

## 2001 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, and
- (b) acting as a council of advice to the Archbishop (the "Archbishop-in-Council"), and
- (c) considering and reporting upon matters referred to it by the Synod and carrying out the Synod's resolutions, and
- (d) deliberating and conferring upon all matters affecting the interests of the Church, and
- (e) making ordinances under delegated powers, and
- (f) preparing and administering parochial cost recoveries and Synod appropriations and allocations, and
- (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 St Andrew's House, Sydney Square and mail should be addressed to "The Diocesan Secretary, Standing Committee of Synod, PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230" (telephone (02) 9265 1555; Fax (02) 9261 4485; E-mail [map@sydney.anglican.asn.au](mailto:map@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 Synod's website at [www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod](http://www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod).

#### 1.3 Meetings and members

Since October 2000 we have met 11 times. The names of the members are listed on pages 39 and 40 of the 2001 Diocesan Year Book and on the Synod's website at [www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod](http://www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod).

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During the year, the Rev Dr John Woodhouse resigned as a member of the Standing Committee and we resolved to express our thanks for his service over many years. The Rev Stephen Gibson was appointed by the North Sydney Regional Council to fill the vacancy.

Canon Peter Jensen, upon being inaugurated as the 11th Archbishop of Sydney (see item 1.5 below), became an ex-officio member of the Standing Committee and ceased to be a member elected by the whole Synod. David Fairfull, upon his retirement as Chief Executive Officer of the 3 Corporations (see item 1.7 below), also ceased to be a member. These vacancies have not yet been filled.

##### **1.4 Retirement of Archbishop Harry Goodhew**

Archbishop Harry Goodhew retired as our Archbishop on 19 March 2001. At his last meeting as our chairman we resolved to record our thanks to God, and our gratitude, for Archbishop Goodhew's significant work and ministry over many years, including -

- (a) his ministry in the parishes of Bondi, Beverley Hills, Carlingford and Wollongong in the Diocese of Sydney, and also Ceduna in South Australia and Coorparoo in Brisbane, and
- (b) his ministry, from 1979, as Archdeacon of Wollongong and Camden and, from 1982, as Bishop of Wollongong, and
- (c) from 1993, his ministry as Archbishop, including his chairmanship of the Standing Committee.

We sent our best wishes to Archbishop and Mrs Goodhew and assured them of our prayers for God's continued blessing on them and the ministries they will exercise in future.

##### **1.5 Election of Canon Peter Jensen to be the 11th Archbishop of Sydney**

At a special session of the Synod held on 4 and 5 June 2001 Canon Peter Jensen, Principal of Moore Theological College, was elected to be the 11th Archbishop of Sydney. Peter was consecrated as a bishop and inaugurated as Archbishop in St Andrew's Cathedral on 29 June 2001.

We congratulated Peter on his election and assured Peter and Christine of our prayers, particularly during the time of transition to office. We look forward to his ministry to us as Archbishop and as our chairman.

##### **1.6 Bishop Paul Barnett - Administrator of the Diocese of Sydney**

Upon the retirement of Archbishop Goodhew, Bishop Paul Barnett became the Administrator of the Diocese and held office until Archbishop Peter Jensen was inaugurated on 29 June 2001.

We resolved to thank Bishop Barnett for his service as Administrator and, in particular, for his work in organising the special session of the Synod to elect an Archbishop and for presiding at that session.

**1.6A Appointment of the Rev Dr Glenn Davies as the Bishop of North Sydney**

Acting under clause 5 of the Assistant Bishops Ordinance 1947 we were very pleased to approve Archbishop Jensen's proposal to appoint the Rev Dr Glenn Davies as the next Bishop of North Sydney to succeed Bishop Paul Barnett upon his retirement.

**1.6B Appointment of Canon Peter Tasker as the Bishop of Liverpool**

Acting under clause 5 of the Assistant Bishops Ordinance 1947 we were also very pleased to approve Archbishop Jensen's proposal to appoint Canon Peter Tasker as the next Bishop of Liverpool to succeed Bishop Ray Smith upon his retirement.

**1.7 Retirement of Mr David Fairfull as Chief Executive Officer of the 3 Corporations**

Mr David Fairfull retired as Chief Executive Officer of the 3 Corporations on 31 July 2001, after some 10 years service. During that time, David oversaw a major restructuring of our investments and the establishment of the Glebe group of companies. The Diocese is now in a much sounder financial position, and we expect to continue to benefit from the fruits of David's work for years to come. We resolved to thank David for his service and assured him of our best wishes and prayers for God's blessing on him and his future endeavours.

**1.8 Appointment of Mr Rodney Dredge as Chief Executive Officer of the 3 Corporations**

Mr Rodney Dredge, formerly Chief Operating Officer of the 3 Corporations, became the new Chief Executive Officer on 1 August 2001. Rodney has been a member of the Standing Committee for some time, and we look forward to his continuing contribution to our work.

**1.9 Management and structure**

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

Audit Committee	Ordinance Reviewers and Panels
Diocesan Executive Board	Ordination Training Fund Committee
Finance Committee	Social Issues Committee
General Synod Canons Committee	Synod Arrangements Committee
Legal Committee	

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

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### **2. Actions with the Archbishop**

#### **2.1 Estate of Late M.A. Grant (Sisters' Endowment)**

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$49,000 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop to assist clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

#### **2.2 Declaration of Penrith Anglican College, Arndell Anglican College and Western Sydney University, Macarthur Campus as extra-parochial**

The Archbishop-in-Council declared Penrith Anglican College, Arndell Anglican College and Western Sydney University, Macarthur Campus as extra-parochial.

#### **2.3 Making of regulations under the Synod Elections Ordinance 2000**

With the passing of the Synod Elections Ordinance 2000, the Synod adopted new rules for conducting elections at Synod. The Archbishop-in-Council made regulations to prescribe the form of notice of elections and the form of ballot paper to be used in elections conducted under the Ordinance.

### **3. Financial and Property Administration**

#### **3.1 A New Tax System**

The Commonwealth Government's *New Tax System* commenced on 1 July 2000.

The *New Tax System* has a significant impact on the administration of church trust property, particularly church trust property held by the Property Trust. Much time has been spent working through the implications. At the Property Trust's request we endorsed, in principle, a proposal by which all property (including land) held by the Property Trust for a parochial unit or diocesan organisation (not being property held on trusts established by will or arising by reason of gift) would be amalgamated (by ordinance) into 1 trust for that parochial unit or organisation. Such amalgamations, which will only take place after consultation with the affected parochial units and organisations, will allow the administration of trust property for *New Tax System* purposes to be substantially simplified.

To assist parochial units to comply with the *New Tax System*, the Secretariat has devised and released to parishes a specially tailored computerised accounting system. The accounting system, known as the Sydney Anglican Parish Accounting System (SAPAS) also offers the following -

- (a) ease of maintaining accounting records in a low cost package, and
- (b) comprehensive financial reporting for parish councils, and
- (c) simplified financial reporting to the Secretariat.

### **3.2 Employment of part-time and full-time lay workers**

We reported last year that the Secretariat has been asked to research and prepare guidelines about the employment of full time and part time lay workers. These guidelines are being prepared and it is hoped they will be finalised in the near future.

### **3.3 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 accounts and must be lodged, together with liquidity reports, by 30 June each year. A different lodgement date has been approved for a few organisations.

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 will be reported.

### **3.4 Audited accounts of the Standing Committee**

The audited accounts for the Synod Fund are printed separately for the information of Synod members. Those of the Sydney Diocesan Account (a small group of sub-trusts and clearing accounts) will be tabled.

### **3.5 Borrowing limits for organisations**

Increased borrowing limits were approved for 7 organisations.

Having regard to the proposed expansion of facilities and size of the borrowings of one of our organisations, we have asked that the Diocesan Executive Board review the financial arrangements and strategic direction of that organisation.

### **3.6 Ordination training fund**

From this Fund, bursaries are available to -

- (a) candidates for ordination in Sydney studying through Moore Theological College, and
- (b) trainee deaconesses and parish sisters enrolled at Mary Andrews College who intend to serve in Sydney, and
- (c) candidates for lay stipendiary ministry studying through Moore Theological College who -
  - (i) have been accepted as Sydney youth worker candidates, or
  - (ii) have been accepted as Sydney cross-cultural or indigenous worker candidates, or
  - (iii) are women who have been accepted as Sydney lay worker candidates.

Bursaries of \$391,500 were paid in 2000 (\$378,125 in 1999).

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### **3.7 Ordinance procedures**

In making an ordinance, clause 6 of the Delegation of Powers Ordinance 1998 requires that we follow the procedures in the Ordinance Procedure Ordinance 1973 and the standing orders of the Synod, so far as they can be applied. The standing orders of the Synod are now the rules in the Schedule to the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000. The passing of the 2000 Ordinance meant that we needed to amend our regulations concerning ordinance procedures. New regulations, which reflect the rules for making ordinances in the Schedule to the 2000 Ordinance, have been adopted.

### **3.8 Ordinances**

The following table shows the numbers of ordinances passed and assented to in 1995 to 2000 and in 2001 to 30 September.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Standing Committee	38	37	45	39	45	37	41
Synod	13	14	11	18	6	6	-
	51	51	55	57	51	43	41

A separate report lists the ordinances passed by the Standing Committee since the 2000 session of the Synod. There are 12 ordinances of particular interest.

The Use of Church Property Ordinance 1995 allows other denominations to use Anglican church buildings on the terms set out in the ordinance. It contained a review date of 31 December 2000. As comments from the regional bishops indicated that the Ordinance was functioning well we extended the review date until 31 December 2005 by the Use of Church Property Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2000.

The Sydney Anglican Car and Insurance Fund Ordinance 1978 Amendment Ordinance 2000 amended the powers of the Car and Insurance Fund to enable it to make loans to clergy and other church workers domiciled outside New South Wales. In the past, church workers with loans from the Fund had to refinance their loan if they moved to an appointment outside New South Wales. The amendment means that such loans can be continued, and also allows the Fund to make loans to clergy who are currently working outside the province.

By the Sydney Diocesan Superannuation Fund Ordinance 1961 Amending Ordinance 2000, the name of our superannuation fund was changed to "Anglican SuperFund Sydney".

The Regional Councils Ordinance 2000 amended the Regions Ordinance 1995 to allow regional councils to elect up to 2 further persons to be members of the regional council. The amendment recognises that there are persons with special skills who have not

been elected to membership of a regional council at the Synod but who can assist a regional council in its work.

The St Andrew's House Ordinance 1975 Amending Ordinance 2000 authorised the St Andrew's House Corporation (and Glebe Administration Board as agent of the Corporation) to grant a long term lease, or sell, any part of St Andrew's House to the Council of St Andrew's Cathedral School. The purpose of the transaction proposed by the ordinance was to allow the school to secure its long term accommodation needs in St Andrew's House. Subsequently, we have advised the Glebe Administration Board that it should not agree to any further sale of any part of St Andrew's House without approval by ordinance.

The Local Revenues Amendment Ordinance 2001 amends the Parishes Ordinance 1979 and the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988 to include a common definition of "local revenue" and to make consistent (so far as is possible) the minimum level of "local revenues" which a parochial unit must have to obtain and retain parish status under the 1979 Ordinance and to obtain and retain the benefits under the 1988 Ordinance. The amendments do not apply to a financial year or other period of time which commences on or before 31 December 2001. A full circular about this ordinance was sent to parochial units.

The Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance 1982 Amendment Ordinance 2001 amended the Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance 1982 to remove inconsistencies between certain provisions of that ordinance and provisions of the Provincial Ordinance for the Confirmation of Bishops Elections (NSW) 1965 and the 1961 Constitution. Further amendments to the 1982 Ordinance were made by the Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance 1982 Further Amendment Ordinance 2001. Information about these ordinances was included in a second circular to members about the special session of the Synod.

The Professional Standards Board Ordinance 2001 provides for the establishment of a professional standards board. A separate report about the Professional Standards Board is printed.

The Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975 Amendment Ordinance 2001 amends the Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975 to allow parochial units to deduct from their "assessable receipts" amounts received from parishioners as designated donations to organisations, bodies and societies outside the control of the parochial unit. This means that such amounts will no longer form part of the "net receipts" of the parochial unit, calculated for the purpose of determining the cost recoveries charge payable by the parochial unit.

The Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2001 authorises appropriations and allocations for 2002. See item 3.17.

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The Assistant Bishops (Bishops Coadjutor) Ordinance 1947 Amendment Ordinance 2001 amends the Assistant Bishops (Bishops Coadjutor) Ordinance 1947 to address several difficulties in the procedure for the appointment of an assistant bishop which became apparent in 2000. Under the revised ordinance, the Archbishop is now required to give at least 25 days notice of his intention to ask the Standing Committee to approve the appointment of a person as an assistant bishop. Then, the appointment of a person will be approved if a motion of approval is passed by at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the clerical members of the Standing Committee and at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the lay members present at the meeting and entitled to vote on the motion.

### 3.9 Ordinance fees

The Standing Committee approved the following scale of fees for 2001 and 2002 -

	\$
Ordinances requiring a Review Panel and sale, leasing & other complex ordinances	850
Other ordinances	400
Synod ordinances	Nil*

\* But a contribution may be sought towards printing costs.

The fees are based on a 80% recovery of costs, which covers the examination of procedural requirements, the giving of advice, the writing of reports, the typing and sometimes the redrafting of bills, the keeping of records and, where required, the attendance of staff members at meetings.

### 3.10 Distributions of funds under ordinances

Distributions of the following funds were approved -

*Beecroft Land Sale Ordinance 2001* - payments totalling about \$357,000 to construct a new rectory, relocate the existing rectory and to undertake site works.

*East Sydney (Darlinghurst) Sale Proceeds and Distribution Ordinance 2001* - payments of up to \$400,000 for the purposes of the St John's Darlinghurst restoration project.

*Historic Buildings Restoration Fund* - grant of \$3,000 to the churchwardens of Katoomba for repairs to the facade of St Hilda's Church.

*Malabar Trust Ordinance 2001* - application of up to \$30,000 towards the cost of fire safety works on parish property.

*Robertson (Kangaloon and Glenquarry) Land Sale Ordinance 1993* - payments of up to \$24,000 for the cost of planning a multi-purpose ministry centre.

*St Mark's Granville Variation of Trusts Ordinance 1982* - payments of \$7,245.25 to reimburse the churchwardens for drainage works undertaken.

*Villawood (East Fairfield) Variation of Trusts Ordinance 1999* - payment of the balance of funds to the churchwardens' building fund maintenance account.

### 3.11 Parish Cost Recoveries

The following table compares the arrears as at 31 July 1999 and 2000 and as at 30 June 2001.

	1999	2000	2001
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Arrangements to Pay</b>			
Robertson	2,450	-	-
<b>No Arrangements</b>			
Annandale	-	-	491
Asquith	-	1,147	-
Bondi	-	-	1,945
Bondi Beach	427	-	-
Chester Hill	3,414	-	264
Cremorne Point	853	-	-
Dulwich Hill	-	-	72
Engadine	740	-	-
Fairfield	427	1,340	632
Forestville	-	2,338	-
Greenacre	18,049	-	1,753
Hurstville	-	-	2,059
Keiraville	853	1,866	439
Kellyville	-	-	3,416
Longueville	-	-	1,539
Lord Howe Island *	-	1,787	6,545
Minto	-	4,681	2,802
Newtown	-	5,280	11,176
St Clair	-	447	2,391
Smithfield	4,268	-	3,614
South Creek	-	893	-
Summer Hill	-	1,010	-
Sutherland	-	-	1,975
Windsor	-	1,703	2,119
Woodville Road	4,176	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,657</b>	<b>22,492</b>	<b>43,232</b>

\* We have subsequently authorised the remission of all arrears of parish cost recoveries owing by Lord Howe Island provided that the South Sydney Regional Council continues to make ministry grants to enable retired or holidaying clergy to minister on the island, and continues to assume financial responsibility for a Finance & Loans Board Loan.

The Archdeacons are in regular contact with parochial units in arrears with a view to finding a solution to the situation. They report to the Finance Committee.

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Relief from cost recoveries was provided as follows -

- (a) remitting the fixed charge payable by Abbotsford, while the current acting curate-in-charge holds the position, and
- (b) remitting arrears of up to \$6,441 payable by Newtown, provided that other arrears and 2001 payments are paid in full by 15 December 2001.

### **3.12 St Peter's Hornsby Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Ordinance 1978**

This Fund is held upon trust to apply the income through Synod appropriations ordinances. A condition at the time the Fund was created was that interest-free loans be made to St Mark's Berowra and St Luke's Hornsby Heights. These loans were fully repaid during 2000.

### **3.13 Endowment of the See (various approvals)**

The stipends, allowances, superannuation, long service leave, housing and office costs of the Archbishop, Assistant Bishops, the Registrar and Archdeacons, the salaries of the registry staff (including the Archives), and the stipend, allowances, superannuation, long service leave and housing costs of the Dean are met from the Endowment of the See. These costs are not a charge on Synod funds except for \$50,000 in 2001 for the Archdeacon of Women's Ministries.

During the year we approved small increases in the representation allowances for assistant bishops and archdeacons, and approved the remuneration package to be offered to the new Archbishop.

### **3.14 St Andrew's House tenants - reduction in rent subsidies**

Last year we reported that we had appointed a committee to consider whether, as a matter of policy, diocesan organisations, the General Synod, Mothers' Union and the Girls Friendly Society should be encouraged to use St Andrew's House as a base for their operations.

The committee reported during the year and, in preparing its report, consulted the affected organisations. At the committee's suggestion -

- (a) we have adopted the principle that in the longer term only those organisations with an immediate relationship with the Diocesan administration should be encouraged to remain in St Andrew's House on a subsidised basis, and that other organisations which want to remain in St Andrew's House be permitted to do so but on the basis of reducing subsidies over a period of time and such organisations paying full commercial rates, and
- (b) we have asked that discussions be initiated with such other organisations to establish a timetable for vacating

their premises in St Andrew's House should they be unwilling to pay full commercial rents, and

- (c) we have asked that a proposal for an Anglican Office Block in another part of the metropolitan area be further considered.

### 3.15 Stipend Continuance Plan

The Stipend Continuance Plan provides benefits to clergy in the event of permanent breakdown in health or disability. During the year, the cover under the Plan was improved with cover now based on a total package scenario rather than on a minimum stipend arrangement. The change more than doubles the benefits payable to a rector or curate in the event of permanent breakdown in health or disablement.

	<b>Cover under previous policy</b>	<b>Cover under new policy</b>
Rector	\$29,459 per annum	\$61,211 per annum
Curate	\$26,513 per annum	\$57,220 per annum

Under the new policy, the premium rate per stipend/package has been substantially reduced. The consequence is that for a premium increase of around 50% cover has been more than doubled.

The premium for clergy is recovered from parochial units as part of the cost recoveries charge. However, for 2001 only, part of the premium under the new policy was paid from reserves.

### 3.16 Parochial cost recoveries

In 1999 the Synod made the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 1999 which prescribes the formula for the calculation of the cost recoveries charges payable by parochial units in 2000, 2001 and 2002. We are required to report to the Synod about -

- (a) a description of the ministry and property costs payable in 2002 and an estimate of those costs, and
- (b) the cost recoveries charge payable by each parochial unit in 2002 and details of how that charge is calculated.

A separate report is printed.

### 3.17 Synod appropriations and allocations for 2002

By the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1999, the Synod adopted financial estimates for 2000, 2001 and 2002; authorised appropriations and allocations from trust income for 2000; and stated the Synod's intentions for appropriations and allocations for 2001 and 2002. We were directed to pass all ordinances as were necessary to give effect to the Synod's intentions.

We passed the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2001 to approve appropriations and allocations for 2002.

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The ordinance appropriates income of \$8.469 million earned in 2000, comprising 75% of the distributable surplus of the diocesan endowment for 2000 and income earned from other trusts in 2000.

The ordinance approves allocations for 2002 totalling \$10.088 million. Those allocations include the allocations approved by the Synod in the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1999, as adjusted by us in the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2000 (see item 3.18 of our 2000 report to the Synod).

In addition, the ordinance approves the following new allocations for 2002 -

- (a) \$75,000 for the purposes of the Secretariat's property resource. The balance of the cost of this resource (being \$75,000) is being funded as a cost recoveries charge. See item 17 of the report on Parochial Cost Recoveries for 2002 for further information.
- (b) \$250,000 for the establishment of a heritage fund for the Property Trust. See item 5.4 of this report for further information about the need for this fund.
- (c) \$1 million for the Moore Theological College new library project. The new library project involves the refurbishment and modification of a building currently owned by the College so that it can be used as a library. The existing library is inadequate for the current student population and, in particular, does not have adequate on site storage and reading space for users. The project will allow the library, which is a major diocesan resource, to be housed appropriately. It also seeks to address the needs of the library for the medium to long term.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be between \$5.5 million and \$7.0 million.

As well as approving an allocation of \$1 million in 2002, we have agreed in principle to recommend to the Synod in 2002 that further allocations of \$1 million be made in each of 2003 and 2004. This will make a total contribution to the project from Synod funds of \$3 million. The balance of the total cost will be financed by the College through fundraising and loans.

- (d) \$10,000 for the Diocese of Tasmania.

The total amount of the allocations approved for 2002 exceeds the income to be appropriated by \$1.619 million. The ordinance authorises the payment of an amount equal to the excess from the Provision for Distribution. The Provision for Distribution is a reserve into which unallocated income earned in the past has been set aside for allocation in future years. After the payment of \$1.619 million it is projected that the balance remaining in the Provision for Distribution will be \$1.617 million.

### **3.18 Focussing resources for the Gospel - Principles and Concepts of Synod Funding for 2003-2005**

At the suggestion of the Diocesan Executive Board, we are considering a report which proposes that new principles and concepts be adopted by the Synod for making spending decisions for the 2003-2005 funding triennium. The intent is to better focus the Synod's financial resources for the Gospel. A report will be printed for the Synod, and the Synod will be invited to endorse the proposed principles and concepts.

### **3.19 Future of Bishops court**

With the retirement of Archbishop Goodhew and the resulting vacancy in the See of Sydney the opportunity has been taken to consider the future of Bishops court as the residence of the Archbishop of Sydney.

While Bishops court has a number of advantageous features, such as its facilities and its proximity to the city, there are several reasons why the property might be sold and replaced. For example, Bishops court is considered to be costly to staff and maintain and, as the building is listed on the State Heritage Register, the cost of maintenance is likely to increase. Further, the realised capital value of the property is likely to significantly exceed the cost of a replacement property thus providing some cash to be invested elsewhere. Another issue raised is that the nature of Bishops court may make it inappropriate to be the residence of a gospel minister.

We appointed a committee to investigate further and report on the question of the future use of Bishops court and alternative accommodation for the Archbishop and asked that such investigation and report cover all the financial, logistical and practical implementation issues. We have referred the committee's report to Archbishop Jensen for his consideration and further report to the Standing Committee in due course.

We have expressly resolved to recognise that a final decision about the future of Bishops court is for the Synod to make. In any event, any sale of Bishops court needs to be authorised by ordinance and, under clause 5(3) of the Delegation of Powers Ordinance 1998, 3 members of the Standing Committee have requested in writing that any ordinance for the sale of Bishops court be referred to the Synod. It is unlikely that the Synod will be asked to consider the future of Bishops court when it meets in October and November 2001.

We have invited Archbishop and Mrs Jensen, and their family, to use Bishops court as their residence pending resolution of the future of Bishops court.

### **3.20 Future of the Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre**

During the year we received a request for a substantial capital injection to upgrade the Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre over the next 5 years. We asked that the Secretariat examine and report on the request and any other alternatives to proceeding with the upgrade.

The report advised that, despite the much improved management over the last few years, and with or without the proposed upgrade, as a conference centre Gilbulla suffers from some physical disadvantages and is likely to remain expensive to operate. Without the proposed upgrading Gilbulla would find it increasingly difficult to meet even its normal operating costs. However, even if the proposed upgrading was completed, a number of other significant obstacles would remain, and the proposal would require the injection of substantial Diocesan funds in order for Gilbulla to be financially viable.

We subsequently agreed in principle to the sale of Gilbulla and requested that the Secretariat work closely with Anglican Youthworks to plan for the replacement of Gilbulla with another suitable Diocesan conference facility, and report back to us with specific details as soon as an assessment of the preferred option is complete.

Any sale of Gilbulla needs to be authorised by ordinance and, under clause 5(3) of the Delegation of Powers Ordinance 1998, 3 members of the Standing Committee have requested in writing that the ordinance be referred to the Synod. A proposed ordinance and explanatory statement are printed separately.

Our decisions about Gilbulla are not intended to reflect in any way on the efforts and commitment of the Board of Management and staff of Gilbulla in recent years. We resolved to express our deep appreciation for the very considerable effort and commitment over the last 3 years and acknowledge that the Centre is now, in all respects, in the best condition that it has been for many years.

As might be understood, the former members of the Gilbulla Board of Management have resigned. We have appointed new members and, by the Gilbulla Board of Management Constitution Amendment Ordinance 2001, reduced the size of the Board.

### **3.21 Rules and regulations of the Sydney Church of England Finance and Loans Board**

Under its ordinance the Finance and Loans Board has power to make such rules and regulations governing applications made to the Board for advances as the Standing Committee may from time to time approve by resolution. At the request of the Board we approved revised rules and regulations applying to applications for advances.

### **3.22 New South Wales Council of Churches - strategic plan**

The Diocese is the largest constituent church represented on the New South Wales Council of Churches. Recently, the Council developed a proposed strategic plan based on the mission statement 'NSW Council of Churches - Advancing a Christian perspective'. We support the proposed strategic plan, and have allocated a one-off payment of \$5,000 to support its implementation.

### **3.23 Sydney Prayer Book**

Following the Synod's decision not to adopt the General Synod - A Prayer Book for Australia Canon 1995, the then Archbishop, Archbishop Goodhew, asked his liturgical panel to consider producing a prayer book for use in Sydney. A proposed prayer book, *Sunday Services*, has been produced by the liturgical panel and reviewed by the Diocesan Doctrine Commission. It is now proposed to produce *Sunday Services* in both book and electronic form for use in the Diocese, subject to section 4 of the 1961 Constitution. We have approved funding for this purpose which will enable parishes to access *Sunday Services* on a partially subsidised basis.

## **4. General Administration**

### **4.1 Elections**

The appointment of persons to serve on committees etc, continued to be a major part in 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 2000 to June 2001, 71 such positions were filled (166 for the same period in 1999-2000).

### **4.2 Reports from regional councils**

Under clause 9 of the Regions Ordinance 1995 each regional council must give the Standing Committee an annual report for inclusion in our report to the Synod. The annual reports are printed separately, together with other reports made under the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

### **4.3 Protocol for receiving serious complaints about the Anglican Counselling Centre**

In our report to the Synod in 1999 about the enquiry into the Anglican Counselling Centre we advised that we had agreed to appoint an independent group of qualified persons to receive complaints about the work of the Centre. We subsequently appointed a panel of 11 persons and approved a protocol for receiving serious complaints.

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The existence of the protocol was advertised in *Southern Cross Newspaper* in February and March 2001. No serious complaints were received about the work of the Anglican Counselling Centre, and so the protocol was not advertised further.

### **4.4 Anti bullying policies in our schools**

Following a well publicised allegation of bullying in the boarding house of one of our schools, we requested that each school council provide a report as to the existence of its anti bullying policies and the strategies in place to ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of those programs. Most school councils replied promptly and reported the existence of well publicised programs which are effectively implemented and monitored. Those schools which have not replied to our request are being followed up.

## **5. Relations with Government**

### **5.1 Sheppard inquiry into charitable and related organisations**

On 18 September 2000 the Prime Minister announced an independent inquiry into charitable, religious and community service not-for-profit organisations. The committee undertaking the inquiry is chaired by the Honourable Ian Sheppard AO QC.

The terms of reference require that the inquiry committee examine and report on existing definitions of charitable, religious and community service not-for-profit organisations having regard to -

- (a) the attributes, purpose and behaviour of those organisations in light of the current social expectations and experiences, and
- (b) those organisations that are wholly or partially charitable, religious or community service not-for-profit.

The inquiry committee has also been asked to provide options for enhancing the clarity and consistency of the existing definitions in Commonwealth law and administrative practice. The Government wants those options to lead to legislative and administrative frameworks at the Commonwealth level that are appropriate for, and adapted to, the social and economic environment of Australia.

We appointed a committee, which included representatives from Anglicare and Anglican Retirement Villages, to make a submission on our behalf. The key points of the submission were as follows -

- (a) Any problems associated with the definition of charities and related organisations do not arise from the way those terms are defined in case law but arise from the administrative interpretation of that law.
- (b) While we do not see any justification for changing the existing case law definitions, it would be worth considering how the definitions could be clarified. For

example, consideration might be given to codifying the definitions or establishing an administrative body, like the UK Charities Commission, with an ongoing role of defining and articulating what are charitable organisations for tax purposes.

- (c) Established charitable and religious organisations believe that their status has been considerably eroded in the past few years with regard to tax exemptions and other matters affecting their freedom to carry out their mission.
- (d) The inquiry committee should look at the issue of the basis of classification of charitable organisations from the point of view human rights and broad concepts of public benefit rather than a narrow economic benefit perspective.
- (e) Determining tax exempt and deductible gift recipient status of charitable organisations according to their activities instead of their purpose will be significantly destructive of the charitable work they undertake.
- (f) A distinction between “commercial” and “non commercial” activities is neither helpful nor meaningful in the context of not-for-profit charitable organisations whose activities and assets are all directed to the furthering of their purposes.

The inquiry committee has recently reported to the Government. We have not yet been able to consider the contents or implications of the report.

## **5.2 Law Reform Commission's proposals for the review of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977**

See item 7.23 and the separate report which is printed.

## **5.3 Grimshaw review of non government schools**

On 24 October 2000 the New South Wales Treasurer announced the appointment of an independent review of the State's non government schools sector. The review is being chaired by the former Board of Studies President, Mr Warren Grimshaw AM.

The terms of reference of the review are -

Develop a NSW policy framework for the establishment, funding and regulation of non-government schools. In doing so consideration is to be given to:

1. The definition of “a school”.
2. Registration and accreditation criteria.
3. The reasons for State funding of non-government schools.
4. Financial and educational reporting.

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5. A State funding framework for non-government schools that is effective and equitable.
6. The impact of Federal Government policy.

Funding framework proposals will respond to need, be based on principles of fairness and address issues of accountability.

The Reviewer will also consider whether cross-sectoral planning can contribute to a more efficient use of public resources.

The Review is to be limited to matters within the Minister's portfolio.

The Review will be based on consultation and submissions.

The Review will result in a range of options for reform of the State policy framework.

The Reviewer will provide advice in relation to preferred policy options.

We endorsed a submission to the review prepared by the Anglican Education Commission Diocese of Sydney. The submission was also endorsed by the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation and the Provincial Commission on Christian Education. In its submission, the Commission took the following general approach -

- (a) The current legislative framework has been conducive to a high standard of education in New South Wales non government schools. The Commission did not advocate extensive revision of the present framework.
- (b) As a general principle, the Commission was opposed to legislation or regulation that interfered with the autonomy of a non-government school or with the capacity of community groups to set up a school to meet the needs of a group of students.
- (c) While the terms of reference of the review do not address the questions of State Government interest subsidies, block grant capital funding or student transport subsidies, the Commission indicated that it favours their retention and opposes any move to alter the present operation of those schemes without proper widespread community consultation.

The Commission made 24 recommendations about specific matters arising from the terms of reference of the review.

### **5.4 Minimum standards of maintenance and repair under the Heritage Act 1977**

Following amendments to Heritage Act in 1998, minimum standards of maintenance and repair have been prescribed for the

protection of items listed on the State Heritage Register. Among other things those minimum standards require that heritage items be reasonably protected from damage or deterioration due to weather, fire or vandalism. Annual inspections are required to be undertaken to ensure that the minimum standards are being complied with.

Under the Act, the obligation to comply with the minimum standards rests on the owner of the heritage item and the failure to comply is an offence. Where the owner of a heritage item is a corporation, the directors of the corporation also commit an offence if the minimum standards are not maintained unless they can rely upon one of the defences available to the directors under the Act.

The Property Trust is the trustee of 17 items listed on the State Heritage Register. Most of these items are held on trust for the purposes of a specific parochial unit.

The Property Trust considers that it is unfair for it and its members to be subject to sanction under the Act for failing to comply with the minimum standards -

- (a) The Property Trust considers that it is (or very nearly is) a bare trustee as regards to properties vested in it for the purposes of a particular parochial unit. Under the ordinances of the church, control of parochial property is vested in the churchwardens and, to the extent of funds under their disposal, the churchwardens are required to repair parish property.

Thus, in imposing obligations to repair parochial buildings on the Property Trust as owner, the Property Trust considers that the Act fails to recognise that the Property Trust is not responsible under the ordinances of the church for the repair of such buildings.

- (b) The Act assumes that the owner of a heritage item will have funds available to comply with the minimum standards of maintenance and repair. The Property Trust considers that it does not have necessary funds available.

The Property Trust also considers it unfair that the legislature imposes obligations on bodies such as the trustees of charitable trusts, and their directors, in circumstances where the trustees do not have the funds to comply with those standards.

- (c) The members of the Property Trust are volunteers and it is unfair to impose upon them obligations with the sanctions contained in the Act.

The Property Trust has pursued with the Heritage Office the question of the amendment of the Act to exclude or limit the liability of its members. However, the Heritage Office has made it clear, on

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more than one occasion, that it does not support an amendment to the Act.

The Property Trust referred the issue of the personal liability of its members to us with the following comment and request -

- (a) The problem is beyond the resources of the Property Trust to fix.
- (b) We have been asked to find a solution which does not result in the members of the Property Trust having to face a potential liability to the extent of their personal assets.

We asked a committee to consider how we should respond to the Property Trust's concerns. Subsequently, one of the committee's recommendations was that a fund of \$250,000 should be created to enable the Property Trust to comply with the minimum standards of maintenance and repair should the financial resources of the relevant parochial unit be insufficient. We have adopted that recommendation and included an allocation of \$250,000 in the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2001 (see item 3.17). Further information is contained in the explanatory statement for the Church Administration (Heritage Property) Amendment Ordinance 2001 which is printed for the Synod.

## **6. The International, National & Provincial Church**

### **6.1 Episcopal Church of the USA and human sexuality**

Last year we reported on the "crisis" in the Episcopal Church of the United States of America (ECUSA) arising from the move away from the historic faith and moral practice of the church. Of particular concern was the disregard by the 73rd General Convention of ECUSA of resolution 1.10 made at the 1998 Lambeth Conference. That resolution declared that homosexual practice is incompatible with scripture and declared that the Conference "cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions and ordaining those involved in same gender unions".

In response, in early 2001 a proposal, known as *To Mend the Net*, was proposed by 2 conservative primates as a way forward to address concerns within the Anglican Communion about a province implementing significant changes in doctrine, discipline or ethics.

Under the proposal any significant proposals for changes in doctrine, discipline or ethics would first be required to be submitted to the primates of the Anglican Communion for their consideration and, before such changes could be implemented, consensus would be required by all or a very substantial majority of the primates. If the judgement of at least a significant minority of the primates was that the proposed changes exceeded the limits of Anglican diversity, the primates' meeting could ask that the province refrain from implementing the changes. If the province

persisted, the primates' meeting could recommend to the Archbishop of Canterbury that the province be reduced to observer status in international meetings of the primates or at the Lambeth Conference. Finally, if a province persisted with the change, the primates' meeting could advise the Archbishop of Canterbury to establish a new province whose practice lies within the limits of Anglican diversity. The new province would then be recognised as a representative part of the Anglican communion in the place of the offending province.

The primates of the Anglican Communion met for their annual meeting in March 2001 but decided not to accept immediately the proposal in *To Mend the Net*. Rather, the proposal has been forwarded by the primates to the newly formed inter-Anglican Theological and Doctrinal Commission with a view to a more in depth discussion being held at the primates' meeting in 2002.

We resolved to note formally the actions taken by the primates. We also resolved to write to the American Anglican Council and Anglican Mission in America (being 2 orthodox groups of Anglicans in the USA) -

- (a) to assure them of our prayers and support as they seek to uphold biblical faith and ethical standards, while engaging in the task of proclaiming the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to Americans and all nations, and
- (b) to encourage all organisations to work together in unity to support orthodox Episcopalians who remain in ECUSA and at the same time to support orthodox Anglicans who have withdrawn from ECUSA.

## **6.2 General Synod 2001**

The 12th General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia met in Brisbane between 21 and 27 July 2001. A separate report is printed.

## **6.3 Women bishops**

In our 2000 report to the Synod we advised that a General Synod working group had prepared and circulated a discussion paper outlining 4 major options for the consecration of women bishops. All but one of those options offered some form of alternative episcopal oversight.

We reported that we had authorised a preliminary response to the effect that it would be better if the General Synod did not pass any legislation enabling the consecration and appointment of women as bishops. However, if the General Synod were to take that course of action, we supported the option of alternative episcopal jurisdiction based on non-territorial dioceses to preserve the unity of the Anglican Church and to protect those who may be in a minority opinion.

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Late in 2000 the General Synod Standing Committee authorised the issue of a paper which proposed a form of legislation for consideration by the General Synod in 2001. The proposed legislation sought to authorise the consecration of women as bishops while providing for episcopal oversight and ministry (in accordance with a protocol) for persons whose conscience precludes them from accepting the ministry of a woman bishop.

We asked our General Synod Canons Committee to comment on the draft legislation. It expressed a number of general concerns about the proposal for women bishops, including that it offered an inadequate basis for unity and an inadequate model of oversight. The report also outlined several specific concerns about the drafting of the proposed legislation. A copy of the report of our General Synod Canons Committee was sent to the General Synod Standing Committee with the caveat that neither we nor the authors of the report necessarily speak for either the Sydney representatives on the General Synod or the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney.

As it transpired, the General Synod in July this year deferred further consideration of legislation to authorise the consecration of women as bishops until its next scheduled meeting in 2004.

### **6.4 Constitution 2001 - A new constitution for the Anglican Church of Australia**

During the year a small group met with representatives of the General Synod Constitution Review Task Force to make preliminary comments about "Constitution 2001", being a draft revision of the 1961 Constitution.

### **6.5 7/98 Oaths, Affirmations, Declarations and Assents Canon 1992**

By resolution 7/98, the Synod deferred consideration of this canon.

We are still considering a report from our General Synod Committee about the canon and are not yet able to make a recommendation to the Synod.

## **7. Sydney Synod Matters**

### **7.1 Special session of the 45th Synod to elect an Archbishop**

A special session of the 45th Synod was held on 4 and 5 June 2001 to elect a new Archbishop. As has been mentioned in item 1.5, Canon Peter Jensen was elected to be the 11th Archbishop of Sydney at that session. The summary of the proceedings of the session has been published on the Synod's internet home page and will be printed in the 2002 Year Book.

We propose, in due course, to consider appointing a committee to review the Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance 1982.

## 7.2 Remarriage of divorced persons

In 2000 we advised that we had received the report of a committee appointed by Archbishop Goodhew in 1994 (the "first committee") and, after receiving advice from our Legal Committee, had referred the report to a second committee for its consideration.

In essence, the first committee recommended that an ordinance be promoted to the Synod to authorise the marriage of a divorced person if -

- (a) the former spouse of the divorced person has remarried, or
- (b) the former spouse of the divorced person lives in a de facto relationship of 2 years or more duration, or
- (c) the former spouse of the divorced person is a person who does not profess the Christian faith and is the person who initiated the divorce proceedings,

and provided the solemnisation of the marriage would not otherwise contravene the teachings of Holy Scripture or the doctrine or principles of the Church.

The first committee also recommended that the ordinance declare that the marriage of a divorced person need not contravene the teachings of Holy Scripture or the doctrine and principles of the Church if there has been -

- (a) sexual infidelity by the former spouse of the divorced person, or
- (b) mental or physical abuse inflicted by the former spouse of the divorced person.

In 1985 Archbishop Robinson declined to give his assent to an ordinance for the remarriage of divorced persons because in his view it transferred the dispensing power of the bishop to the authorised celebrant. The first committee therefore decided that it would be wise to use the General Synod Marriage of Divorced Persons Canon 1985, which retained the dispensing powers of the bishop, as the basis of any legislation. However, the committee thought that the legislation which adopted the General Synod canon could be so drafted to require that the Archbishop allow the remarriage of divorced persons under certain biblically mandated conditions.

The second committee subsequently reported 2 difficulties with the first committee's proposals. First, from a procedural viewpoint, the proposal was inconsistent with the General Synod Marriage canon and, secondly, from a theological perspective, the proposal was based on an assumption which was not shared by some members of our Doctrine Commission. As a consequence, we have referred the first committee's proposals to the Doctrine Commission for its comment. We have also agreed to defer referring any legislation until the views of the new Archbishop are known.

### **7.3 Church school councils**

In 1998 we reported that we had received a lengthy report on various aspects of church school councils. A report summarising the recommendations made in that report, and our responses, is printed on pages 411 to 422 inclusive of the 1999 Year Book and is on the Synod's website.

In 1999 we reported that several of the school councils had written expressing concern about aspects of our proposals. In response, we appointed a small committee, chaired by the Archbishop or his nominee, to meet with representatives of school councils to discuss the ways that the school councils consider they can best support our proposals. We still await a report from that committee.

### **7.4 Review of the lay ministry licensing system**

The Deaconesses, Readers and Other Lay Persons Ordinance 1981 is now 20 years old and we consider it timely to review the lay ministry licensing system in the Diocese. We have appointed a committee to review the licensing system as it applies to lay ministries with a view to preparing a report for the Synod in due course with recommendations and draft legislation. We have granted leave for the committee to report for the 2002 session of the Synod.

### **7.5 21/96 Recruitment and training of christian educators**

In 1996, the Synod appointed a committee to report on the recruitment, training and development of Christian educators in Anglican schools. We have previously reported that we had received a report from the committee, but had requested that the committee give further consideration to the matter. A further report is awaited.

### **7.6 22/98 Team ministry training**

By resolution 22/98, the Synod supported the concept of team ministry training and requested that we ask an appropriate body to prepare written material and training programs to assist parish staff to effectively develop and maintain team ministry.

We sought the advice of CEFM but advice has still not been received.

### **7.7 1/99 Matters arising from reports**

By resolution 1/99, the Synod asked that we comply with paragraph (b) of resolution 23/98 by which the Synod asked that we appoint a committee to produce a document which conveys to women who have had abortions the love of Christ for them, and the real possibilities of healing and forgiveness. We reported last year that we had appointed a committee to produce this document. The committee has not yet reported.

### **7.8 13/99 Cross cultural ministry**

By resolution 13/99, the Synod requested that we -

- (a) examine the details of funding of cross-cultural ministry through the present system of grants to Regional Councils, and
- (b) investigate means of funding which would allow regions to engage seriously in these ministries and still maintain adequate support for other parish ministry, and
- (c) use its findings in determining the method for future allocation of grants to Regional Councils.

Our report about this matter last year referred to a number of issues which required further consideration. We have appointed a committee to consider those issues and also the issues raised by resolution 24/00 (see item 7.25). The committee is not yet able to report. We have granted leave for the committee to report by 30 June 2002.

### **7.9 22/99 Clergy for the Georges River and Western Sydney regions**

In his Presidential Address in 1999, Archbishop Goodhew spoke of the difficulty in finding and training clergy for the Georges River and Western Sydney regions, as well as for the more "traditional Anglican" parishes in the Diocese. The Synod requested that Bishops Smith and King, Archdeacon Edwards and the principal of Moore College or his appointee work on a set of recommendations to address these needs.

The committee is not yet able to report.

### **7.10 23/99 Georges River region to be declared a "missionary region"**

In his Presidential Address in 1999, Archbishop Goodhew suggested that the Georges River region be declared a "missionary region" and be supported commensurately. The Synod requested a report about the feasibility and ramifications of implementing such a course of action.

Our report about this matter last year referred to a number of issues which required further consideration. We have appointed a committee to consider those issues but the committee is not yet able to report. We have granted leave for the committee to report by 30 July 2002.

### **7.11 25/99 Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation**

By resolution 25/99, the Synod commended the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation ("SASC") for its initiatives in establishing 6 new affordable schools in the Diocese. The Synod asked that we consider, in conjunction with SASC, the longer term financing needs associated with the further development of new affordable Anglican schools.

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We asked that the Diocesan Executive Board consider this matter in conjunction with the SASC and prepare a report. A report is awaited.

### **7.12 26/99 Training of clergy**

By resolution 26/99, the Synod requested that we appoint a committee to review the training and equipping of clergy from ordination to retirement. Our report about this matter last year referred to a number of issues which required further consideration. We originally agreed to appoint a committee to further consider this matter and also the issues raised by resolution 23/00 (see item 7.24). However, Archbishop Jensen has subsequently indicated a desire to review these matters and so we have referred them to him for his consideration.

### **7.13 30/99 The nature of ministry**

In his Presidential Address in 1999, Archbishop Goodhew made several observations about the changing nature of ministry training. In this resolution the Synod encouraged us to liaise with Moore College and Mary Andrews College to refine and develop courses relevant to the needs of ministry and mission in the 21st century in such areas as evangelism, missiology, children's and youth ministry in partnership with the Anglican Youthworks programs, tertiary student ministry, school and other chaplaincies and pastoral work.

We have written to Moore College and Mary Andrews College seeking their comments about resolution 30/99.

### **7.14 32/99 Lay and diaconal administration of holy communion**

In his Presidential Address in 1999, Archbishop Goodhew expressed concern about taking unilateral action on lay and diaconal administration of holy communion which was of concern to other churches in the communion. In this resolution the Synod asked that we appoint a committee to assess the potential impact of the introduction of lay and diaconal administration of the holy communion in the Diocese upon our relationship with and standing within the Anglican Communion at large.

Last year we advised that we had appointed a committee to consider this matter and report. The committee has advised that it wrote many letters to people outside the Diocese seeking comment, but few responses were received. It is unlikely that this matter can be progressed much further at this time.

### **7.15 38/99 Clerical tenure**

In 1999 the Synod received the report from the Synod Committee on Clerical Tenure.

By resolution 38/99, the Synod -

- (a) requested that the Sydney Diocesan Superannuation Fund examine the proposal that clergy take optional

retirement at age 60 and advise the Synod and the clergy of the financial steps needed to effect such a proposal, and

- (b) requested that members of the Synod send comments on the bill for the Parish Relationships Ordinance 1999 to the Diocesan Secretary by 30 April 2000, and
- (c) requested that we appoint a committee with financial expertise to investigate the need for an appropriate system of redundancy for clergy, and report back to the Synod in 2000 with proposals.

A report was printed last year about these matters. The report also indicated that we had asked the Diocesan Secretary to prepare a draft ordinance to authorise the activities of a board to administer and regulate a proposed system of redundancy for clergy. The ordinance is still to be prepared.

#### **7.16 Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000**

This ordinance was passed by the Synod in 2000 and received the Archbishop's assent. However, in connection with this assent, Archbishop Goodhew reported to us as follows -

I wish to inform the Standing Committee that I have, with some hesitation, assented to the Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000. I say with some hesitation because I believe there are difficulties in the Ordinance which will only be worked out in practice. I therefore would have been much happier if there has been a sunset clause in the Ordinance to facilitate this. I do not think the resolution passed in conjunction with the third reading gives an Archbishop the same opportunity to exercise influence in amendments to the Ordinance as a sunset clause provides.

When considering future amendments to the Ordinance I ask the Standing Committee to consider whether a litigiously-minded person whom an Archbishop may judge not to be eligible with respect to 6(1)(a) will be able to demand reasons for the Archbishop's decision by claiming that the omission, at this point, of any statement similar to that which appears at 6(3) with respect to 'an offer', implies that it was expected that the Archbishop could be required to give reasons? Can an Archbishop be sure that the Ordinance in its present form does not create this possibility?

Currently an Archbishop is not required to give reasons for declining someone who chooses to offer themselves for ordination.

### **7.17 Parish Development Review Ordinance 2000**

This ordinance was passed by the Synod in 2000 but did not receive the Archbishop's assent. Archbishop Goodhew reported to us as follows -

I return this Ordinance to the Synod for further consideration. It is part of a package of Ordinances and I believe should be agreed to along with the others that make up the package.

I also take the opportunity to express my concern about an Ordinance that deals with significant issues connected with the life of a parish from which the Archbishop and those whom he appoints to assist parishes in their life and growth are deliberately excluded.

The Archbishop is the chief pastor of the diocese and by virtue of that office has a profound interest in what happens in each of the parishes in his diocese. I appointed experienced parish clergymen as Regional Bishops with the chief aim of providing encouragement and help to parishes. I am disappointed to think they are purposefully locked out of any contact with the process envisaged in the Ordinance. If clergy and church leaders want their bishops and archdeacons to be pastors rather than bureaucrats I ask them to consider what sort of message is being sent by seeking to exclude them from any knowledge of a parish review.

I fully appreciate the reasoning that has given the Ordinance its present shape. I give praise to the promoters for doing all they can to establish a culture in which reviews are undertaken. I know and understand the concerns that clergy have about bishops knowing too much about what is going on in a parish. I rather hoped we might be moving away from the sort of 'them and us' approach. I appreciate that it is always open for a clergyman to share the review with his bishop or archdeacon if he feels he wishes to do so. However I have wanted to create a culture where bishops and archdeacons are seen as the sort of people clergy could count on for support and encouragement. I hope my concerns will be given some consideration when the matter returns to the floor of the Synod.

I think my successor should have the opportunity to be involved in the passage of this Ordinance. If I were continuing, and the Synod chose to pass the Ordinance again in its present form after hearing my concerns, I would assent to its passage.

Accordingly, the bill for the Parish Development Review Ordinance is referred back to the Synod for its consideration.

#### **7.18 5/00 Stipends and Allowances Committee**

By resolution 5/00, the Synod reappointed the Stipends and Allowances Committee and directed that it report its findings and recommendations to us for action. A separate report is printed.

#### **7.19 10/00 Music for youth services**

By resolution 10/00, the Synod requested that Anglican Youthworks explore the possibilities of providing professional training in modern and contemporary music for use in youth orientated services in our churches.

Anglican Youthworks subsequently appointed a part time contemporary music consultant to facilitate training within regions about repertoire, team work, musicianship, programming and music style and youth culture. 6 churches were identified to receive intensive training from the consultant and this training is taking place. Further, a song contest to find the best "home grown" praise music was also run and 6 songs were identified as being of sufficient quality to be recorded. An "enhanced" CD will be available in October 2001.

Anglican Youthworks considers that it has exceeded the expectations of the Synod expressed in resolution 10/00. It has also signalled that the consultancy cannot be continued beyond 2001 without additional Synod funding.

#### **7.20 12/00 Children and young people**

By resolution 12/00, the Synod requested that we appoint a committee to report to the Synod about -

- (a) the findings from the data about the age of church attendees intended to be collected in the National Church Life Survey in April 2001, and the implications of that data for future ministry, and
- (b) the current health of children's and young people's ministry in churches in the Diocese, and
- (c) the ways in which the Diocese can strengthen that ministry and have an increasingly outward focus and "gospel" unchurched young people and children appropriately and effectively.

With the approval of the mover of resolution 12/00, we have deferred appointing a committee, and have invited the mover to refer the matter back to us in 2002 for further consideration when the data from the recent National Church Life Survey is available and in the context of the proposal to print a second edition of *Reaching the Unchurched*, a publication of Anglican Youth & Education.

**7.21 14/00 Administration of confirmation by presbyters**

By resolution 14/00, the Synod requested that we appoint a committee, to include lay persons and not necessarily to be confined to members of Standing Committee -

- (a) to examine, from a theological, historical, ecumenical, pastoral and legal point of view, the possibility of -
  - (i) confirmation no longer being required after baptism as an adult, and
  - (ii) confirmation in the Anglican Church being administered by presbyters or appropriate laypersons as well as bishops, and
- (b) to make a similar examination of the possibility of enabling presbyters or appropriate laypersons as well as bishops to receive into the fellowship of the Anglican Church, people who are communicant members of other Christian denominations, and
- (c) invite submissions from interested persons, and
- (d) report to the next session of Synod.

We have appointed a committee to consider and report on the matters raised in the resolution. It is hoped that the committee will be able to report in time for the 2002 session of the Synod.

**7.22 15/00 Anglican Counselling Centre - censure of the Standing Committee**

By resolution 15/00, the Synod censured the Standing Committee for its failure "to comply with the clearly stated wishes of the whole Synod when it voted overwhelmingly in October 1999 in favour of a resolution (41/99) to have the 4 disputed resolutions of Standing Committee (resulting from the committee of enquiry into the Anglican Counselling Centre) referred back for reconsideration and revision as stated in paragraphs (f) and (g) of the resolution." The background to the making of the resolution is contained in a report which we made last year which is printed on pages 478 to 483 inclusive of the 2001 Year Book.

We resolved to receive and acknowledge the censure of the Synod, and expressed regret for the hurt experienced by any party.

**7.23 21/00 Proposals for reform of the Anti-Discrimination Act**

By this resolution, the Synod -

- (a) noted with concern the New South Wales Law Reform Commission's proposals for reform of the Anti Discrimination Act, and
- (b) called on the Premier, the Attorney General and Parliament of New South Wales to respect the principle of "freedom of religion", and reject those of the Commission's proposals which will detract from the exercise of that freedom in New South Wales, and

- (c) requested parish councils, schools, other diocesan organisations and individuals to write to their local Member of Parliament expressing their concern about those proposals.

A separate report is printed.

#### **7.24 23/00 Matters arising from the Presidential Address - CEFM and Ministry Assessment Centre**

In his Presidential Address in 2000, Archbishop Goodhew expressed his gratitude to CEFM and to the Ministry Assessment Centre and drew attention to the need to consider a thorough review of all in-service training offered to the clergy of the Diocese. By this resolution, the Synod requested that we undertake an assessment of the relevance, adequacy and effectiveness of the training provided.

We originally agreed to appoint a committee to consider these matters. However, Archbishop Jensen has subsequently indicated a desire to review these matters and so we have referred them to him for his consideration.

#### **7.25 24/00 Cross cultural ministry**

In his Presidential Address in 2000 Archbishop Goodhew expressed concern for the future of cross cultural ministry.

By resolution 24/00, the Synod noted the Archbishop's concerns and asked the DEB, the Standing Committee and the regional councils to attend to the questions asked by the Archbishop and report on the ways forward to the Synod in 2001.

We have appointed a committee to consider and report on this matter. We have granted leave for the committee to report by 30 June 2002.

#### **7.26 26/00 Faculties**

By resolution 26/00, the Synod requested that we appoint a committee to review the rationale for and procedures relating to faculties, items which do not require a faculty but do require the Archdeacon's approval, and related regulations and to prepare legislation for consideration by the Synod to simplify and where practicable abolish requirements presently applying.

We have appointed a committee to consider and report on the matters raised in the resolution. We have granted leave for the committee to report by June 2002.

#### **7.27 29/00 Role and function of Archdeacons**

By resolution 29/00, the Synod requested that we appoint a committee to investigate the role and function of archdeacons in their context and to report to the Synod in 2001 with suggestions about how the office may best develop and how the identified roles and functions may best be carried out.

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We have appointed a committee to consider and report on the matters raised in the resolution. We have granted leave for the committee to report by 30 June 2002.

### **7.28 31/00 Referral of bills to the Standing Committee**

By resolution 31/00, the Synod requested that we deal with and, if thought fit, pass the following bills as ordinances -

Assistant Bishops (Bishop Coadjutor) Ordinance 1947  
Amendment Ordinance 2000  
Regional Councils Ordinance 2000  
Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975 Amendment  
Ordinance 2000.

We have considered and passed each of these bills (see item 3.8) although, in some cases, in an amended form.

### **7.29 33/00 Doctrine and principles of the Anglican Church**

By resolution 33/00, the Synod resolved -

Synod supports the Sydney Standing Committee in its request to the Primates -

- (a) to affirm in the face of current denials -
  - (i) the uniqueness of Jesus as the only name for obtaining salvation;
  - (ii) our redemption through his full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world whereby he reconciled his Father to us;
  - (iii) the resurrection of Jesus in which he took again his body with flesh, bones and all things appertaining to the perfection of human nature; and
  - (iv) the sufficiency and authority of Scripture; and
- (b) to reject current advocacy of -
  - (i) heterosexual immorality; and
  - (ii) homosexual practice.

We subsequently respectfully requested that the Archbishop not authorise any person nor incumbents to allow any unauthorised person to preach or participate in the leadership of church services in the Diocese who will not give assent to the doctrines and principles advocated in resolution 33/00.

We also respectfully requested that our representatives to the General Synod ask the General Synod at its 2001 meeting to ask all the diocesan bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia not to authorise any person to preach or participate in the leadership of church services in their dioceses who will not give assent to the doctrines and principles advocated in resolution 33/00.

### **7.30 35/00 Parish Review (Monitoring Panel) Ordinance 2000**

By resolution 35/00, the Synod referred the bill for the Parish Review (Monitoring Panel) Ordinance 2000 to us for our consideration.

This bill is one of 3 related bills recommended by the Synod Committee on Clerical Tenure which reported to the Synod in 1999. The other bills are the Parish Development Review Ordinance 2000 and the Parish Relationships Ordinance 2000. Since the Parish Development Review Ordinance 2000 did not receive Archbishop Goodhew's assent (see item 7.17), we declined to consider the bill for the Parish Review (Monitoring Panel) Ordinance. It will be referred back to the Synod.

### **7.31 Resolutions made by the Synod in 2000 and not mentioned in this report**

Circulars were sent to parishes and organisations about the matters arising from the 2000 Synod session. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons and organisations.

### **7.32 Ordinances for this Session**

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

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARK PAYNE  
*Diocesan Secretary*

27 October 2001