

13/03 Moore College

(A report from a committee of the Standing Committee.)

Background

1. At its meeting on 9 February 2004, the Standing Committee appointed a committee comprising of Bishop Ivan Lee and Dr Kim Hawtrey (with power to co-opt) to undertake the work referred in Synod resolution 13/03, namely -
 - (a) to prepare in consultation with the Moore College Council, recommendations concerning ways in which the Diocese as a whole and individual churches may support the work of Moore College in its training of lay and stipendiary ministers, and
 - (b) to report to the Standing Committee.
2. This report is printed for Synod members at the request of the Standing Committee.

Process

3. The committee met or communicated in various ways with the Principal, the Director of Property Development, the Director of Development, and the Executive of the Council of the College. Notwithstanding this, it should be noted that the following list of ideas in which the Diocese and individual churches "may support" the work of the College in training ministers is the work of the committee.

The Context

4. Moore College has served the Diocese and the cause of the Gospel faithfully for many years, often with limited resources, and for this we give thanks to God. The College has a long history of partnership with the parishes, which have seen themselves very much "in ministry together" with the College. This partnership has been a great blessing and strength of the Diocese.
5. With the adoption of the Diocesan Mission, the College entered a challenging new phase. Policy 3 of the Fourfold Policy, endorsed by this Synod in 2002, seeks to "multiply the number of well-trained persons" for ministry. The Mission envisages that the College be equipped to grow, ultimately so that parishes can benefit.
6. The College is presently experiencing rapid growth. Numbers of students seeking to be trained for ministry are increasing every year, putting significant pressure on College facilities, and on the Diocesan Ordination Training Fund. Under God, we pray this growth will continue, yet recognise it will require additional resources.
7. The following proposals are presented to Synod as a catalyst for further discussion and as an encouragement for decision and action.

The diocese

8. Proposals for the diocese -
 - Continue supporting the infrastructure of the College with its annual synod allocations.
 - Make special occasional contributions when particular needs arise and as synod is able, as in recent years with two additional grants for training ordinands.
 - Explore the possibility of a levy on parishes to support the College.
 - If the government allows a "HECS" like funding arrangement to apply to some College students, then explore the possibility of setting up a fund and/or parish-based scheme to help graduates with the "HECS" debt as long as they work in the Diocese.
 - investigate "gaps" in the current supply of graduands relative to where the demand is for ministry staff (eg cross cultural workers)
 - Prayer: organise several prayer meetings during the year to pray specifically for the College.
 - *Southern Cross* magazine: a regular Moore College section.
 - Organise special fundraising dinners where the needs of the College are explained.
 - Form a task force to identify current issues and level of awareness regarding support of the College and work with the College council and staff to address these (eg. by an anonymous questionnaire).
 - Research identifying parishes that send their people into College and analysing ways of encouraging more parishes to do the same.
 - Explore the wisdom or otherwise of promoting a closer or more official partnership between the Diocese and Club 5.

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- Standing Committee and groups of synod members “tour” the College facilities, meet with the staff, and have meals with the students.
- Promote a bequest fund for the College.
- Moore College be invited to Regional Conferences

Individual churches

9. Proposals for individual churches -

- Contribute to a bursary/scholarship fund (set up by the College or the Diocese) for Stipendiary Lay Workers.
- More actively identify and encourage suitable church members to go to College, and finance them as they go through.
- Begin to more “own” the training of their church members.
- Organise a parish “tour” of the College and to meet staff and students.
- Use the College facilities for reunions, conferences, etc.
- Parish Councils consider College in their annual budgets or organise an annual fundraising event.
- Invite a College deputation
- Use Moore staff as speakers for Sunday and Houseparties and missions.
- Ensure that the *Moore Matters* newsletter is handed out to parishioners.
- Pray regularly for College at Sunday Services.

Recommendation

10. Synod receive this report.

Bishop Ivan Lee and Dr Kim Hawtrey

July 2004