



1992 Report of the Standing Committee

This report was received by the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney in October 1992.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Charter

This report covers actions taken by the Standing Committee since the October 1991 Synod Session under powers delegated to it by the Synod. The duties of the Standing Committee, under the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897 and numerous other ordinances, include -

- (a) Considering and reporting upon any matter referred to it by the Synod and carrying out the resolutions of the Synod.
- (b) Making ordinances concerning church trust property.
- (c) Preparing and administering the diocesan budget.
- (d) Making arrangements for Synod sessions and preparing and proposing business for the Synod.
- (e) Acting as a council of advice to the Archbishop (the "Archbishop-in-Council").
- (f) Appointing persons to fill casual vacancies among persons elected by the Synod to boards etc.
- (g) Monitoring the financial affairs of diocesan organisations.

More of the duties of the Standing Committee are referred to in item 3.4 of the 6th Handbook.

1.2 Access

The Standing Committee's principal place of business is St Andrew's House, Sydney Square and mail should be addressed to "The Diocesan Secretary, Standing Committee of Synod, P.O. Box 0190 Queen Victoria Building, Sydney NSW 2000" (telephone (02) 2651 555 and Fax (02) 261 4485). Office hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

1.3 Members of the Standing Committee

Since 7 October 1991, the Standing Committee has met 12 times and a further 2 meetings are anticipated before the Synod meets on 12 October 1992. Bishop K.H. Short will retire as Dean during September 1992 and we record our appreciation of his faithfulness in preaching the Gospel throughout his ministry.

Mr C.M. Orpwood QC resigned during the year and was replaced by Mr W.B. Nicholson on 6 April. We were sorry to lose Mr Orpwood and will miss his legal skills.

From 1 January, the Archbishop split the old Archdeaconry of North Sydney into the Archdeaconries of North Sydney (under Archdeacon B.W. Richardson) and Ryde (under Archdeacon W.S. Skillicorn). Both Archdeacons are "parish-based".

The members at the date of this report were -

The Archbishop

Archbishop Donald Robinson

The Chancellor

Mr Justice K.R. Handley

The Assistant Bishops

Bishop P.W. Barnett

The Registrar

Bishop E.D. Cameron

Bishop R.H. Goodhew

Bishop J.R. Reid

Bishop P.R. Watson

The Secretaries of Synod

Canon G.K. Clifton

The Archdeacons

Archdeacon A.F. Donohoo

Mr W.G.S. Gotley

Archdeacon G.R. Huard

Laypersons Elected

Archdeacon B.W. Richardson

by Synod -

Archdeacon V.W. Roberts

Professor C.R. Bellenger

Archdeacon W.S. Skillicorn

Mr N.M. Cameron

The Dean of St Andrew's

Mr G.A. Collins

Cathedral

Mr J.G. Denton

Bishop K.H. Short

Mr D.J. Fairfull

Mr J.H. Foxton

Clergymen Elected by Synod

Dr K. Hawtrey

The Rev B.A. Ballantine-Jones

Mrs E.C. Holley

Canon L.F. Bartlett

Mr G.V. Kells

Canon J.C. Chapman

Mr R.H.Y. Lambert

The Rev V.R. Cole

Mr D.R. Lewarne

The Rev T.K. Dein

Mr D.S. Marr

The Rev R.C. Forsyth

Mr I.C. Miller

Canon P.F. Jensen

Dr B.C. Newman

The Rev B.A. Jobbins

Mr P.T. Nicholson

Canon P.S. Kemp

Mr W.B. Nicholson

The Rev J.G. Mason

Mr W.H. Olson

The Rev Dr P.T. O'Brien

Dr S.F. Pigginn

The Rev J. Ramsay

Deaconess M.A. Rodgers

Canon B.C. Wilson

Dr L.A. Scandrett

Mr R. Tong

1.4 Management and Structure

The Sydney Diocesan Secretariat provides the staff and office facilities to enable the Standing Committee to perform its role. A separate report from the Secretariat has been printed for the Synod.

Meetings of the Standing Committee are like Synod meetings, with most matters being the subject of reports. The major committees of the Standing Committee are -

Processing Bills for Ordinances -

Church Lands Committee
Parramatta Regional Lands Committee (PARC)
Wollongong Regional Lands Committee (WARC)
Large Receipts Committee

Financial Administration -

Audit Committee
Finance Committee
Financial Priorities Committee

Legal Questions -

Legal Committee
General Synod Canons Committee
Synod Ordinance Checking Panel

General Administration -

Anglican Inquiry Centre Committee
Ordination Training Fund Committee
Permanent Investigation Committee
Social Issues Committee
Synod Arrangements Committee

The Standing Committee records its appreciation of the persons who have served on its committees during the year.

1.5 Major Activities Since October 1991

The major activities since the last report have been -

Consideration of the constitutional issue arising from the ordination of women to the priesthood.
Preparation of the 1993 Synod budget in the face of reduced income.
Major delegations of authority to assist with the "maintenance" activities of the Standing Committee.
Consideration of tensions within diocesan structures.
Preparation of business for the 1992 Synod session.

2. Parish Administration

2.1 Actions Under the Extra-Parochial Ordinance 1919 and the School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975

The Archbishop-in-Council has not been called upon to make any declarations under the 1919 Ordinance during the year. Page 124 of the 1992 Year Book has a list of the buildings, institutions and schools which have been declared extra-parochial.

2.2 Actions under the Parishes Ordinance 1979

Leichhardt became a provisional parish on 1 January 1992 under clause 8 of the Parishes Ordinance. Several parishes have not met the "local revenues" test -

	<i>1990 Threshold \$32,837</i>	<i>1991 Threshold \$35,278</i>
Abbotsford	x	x
Bellevue Hill	-	x
Bexley North	-	x
Dulwich Hill	-	x
Homebush West	x	x
Leura	-	x
Marrickville	-	x
Petersham	x	x
Strathfield (St Andrew)	x	x

The Provisional Parish of Berkeley reverted to the Parish of Port Kembla from 6 January 1992. The Parish of Vaucluse and the Provisional Parish of Rose Bay were amalgamated from 31 December 1991.

The Parishes of Lidcombe and Riverstone were provisionally reclassified (by the Standing Committee and PARC) as provisional parishes from 1 April and 1 January 1992 respectively. WARC has extended the provisional parish status of Glenquarie until the 1994 Synod session.

2.3 Actions under the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988

The Archbishop-in-Council was required to decide whether the Parish of Petersham had the right to be represented on the Presentation Board. It was decided that the Parish did not have this right.

2.4 Actions under the Church Administration Ordinance, the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance and the Sydney Church Ordinance (Substantial Repeal) Ordinance 1990

These Ordinances took effect on 1 January 1991. They were amended last year and a committee has been appointed to review them.

The faculty regulations have been amended to assist in the settlement of disputes.

3. Financial and Property Administration

3.1 Accounts Ordinance 1975

Clauses 7 and 8 of the Accounts Ordinance require diocesan organisations to lodge with the Standing Committee, by 30 June each year, their annual report and audited accounts for the year ended 31 December last, together with a report on liquidity and other financial matters (a "clause 8" report). A few organisations have been given leave to lodge their accounts and clause 8 reports later than 30 June due to different balance dates. The Finance Committee has appointed a panel to review these documents and attention will be drawn to any organisations which have not met the Synod's reporting requirements.

A number of organisations have been given relief from some of the extensive requirements approved by the Synod last year.

3.2 Audited Accounts of the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee has the custody of all property belonging to the Synod. The Secretariat keeps the Standing Committee's books of account and the audited accounts of the Standing Committee's General Fund and the Synod Fund for the year ended 31 December 1991 have been printed with this report. The 1991 audited accounts of the Sydney Diocesan Account, a group of small sub-trusts and clearing accounts, will be tabled at the Synod session.

3.3 Standing Committee General Fund

This fund has been transferred to the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat from 1 January 1992. The income of the fund consists of grants from the Synod, sales of handbooks and yearbooks and interest which is earned on the Synod Fund but credited to the General Fund as an offset to the administration and audit costs of the Synod Fund.

The major expenditure of the General Fund is the payment to the Secretariat for accounting, administration, audit, secretarial and other services.

The Secretariat was formed to care for and maintain the property of the Standing Committee and the keeping of records for the Standing Committee's programmes can be done within the Secretariat's accounts.

3.4 Ordination Training Fund

Bursaries for Sydney candidates for ordination and for trainee deaconesses and parish sisters have been increased from \$2,850 per candidate in 1989 (92% of tuition fees) to \$3,860 per candidate in 1992 (98% of tuition fees). The Ordination Training Fund Committee has been asked to consider the overall financial position of the Diocese when fixing future bursary levels and to bear in mind that financial support in the future may be less than in the past.

Bursaries of \$263,110 were paid direct to Moore Theological College in 1991 as an offset to fees (\$200,920 in 1990).

3.5 Ordinances Passed Since last Report

The following table shows the numbers of ordinances passed and assented to for the years 1986 to 1991 and for 1992 so far.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Standing Committee	57	42	29	40	40	55	34
Synod	11	6	14	12	15	10	-
	68	48	43	52	55	65	34

Most of the ordinances passed by the Standing Committee required a hearing by a Lands Committee, and a second hearing by a Large Receipts Committee if a large receipt or "windfall" was involved. A list of the ordinances passed by the Standing Committee since the last report to Synod has been printed with this report and an updated list will be tabled at the Synod session.

A review of ordinance procedures is being undertaken.

3.6 Distributions of Funds Under Ordinances

Several distributions of funds were approved -

Berrima cum Moss Vale Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Ordinance 1983 and 1989

\$972 for repairs to the Assistant Minister's house.

Hurlstone Park Sale Ordinance 1983

\$31,725 to the Marrickville Area Deanery Committee for an English as a second language programme.

Miranda Sale Proceeds Ordinance 1991

Up to \$95,000 towards the cost of improvements suitable for administration offices, counselling rooms, community amenities, Christian bookshop or other capital works.

Ryde (Kirkby Gardens ...) Ordinance 1968

\$187,000 for various purposes (ministry, administration, restoration etc).

Wollongong Land Sale Ordinance 1990

\$8,500 for restoration and repair of stained glass windows.

The amount which triggers a Large Receipts Committee hearing was reviewed but remains at \$300,000.

3.7 Assessment Authorisation Ordinance 1975

Relief from assessments or adjustments to assessments has been approved for a number of parochial units.

(a) Upon the reversion of the Assisted Provisional Parish of Berkeley to the Parish of Port Kembla relief of \$18,000 was granted over several years.

(b) Upon the amalgamation of Vaucluse and Rose Bay relief totalling \$9,734 was granted over several years.

(c) Upon the transfer of 2 churches from Emu Plains to Cambridge Park, relief of \$353 was granted.

(d) Adjustments of \$358 and \$7,500 were made for Kensington and Malabar after correction of the original returns.

(e) Upon the provisional reclassification of Lidcombe as a provisional parish, relief of \$1,688 was granted.

(f) Upon the provisional reclassification of Riverstone as a provisional parish, relief of \$2,250 was granted.

3.8 Arrears of Assessments Payable by Parochial Units

The following table compares the arrears as at 15 August of the last 3 years -

	1990 \$	1991 \$	1992 \$
Arrangements			
Harbord	1,274.75	794.00	-
Kurrajong	466.50	-	-
Ruse/Airds/Kentlyn	1,773.50	2,645.50	2,445.50
St George	1,494.25	1,394.25	2,313.25
No Arrangements			
Abbotsford	-	-	3,554.50
Annandale	-	1,112.25	-
Ashbury	3,031.00	3,573.00	3,873.00
Auburn - St Philip	2,077.00	878.75	1,412.00
Avalon	1,669.00	-	-
Bankstown	1,043.75	-	-
Berrima	1,586.75	2,513.25	-
Beverly Hills	.20	-	-
Bulli	-	2,117.25	2,613.00
Cabramatta	2,702.75	-	-
Croydon	-	-	1,458.25
Dapto	-	-	4,722.50
Drummoyne	-	1,526.00	-
Ermington	712.25	857.00	4,034.50
Fairfield	-	1,304.50	-
Forestville	-	5,898.00	5,459.50
Katoomba	-	768.50	1,124.00
Keiraville	-	-	1,364.25
Killara	.50	-	-
Lane Cove	-	-	3,936.75
Lidcombe/Berala	577.00	2,950.50	-

Littleton	1,070.50	-	-
Millers Point	-	-	1,320.75
Mt Druitt	1,093.00	-	-
Minto	1,486.75	1,484.75	2,173.25
Narellan	23,561.00	-	-
Northbridge	-	-	1,091.00
Northmead	3,431.50	3,419.50	-
Nowra	-	2,930.50	2,514.25
Richmond	2,116.50	2,215.25	2,358.00
Riverstone	-	869.50	727.00
Rozelle	1,814.28	-	-
St Clair	574.25	266.00	-
The Oaks	648.00	-	-
Wentworthville	-	-	1,204.00
Westmead	1,226.75	18.00	-
West Wollongong	-	510.00	-
Wahroonga, St Paul	5,437.50	-	-
Total	60,869.23	40,046.25	49,699.25

3.9 St Peter's Hornsby Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Ordinance 1978

This Fund is held upon trust to apply the income as directed by ordinance of the Synod. Appropriations of income feature regularly in diocesan income and expenditure 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. As at 11 August 1992, the status of these interest-free loans was -

	Berowra	Hornsby Heights
Balance owing	\$19,139	\$64,000
Annual Repayment Rate	-	\$7,000
Arrears of Repayments	-	-
Repayments Review Date	31.12.92	31.12.92

3.10 Parramatta '54 Free Fund

This Fund is held upon trust to distribute the income among such objects of the Diocese of Sydney as the Archbishop-in-Council may from time to time determine. Since the last report, a distribution of \$7,000 has been made towards hospitality costs of the 1992 Australian Bishops' Conference (\$8,460 for 1991) held at Gilbulla.

3.11 Endowment of the See (Various Approvals)

The stipends, allowances and housing costs of the Archbishop, assistant bishops (including the present registrar), the dean and archdeacons, the salaries of the deputy registrar, and registry staff (including the archivists) and the costs of regional episcopal offices are met from the Endowment of the See. The income from the Endowment of the See is applied in accordance with the Endowment of the See Ordinance 1977 -

"(a) To pay the stipend of the Archbishop of Sydney, the expenses in relation to his official residence and travelling, secretarial and other expenses in respect of his office;

(b) During the absence of the Archbishop or during any vacancy in the See to pay -

(i) an allowance to his Commissary or the Administrator of the Diocese for the time being;

- (ii) the expenses incurred in the discharge of episcopal functions within the Diocese;
 - (iii) the expenses incurred on filling up the vacancy of the See;
 - (iv) travelling and other expenses and allowances to the incoming Archbishop.
- (c) Subject as aforesaid to pay such other amounts in connection with the Diocese for such purpose as may from time to time be determined.
- (d) Subject as aforesaid to pay such other amounts not exceeding \$10,000 in the year 1984 and in each subsequent calendar year or such greater amount per annum as may be determined from time to time by resolution of the Standing Committee on or towards such purposes of the Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Sydney as may from time to time be specified by the Archbishop.
- (e) Subject as aforesaid to pay such amounts for such purposes of the Diocese beyond the Diocese as may be determined by resolution of Synod or by ordinance of Standing Committee but only insofar as those purposes include the provision of a capital sum to endow the see of another diocese.

The amounts to be paid pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) shall be such as are from time to time determined and the Archbishop approved of by the Standing Committee and in the case of payments made under paragraphs (a) and (c) approved by the Archbishop and in the case of payments made under paragraph (b) approved by the Archbishop or his Commissary or Administrator as the case may be."

During the year, the Standing Committee determined the following special payments from the Endowment of the See for purposes within the Diocese -

	\$
Vision 2001	100,000
AIO (to be available for 2 years for work undertaken by the Director as the Archbishop's Press Officer)	100,000
AIO (towards preparation of the Archbishop's visit to the Middle East)	10,000
Cathedral Maintenance Fund	250,000
Legal Expenses (towards the payment of reasonable legal costs of the plaintiffs and defendant in Scandrett v Dowling)	100,000
	560,000

There is a separate report on the payment of legal expenses.

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

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$45,000 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop in assisting clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

3.13 Increases in Borrowing Limits

New borrowing limits were approved for 2 organisations.

3.14 New Sites Advisory Committee

During 1982, \$1M was appropriated from the Diocesan Endowment for the Property Trust to purchase land approved by the New Sites Advisory Committee under the New Sites Ordinance 1982. In 1985, the Property Trust, on the advice of the Advisory Committee, became the "purchasing body" of land acquired through the Vision for Growth Appeal and the 1982 Ordinance was amended to reflect that procedure.

This Ordinance has been updated to include land purchases on behalf of Vision 2001. Land is now held in the following localities, the Claymore and Shellharbour parcels having been purchased since the last report -

Ambarvale - 2 parcels	Illawong - 1 parcel
Blacktown - 1 parcel	Menai - 2 parcels
Bomaderry West - 1 parcel	Minto - 1 parcel
Claymore - 1 parcel	Plumpton - 1 parcel
Cranebrook - 1 parcel	Quaker's Hill - 3 parcels
Crestwood - 1 parcel	Regentville - 1 parcel
Culburra - 1 parcel	Rooty Hill - 1 parcel
Eagle Vale - 2 parcels	Rooty Hill - 1 parcel
Erskine Park - 1 parcel	Shellharbour - 1 parcel

Contracts have , been exchanged for the purchase of land at Kellyville ("Parklea") and for additional land at Quakers Hill.

Clause 3 of the New Sites Ordinance 1982 requires the Property Trust to sell any land acquired by it under that clause (from the original \$1M or subsequent income etc) after the Property Trust has held that land for 5 years, unless a majority of the members of the Advisory Committee certify that the land should be retained for a further 5 years. Extensions may be given up to 15 years in total after which the land must be sold. These conditions do not apply to land acquired through the "Visions".

3.15 Superannuation Guarantee Charge

The Secretary/Administrator of the SDSF has sent circulars to parishes and organisations about the new Superannuation Guarantee Charge. It will affect us, especially the preservation requirements. Attention was again drawn to the Charge in the latest circular on stipends and allowances.

3.16 St Andrew's House Church Tenancies

The Standing Committee is responsible for church tenancies in St Andrew's House. During the year an additional 57 square metres of office space was taken for HMS at a rent of \$146.50 per square metre and a grant of \$14,750 was approved from Synod Fund Contingencies, being the subsidy required for this space.

Approval was given for AIO to surrender 30 square metres following the transfer of the Archbishop's appeals work to Vision 2001. AIO is required to "make good" the space so that it is lettable but an extended vacancy is expected. A grant of \$5,430 was made from Synod Fund Contingencies to help meet the cost of this vacancy.

The redevelopment of the first 3 levels of St Andrew's House is still under consideration. If approved, this may involve the redeployment of tenants to make more efficient use of space.

3.17 Anglican Information Office Media Plan for the 1990's

The Council of the AIO expressed its concern about the future of the work of AIO, in the light of the establishment of an appeals division under the Archbishop. The transfer of appeals administration had left AIO with overhead expenses which could not be reduced or avoided.

There were difficulties about the level of Synod grant (\$48,000 for 1992) for the making of news releases, statements and the giving of information to parishes, clergy and the public. Other aspects of the work of AIO were also under pressure: Southern Cross/diocesan newspaper, and the servicing of the Social Issues Committee and the Anglican Inquiry Centre Committee.

Some financial relief was granted through the surrender of rented office space (item 3.16) and assistance from the Endowment of the See for work undertaken by the Director as the Archbishop's Press Officer.

Finally, a committee consisting of Mr D.J. Fairfull (chairman), Mrs B. Hughes, Miss C.L. Rivers and the Rev M.G. Robinson was appointed to produce a media plan for the 90's, involving AIO, ARU and ATV.

After receiving a report from the committee, the Standing Committee -

(a) acknowledged that a merger is the best option for the media units; and

(b) encouraged AIO, ARU, ATV and AIC to merge.

A body called the Anglican Communications Council has been appointed to facilitate the merger.

3.18 Board of Education: Diocese of Sydney

There has been a general decline in the Board's finances: current liabilities exceeded current assets by \$29,163 in 1990 and by \$379,757 in 1991. Losses on the now-closed USA project for 1989 to 1991 were \$474,309.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat, Mr D.J. Fairfull, was asked to help the Council of the Board with strategies for its operations.

3.19 "Gilbulla"

The borrowings of the "Gilbulla" Board of Management have increased from \$110,000 in 1991 to \$140,000 in 1992. This last increase was to provide working capital of \$30,000 due to adverse trading conditions which are expected to continue for 18 months.

At 31 December 1991 current liabilities exceeded current assets by \$60,149 and a loss of \$79,951 was incurred during 1991.

The Board has prepared a business plan and is facing the problem. The Board will keep the situation under review.

3.20 Crawford Village Parramatta North

Crawford Village is a parish-inspired development for "over-55's". Stage 1 of the development has 18 units, stage 2 will have 18 units and stage 3 will have 20 units.

Management difficulties resulted in the Standing Committee reconstituting the Crawford Village Board and approving the refinancing of an external loan of around \$2M with the Endowment of the See. Further loans to the Board totalling \$500,000 for working capital and to pay debts have been authorised. The loans are on a commercial basis.

Sales of interests in the Village are encouraging.

3.21 Finance and Loans Board Letters of Responsibility

The Finance and Loans Board is trying to find a procedure like the Archbishop's letter to secure loans. There are still 18 letters known to be current, the original value was \$1.8M and the balances totalled \$1.2M at 31 December 1991.

3.22 Income Tax: Clergy and Lay Ministers

Fringe benefits provided to "ministers of religion" who are employees of religious institutions are exempt from taxation under the Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986 ("FBTAA"). It is on this basis that parishes are able to provide tax free benefits such as housing and ministerial expense accounts to ministers. The Australian Taxation Office ("ATO") regards Anglican clergy as employees under the FBTAA.

The ATO has issued a draft ruling which if issued as a final ruling will affect ministers (including assistant ministers) and lay ministers. For definitions of these terms see item 6.1 on page 34 of the *6th Handbook*.

There are 2 principal areas of difficulty for us in the draft ruling.

(a) It seeks to limit the FBTAA exemption in a way which may exclude all of our lay ministers. (Churchwardens beware as you may have to pay tax on benefits provided for lay ministers through ministry reimbursement account arrangements.)

(b) It requires the minister to be in "pastoral duties" a term which excludes the administration of a church, work undertaken by a director of a department of a diocese or the administration of a school.

We have made submissions on these matters seeking to resist the limitation in (a) and to resist the limitation in (b) for a director of a department.

3.22 Anglican Retirement Villages

The Archbishop reported to us a resolution carried unanimously by the Retirement Villages Board recommending that all Board offices, save that of the President and the Chairman, be declared vacant with effect from 28 September 1992 and that an interim Board be established.

The Standing Committee has acted on this recommendation by reconstituting the Board and requesting it to take the following actions by 28 September 1993 -

- (a) Review the constitution of the Board.
- (b) Report to the Standing Committee on options for the constitution of the Board.
- (c) Make recommendations on the options referred to in (b).

The Retirement Villages organisation is one of our largest corporations and the Standing Committee greatly appreciates the service given by past members. The Board's action in clearing the way for a review of its future work in retirement villages is forward thinking and courageous.

4. General Administration

4.1 Delegations of Authority

Under the authority given by ordinance 44/91, the Standing Committee has delegated many of its "maintenance" responsibilities -

To the Finance Committee

Accounts Ordinance 1975 (clauses 1,4 and 6 to 9)
Assessment Authorisation Ordinance 1975 (clauses 3,4,5,7,7A,8 and 10)
Church Administration Ordinance 1990 (clause 20)
Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance 1990 (clause 12)
Delegation of Powers and Ordinance Procedure Ordinance 1973 (clause 4)
General Synod - Long Service Leave Canon 1969 Adopting Ordinance 1969 (clause 5)
Long Service Leave Ordinance 1973 (Clauses 2 to 4)
Standing Committee Ordinance 1897 (clauses 4 and 8)
Sydney Diocesan Superannuation Fund Ordinance 1961 (clause 12)
Sundry Ordinances Authorising Borrowing
Sundry Ordinances Distributing Funds

To the Synod Arrangements Committee

Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney Ordinance 1965 (clause 4E)

To a committee comprising the Area Archdeacon, the Registrar and the Diocesan Secretary (Northern and Southern Regions only)

Church Administration Ordinance 1990 (clauses 16,22 and 30)

To a committee comprising the Area Archdeacon, the Registrar and the Diocesan Secretary

Extra-Parochial Ordinance 1919 (clause 1)
Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988 (clause 11)
School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975 (clause 7)

To the Permanent Investigation Committee (Northern and Southern Regions only)

Parishes Ordinance 1979 (clauses 5 and 9)

The committees of the Standing Committee are appointed for up to 3 years expiring at the first meeting of the Standing Committee after the first session of each Synod.

Not less than 25% of the members of a committee authorised to exercise any of these delegated powers may require a matter to be referred to the Standing Committee. Any exercise of a delegated power must be reported to the Standing Committee.

4.2 Elections

The appointment of persons to serve on committees etc, the filling of casual vacancies among the members of organisations under ordinances and resolutions of the Synod, and the appointment of persons to represent the Diocese on other organisations is an important part of the business of the Standing Committee.

From October 1992 to September 1992, 50 such positions were filled (186 for the same period last year). This includes the persons elected to the committees in item 1.4.

4.3 Local Government Bill 1992

The NSW Government is proposing to repeal the Local Government Act 1919. It has circulated the Local Government Bill 1992 for comment. Of particular concern is that the rating exemptions have been redrafted.

Together with other denominations, we are concerned that the new provisions are narrower than those under the existing Act. A submission has been made to preserve the present Church exemptions.

4.4 Charitable Fundraising Appeals Act

This Act has been passed since the 1991 session of the Synod but it has not taken effect since the regulations have still to be drafted. (See page 306 of the 1992 Year Book for last year's report on this matter.)

We have asked the Chief Secretary's Department to give us the opportunity to comment on the draft regulations.

4.5 Copyright

In 1983 a circular about copyright was sent to parishes by Mr G.R. Christmas (Registrar at that time). In the light of recent developments a new circular will be sent to parishes soon.

4.6 Powers of WARC

WARC was given authority to become a member of the Illawarra Christian Media Association.

4.7 Parochial Statistics

The Standing Committee made the following changes to the criteria for collection of the 1991 parochial statistics and they are not strictly comparable with the 1990 statistics.

(a) Ministers now place their own interpretation on "attendees".

(b) Sunday attendances were required, rather than weekly services.

(c) The annual total was required for baptisms: the figure from the register of services can be used (infant and mature), confirmations, marriages, marriages of divorced people, and funerals (in church and elsewhere) registered in association with each church.

Thank you to all who sent in their returns - a summary has been printed with this report.

4.8 Pre-Schools Kindergartens, Schools, Colleges or Similar activities Operated by Parishes

Clause 12 of the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance 1990 provides that no pre-school, kindergarten, school or college or similar educational activity requiring governmental registration, licence or authorisation can be commenced on behalf of any parish or church except by a body established under an ordinance or with the consent of the Standing Committee. This does not apply to an activity commenced by a lessee or licensee under a lease or licence granted by the Property Trust.

The clause also declares that existing pre-schools and kindergartens etc run by churches or parishes shall not continue after 1 January 1991 without the consent of the Standing Committee. A survey was made and the Standing Committee consented to the continuation of the pre-schools etc listed on page 307 of the 1992 Year Book.

The Standing Committee's consent to the commencement of any new activities has not been given since 1 January 1991.

4.9 Farewell for Archbishop Robinson

A grant of \$15,000 has been approved from Synod Fund Contingencies towards the farewell arrangements for Archbishop Robinson.

4.10 Response to The Man Jesus

A response to Dr B. Thiering's book *The Man Jesus* has been prepared by the Rev Dr David Peterson and copies have been sent to parishes. The response is to help clergy and laity respond appropriately and confidently to any questions and comments they may receive about the book.

5. General Synod Matters

5.1 1992 Legislation

The General Synod met from 5 to 10 July 1992 in Sydney and passed the following legislation.

<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>
1	Appellate Tribunal Canon Amendment Canon 1992
2	Primate Canon Amendment Canon 1992
3	National Anglican Centre Canon 1985 Repeal Canon 1992
4	NSW Provincial Synod Representatives Canon 1992
5	General Synod Commissions Amendment Canon 1992.
6	Tallimba Land Diocesan Boundary Alteration Canon 1992.
7	Constitution Amendment (Section 51) Canon 1992.
8	Long Service Leave Canon 1992.
9	Canon Concerning Authority on Certain Matters.
10	Canon Concerning Confessions 1989.
11	Canon Law Repeal Canon 1989.
12	Special Tribunal Procedure Canon 1992.
13	Constitution Alteration (Sections 17 and 23) Canon 1992.
14	Constitution Alteration (Miscellaneous Sections) Canon 1992.
15	Alternative Tables of Lessons Amendment Canon 1992.
16	Australian College of Theology Canon 1992.
17	Authorised Lay Ministry Canon 1992.
P1	Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992.
P2	Canon Concerning Vesture of Ministers 1992.
P3	Oaths Declaration and Assents Canon 1992.

Diocesan Synods have been asked to consider Provisional Canon P1 and Canons 7 and 8 as soon as possible and legislation has been prepared so that our Synod can consider these matters.

Canons 1 to 3, 5, 6 and 16, being consistent with our past views, do not affect the order and good government of the Church in this Diocese. This may not be true of the Special Tribunal Procedure Canon No 12 of 1992.

We have asked our General Synod Canons Committee -

(a) to report on whether Canons 1 to 3, 5, 6, 12 and 16 of 1992 affect the order and good government of the Church in this Diocese;

(b) to report on Canons 9 to 11, 13 to 17 of 1992, 5 of 1989, and Provisional Canons P2 and P3 of 1992; and

(c) to prepare legislation for the Synod to consider assenting to or adopting any of this legislation.

5.2 1992 Resolutions

Copies of resolutions of general interest or which called for consideration by the wider Church community were sent to the Archbishop, parishes and organisations on 4 August.

6. Provincial Synod Matters

6.1 Provincial Synod Sessions

A meeting of the Provincial Synod was held in 1989. The next meeting may not be until 1994.

6.2 Review of the 1902 Constitution

The review of the 1902 Constitution being carried out by the Standing Committee of the Provincial Synod is proceeding slowly - see page 282 of the 1991 Year Book for more background information on the review.

6.3 Synod Representatives Ordinance 1989

This ordinance of the Provincial Synod is to amend the 1902 Constitution to enable a diocesan synod to make ordinances on the election or appointment of representatives to their Synod. All of the dioceses in the Province have adopted the Ordinance and the General Synod ratified the amendments in July 1992.

The Legal Committee has prepared the bill for the Synod Representative (Election at Annual Vestry Meetings) Ordinance 1992 which will be circulated on the first day of the Synod Session.

7. Sydney Synod Matters

7.1 Resolutions Passed by the Synod in 1991 and not Otherwise Mentioned in this Report

A circular was sent to parishes about the matters arising from the 1991 Synod session which required action at the parish level. A similar circular was sent to diocesan organisations. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons.

7.2 22/89 Communication of the Gospel to the Elderly

The following report has been received from Deaconess Doreen Garrick, the Secretary of the Synod-Committee appointed by resolution 22/89 -

"This Committee came into being as a result of resolution 22 of the 1989 Synod. The Committee reported to the 1991 session of Synod, and was asked to consider the report in the light of comments of Standing Committee and report to the next session of Synod.

The Committee has considered the comments of Standing Committee. It agrees that the proposed Council on Ageing would be more appropriately placed under an existing organisation. That possibility was investigated with both the Anglican Home Mission Society and the Anglican Retirement Villages Board. However neither organisation wished to be involved with the proposal.

Following the report to the 1991 session of Synod, the Anglican Deaconess Institution Sydney has formed a Committee on Ministry to and by the Ageing. This Committee is under the umbrella of the Deaconess Institution Council, and is therefore not under the control of the Synod and cannot speak for the Anglican Church in this Diocese. However this new committee has taken up the main recommendations of the report placed before the 1991 session of Synod on its own initiative, and has appointed an Honorary Executive Officer to help implement them.

It is recommended that this Synod support the initiative taken by the Anglican Deaconess Institution Sydney in forming a Committee on Ministry to and by the Ageing."

The "report" and "comments" mentioned in item 1 of Deaconess Garrick's report are on pages 423 to 425 of the 1992 Year Book.

7.3 Holy Baptism with the Laying on of Hands

The Standing Committee has asked the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to review *Holy Baptism with the Laying on of Hands* 1990 from the General Synod Liturgical Commission and to prepare a report on doctrinal and other related matters which emerge from this review. The Commission was asked to report to the Standing Committee on this matter prior to the 1992 session of Synod but it has not reported.

7.4 ARCIC: Salvation and the Church
12/84 Conduct of Marriage Services Involving Divorced Persons
God and Sexuality
Holy Baptism with the Laying on of Hands
Sunday/Sabbath Observance

The Diocesan Doctrine Commission has prepared the report *Language, Gender and God* and copies were sent to Synod members. This report deals with the referral on God and Sexuality. Reports on the other subjects are still awaited from the Commission.

7.5 Retirement Ages

From 1 January 1993, it will be unlawful to retire an employee on the grounds of age.

This applies to all employees, including most deaconesses, parish sisters, stipendiary catechists, youth workers and office workers etc. It will also apply to those clergy who are employees of diocesan organisations.

It will not apply, however, to office holders: the Archbishop, Assistant Bishops, Dean, Archdeacons, Ministers, Assistant Ministers and officer holders in diocesan organisations. It also does not apply to the appointment of any other person in any capacity by a body established to propagate religion.

Legislation is proposed to ensure that the Diocesan Retirements Ordinance 1969 complies with the new requirements.

7.6 22/91 Religious Broadcasting on ABC Radio and Television

This resolution was sent to the Chairman of the ABC. The following assurance was given by the General Manager, Corporate Relations of the ABC -

"May I assure the Synod that despite current funding difficulties, there will be no loss of religious programs or major reduction in hours of broadcast. Further there are no plans to 'downgrade' religious programming on ABC Radio and Television nor to abolish the position of head of the Religious Department."

7.7 29/91 Programme to Combat Racism

It has not been possible to make the report requested by this resolution. It is tangled with the question of General Synod assessments and, due to the continual development of the constitutional situation the committee which is to investigate the matter was not convened.

The Standing Committee seeks leave to report on this matter next year.

7.8 Special Reports

The following reports have been printed separately but are supplements to this report -

Archbishop's Appointment Synod 1993
Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia -
..... Constitutional/Theological Issues
..... Appellate tribunal Questions
..... Constitutional Crisis
..... Scandrett v Dowling: Outcome
Decade of Evangelism (18/89, 37/89, 6/90 etc)
Katoomba, Proposal to become a Provisional Parish
Language, God and Gender
Lidcombe with Berala, Proposal to become a Provisional Parish
Lord Howe Island, Proposal to become an Assisted Provisional Parish
Milsons Point, Proposal to become a Provisional Parish
Ordinances Passed Since Last Report
Parochial Statistics for 1991

Regionalisation/Diocesan Development (4/91)
Regional Representation on the Presentation and Exchange Board (30/91)
Riverstone, Proposal to become a Provisional Parish
Stipends and Allowances (1/91)
Synod Arrangements: Weekend Meeting (28/91)

7.9 Ordinances for this Session

The drafting and language of bills for ordinances for this session promoted by request of the Standing Committee or Synod has been examined by members of the Standing Committee's Ordinance Drafting Panel.

The following bills are by request of Standing Committee -

Church Administration Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 1992
Diocesan Income and Expenditure Ordinance 1992
General Synod - Constitution Alteration (Section 51) Canon 1992 Assenting Ordinance 1992
General Synod - Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Assenting Ordinance 1992
General Synod - Long Service Leave Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 1992
Marrickville Area Deanery Ordinance 1984 Amendment Ordinance 1992
Miscellaneous Amendments Ordinance 1992 Retirements Ordinance 1992
Synod Representative (Election at Annual Vestry Meetings) Ordinance 1992
Tenure Provisions Amendment Ordinance 1992

7.10 10/91 Conference on Ordination of Women to the Priesthood

This Conference was held on 27 June 1992 and the committee responsible was always in difficulty with its report because the deadlines for the printing of material for the Synod are 15 June (if an ordinance is involved) or 14 July. These deadlines are to make sure that important business is ranked high in the order paper and that reports are printed and circulated for consideration by members before a Synod session.

An 18-page report was received from the committee on 23 September. The report had a minority report. The committee suggested that, if the Standing Committee was not willing to accept the report as presented, it would seek the leave of the Synod to continue meeting until the report may be satisfactorily presented.

The Standing Committee suggested that the committee should seek leave to continue with a view to reporting next year. This advice was given for the following reasons -

- (a) The report will be read widely through the Anglican Communion and it should be finalised without haste and in the best possible form. If possible, one or both of the areas referred to in the Chairman's introduction as needing attention, could be given further thought.
- (b) The recommendation in the report is different from the recommendation quoted in the letter which accompanied the report. Further, any recommendation in the report should be addressed to the Synod (not the Standing Committee).
- (c) The report is too complex to be circulated on the first day of a Synod session: it needs to be circulated and considered by Synod members prior to a session and supported with a motion ranked high in the order of business "by request of Synod".
- (d) It is possible that the methodology used in the report is flawed. The "anti" case is put first and the "pro" case is put last where there is disagreement. Perhaps it would be possible to have, for instance, a page presentation with the "anti" argument on one side and the "pro" argument on the other?
- (e) There are just over twice as many lines given to the "pro" case than to the "anti" case and this lack of balance needs attention.
- (f) A person holding a minority view should not have to concede due to "implied methodology".

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

W.G.S. GOTLEY
Diocesan Secretary

19 August 1992 *

* *Updated to 9 October 1992*