

Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

2nd Session of the 47th Synod Business Paper: Monday 23 October 2006

(Page references are to the Standing Committee's Report - see Part 5 of the Synod Business Rules for ordinance procedures.)

Members of the Synod are asked to identify themselves each time they speak.

- 1. Devotions will be led by the Rev Al Stewart: see attached.**
- 2. Minutes of 18 October 2006.**
- 3. Answers to questions**
 - 3.1 The Rev Canon Dr James McPherson to ask –
 - (a) What is the status of members who conscientiously dissent from the conclusions of the 1999 Sydney Doctrine Commission Report?
 - (b) Will the Archbishop assure the Synod that the doctrinal conclusions of the 1999 Sydney Doctrine Commission Report have not been used to test the orthodoxy of clergy or lay people, for example for appointment to positions in the Diocese?
 - 3.2 Ms Caroline Bowyer to ask –
 - (a) How many ordained women are entitled to be members of the Synod?
 - (b) In what representative capacity does each attend?
 - 3.3 The Rev Neil Flower to ask –

How was the special grant given to Anglican Media for the purpose of evangelism through the public media used during 2006?
 - 3.4 The Rev Neil Flower to ask –

Concerning the new Diocesan Area Wide Network (DAWN), is it envisaged that this cost saving, internet and phone service will be available to Christian workers/Clergy etc in the future? If not, could the reasons please be given?
 - 3.5 Mr Peter Denham to ask –
 - (a) Has the Diocese kept the results of the Parish Buildings and Capital Audit conducted prior to last year's Synod?
 - (b) How many parishes in established suburbs are at or near to capacity when utilising their buildings?
 - (c) Is there any encouragement being offered to have smaller churches revitalised by congregation-planting partnerships, before these churches enter serious decline?
 - (d) Are there any current plans to use the audit results to assist planning congregation-planting partnerships between parishes with buildings at or near capacity and parishes with free or under-utilised buildings?

- (e) Does the Archbishop consider that these sorts of arrangements will have the potential to continue strengthening the work of the mission in established suburbs?

3.6 Mr Philip Gerber to ask –

- (a) What financial surpluses, if any, did Anglicare have in the last three years of reporting?
- (b) What financial reserves, if any, does Anglicare hold?
- (c) If any reserves exist are they subject to trusts, and if so, what are the terms of the trusts?
- (d) What non-cash assets, including real estate, does Anglicare have?
- (e) Is there any real estate owned by Anglicare which is unused, under-used or surplus to requirement?

3.7 Mr John Creelman to ask –

Given that in our society professional associations require members to maintain their professional standards through a process of Continuing Professional Development at the members expense, what requirements or allowances exist in the Diocese through the Stipends & Allowances Committee, Ministry Training and Development Department, or elsewhere, to ensure that full time ministry staff within the Diocese maintain and develop their professionalism?

4. Petitions

5. Procedural motions from members

5.1 General Synod – Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2006

In the event that the General Synod – Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2006 is approved in principle, Synod suspends so many of the business rules as would otherwise prevent the motion that the ordinance pass as an ordinance of the Synod being moved immediately.

(The Rev Chris Albany)

5.2 Therapeutic cloning and related research

Synod agrees to replace the motions at items 7.16 and 7.18 on today's business paper with the following motion –

“Synod –

- (a) expresses its opposition to the legislation soon to be debated by the Senate of Australia, that would allow the practice of therapeutic cloning and relax current restrictions on research involving human embryos,
- (b) while recognising the need for research to find cures or prevent the suffering caused by disease, believes the creation of a human life, either by fertilisation or by any other means of creation (for example, somatic cell nuclear transfer – also known as therapeutic cloning) for the purposes of destroying that life in research fails to recognise the value and purpose God assigns to human life, even in its earliest stages,
- (c) in particular –

- (i) continues to affirm the need to protect the human zygote (early embryo) from the beginning of its existence,
- (ii) opposes the creation of human embryos by any method (including cloning) for research purposes,
- (iii) does not support the creation of cloned human or cloned human/animal hybrid embryos for research, and
- (iv) opposes any changes to the current Act which in any way reduces protection for the human embryo,
- (d) encourages Christians to write to their representatives in the Senate expressing these views prior to the parliamentary debate, and
- (e) calls on the Parliament to uphold the current legal ban on human cloning.

(Bishop Ivan Lee/The Rev Michael Hill)"

and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent this occurring.

(Bishop Ivan Lee)

6. Calling of motions on the business paper

7. Motions

To be taken today from 4:30 pm

7.1 Synod Membership (Indigenous Representation) Amendment Ordinance 2006

That the Synod Membership (Indigenous Representation) Amendment Ordinance 2006 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.

(Supplementary Report page 6) (Dr Philip Selden/Archdeacon Geoff Huard)

7.2 Nomination Ordinance 2006

That the Nomination Ordinance 2006 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.

(Page 200) (Bishop Robert Forsyth/Mr Robert Wicks)

7.3 Nomination (Transitional Provisions) Ordinance 2006

Synod permits the introduction of the Nomination (Transitional Provisions) Ordinance 2006.

(Page 230) (Mr Robert Wicks/Bishop Robert Forsyth)

7.4 Regions (Amendment) Ordinance 2006

Synod permits the introduction of the Regions (Amendment) Ordinance 2006.

(Page 233) (Mr Robert Tong/Bishop Glenn Davies)

7.5 Admission to Holy Communion (Adult Baptisands) Ordinance 2006

Synod permits the introduction of the Admission to Holy Communion (Adult Baptisands) Ordinance 2006.

(Page 116 and Supplementary Report page 12)
(Bishop Glenn Davies/Deaconess Margaret Rodgers)

To be taken today at 8:00 pm

7.6 Anglican Communion

Synod commends the Primates of the Global South for their forthright stand in upholding biblical truth and expresses its support and encouragement for all within the Anglican Communion who are seeking to uphold biblical principles and prays for the Archbishop of Canterbury in his difficult role.

(Mr Robert Tong/Bishop Peter Tasker)

To be taken on Tuesday 24 October 2006 at 4.30pm

7.7 General Synod – Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2006

Synod permits the introduction of the General Synod – Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2006.

(Additional Materials page 2) (The Rev Chris Albany/Ms Caroline Bowyer)

Motions for which no particular time has been specified for consideration

7.8 Funding chaplaincies

Synod, noting that money to support chaplaincies is not allocated in the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2005 –

- (a) affirms that Anglicare chaplaincies are integral to Policy 2 of the Diocesan Mission, specifically in their ability “to take further initiatives to create fellowships by penetrating structures of society beyond the reach of the parish church with the gospel”, and
- (b) welcomes the commitment of Anglicare to spend 1.2 million dollars per annum to maintain its chaplaincy work and encourages Anglicare to seek additional alternative sources of funding for chaplaincies, and
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to –
 - (i) explore strategies which strengthen the contribution that chaplaincies make to the Diocesan Mission, and
 - (ii) report back to the next ordinary session of this Synod, and
 - (iii) in preparation for the 2007 session of Synod, when the principles of the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance are determined for the following triennium ensure as a priority that Anglicare chaplains receive the necessary funding from the Diocesan budget to increase the chaplaincy team by the equivalent of three full-time positions.

(The Rev Stephen Bligh/Mrs Liz McCoy)

7.9 Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005

Synod requests that clause 4(1) of the Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 be amended by deleting the words “or the Standing Committee”.

(Mrs Susan Hooke/The Rev Canon Dr James McPherson)

(Copy of Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 attached)

7.10 **The drought**

Synod, in recognition of God's sovereignty and power over all things, and in support of our Diocesan mission and goal, publicly calls the people of Sydney and the Illawarra to bring the drought to God in urgent and persevering prayer that, in His time and will, rains might fall across the State and nation to break the drought and to fill our dams.

(Mr Andrew McLachlan/Mrs Denise Lynne)

7.11 **Mr Jack Shellard**

Synod gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Jack Shellard who died at his home in Wentworth Falls on Tuesday 10 October 2006 aged 87 years.

Jack was a remarkable Christian educator and missionary whose 52 years of direct involvement with the Church Missionary Society included 15 years in Tanzania where he was the founding headmaster of Musoma Alliance Secondary School.

In Australia Jack was a most active layman, a lecturer in teacher education and an office bearer in many professional organisations including the Teachers Christian Fellowship and the NSW Institute for Education Research.

Jack was a member of Synod for many years representing St Philip's Eastwood and Holy Trinity Wentworth Falls.

We convey our prayerful condolence to his widow, Florence, and the family in their loss and praise God for his rich grace shown through the life of Jack Shellard.

(Associate Professor Alan Watson)

7.12 **Compensation for injured clergy**

Synod –

- (a) desires that members of clergy in the Diocese ought to be protected with a guaranteed level of care following workplace injury that is comparable with that afforded to employees under the NSW WorkCover legislation, and
- (b) requests that Standing Committee report to the 3rd session of this Synod on mechanisms by which Synod's desire might be realised.

(The Rev Craig Roberts)

7.13 **King's School, Parramatta**

Synod notes that The King's School, Parramatta is celebrating 175 years since its foundation in March 1831, and its opening on 13 February 1832, and congratulates the school on this significant anniversary.

Synod also thanks God for the current energy and Christian direction of the school, and prays that the school council and headmaster be fixed in their mission of seeking the glory of God and the health of society through the education provided at the school.

(The Rev Martin Robinson)

7.14 **Ordinance Reform Group**

For the purpose of creating the best possible environment for a successful outcome to the Diocesan Mission goal, Synod recommends that the Ordinance Reform Group develop a Code of Excellence in Local Parish Governance to operate alongside the formal regulatory framework.

(Mr Jody Trouncer)

7.15 **Presidential Address**

Synod requests that in future the President's Address be printed and circulated to members as it was in previous years.

(Canon Bruce Ballantine-Jones)

7.16 **Therapeutic cloning and related research**

Synod –

- (a) expresses its opposition to the legislation soon to be debated by the Senate of Australia, that would allow the practice of therapeutic cloning and relax current restriction on research involving human embryos,
- (b) whilst recognising the need for research to find cures or prevent the suffering caused by disease, believes the creation of a human life, either by fertilisation or somatic cell nuclear transfer (therapeutic cloning) for the purposes of destroying that life in research fails to recognise the value and purpose God assigns to human life, even in its earliest stages,
- (c) encourages Christians to write to their representatives in the Senate expressing these views prior to the parliamentary debate.

(Bishop Ivan Lee)

7.17 **Faithfulness in Service**

Synod –

- (a) notes that Standing Committee on 24 July 2006 adopted amendments to the code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers *Faithfulness in Service* as set out at pages 52 to 64 of the 2006 Annual Report of Standing Committee to Synod;
- (b) adopts these amendments and approves the code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers *Faithfulness in Service* Second Edition 2006, distributed to Synod members, as the relevant code for members of the clergy and church workers in the Diocese of Sydney; and
- (c) confirms that the code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers *Faithfulness in Service* Second Edition 2006 is the relevant document for definitions contained in the Church Administration Ordinance 1990 and the Discipline Ordinance 2006 which refer to *Faithfulness in Service*.

(Mr Philip Gerber)

7.18 **Human cloning**

Synod, noting that the Federal Senate is currently debating legislation to lift the ban on human cloning –

- (a) continues to affirm the need to protect the human zygote (early embryo) from the beginning of its existence,
- (b) does not support the destruction of human embryos for research purposes;
- (c) opposes the creation of human embryos by any method (including cloning) for research purposes,
- (d) does not support the creation of cloned human or cloned human/animal hybrid embryos for research, and
- (e) opposes any changes to the current Act which in any way reduces protection for the human embryo,

and calls on the Parliament to uphold the current legal ban on human cloning.

(The Rev Michael Hill)

7.19 Recognition of marriage

Synod –

- (a) expresses its support of the Federal Government in its recognition of marriage as “the union of a man and a woman, to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life” as being consistent with the Biblical teaching about marriage and God’s intentions for the family, and
- (b) thanks the Federal Government for acting to prevent the Civil Unions Act 2006 (ACT) coming into effect in the Australian Capital Territory.

(The Rev Dr Mark Thompson)

7.20 Bishop Reg Piper

Synod gives special thanks to God for the faithful service of Bishop Reg Piper for more than 40 years within the Diocese and further afield. Special note is made of his time in Adelaide (Holy Trinity) and as the Regional Bishop of Wollongong.

Particular thanks are given for his parish, preaching and pastoral ministries, his great example of godliness and devotion to prayer and the daily study of God’s word. Synod also thanks God for Dorothy’s very special ministry to women in all the areas where she and Reg have had the privilege of serving our Lord.

Synod seeks God’s continued blessing on them as they move into “retirement” initially in the role as rector and wife in Gynea parish.

(Mr Geoff Kyngdon)

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Indicative Timetable for Synod Business

References to items and motions are references to items and motions in the business paper for Monday 23 October 2006.

| Monday 23 October 2006 | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 3:15 – 4:30 pm | Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other business as per the business paper |
| 4:30 – 5:45 pm | 7.1 Synod Membership (Indigenous Representation) Amendment Ordinance 2006 7.2 Nomination Ordinance 2006 7.3 Nomination Ordinance (Transitional Provisions) Ordinance 2006 7.4 Regions (Amendment) Ordinance 2006 7.5 Admission to Holy Communion (Adult Baptisands) Ordinance 2006 |
| 7:00 – 8:00 pm | Missionary Hour |
| 8:00 pm + | 7.6 Anglican Communion Thereafter, other business as per business paper. |

| Tuesday 24 October 2006 | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 3:15 – 4:30 pm | Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other business as per the business paper |
| 4:30 – 5:45 pm | 7.7 General Synod – Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2006 Ordinances Thereafter, other business as per the business paper |
| 7:00 pm + | Presentation on behalf of the Mission Board Thereafter, other business as per the business paper |

2nd Session of the 47th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney

Bible Reading, Hymn & Prayers: 23 October 2006

Bible Reading: Luke 18: 9 – 14

Bible Reader: The Rev Andrew Graham

Bible Study Leader: The Rev Al Stewart

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

¹⁴"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version

Hymn: Consider Christ

Consider Christ
The source of our salvation.
That he should take the penalty for me.
Though he was pure,
A lamb without a blemish;
He took my sins and nailed them to the tree.

Chorus

*My Lord and God
You are so rich in mercy
Mere words alone are not sufficient thanks.
So take my life,
Transform, renew and change me
That I might be a living sacrifice.*

Consider Christ
That he should trust His Father
In the garden of Gethsemane
Though full of dread
And fearful of the anguish;
He drank the cup that was reserved for me.

Chorus

Consider Christ
For death He has defeated
And He arose, appeared for all to see.
And now He sits
At God's right hand in heaven;
Where He prepares a resting place for me.

Chorus

Words and music by Bryson Smith and Philip Percival

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Pianist: The Rev Canon Peter Stavert

Prayer: Dr Philip Selden

Grant us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we who cannot do anything that is good without you, may in your strength be able to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.