripture,
- a departure from the Lambeth Resolution 1.10 of 1998,
- a departure from *Faithfulness in Service* paragraph 7.4,
- a breach of the Australian Bishops' Protocol agreed to by all Australian Bishops (including the Bishop of Gippsland) in March this year, and
- a breach of trust and fellowship at a profound level which deeply grieves us.

We requested that a motion be moved at the Synod to enable the Synod to consider this matter.

7.2 Steps to recognise, support, protect and provide for faithful Anglicans

As a consequence of the actions taken by the Bishop of Gippsland, we commenced consideration of the steps we should take as a Diocese to recognise, support, protect and provide for faithful Anglicans who are disenfranchised and to reach those elements of society denied a faithful presentation of the gospel.

For this purpose, we encouraged the establishment of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans Australia (FCA Australia). We also asked the Archbishop to arrange for a report on how work might be undertaken to analyse and explain in detail the biblical view of human sexuality and its expression and on the institution of marriage.

We intend considering further steps that should be taken.

7.3 Australian Bishops' Protocol on Human Sexuality

In March, we welcomed the following protocol on human sexuality prepared by the bishops attending the 2012 Australian Bishops' Conference and thanked our bishops for their part in formulating it –

“As bishops in the Australian Church we accept the weight of 1998 Lambeth Resolution 1.10 and the 2004 General Synod resolutions 33, 59 and 61-64 as expressing the mind of this Church on issues of human sexuality.

We undertake to uphold the position of our Church in regard to human sexuality as we ordain, license, authorise or appoint to ministries within our dioceses.

We understand that issues of sexuality are subject to ongoing conversation within our Church and we undertake to support these conversations, while seeking to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

7.4 General Synod assessment

See item 8.17.

7.5 Proceedings involving Newcastle Professional Standards Board

We received a report about legal proceedings commenced by the Rev Graham Leslie Sturt and the Rev Graeme Russell Lawrence, clergymen of the Newcastle Diocese, against the Bishop of Newcastle and

others. Mr Sturt and Mr Lawrence were the subject of certain adverse determinations and recommendations by the Professional Standards Board (PSB) of the Newcastle Diocese in relation to allegations of sexual misconduct. They sought an order from the Supreme Court quashing the PSB's determinations and recommendations, or alternatively an order that they were invalid or void. The clergymen made various arguments to the effect that the PSB process was procedurally unfair, oppressive and prejudiced.

The Supreme Court handed down its judgment in the matter on 27 April 2012, finding in favour of the Bishop of Newcastle and other defendants.

The judgment may have implications for our own professional standards processes. We requested that a more detailed report about the case and its implications be prepared for our consideration.

We have not yet received this report.

7.6 Statement and Commitment the from 2012 FCA Leaders' Conference

We noted the Statement and Commitment from the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans Leaders' Conference held in London in April 2012. A full copy of the Statement and Commitment can be found at www.fca.net.

8. Sydney Synod Matters

8.1 Archbishop's Election Synod in 2013

A special session of the Synod to elect the next Archbishop of Sydney is scheduled to be held on 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 August 2013.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

8.1A Reduced number of days for ordinary session of Synod in 2013

As in recent years, the ordinary session of Synod in 2013 is due to be held over a period of 5 days (Monday 14, Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16, Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 October 2013). Each day is scheduled to commence at 3.15pm and conclude at 9.30pm.

We considered reducing the number of days allocated for this and, possibly, subsequent ordinary sessions of Synod. There are 3 reasons for considering this matter.

Firstly, the cost of hiring the Wesley Theatre each day is approximately \$9,000. This includes the hire of the Theatre itself together with additional miscellaneous costs. Some years ago, consideration was given to identifying an alternative venue for the Synod. However, the Wesley Theatre was at that time (and probably continues to be) the venue that provides best value for money in terms of the facilities it provides. In addition to cost savings from hiring the Wesley Theatre, a reduced number of days for Synod would be expected to yield further direct and indirect cost savings, for example, in printing Synod papers and staff time.

Secondly, it is likely that the GAFCON II conference will be held during the week commencing 20 October 2013. This coincides with the second scheduled week for the Synod. There would be a number of leading members of the Synod, including, possibly, the new Archbishop of Sydney, who might be expected to attend GAFCON II.

Thirdly, members of the Synod would have recently given their time to participate in an Election Synod in August 2013. Both Synod members and the new Archbishop might appreciate an ordinary session of Synod held in October over a fewer number of days.

Given the current availability of the Wesley Theatre in October 2013, it is proposed that the ordinary session of Synod in 2013 be held over a period of 3 days on Monday 14, Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 October 2013. If Synod business were to commence at 2.00pm and conclude at 10.00pm each day (with the same time as present allocated for dinner breaks), this would allow for a total of 20 hours for Synod business compared to a total of 24 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours currently available over 5 days. A reduction in total business hours would probably necessitate some reduction in the time allocated to items such as the Archbishop's Presidential Address, the Mission report and Missionary Hour. An earlier start time for each day would also necessitate consideration of how to manage administrative arrangements relating to the turn over of business for each day, including the printing of the business paper, the preparation of minutes and preparation of answers in response to questions.

We requested that a motion be moved at the Synod to enable it to consider this proposal.

8.2 Parish Relationships Ordinance

We requested that a bill for the Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2012 be promoted again to

the Synod at our request. The bill had previously been promoted to the Synod in 2009, as an exposure draft, and again in 2010 and 2011 in a final form, where it was passed by the Synod but did not receive the Archbishop's assent.

We also requested that those responsible for the order of business for the 2012 session of Synod schedule consideration of this bill as the first item of business in one of the time slots reserved for ordinances, preferably in the first week of the Synod.

The bill and an explanatory statement for the bill are printed separately.

8.3 Authorised Services Ordinance

At its session in 2011, the Synod passed the Authorised Services Ordinance 2011. The purpose of this Ordinance was to authorise the services referred to in the Schedule to the Ordinance for use in the Diocese.

Having received advice from the Chancellor, the Archbishop declined to assent to this Ordinance. The Ordinance did not therefore come into effect.

In reaching his decision, the Archbishop considered that it is not appropriate for the Synod to deem that a minister who uses the services specified in the Schedule is taken to be exercising the discretion allowed by section 5 of the Canon Concerning Services 1992. The Archbishop also expressed concern that the effect of the Ordinance may, inadvertently, be to limit the freedom that is given to ministers in the services used in their churches since, over time, the freedom may in practice be qualified by reference to the services authorised in the Schedule.

In the circumstances, the Archbishop considered that it would be wise to clarify what purpose the Ordinance is seeking to achieve and, if it is desirable to pursue this purpose, whether there is a more appropriate means to do so.

We informed Synod members and parishes about the Archbishop's decision.

8.4 38/07 Fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death

By resolution 38/07, the Synod requested the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to consider the appropriateness, with respect to the teaching of Scripture and the Anglican formularies, of Anglican churches having a fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death, and to bring a report to Synod at a convenient time.

The Doctrine Commission has not yet reported on this matter.

8.5 22/08 Electronic distribution of Synod materials 20/11 Publication of Synod proceedings in electronic form

By resolution 22/08, the Synod asked both us and the Secretariat to consider distributing Synod materials electronically to minimise costs. By resolution 20/11 Synod asked us to consider publishing the Synod proceedings for 2011 in electronic form.

In order to address the request in resolution in 20/11 and start addressing the request in resolution 22/08, we approved of the following actions –

- Prepare the 2012 Synod Book in a larger A4 format (instead of the current A5 format) to achieve better work flows in terms of formatting for the Synod proceedings publication.
- Post an electronic version of the Synod Book on the Secretariat's website as a single PDF document with navigation tabs as soon as this document is approved by us in August. This will give Synod members about 3 extra weeks to review and, if they wish, download the materials in the Synod Book.
- Reduce the number of copies of the printed version of the Synod Book only when a sufficient number of Synod members are prepared to download and use the electronic version at Synod.

We noted that the time/cost savings in preparing the Synod Book in A4 format allows us to justify replacing the existing web-based Synod proceedings format with an a single PDF electronic format with navigation tabs (from 2012 onward).

In order to progress further the request in resolution 22/08, we requested that a motion be moved at the Synod by which a proposal can be brought to the Synod in 2013 to discontinue the distribution of printed materials to members with effect from the 1st Ordinary Session of the 50th Synod in 2014.

8.6 24/09 Support for Regional Councils

By resolution 24/09, the Synod requested that we consider how Regional Councils can be supported to continue their important role of funding ministry strategies in their regions. This is to include considering a change in the large receipts policy for sale and leasing ordinances so that the portion usually added to the capital of the Diocesan Endowment may instead be allocated to a Regional Council or other Diocesan beneficiary to further the Diocesan Mission and to bring a report on the operation of this matter to Synod.

We intend considering this matter as part of the review referred to in item 4.24.

8.7 40/10 Implementation of the grievance policy and procedure

By resolution 40/10, the Synod –

- (a) determined that the grievance policy and procedure is to commence on 1 July 2011, and
- (b) requested that we approve up to 15 persons as the initial pool of diocesan conciliators for the purposes of the policy and procedure.

For the purposes of ongoing implementation, we agreed that the reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by diocesan conciliators who are appointed by a Regional Bishop to deal with an allegation made under the policy and procedure should be reimbursed from Synod funds.

8.8 41/10 Amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917

By resolution 41/10, the Synod endorsed the promotion to the New South Wales Parliament of a number of amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917 in relation to the governance of the Property Trust. The Synod requested that before promoting these amendments to Parliament, they be circulated to the Diocesan Bishops of the Province of New South Wales for comment for a period of 6 months. The proposed amendments were circulated with no substantive comment being made by any of the Diocesan Bishops during the requisite 6 month period.

Despite conveying the proposed amendments to the Attorney General at an initial meeting in June 2011 and a subsequent meeting with his staff in May 2012, we understand that the proposed amendments are still to be acted on by the Attorney General's Department.

8.9 43/10 Governance Policy for diocesan organisations

By resolution 43/10, the Synod –

- (a) requested that a revised draft of the Governance Policy for diocesan organisations be sent to each member of the Synod and to the board of each diocesan organisation for comment, and
- (b) requested that a revised form of the Policy be brought back to the Synod in 2011 incorporating, as appropriate, comments made by Synod members and the boards of diocesan organisations, and the work of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission.

In view of the number and substantive nature of the comments made in response to the draft Policy and the likely focus of the recommendations of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission leading up to and during the Synod in 2011, we provided a brief progress report to the Synod in 2011 rather than a final draft of the Policy.

In December 2011, the Federal Government initiated a review of not-for-profit governance arrangements with a view to incorporating mandatory governance requirements in legislation establishing the new charities regulator, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. Our initial view was that until these mandatory governance standards had been finalised, further work on the diocesan policy should be deferred. However in view of the subsequent decision of the Government to defer implementing the mandatory governance standards until 1 July 2013 we requested that the Diocesan Governance Committee consider reactivating its work on finalising a revised form of the Policy for the Synod.

We have not yet received a revised form of the Policy.

8.10 3/11 Towards 2050

By resolution 3/11, the Synod noted an interim report in response to resolution 2/10 Towards 2050 and –

- (a) encouraged Synod members to consider the interim report and its recommendations and to provide comments on the report to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 March 2012, and
- (b) requested that we bring to the 2012 session of the Synod a motion to enable the Synod to consider the recommendations in the interim report.

Having reviewed the comments made about the recommendations in the interim report, we requested that a motion be moved at Synod to enable the recommendations to be incorporated into the next phase of the mission of the Diocese. The motion also requests that we bring the suggested shape of the next

phase of the mission to the Synod in 2013, together with our response to the recommendations in the Towards 2050 report.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

8.11 8/11 Restorative justice

By resolution 8/11, the Synod requested us to prepare a report for consideration at the 2012 session of Synod identifying and commenting upon by reference to the workings of the Diocesan Tribunal, the biblical and practical principles of restorative justice with an emphasis on restitution and reconciliation, and promoting any recommendations for change by way of suggested amendments to existing ordinances for the consideration of Synod.

We have not yet considered this matter.

8.12 10/11 Archbishop's Strategic Commission on Structure, Funding and Governance

By resolution 10/11, the Synod –

- (a) welcomed the report of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission on Structure, Funding and Governance together with the responses thereto of the Glebe Administration Board and Secretariat, the Property Trust and the St Andrew's Cathedral School, and
- (b) requested us to undertake consideration of the possible ways in which concerns raised in the responses from these bodies may be addressed and then how the recommendations may be implemented.

The Synod also requested that in light of our consideration of these matters, we pass such legislation as may be desirable or practicable, excluding any sale ordinance, or otherwise report to the next session of the Synod on any future proposals.

A report in response to the request in Synod resolution 10/11 is printed separately.

8.13 17/11 Funding Principles and Priorities

By resolution 17/11, the Synod noted a draft statement of funding principles and priorities, and –

- (a) requested us to insert in its principles a procedure to be adopted by any organisation seeking funds, including a detailed proposal for the purpose, likely timing of expenditure and a review of the reserves currently held by that body, and
- (b) requested that Synod members provide comments about the draft statement by 1 March 2012 with a view to the statement being finalised for the 2012 Synod session and circulated to Synod members by 1 August 2012 together with bills for Synod appropriations and allocations and parochial cost recoveries.

A revised form of statement of funding principles and priorities, bills and an explanatory report are printed separately.

8.14 19/11 Indefinite term of membership on diocesan bodies

By resolution 19/11, the Synod asked us to review the membership of diocesan organisations to determine any bodies which have members appointed for an indefinite term and to consider whether this is appropriate.

We have not yet considered this matter.

8.15 22/11 Parish contribution to the Work Outside the Diocese Fund

By resolution 22/11, the Synod, in an effort to maintain using 5% of the allocations for the Work Outside the Diocese Fund, requested us to consider asking each parish to pay \$172 voluntary contribution towards the Work Outside the Diocese Fund when they pay their first PCR instalment for 2012.

In response to Synod's request, we asked each parish to pay a voluntary contribution of \$172 (or such other amount as considered appropriate) when they pay their first PCR instalments for 2012 on the basis that such contributions will be used by the Work Outside the Diocese Committee to fund bursaries for individuals from overseas Provinces to attend the GAFCON Leadership Conference in 2012 or the foreshadowed GAFCON II gathering.

Voluntary contributions totalling \$5,006 were made by 26 parishes, although a further \$22,590 was contributed for this purpose by individuals and bodies affiliated with the Diocese.

8.16 26/11 Poverty reduction and promoting a global vision in education

By resolution 26/11, the Synod commended the work of Anglican Aid in seeking to reduce extreme poverty by supporting development projects particularly in and through Anglican congregations in third world countries. The Synod requested that the Diocesan Education Policy recognise that a Christian

approach to education will foster the teaching and learning that promotes a global vision of Christian care and compassion, including an understanding of the plight of those living in extreme poverty, which spans curriculum subjects and moves from classroom instruction to practical action.

In response to Synod's request, we agreed to amend the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education by inserting as a 14th dot point under the heading "A Christian Approach to Education" (on page 3) the following –

- fosters a global vision of Christian care and compassion (including an understanding of the plight of those living in extreme poverty) which spans curriculum subjects and moves from classroom instruction to practical action.

8.17 28/11 General Synod assessment and consultation

By resolution 28/11, the Synod supported the adoption of the following principles in respect of the finances of the General Synod –

- existing surpluses in the Special Fund should be used to reduce the amount of special assessment payable by those dioceses who choose to pay the special assessment,
- no surpluses should be accumulated in the Special Fund in the future,
- income from the General Synod reserve should be used to fund the General Secretary's office, and
- royalties should be paid from the sale of liturgical resources back to the General Synod reserve.

The Synod also noted that 3 bills for canons promoted at the last session of the General Synod with our support seeking amendments to sections 30, 32(2) and 63 of the Constitution were not debated or considered by the General Synod and –

- recorded its view that these amendments are critical to the maintenance of harmonious relationships within the Anglican Church of Australia,
- requested these views be conveyed to the General Synod Standing Committee and to the National Unity Task Force established by that body, and
- requested that these amendments, in the same or modified form be promoted to the next session of the General Synod by its representatives on that body.

We agreed to add to the 3 bills referred to in resolution 28/11, a fourth bill to amend Rule II concerning the membership of the General Synod Standing Committee so that Metropolitan dioceses have a guaranteed number of positions and that the representatives of relevant dioceses elect the persons to fill those positions.

In November, our representatives met with the General Synod Standing Committee to discuss resolution 28/11 and related matters. Following this meeting –

- (a) We authorised the payment of \$108,854.25 from 2011 Synod Fund Contingencies comprising \$25,344 corresponding to the amount withheld in 2010 in respect of the costs of the Primate's Research Assistant and \$83,510.25 being the outstanding balance of the revised general assessment for 2011.
- (b) We agreed to pay in quarterly instalments by 31 December 2012 the revised general assessment for 2012 which was expected to be \$287,582.29.
- (c) We resolved, pursuant to clause 4(2) of the Parochial Cost Recoveries and Support for the Diocese Ordinance 2009, that the amount to be applied in payment of the cost of membership of the Anglican Church of Australia in 2012 (through the payment of general assessments) is to be fixed at \$287,582.29.
- (d) We requested that the General Synod's Financial Principles and Policies Task Force –
 - circulate to all dioceses for comment a draft of its report before finalising the report for the General Synod Standing Committee, and
 - include recommendations in its report to restore the practice of circulating to all dioceses the proposed General Synod budget well in advance of the General Synod session to enable policy issues relevant to the budget to be fully considered by members at the General Synod session before members are asked to approve the budget.

We were subsequently informed by the General Synod that the expected amount for 2012 General Synod assessment of \$287,582.29 did not factor in a 5.5% increase on the 2012 forecasted amount and that the revised general assessment for 2012 would be \$305,850.28. We passed the Synod (General Synod

Assessment) Special Application Ordinance 2012 in order to meet this shortfall from unspent 2011 Synod Fund Contingencies.

We supported the promotion of revised bills and explanatory memoranda in respect of proposed amendments to section 30, 32 and 63 of the Constitution to the next session of the General Synod.

We also requested our representatives –

- (a) to pursue further discussions with the National Unity Task Force, both in relation to the proposed constitutional amendments and on broader matters in relation to General Synod resolution 155/10, and
- (b) to pursue discussions with the Task Force in connection with General Synod resolution 125/10 (Voting systems) with a view to progressing the drafting of a suitable bill to amend Rule II (Rules for the appointment of the Standing Committee of the General Synod) for promotion at the next session of the General Synod.

8.18 29/11 Efficiency and transparency of Synod election processes

By resolution 29/11, the Synod asked us to consider possible improvements to the efficiency and transparency of the Synod election processes without changing the qualifications and composition of the various committees, councils and boards.

We have not yet considered this matter.

8.19 36/11 Common Prayer: Resources for gospel-shaped gatherings

By resolution 36/11, the Synod –

- (a) received a development version of *Common Prayer: Resources for gospel-shaped gatherings*, and
- (b) commended its use and study by parishes of the Diocese during the next year, and
- (c) requested that comments and suggestions be made to the Archbishop's Liturgical Panel by 30 June 2012, and
- (d) requested the Archbishop's Liturgical Panel to bring a revised form of the book to the next session of Synod with a view to considering adding its contents to the appendixes of services recognised under the Authorised Services Ordinance.

In response to the request in resolution 36/11, we received a revised form of *Common Prayer: Resources for gospel-shaped gatherings* and –

- approved the printing of black and white copies of a suitable form of this document for Synod, and
- requested that a motion be moved at the Synod encouraging the use of this resource by the churches of this Diocese, and
- subject to the Synod passing a motion in or to this effect, agreed in principle to authorise the application of \$20,000 from the Publishing Reserve Fund to meet the costs of purchasing the first 1,000 copies of *Common Prayer: Resources for gospel-shaped gatherings* for distribution to parishes of the Diocese.

The revised form of *Common Prayer: Resources for gospel-shaped gatherings* will be printed separately.

8.20 38/11 Review of the Department of Evangelism and New Churches

By resolution 38/11, the Synod –

- (a) thanked God for the work of the Department of Evangelism and New Churches (ENC) and rejoiced in the potential of new fellowships reaching many in the Diocese, and
- (b) requested that in our review of the Department of Evangelism and New Churches Ordinance 2010 which is due for report to the Synod in 2012, we include analysis of a number of specified matters, and
- (c) if necessary, bring an amending ordinance reflecting any recommended changes to Synod session in 2012.

Having completed the review of the Department of Evangelism and New Churches Ordinance 2010, we requested that a bill to amend the Ordinance be promoted to the Synod.

The bill and a report about this matter are printed separately.

8.21 Resolutions made by the Synod in 2011 and not mentioned in this report

Circulars were sent to parishes and organisations about the matters arising from the 2011 Synod session. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons and organisations.

8.22 Ordinances for this session

The bills for ordinances for this session of the Synod are printed separately, together with accompanying reports or explanatory statements.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

ROBERT WICKS

Diocesan Secretary

19 September 2012