

2006 Report of the Standing Committee

Contents	<i>Item</i>
Introduction	1
The Diocesan Mission	2
Actions with the Archbishop	3
Financial and Property Administration	4
General Administration	5
Relations with Government	6
The International, National and Provincial Church	7
Sydney Synod Matters	8

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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

Until February 2006 meetings were held in St Andrew's House, Sydney Square. Due to building work being undertaken at St Andrew's House, meetings for the remainder of 2006 are to be held in the Chapter House, St Andrew's Cathedral.

Mail should be addressed to "The Diocesan Secretary, Standing Committee of Synod, PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230" (telephone (02) 9265 1555; Fax (02) 9261 4485; E-mail rjw@sydney.anglican.asn.au). Office hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

4 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

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/stancom/index_reports.htm

1.3 Meetings and members

Since October 2005 we have met 10 times. The names of the members will be listed in the 2006 Diocesan Year Book and on the Synod's website at www.sydney.anglican.asn.au.

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

- A vacancy in the position of Chancellor arose following the death of Mr Michael Orpwood QC. Acting Judge Peter Grogan became an *ex-officio* member upon being appointed by the Archbishop as the new Chancellor.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a minister elected by the South Sydney Region upon the Rev John McIntyre ceasing to be a member of the Synod by virtue of his appointment as Bishop of Gippsland. The South Sydney Regional Council appointed the Rev Andrew Katay to fill the vacancy.

We are thankful for the service of the former members.

1.4 Death of Mr Michael Orpwood QC

We noted with deep sadness the death of Mr Michael Orpwood QC. We gave thanks to God for Michael's life and godly example, for his significant contribution over many years to the proclamation of the gospel in this Diocese and beyond and more recently for his dedicated service as Chancellor of the Diocese.

1.5 Appointment of Acting Judge Peter Grogan as Chancellor

We congratulated Acting Judge Peter Grogan on his appointment initially as Acting Chancellor and subsequently as Chancellor for a term of 3 years. We assured Peter of our prayers and support as he undertakes this role.

1.6 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
Mission Board	Ordination Training Fund Committee
Finance Committee	Research Committee
General Synod Canons Committee	Social Issues Executive
	Stipends and Allowances Committee

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

2. The Diocesan Mission

2.1 Diocesan Mission Strategy

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

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

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

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

The fundamental aim of the strategy is –

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

The Mission Strategy continues to direct much of the work we have undertaken during the year. A more complete statement of the Mission Strategy and the policies that underlie the Strategy are printed in *Acts, Ordinances & Regulations 2005 Edition*.

2.2 Mission Board

At the Archbishop’s request, we established a Mission Board to replace the Mission Taskforce. Like the Mission Taskforce, the Mission Board is one of our subcommittees however the terms of reference and structure of the Mission Board seek to effectively guide us through the next phase of the Mission.

The Mission Board is responsible for ensuring that –

“the Diocesan network structures serve the Mission, its goals and strategies, by taking responsibility for the areas of vision, culture and co-ordinated effort in fellowship with local congregations.”

The Mission Board’s tasks are to –

- engage in serious and creative strategic thinking and planning in order to understand local circumstances, to stimulate Mission initiatives, evaluate the progress of the Mission, determine the resources and training required and co-ordinate effort, and

6 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

- set up, brief and monitor such taskforces, groups, teams and committees as will further the work of the Mission, including the Mission Property Committee, and
- prepare draft ordinances for the Standing Committee under clauses 3 and 4 of the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998 and clause 11 and 12 of the Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975, and
- report regularly to the Standing Committee and to make recommendations to further the Mission through action by that body.

The members of the Mission Board are the Archbishop and the 5 Assistant Bishops *ex-officio*, 4 heads of organisations and 8 persons who are not heads of organisations elected by the Standing Committee and 2 other persons appointed by the Archbishop.

The Mission Board held its first meeting on 1 May 2006.

2.3 Diocesan Mission Executive

We agreed to fund the appointment of a Diocesan Mission Executive to assist the Archbishop in progressing the Mission. The need for such an appointment had been under consideration by the Archbishop following our in principle support for the proposal in 2003.

The Mission Executive's role will include ensuring the decisions of the Mission Board are implemented, providing assistance to the Archbishop regarding Mission initiatives and liaising with Mission Board members, Secretariat staff, the Episcopal team and parishes. The Mission Executive will report directly to the Archbishop.

We funded the appointment by passing the Diocesan Mission (Funding) Ordinance 2006. See item 4.5.

2.4 Current and future property needs of Moore Theological College

Last year we encouraged Moore Theological College to continue consideration of the options available to meet its current and future property needs.

This year the Principal of the College, Dr John Woodhouse, gave us a presentation on an alternative site for the College. We noted that although no decision has yet been made about the future site for the College, the location identified in the presentation as the preferred site was the Lindfield campus of the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). Such an acquisition is subject to UTS making a final decision to sell the site and the parties agreeing on the financial and other arrangements involved.

We encouraged the College Council to pursue negotiations with UTS and the relevant State and local authorities. We also encouraged our

members and others with an interest in the matter to write to the Principal of the College with any comments, suggestions or questions.

In order to assist the College Council to examine and develop options for the future property needs of the College we passed the Moore Theological College (Variation of Trusts) Ordinance 2006. See item 4.5.

2.5 Mission Property Committee

We noted that –

- (a) the strategic plan prepared by the Mission Property Committee in August 2003 identified a need for \$28.5 million to fund the acquisition of land and the construction of ministry buildings as identified in the plan over the next 3 years, and
- (b) the New Capital Project now seems unlikely as the means of obtaining the funds required to undertake this acquisition and construction activities, and
- (c) the initial goal of the Mission is at least 10% of the population of the region of the Diocese in Bible-based churches by 2012.

We considered the time is right to begin the task of acquiring land and constructing ministry buildings as prioritised by the Mission Property Committee. At our request the Mission Property Committee reported to us on the location of sites and funding options it has considered.

2.6 The Ephesus Code

We warmly thanked Bishop Reg Piper for his efforts in writing and publishing “The Ephesus Code” to encourage us to pray during the 40 days between Easter and the Ascension. We considered that the Journal was a great blessing noting it had been widely used throughout the Diocese and among some other churches.

3. Actions with the Archbishop

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

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$36,000 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop to assist clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

3.2 Parramatta '54 Free Fund

The income of this fund is to be distributed among the objects of the Diocese of Sydney as determined by the Archbishop-in-Council. A distribution of \$9,622 was made to pay the costs of the Sydney bishops and New South Wales Provincial bishops attending the 2006 Australian Bishops' Conference.

8 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

3.3 Parishes of South Sydney, Canterbury with Hurlstone Park, Marrickville, Summer Hill and Eastgardens - right of presentation

The parishes of South Sydney, Canterbury with Hurlstone Park, Marrickville, Summer Hill and Eastgardens became vacant during the year but the Archbishop was unable to declare that any of these parishes had complied with clauses 8 and 15 of the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988. Each of these matters was referred to the Archbishop-in-Council which determined that, in the circumstances, none of the parishes should have the benefits under the Ordinance.

3.4 Extension of retirement age of Bishop Peter Tasker

Acting with the Archbishop, we extended the retirement age of Bishop Peter Tasker until 7 June 2009 under clause 5(1)(b) of the Retirements Ordinance 1993. The extension was made on the understanding that Bishop Tasker's appointment as Bishop of Liverpool will be reviewed annually by the Archbishop until that date.

4. Financial and Property Administration

4.1 Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995

Organisations of the Synod which manage church trust property must report annually to the Synod. These reports include audited 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 whose financial year does not end on 31 December.

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.

4.2 Audited accounts of the Standing Committee

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

4.3 Borrowing limits for organisations

An increased borrowing limit was approved for 2 organisations.

4.4 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 Diocesan lay worker candidates.

Last year the Ordination Training Fund Committee decided –

- to fix the bursary for 2005 at \$5,000 for continuing students and for those accepted prior to 22 July 2004 and at \$2,000 for new students, and
- to pay the \$5,000 directly to Moore College to be deducted from the student's account and the \$2,000 into the individual student's Moore Books account.

This arrangement took into account the new FEE-HELP arrangements that began at Moore College from the start of 2005.

Bursaries of \$488,000 were paid in 2005 (\$805,000 in 2004).

4.5 Ordinances

The following table shows the numbers of ordinances passed and assented to in 2000 to 2005 and in 2006 to 25 September.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Standing Committee	37	54	69	57	48	50	29
Synod	6	5	12	8	6	8	0
	43	59	81	65	54	58	29

A separate report lists the ordinances passed by us since the 2005 session of the Synod. There are 16 ordinances of particular interest.

The Use of Church Property Amendment Ordinance 2005 extended the operation of the Use of Church Property Ordinance 1995 for a further 10 years. The Use of Church Property Ordinance 1995 provides the basis upon which Anglican church buildings in this Diocese can be used by churches and church groups of other denominations. The ordinance was due to lapse on 31 December 2005. The amending ordinance extended its operation until 31 December 2015.

The Annual Leave Amendment Ordinance 2005 provided that if annual leave under the Annual Leave Ordinance 1983 is not taken within 2 years after the entitlement to leave accrues it is now not lost. The ordinance also provided that certain discretions previously exercisable by the Archbishop concerning annual leave can be exercised by the regional archdeacon in place of the Archbishop. Further, churchwardens are now required to maintain records about annual leave taken and to ensure that sufficient provision is maintained in their

10 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

accounts for any annual leave entitlement which has accrued but which has not been taken.

The Sydney Church of England Finance and Loans Board (Provision of Capital) Ordinance 2005 discontinued the functions previously exercised by the Sydney Anglican Car and Insurance Fund (the "Car Fund"). The ordinance also enabled the assets of the Car Fund to be made available to the Sydney Church of England Finance and Loans Board (the "F&L Board"). The ordinance was passed following Synod's request last year that we transfer the assets of the Car Fund to the F&L Board and that we ensure that the members of the F&L Board continue to hold office and be appointed on the same basis as the Car Fund if the Car Fund ceases to operate.

The Presentation and Exchange (Prohibited Persons) Amendment Ordinance 2005 provided for the disqualification of a person who is a prohibited person within the meaning of the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998 from holding the position of parish representative under the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988. A person who is nominated for election as a parish representative on a Presentation Board must declare that he or she is not a prohibited person within the meaning of the Act within 7 days before or after being elected.

The Pastoral Care and Assistance Appropriation Ordinance 2005 provided for the application of \$465,000 from the Diocesan Endowment for such purposes of the Pastoral Care and Assistance Scheme as the Diocesan Registrar and the Director of the Professional Standards Unit approve in writing. Following the passing of the ordinance, we requested that the amount drawn from the Diocesan Endowment should be taken as an advance of funds available for distribution by the Synod in 2008 to the extent such funds exceed budget.

The Anglican Media Council Amendment Ordinance 2006 removed the requirement for the Anglican Media Council to produce television programs. Although the Council is now not required to produce television programs, it may still choose to do so under other provisions of its constituting ordinance.

The Moore Theological College (Variation of Trusts) Ordinance 2006 enabled the income earned on funds held by the Moore Theological College Council for the purposes of its New Library Project to be applied for examining and developing options for the future property needs of the College. See item 2.4.

The Arundel House Council Amendment Ordinance 2006 reduced the size of the Arundel House Council from 9 to 7 members and made provision for the election of members of the Council by the parish council of the parish of Broadway instead of the Synod.

The Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2006 gave effect to Synod's intentions for appropriations and allocations of Synod funds in 2007. In view of actual income available for allocation in 2007 being \$239,000 greater than the amount estimated by the Synod in 2005, the ordinance provided for a reduction from \$600,000 to \$361,000 in the special appropriation from the assets of the Diocesan Endowment designed to provide continued growth of total funds in 2007. See item 4.6.

The Clergy Removals Fund Ordinance 2003 Amendment Ordinance 2006 provided for reimbursement of removal costs of clergy on the basis of the "average removal cost" rather than the "average reimbursement amount". It also provided for a different reimbursement formula for clergy moving from outside the Diocese. The ordinance removed the discretion of the Removals Fund Administrator to reduce the amount to be reimbursed where the stipend payable for an office or position is greater than the recommended minimum.

The Diocesan Mission (Funding) Ordinance 2006 provided for the application of up to \$500,000 from the Diocesan Endowment for the costs of the employment or appointment of a Diocesan Mission Executive for the period until 31 December 2008.

The Presbyter (Amendment of Terminology) Ordinance 2006 gave effect to the Synod's request in resolution 35/04 to make provision for the use of the word presbyter in the ordinances of the Synod. See item 8.9.

The Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Ordinance 2002 Amendment Ordinance 2006 required, among other things, the Archbishop to take into account the recommendations of the Committee with regard to the appointment of Indigenous persons to the Committee. The ordinance was passed following a review of the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Ordinance 2002. See item 5.5.

The Pastoral Care and Assistance Appropriation Ordinance 2006 provided for the application of up to \$380,000 from the Diocesan Endowment for such purposes of the Pastoral Care and Assistance Scheme as the Diocesan Registrar and the Director of the Professional Standards Unit approve in writing.

The Moore Theological College Amendment Ordinance 2006 provided for the establishment of a board to govern, manage and control the body corporate known as the Moore Theological College Council and for the functions of this board to be exercised separately from certain on-going functions of the members of the Council.

The Investment of Church Trust Property Amendment Ordinance 2006 allowed church trust property to be invested in units of certain managed investment schemes registered under the Corporations Act

12 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

2001.

4.6 Synod appropriations and allocations in 2007

Last year the Synod approved special appropriations from the Diocesan Endowment of \$700,000 in 2006, \$600,000 in 2007 and \$200,000 in 2008 to supplement the amounts otherwise available for allocation by the Synod. The intention was to raise the total available for allocation by the Synod to approximately \$10.2 million in 2006, \$10.5 million in 2007 and \$11 million in 2008 subject to the year-to-year performance of the Glebe Administration Board.

This year the Glebe Administration Board informed us that the actual amount available for allocation by the Synod in 2007 will be higher than expected due to above budget distributions from a number of specific trusts. As a result we have been able to reduce the special appropriation from the Diocesan Endowment in 2007 from \$600,000 to \$361,000 while maintaining the total amount available for allocation by the Synod in 2007 at \$10.5 million.

4.7 Parochial cost recoveries - arrears

The following table compares the arrears of cost recovery charges as at 30 June 2004, 2005 and 2006.

No Arrangements	2004	2005	2006
	\$	\$	\$
Ashbury	-	956	-
Berala	2,496	2,403	5,129
Beverly Hills	-	-	1,849
Bossley Park	-	-	516
Cabramatta	-	-	19,727
Campsie	-	-	6,819
Chester Hill	-	-	1,264
Canterbury	-	2,656	-
Clovelly	-	4,934	-
Cranebrook	4,413	-	-
Dulwich Hill	1,851	5,729	16,291
Glenmore Park	3,328	-	-
Keiraville	871	-	-
Kellyville	2,109	-	-
Minchinbury	1,319	1,369	-
North Ryde	1,271	-	-
Picton	1,172	1,529	2,627
Richmond	-	-	2,041
Rooty Hill	-	4,368	-
Rouse Hill	3,093	10,063	17,736

No Arrangements	2004	2005	2006
	\$	\$	\$
St Clair	3,576	11,017	14,660
Smithfield Road	27,728	29,587	29,662
South Creek	687	-	-
Woollahra	-	1,476	-
Arrangements in place			
Cabramatta	17,208	10,242	-
Norfolk Island	19,166	21,248	-
Parramatta North/Harris Park	-	3,121	-
Total	90,288	110,698	118,321

4.8 Annual financial returns from parishes

Under clause 5 of the Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975 parochial units are required to lodge their annual financial returns (including audited financial statements) by 15 April for the previous year ending 31 December.

As at 15 September 2006 3 parochial units had not lodged a complete annual financial return, although each of those had lodged part of the required information. The Finance Committee has processes in place to remind parishes of their obligations under the Ordinance, assist with any enquiries and review the returns lodged. The Finance Committee also works with the regional archdeacons to investigate and report to us on the status of the audited financial statements and annual financial returns for these parochial units.

4.9 Local revenues test for parish status

During the year the Finance Committee advised us that the parish of Port Kembla failed the 3 year test for retaining parish status under clause 8(1) of the Parishes Ordinance 1979. In the circumstances we determined under clause 8(1A) of the Ordinance that the test does not apply to Port Kembla during the first of the 3 years in question. Accordingly Port Kembla retained its parish status for at least 1 further year.

The parishes of Auburn, Bankstown, Bellevue Hill, Clovelly, Fivedock/Haberfield, Glebe, Kingsgrove, Lakemba, Merrylands West, Northbridge and Picton each had local revenues below the requisite amount in 2004, however in each case these parishes had sufficient local revenues in at least one of the previous 2 years. These parishes have been advised of the importance of ensuring their 2005 and future revenues meet the relevant threshold figures.

14 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

4.10 Parochial cost recoveries for 2007

Under clause 3(2) of the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2005 we are required to report to the 2006 session of the Synod about the cost recoveries charge for 2007. A report on this matter will be printed separately.

4.11 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 \$65,000 in 2006 for the promotion of women's ministries.

4.12 Stipends, allowances and benefits for 2006 and 2007

In November 2005 we approved the distribution of *Guidelines for the Remuneration of Parish Ministry Staff for 2006* including the minimum stipends for ministers, assistant ministers and lay ministers we approved last year.

In September 2006 we approved the minimum stipends and allowances for 2007 and the distribution of *Guidelines for the Remuneration of Parish Ministry Staff for 2007*.

A report on stipends, allowances and benefits for 2006 and 2007 is printed separately.

4.13 Fire at St Barnabas' Broadway

On the morning of Wednesday 10 May 2006, St Barnabas' Broadway was destroyed by fire and the adjacent hall severely damaged. On the following day the Council of the City of Sydney issued an emergency order to the Property Trust requiring that the site be made safe.

In view of the local heritage significance of the St Barnabas' church building we recommended that the parish authorities, the Property Trust and any architectural panel which may be involved have due regard to the views of heritage and local interest groups.

We were informed that the parish held a combined Sunday service in the Great Hall at the University of Sydney on 14 May with subsequent Sunday meetings being held in the Broughton Knox Centre at Moore College. The parish's offices were temporarily relocated to the offices of the Secretariat on 11 May.

4.14 New fee structure for the Property Trust

During the year, the Property Trust requested that we review the fees it charges in undertaking its role as corporate trustee for the Diocese. Under the Anglican Church Property Trust Ordinance 1965, the

Property Trust is able to charge fees at the rate or rates last approved by us. We last approved a scale of fees in 1993.

In recognition of the changing role of the Property Trust, we agreed to increase the fees chargeable on funds held by the Property Trust with effect from 1 January 2006. The increase was necessary to generate sufficient income to sustain the Property Trust's operations. The increased fees are as follows –

- an additional fee from the insurance reserve of 25% of the realised investment income, and
- a combined capital and income fee of up to 1.1% on the fund balance, charged monthly.

4.15 Camperdown Cemetery Trust

The trustees of the Camperdown Cemetery Trust are appointed by us under the Camperdown Cemetery Act 1948. Under the Act, the trustees are responsible for the care, control and management of the Camperdown Cemetery. The Cemetery forms part of the site of St Stephen's Newtown.

The trustees had previously undertaken to comply with the requirements of the Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995 as if the Camperdown Cemetery Trust was an unincorporated organisation under that ordinance. The reports required by that ordinance have not been supplied for 2003, 2004 and 2005.

We requested that –

- (a) the trustees of Camperdown Cemetery Trust comply within 30 days with their undertaking to comply with the Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995 as if the trusts were an unincorporated association for the purposes of that ordinance, and
- (b) requested that a report be prepared about the options for the future administration of the Camperdown Cemetery.

The trustees were unable to comply with our request.

The trustees have now resigned and we appointed new trustees for a period of 2 years in place of the former trustees.

We anticipate that a report about the options for the future administration of the Camperdown Cemetery will be provided in due course following the views of interested parties being sought.

4.16 Review of parish trust ordinances

Following the introduction of the GST legislation in 2001, the Property Trust, with our support, encouraged parishes to simplify the administration of church trust property held by the Property Trust by promoting an ordinance to establish a single trust fund for the parish.

16 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

Currently there are 48 parishes whose property, whether real or property, is held and administered under a standard trust ordinance.

Under the terms of the standard trust ordinance, the authority to distribute income to the churchwardens terminates on a "review date" which is usually 5 or 10 years after the trust ordinance commences. The first parish trust ordinances are to be reviewed this year.

In view of the number of trust ordinances that have been and are likely to be passed, we approved a process which enables a review to be undertaken by the Finance Committee on our behalf in circumstances where the annual income from the fund does not exceed the large receipts amount. At present the large receipts amounts is \$40,000 per annum.

4.17 Clergy retirement benefits

During the year we considered a discussion paper on the subject of clergy retirement benefits. We requested that the discussion paper together with previous reports to Synod on the matter be referred to the Stipends and Allowances Committee for its ongoing consideration.

We requested that the Stipends and Allowances Committee –

- undertake a new survey of all clergy about their retirement benefits, and
- prepare a simple financial test in light of the results of the survey to enable clergy to assess their own situation, and
- identify a range of options available to clergy for obtaining financial advice and assistance for their retirement.

We also requested that the Episcopal team write to all clergy about to retire or recently retired and to all other clergy when they reach age 55 encouraging them to –

- apply the simple financial test to their own situation, and
- utilise the options identified for obtaining financial advice and assistance if they recognise they have a serious need.

4.18 Change in trading name for the Sydney Diocesan Superannuation Fund

During the year the Board of the Sydney Diocesan Superannuation Fund informed us of a proposal to change the trading name of its fund from Anglican SuperFund Sydney to Anglican National Super.

5. General Administration

5.1 Elections

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

From November 2005 to June 2006, 52 such positions were filled (33 for the same period in 2004-2005).

5.2 Reports from regional councils

Under clause 9 of the Regions Ordinance 1995 each regional council must give us an annual report for inclusion in our report to the Synod. The annual reports are printed separately.

5.2A Proposed reclassifications as parishes

We requested motions by which the Synod may assent to the reclassification of Ashbury, Strathfield (St Andrew's), Wilberforce and Annandale as parishes be moved at the Synod. Reports about the proposed reclassifications are printed separately.

5.3 Affiliated churches

During the year we appointed a committee to review and make recommendations to us in respect of proposals for affiliation under the Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005. We also requested that the committee –

- oversee work in preparing for our consideration a draft agreement for the purposes of clause 5 of the Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005, and
- determine the extent to which the approved benefits listed in the schedule to the Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 can be properly provided under such an agreement.

The committee reported to us about these matters and provided a draft form of affiliation agreement. We approved in principle the form of agreement on the basis that only substantial changes to the agreement need be referred to us for further approval.

We also adopted the following procedure for the purposes of affiliating with churches under the Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 –

- An application for affiliation from a non-Anglican church is received and assessed by the affiliated churches subcommittee.
- The affiliated churches subcommittee notifies the

18 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

Standing Committee of its receipt of an application for affiliation and the action it proposes to take in relation to that application.

- The approved form of affiliation agreement is submitted to the church for its consideration and signing.
- The Diocesan Secretary notifies the bishop of the diocese in which the church is situated of the proposed affiliation.
- Following receipt of the form of affiliation agreement signed by the church, the Standing Committee is to consider a motion to affiliate with the church and to authorise the Diocesan Secretary to enter into the affiliation agreement on its behalf.

We requested that –

- (a) the Diocesan Secretary, when sending an invitation to an affiliated church under clause 7(1) of the ordinance, inform senior pastors of the nature and likely business of the Synod and any other functions of which he is aware and which are proposed to be arranged which might be of interest to the senior pastors, and
- (b) the Registrar include in each Sydney yearbook a list of affiliated churches existing at the end of each previous calendar year and the names of the pastors of those churches, and
- (c) the Secretariat send to affiliated churches the same material it sends to parishes and invite affiliated churches to attend any seminars it runs for the benefit of parishes.

The affiliated churches subcommittee has notified us that it has received 3 applications for affiliation from independent evangelical churches. These applications will be considered in accordance with the procedures referred to above.

See also item 7.3.

5.4 Review of the Regions Ordinance 1995

Last year we reported on a proposed review of the effectiveness of regionalism which was to have been undertaken by 2005. The review was proposed in the explanatory statement which accompanied the bill for the Regions Ordinance at the Synod in 1995.

The regional bishops and regional councils were asked to consider whether a review of regionalism was necessary and, if so, the nature of the review that should take place.

Responses were received on behalf of each region.

We appointed a committee to review these responses and to bring us a report about changes to facilitate the better functioning and practical working of the Regions Ordinance 1995 and related matters.

The committee has completed its review and we requested that a bill for the Regions (Amendment) Ordinance 2006 be promoted to the Synod to give effect to a number of proposed changes to the Regions Ordinance 1995 and the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897. A report and bill are printed separately.

5.5 Review of the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Ordinance 2002

In 2004 we appointed a committee to review the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Ordinance 2002. The committee has completed its review and we passed the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Ordinance 2002 Amendment Ordinance 2006 to give effect to the committee's recommendations. See item 4.5.

5.6 Future planning needs of the Diocese

We received a submission from Anglicare about the future planning needs of the Diocese. In response to the submission we established a committee to investigate and report to us on the needs of the Diocese for quality analytical research for the triennium 2006 to 2008.

The committee reported to us and we approved in principle the recommendations in the report. We referred the report to the Mission Board for assessment with other mission objectives.

In response, the Mission Board recommended the creation of a Diocesan Research Committee to oversee the development of the Diocesan research agenda including –

- the inclusion of a data management function so as to maximise the effective use of data collected for Diocesan research, and
- examination of the funding proposals for 2007 and 2008, and
- investigation of the preferred option of locating the research team in the Anglicare offices, and
- investigation of establishing further economies of scale in this research initiative by seeking further partnerships with other agencies including Anglicare, Anglican Schools Corporation, Ministry Training and Development, Moore College, Mary Andrews College, Youthworks and Anglican Retirement Villages.

We established a Diocesan Research Committee in accordance with the terms recommended by the Mission Board.

5.7 Participation of the Diocese in the National Church Life Survey 2006

We received a submission from Anglicare about participation by the Diocese in the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) 2006. In response to the submission we –

- encouraged the use in the Diocese of the 2006 NCLS as a key planning, evaluation and review tool for congregations and diocesan leadership with a particular regard to the Diocesan Mission, and
- agreed to underwrite the cost of participation of parishes and investigate ways some of that investment could be recovered from participating parishes, and
- agreed to proactively work in partnership with NCLS Research to ensure that the Diocese achieves the best possible outcomes from participation.

We agreed that the cost of parish participation in NCLS 2006 (estimated at approximately \$75,000) should be funded in part from Synod Fund Contingencies with the balance to come from the working capital of the Synod Fund. We authorised the Diocesan Secretary to decide the actual allocation of the costs between these two funds.

5.8 Declaration of recognition under the Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000: Christchurch St George

We received notice of a declaration made under clause 8 of the Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000 that Christchurch, St George is a recognised church. We joined the Georges River Regional Council in welcoming this development and assured the congregation at Christchurch St George and their minister of our encouragement, support and prayers.

5.9 Pastoral Care and Assistance Scheme

In 2004 we reported on the implementation of the Pastoral Care and Assistance Scheme for victims of abuse. The Scheme was put in place as an alternative, non-litigious response to persons alleging and those who are victims of abuse by clergy, church workers and employees of Anglicare.

During the year we agreed to amend the Scheme to reflect the following –

- the Scheme is to apply only to direct victims of abuse with a continuation of emergency assistance by way of counselling for secondary victims, and
- counselling provided ex-gratia up to the sum of \$5,000 and emergency financial assistance provided ex-gratia up to the sum of \$1,000 are not to be deducted from amounts paid under the Scheme.

5.10 Bullying in Schools

Last year we requested that the Anglican Education Commission prepare a short issues paper in plain English on “bullying in schools” –

- to highlight the extent and insidious nature of contemporary bullying behaviour in our society and schools, and
- to proffer a number of constructive ways (from a Christian point of view) in which this behaviour ought to be addressed.

The Commission provided a paper and we requested that a copy of the paper be sent to the Chair and Head of each school under diocesan control with a request that each school –

- (a) review the adequacy, currency and appropriateness of its anti-bullying policies, programs and procedures using the Issues Paper as a stimulus and guide for such a review, and
- (b) report to us about the outcome of the review including any changes that have been or will be made to the school’s anti-bullying policies, programs and procedures as a result of the review.

We received responses from 18 diocesan and 4 associated schools. We thanked each school for providing a response on this important subject.

5.11 Bullying in parishes

During the year we appointed a committee –

- (a) to suggest a definition of “bullying” in the context of parishes (having regard to the definition in “*Faithfulness in Service*”), and
- (b) to review the adequacy of existing policies and procedures in the Diocese relevant to dealing with bullying by clergy and other church workers in parishes and to recommend any further policies and procedures that should be implemented, and
- (c) to suggest how clergy and other church workers can best be informed about the nature of bullying in parishes and the existence of relevant policies and procedures for dealing with bullying.

The committee has not yet completed its work.

22 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

5.12 Relationship between the Standing Committee and diocesan schools

During the year we appointed a committee to report to us on the extent of the ordinance relationship between us and the Anglican schools of the Diocese.

The committee has not yet provided its report.

5.13 Arundel House Council

We requested that Mr John Creelman prepare a report on the membership of the Arundel House Council with a view to addressing the frequently occurring vacancies on the Council.

Mr Creelman reported and we requested that an amending ordinance be prepared –

- to reduce the number of members on the Arundel House Council from 9 to 7, and
- to provide for the election of these members by the parish council of the Parish of Broadway instead of the Synod, and
- to make the rector of St Barnabas' Broadway the President of the Council.

We subsequently passed the Arundel House Council Amendment Ordinance 2006 to give effect to these changes. See item 4.5.

5.14 Annual Leave Ordinance 1983

We requested the Diocesan Secretary to draft for our consideration amendments to the Annual Leave Ordinance 1983 to provide that where any special or public holiday occurs during a period of annual leave taken by a minister under the Ordinance, the period of the leave is increased by one day in respect of that special or public holiday.

An ordinance to give effect to this request was prepared. However we deferred consideration of the ordinance until after a policy debate about whether and on what basis clergy should be entitled to public holidays and what absence from parish duties constitutes annual leave.

In order to progress the policy debate, we requested the Diocesan Secretary to prepare a paper, with recommendations, discussing the relevant issues.

The Diocesan Secretary has not yet finalised his paper.

5.15 Sydney Diocesan Education and Book Committee

The Sydney Diocesan Education Book Committee consists of 6 members elected by us. At least 2 members must be lay persons and at least two must be clergy; 1 member must be associated with the

book or publishing industry; 1 member must be a member of the faculty of Moore College and 1 member must either be a staff or council member of Anglican Youthworks.

We agreed in principle that the Sydney Diocesan Education Book Committee should be disbanded and its assets allocated equally between Anglican Youthworks and Moore Theological College.

We requested that an ordinance for this purpose be prepared for our consideration in due course.

5.16 Consumption of alcohol on church property

During the year we received a report on the legal issues surrounding the consumption of alcohol on church trust property. In particular the report considered –

- our capacity to enforce the “social covenants” declared by us under the Church Trust Property (Declaration of Certain Purposes and Objects) Ordinance 1979, and
- whether these covenants have any application to the use of church property outside the context of trade and commerce, for example at church functions.

We requested that the Property Trust and the Glebe Administration Board advise us of any problems experienced with or arising from the inclusion of the various social covenants in leases, including any difficulty experienced with enforcement.

We also requested that the Social Issues Executive review the various forms of social covenant used by the Property Trust and the Glebe Administration Board in leases and advise us of the appropriateness of the terms of those covenants.

We intend to debate the matters arising from the report and the advices from the Property Trust, Glebe Administration Board and the Social issues Executive when the advices become available.

5.17 Establishment of School Council for Edmondson Park Anglican College

We were notified under clause 15(2)(a) of the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation Ordinance 1947 about the establishment of a new school council for Edmondson Park Anglican College.

5.18 Anglican Counselling Centre: Integration with Anglicare after 5 years

Following the passing of the Anglican Counselling Centre (Home Mission Society Integration) Ordinance 2000, we requested a report from Anglicare after 5 years about the integration of the work of the Anglican Counselling Centre within Anglicare.

We received a report from Anglicare which indicated that the functions

24 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

previously exercised by the Anglican Counselling Centre have been successfully integrated into Anglicare.

Anglicare continues to be able to provide a vital professional marriage and relationship counselling service for the Diocese and general community. In addition to relationship counselling, clergy consult the service on matters of conflict within ministry teams, the impact of trauma within parishes and concerns around child protection and mental health issues.

5.19 Amendments to “Faithfulness in Service”

In 2004 the Synod adopted *Faithfulness in Service* as a Code of Conduct for clergy and church workers in the Diocese. During the year we adopted a number of amendments to *Faithfulness in Service* prepared by the General Synod Standing Committee. A report on the amendments is printed separately.

5.20 Review of the size of the Board of the Department of Evangelism

Since 2004 we have deferred filling vacancies on the Board of the Department of Evangelism pending a review of the size of the Board and the Department itself. The review was completed during the year.

In response to the review we –

- (a) supported in principle a reduction in the size of the Board from 20 to 14 members by reducing Synod appointed members from 15 to 9, and
- (b) supported in principle the extension of the functions of Evangelism Ministries to include the resourcing of churches to evangelise and plant new congregations, and
- (c) supported a provision being included in the Ordinance which confirms that the Board may delegate the exercise of its functions and may revoke any such delegation, and
- (d) requested that an amending ordinance be prepared to reflect the proposals in paragraphs (a) to (c).

We have not yet considered the amending ordinance referred to in paragraph (d).

6. Relations with Government

6.1 Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Tolerance) Bill 2005

Last year we reported that an independent member of the Legislative Council of NSW, the Hon Peter Breen MLC, introduced the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Tolerance) Bill 2005 into the NSW Parliament. The stated purpose of the bill was to “promote

religious tolerance and for other purposes". To this end the bill provided for the insertion of a new part 4H in the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 to make vilification on the grounds of religious belief and activity unlawful and to create a criminal offence of "serious religious vilification".

We considered that, if the bill were to become law, it would significantly undermine religious freedom in this State. Accordingly a group was convened to formulate and implement a strategy to oppose the bill.

On 1 March 2006 the bill was defeated at the second reading stage in the NSW Legislative Council by a vote of 23 votes to 5. Those in favour of the bill in addition to Mr Breen himself were members of the Greens Party and the Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans, a member of the Australia Democrats.

6.2 GST on the supply of accommodation to parish ministry staff

Last year we authorised the Secretariat to seek a private ruling from the Australian Tax Office (ATO) in relation the supply of accommodation to parish ministry staff. We took this action due to uncertainty as to whether the Property Trust and parishes could continue to claim input tax credits on the supply of such accommodation. Previously input tax credits had been claimed on the basis that the supply was a non-commercial activity of a charity and therefore GST-free under section 38-250 of the GST Act.

A private ruling on this matter was obtained this year.

The ruling confirms that we are able to use a comparison between the salary paid to Australian Defence Force Chaplains and the minimum stipend paid to parish ministry staff as an appropriate basis for valuing the services of parish ministry staff provided in return for accommodation. If the value of services is less than 75% of the market value of the accommodation provided to a member of ministry staff, the supply of the accommodation will be GST-free.

The Property Trust is administering the application of the ruling.

6.3 WorkChoices legislation

During the year we received a report about legislation passed by the Commonwealth Parliament known as WorkChoices. The WorkChoices legislation made substantial changes to the Workplace Relations Act 1996.

The WorkChoices legislation applies to employers which are incorporated and are either "trading corporations" or "financial corporations" as those terms are used in the Australian Constitution.

We noted that all diocesan schools and organisations have been provided with general advice on the scope and application of the

26 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

WorkChoices legislation. Parishes are not incorporated and therefore have been advised that, except for some minor matters, they are not subject to the WorkChoices legislation. The workplace arrangements of parishes continue to be governed by New South Wales Industrial Relations legislation and, where applicable, State industrial awards.

6.4 Adoption of children by same sex couples

The Adoption Act 2000 requires the Minister for Community Service to report to the NSW Parliament within 6 years on whether the law fulfils its aims of serving the best interests of children. For this purpose, the Department of Community Services conducted a review with a report due to be made to the Minister, Ms Reba Meagher, by November 2006. Public submissions on the review were sought until the end of May 2006.

One of the matters under review is the proposed removal of the current prohibition, which applies in this State, on same sex couples adopting children.

At our request the Social Issues Executive, in consultation with Anglicare, prepared and lodged on our behalf a submission about proposals to remove the prohibition in this State on same sex couples adopting children.

7. The International, National and Provincial Church

7.1 Appellate Tribunal reference concerning women bishops

Last year we appointed a committee to respond on our behalf to the following question referred to the Appellate Tribunal by the Primate under section 63(1) of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia –

“Given that:

- (a) the opinion of the majority of the Appellate Tribunal, expressed in its 1991 opinion, was, that it was the constraint imposed by section 71(2) of the Constitution that then prevented the ordination of a woman as a priest or the consecration of a woman as a bishop in the Anglican Church of Australia;
- (b) in the case of the ordination of a woman as a priest, such constraint has been removed in a diocese which has adopted by ordinance the Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992; and
- (c) the definition of “canonical fitness” as it relates to a person elected bishop contained in section 74(1) of the Constitution was amended to its present form with effect from 5 June 1995;

is there anything in the Constitution which would now prevent –

1. the consecration of a woman in priests' orders as a bishop in this Church in a diocese which by ordinance has adopted the Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992; or
2. the installation of a woman so consecrated as a bishop of such a diocese?"

The Tribunal met on 8 July 2005 to determine a number of preliminary matters. In particular it agreed to consider two preliminary issues raised by the late Mr Michael Orpwood QC. The first preliminary issue was whether the matter referred to the Tribunal was in fact a proper question to be heard. The second preliminary issue was whether it is appropriate for the Tribunal to re-consider a question on which it has already made a clear determination.

Submissions on the first preliminary issue were made on our behalf on 26 August 2005 with responses from the other parties made by 21 September 2005.

On 11 May 2006 the Tribunal provided reasons for its decision on the first preliminary issue. In essence the Tribunal indicated that it was not prepared to accept the main thrust of our submissions. Accordingly it became necessary to consider the second preliminary issue and the substantive question.

In view of the Tribunal's delay in providing its reasons on the first preliminary issue, a new timetable was set which requires submissions on the second preliminary issue and the substantive question to be made by 31 October 2006 with submissions in reply by 30 November 2006.

During the year we appointed Acting Judge Peter Grogan to the committee in place of the late Mr Michael Orpwood QC.

7.2 Appellate Tribunal references concerning the Special Tribunal Canon 2004 and the National Register Canon 2004

At its session in 2004, the General Synod passed the Special Tribunal Canon 2004 and the National Register Canon 2004. The purpose of the Special Tribunal Canon is to make detailed provision for the handling of complaints against bishops and for the operation of the Special Tribunal. The National Register Canon authorises the setting up and maintenance of national registers of clergy and laity.

The General Synod has not declared that these canons affect the order and good government of the Church within a diocese. Hence, in the absence of further action, it is possible that these canons would come into force in this Diocese without the Synod agreeing to adopt

28 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

the canons by ordinance.

In order to safeguard against this outcome, last year we declared our opinion that the provisions of the Special Tribunal Canon 2004 and the National Register Canon 2004 affect the order and good government of the Church within this Diocese.

The General Synod Standing Committee has advised the President of the General Synod that it does not agree with this opinion. Hence the President has referred this opinion to the Appellate Tribunal for its determination.

We requested the General Synod Canons Committee to prepare and lodge on our behalf written submissions on the questions referred to the Tribunal and to report on the Tribunal's determination of these questions in due course.

Submissions concerning the canons have been lodged on our behalf by the General Synod Canons Committee. The Tribunal has not yet made any determination on these matters.

7.2A National Register Canon 2004

We considered a request to promote an ordinance to the forthcoming session of the Synod for the adoption of the National Register Canon 2004. In view of the uncertain status of the canon (see item 7.2 above) and the unsatisfactory nature of some of its provisions, we requested that a motion be moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod requesting that we prepare and enact an ordinance to provide for the remission of information to the General Secretary of the General Synod regarding conduct of clergy and laity of this Diocese which constitutes sexual misconduct or child abuse.

A report on this matter will be printed separately.

7.3 Consultation with General Synod Standing Committee representatives about the Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005

During the year we received a request from the Standing Committee of the General Synod not to make any declarations of affiliation under the Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 before 30 June 2006 and to appoint 3 diocesan representatives to liaise with 3 persons appointed by the Primate to discuss issues of concern relating to the Ordinance and its potential operation.

In response to this request, we appointed Mr Neil Cameron, Bishop Peter Tasker, the Rev Dr Mark Thompson, Mr Robert Tong and Mrs Claire Smith to discuss any issues of concern with the Primate's nominees.

Discussions were subsequently held between our representatives and the Primate nominees. The discussions addressed a range of matters

including a request that we consult with the bishop of a diocese before affiliating with an independent church in the diocese.

See also item 5.3.

7.4 Discipline of Defence Force Chaplains

We received a letter from the Church Law Commission seeking our views about proposed amendments to the Church's Constitution. The proposed amendments seek to address a perceived shortcoming in the Church's capacity to discipline Defence Force Chaplains by expanding the jurisdiction of the Special Tribunal to enable the Tribunal to hear and determine charges against any person licensed by Primate in his capacity as the Primate. At present the jurisdiction of the Special Tribunal is limited to members of the House of Bishops and bishop assistants to the Primate in his capacity as the Primate.

We asked the General Synod Canons Committee to consider and report back to us on this matter in due course.

We have not yet received the Committee's report.

7.5 General Synod statutory assessments

In December 2005 the General Synod office advised us of a slightly revised figure for statutory assessments for 2006 (\$236,698) and a proposal to increase statutory assessments for 2007 by approximately 17% (to \$272,025).

The General Synod office indicated that the 2007 increase reflects expenses that would have been spread across a 2 year period (2006 and 2007) if the 2006 budget had been approved earlier. It also advised us of a number of new items of General Synod expenditure in 2006. These new expenses include –

- Reinstatement of National Anglican Resources Unit (NARU) grant of \$10,000
- Increase in Defence Force Board grant of \$4,000
- Increase in salaries and allowances of \$21,500
- Increase in staff recruitment of \$10,000
- Restoration of reserve for Primate's election of \$10,000
- Additional cost of 2007 General Synod of \$20,000

We agreed to pay the 2006 statutory assessment of \$236,698. However in relation to the 2007 statutory assessment, we expressed our strong objection to the proposed 17% increase noting the following matters –

- (a) Even though this increase represents additional costs that would have been spread over 2 years if the 2006 budget had been approved earlier, the increase is still more than double the rate of inflation.

30 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

- (b) The increase sought over the 4 years from 2003 to 2007 totals 46.7%, which is equivalent to an annual rate of 11.7%.

We requested that –

- the General Synod office provide us with information –
 - (i) as to how the cost savings that may be expected from holding the next General Synod in Canberra (compared to Perth) have impacted budget expenditure, and
 - (ii) that would assist us in understanding the process by which the General Synod has sought to limit recurrent expenditure, particularly in light of the new initiatives being added to the budget each year, and
- the General Synod limit any increases in future budgets to no more than an appropriate measure of general inflation.

We also requested that the General Synod office provide us with information about the extent of reserves held by the General Synod and any guidelines applied to the investment of those funds.

7.6 St Luke's Nursing Service

In 2003, we considered a request from St Luke's Nursing Service which operates in the Diocese of Brisbane, regarding the delivery of home nursing in the inner eastern part of Sydney. We agreed to that request.

During the year, the Archbishop of Brisbane requested permission for St Luke's Nursing Service to provide "long term nursing care for injured persons with life-long disability following traumatic injury".

We agreed to the St Luke's Nursing Service operating within the Diocese of Sydney in the provision of such services provided that it does so using the name "St Luke's" and does not refer to Anglicare or any other derivation of that name.

7.7 Ordination of "local priests" in other dioceses

We noted that, in relation to the administration of Holy Communion, many dioceses have adopted the practice of ordaining "local priests". We appointed a committee to enquire of other dioceses in Australia regarding the extent of the practice, the qualifications required, and the nature of this ministry.

The committee is yet to finalise its enquiry and report back to us.

7.8 Diocese of Southwark

We received a report about an extraordinary ordination service held on 2 November 2005 at Christ Church Surbiton, in the Diocese of Southwark, England.

The ordination was extraordinary because it was presided over by Bishop Martin Morrison, a bishop in the Church of England in South Africa. Three men were ordained for service in the Church of England, specifically within the Diocese of Southwark and a number of church plants known as the Co-Mission Initiative.

The ordination service was the culmination of a long series of negotiations between the Rev Richard Coekin and the diocesan bishop, Bishop Tom Butler, following a statement issued by the bishops of the Church of England on 25 July 2005 endorsing civil partnerships for homosexual persons, including clergy. The statement requires clergy to admit to baptism, confirmation and Holy Communion those who have registered civil partnerships and to refrain from asking whether the relationship in question is celibate or not. It states that the Church of England does not wish "to exclude from its fellowship those lay people of gay or lesbian orientation who, in conscience, were unable to accept that a life of sexual abstinence was required of them and instead chose to enter into a faithful, committed relationship" (§23).

Mr Coekin explained the communications between himself and Bishop Butler since that statement was issued and the longer standing issue of the bishop's refusal to ordain these men in an article published in the Church of England Newspaper on 10 November 2005.

In response to the ordination, on 8 November 2005 Bishop Butler informed the clergy of the diocese that he had written to Mr Coekin revoking his licence to minister in the diocese.

We expressed our full support for Mr Coekin and those ordained to serve in the Co-Mission Initiative in south western London in their stand for biblical truth. At our request the Diocesan Secretary wrote to the Bishop of Southwark, with a copy to the Archbishop of Canterbury, asking him to reconsider his removal of Mr Coekin's licence to minister within the diocese and to seek reconciliation with Mr Coekin.

7.9 Inter Anglican Theological and Doctrinal Commission

During the year we received a copy of a communication from the Rev Canon Gregory Cameron, secretary to the Inter Anglican Theological and Doctrinal Commission (IATDC) seeking responses to 4 questions put by the Chair of the Commission. The communication had been referred to each diocese for consideration and response.

We requested the Rev Dr Mark Thompson in consultation with the Archbishop to ensure that a response is made on behalf of the Diocese.

7.10 Archbishop of Canterbury's Panel of Reference

Last year we reported about the Archbishop of Canterbury's Panel of Reference which has been established to assess matters referred to it in connection with disputes between parishes and their bishop. This year we agreed to make a contribution of \$3,000 to the Anglican Communion Office towards the work of the Panel as a sign of our goodwill and commitment to its work.

8. Sydney Synod Matters

8.1 Dates for Synod in 2007

During the year we were informed that the 14th General Synod is to be held in Canberra from 20 to 26 October 2007. We noted that this conflicts with dates which had been proposed for the Synod in 2007 being 15, 16, 17, 22 and 23 October.

We therefore agreed in principle to the 2007 session of Synod being held on 17, 18, 19, 24 and 25 September 2007. This would mean that Synod in 2007 is held during the 2 weeks immediately before the school holidays instead of the 2 weeks immediately after the school holidays.

It is considered that moving the Synod forward in the manner proposed will facilitate preparations for both Synod and the attendance of our representatives at the General Synod.

8.1A Diocesan Policy on Education

In 2003 we engaged in a number of policy discussions on education which culminated in a request that a draft diocesan policy statement on education be prepared for our consideration.

A draft policy statement has now been prepared.

We requested that motions to enable the Synod to debate the principles set out in the draft statement and to support the continued development of a policy on education be moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod. A report on this matter is printed separately

8.2 3/02 Training and recruiting teachers for Church Schools

By resolution 3/02, the Synod asked that we investigate the ways in which our church schools are, or are not, seeking to train and recruit Christian teachers.

During the year we received a report from the Anglican Education Commission about initiatives taken in the areas of teacher education and recruitment. In response, we requested that a motion in support of these initiatives and a proposal to separately constitute the Commission to advance these initiatives be moved at the Synod.

The report from the Commission is printed separately.

8.2A 4/02 Church Schools

By resolution 4/02, the Synod asked that we complete our task of reviewing and enacting legislation for church schools which are set up by ordinance.

We proposed dealing with this matter once a diocesan policy statement on education has been finalised.

8.3 1/03 Review of Church ordinances and abuse matters 16/05 Review of discipline ordinances

By resolution 1/03, the Synod appointed a committee to review the Tribunal Ordinance 1962, the Church Discipline Ordinance 2002 and the Relinquishment of Holy Orders Ordinance 1994 in light of recent experience and the basic principles contained in the proposed national model legislation for dealing with abuse matters, and consistent with biblical teaching. The committee was also asked to prepare any draft amending ordinances for consideration by Synod in 2004.

Last year a bill for the Discipline Ordinance 2005 was introduced at the Synod. Synod adjourned further consideration of the bill until its session in 2006 and requested that Synod members and members of the Safe Ministry Board make comments to the Diocesan Secretary about the bill by 31 March 2006. By resolution 16/05 the Synod also requested that the committee consider incorporating in the bill the appointment of an individual or the utilisation of a mechanism to overtly promote independence, fairness and integrity within the disciplinary process.

The committee prepared a supplementary report and a revised form of bill for the Discipline Ordinance 2006 in light of comments that have been made about the form of bill introduced at the 2005 session of the Synod. We requested that a procedural motion be moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod to substitute the revised form of bill for the form of bill introduced at Synod in 2005. The revised form of bill, the supplementary report and the report on the bill provided to the Synod in 2005 are printed separately.

8.4 7/03 Protocol regarding inheritances from parishioners

By resolution 7/03, the Synod requested that the regional archdeacons draft a protocol regarding the propriety of clergy, employees of parishes, Diocesan officials, and employees of Diocesan organisations, receiving inheritances from parishioners.

Drafting of the protocol is yet to be finalised.

8.5 25/03 Freemasonry

By resolution 25/03, the Synod, noting the 1988 report to Synod entitled "Freemasonry Examined" and subsequent resolution 9/88 of the Synod –

- (a) affirmed that Freemasonry and Christianity are fundamentally and irreconcilably incompatible, and
- (b) affirmed that Freemasonry teaches and upholds a system of false religious and spiritual beliefs that are contrary to biblical Christianity.

By that resolution Synod requested that we undertake the preparation, production and distribution of a clear and unambiguous booklet suitable for wide distribution, examining the key rites, teachings and beliefs of Freemasonry and explaining why they differ from biblical Christianity, and explaining why it is wrong for a Christian to belong to the Lodge.

In 2004 we commissioned the preparation of a draft of a booklet referred to in the resolution for review by the Archbishop prior to production and distribution.

The booklet has not yet been finalised.

8.6 26/03 Lay and diaconal administration of Holy Communion

By resolution 26/03 the Synod requested that a bill be brought to the 2004 session which incorporates the recommendations of a committee we appointed to consider the options, consistent with the law, for the practice of lay and diaconal administration. The Synod also requested that a report be brought to that session about the possible consequences of passing an ordinance which authorises diaconal and lay administration and how any adverse consequences in so doing can be avoided.

In 2004 we decided that, in the circumstances, it would not be appropriate to bring a bill to the Synod to authorise lay and diaconal administration. Instead we decided to promote a motion to Synod to address this matter. The Synod subsequently referred the motion back to us for further consideration.

Having considered this matter further, we appointed a committee to seek written expressions of opinion on the following question –

What is the nature of any legal barrier(s) that would make unlawful the practice of a lay person or deacon administering the Lord's Supper in this Diocese?

We asked the committee to prepare a report on the opinions received with a view to our making a recommendation to the Synod this year about this matter.

The committee has not yet provided its report.

8.7 13/04 Review of clauses 8 and 15 of the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988

In 2002 we reported that we had appointed a committee to review the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988, and report with recommendations by 31 May 2003. The committee reported and made a number of recommendations about the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988 and about guidelines used to facilitate the presentation process.

By resolution 13/04, the Synod requested that we review clauses 8 and 15 of the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988 and consider the possibility of amendments which would allow the rector of a parish to voluntarily accept less than the minimum stipend and allowances for an agreed period of time without necessarily compromising the status of the parish under that ordinance.

Last year we asked the Policy 4 Committee to assess the recommendations of the committee, refine the guidelines already in existence for the presentation process and recommend necessary changes to the ordinance with a view to their promotion to Synod in due course. We also asked the Policy 4 Committee to undertake the review requested by the Synod in resolution 13/04.

The Policy 4 Committee has now reported.

In response to the report we requested that legislation amending the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988 in line with most of the recommendations of the Policy 4 Committee be prepared for our consideration.

Amending legislation has been prepared and we requested that bills for the Nomination Ordinance 2006 and the Nomination (Transitional Provisions) Ordinance 2006 be promoted to the Synod. The bills together with an explanatory report are printed separately.

8.8 33/04 The Windsor Report

By resolution 33/04, the Synod noted the publication of The Windsor Report 2004 by the Lambeth Commission on Communion. The Synod thanked the Commission for its work and requested that we give careful consideration to the report and its proposals, in particular the proposed "Anglican Covenant" and advise members of Synod of our views.

We are considering the Windsor Report in the context of broader developments within the Anglican Communion. We will advise Synod of our views in due course.

8.9 35/04 Use of the word "Priest"

By resolution 35/04, the Synod –

36 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

- (a) reaffirmed Synod resolution 20/97, namely –
- that the good reason for our reformers retaining the word “priest” in the Book of Common Prayer is its derivation from the Greek “presbuteros” (which means a senior person, “elder”, or a mature leader), and
 - that much of this meaning has been lost because modern English has come to use “priest” to mean a person who mediates between man and God.
- The Synod therefore encouraged all involved in liturgical revision, in place of the word “priest”, to use words like “elder”, “president”, “presbyter” or “minister”, and
- (b) considered that our continuing use of the word “priest” in legislation and formularies describing New Testament ministers, may be confusing, and
- (c) asked that we bring to the 2005 session a report on the practicality of replacing the word “priest” with words such as “presbyter” or “senior minister” in all our legislation and formularies.

A report on this matter is printed separately.

8.10 11/05 New Capital Project (Fundraising)

By resolution 11/05, the Synod requested that, in prayerful dependence on God and in fellowship with parishes and diocesan organisations, we –

- continue to pursue utilisation of the Diocesan database for Mission purposes and opportunities to release capital for use in developing the infrastructure required for Mission, and
- pursue strategies which will enable the raising of the bulk of the infrastructure required for the Mission through public appeals to Sydney Anglicans and through other fundraising initiatives, and
- report progress to the Synod in 2006.

A progress report on this matter is printed separately.

8.11 14/05 Parishes who are struggling financially and with ministry strategies

By resolution 14/05, the Synod requested that we –

- call upon regional councils to indicate what strategies and policies they had developed to assist parishes who are struggling financially or who are struggling to implement ministry strategies, and

- provide a report for the Synod in 2006 on the strategies and policies which have been developed by regional councils, and
- incorporate in the report recommendations as to how the personal and physical resources of the Diocese can be more efficiently used to implement successful strategies and policies which have been developed to assist struggling parishes.

We asked the regional councils to indicate what strategies and policies they have developed and to make recommendations about how such strategies and policies might be more effectively used to assist struggling parishes.

A report on this matter is printed separately.

8.12 15/05 Pastoral and practical support for clergy

By resolution 15/05, the Synod requested that we report to Synod in 2006 on the following –

- Is there a need to provide formalised pastoral and practical support for clergy within the Diocese?
- If so, what are the needs which need to be met?
- What formalised pastoral and practical support in addition to current resources can be developed and offered to clergy and parishes in support of clergy?

We have not yet considered this matter.

8.13 20/05 Communion with the Church of England in England

By resolution 20/05, the Synod expressed its support for the General Synod canon to substitute a new section 6 in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia. However Synod noted with regret that the recent developments within the Church of England in England relating to same sex relationships may make it desirable that the existing section 6 of the Constitution or the proposed section 6(1) be modified to make Communion with the Church of England in England subject to the operation of a canon of the General Synod.

At Synod's request, we will address this matter in due course.

8.14 26/05 Reforming parochial structures and administration

By resolution 26/05, the Synod -

- gave its in-principle support for the proposals outlined in a report from the Policy 4 Committee about reforming parochial structures and administration except the

38 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

proposal that the tenure of ministers of provisional parishes be subject to review, and

- requested that we bring to the 2006 session of the Synod an ordinance to give effect to these proposals.

Substantial work has been undertaken on drafting an ordinance to reflect reforms to parochial administration. An exposure draft of the ordinance will be brought to the Synod in due course.

8.15 30/05 Administration of confirmation by presbyters

By resolution 30/05, the Synod –

- endorsed the proposal that confirmation should not be required of those baptised as adults, before their being admitted to Holy Communion, and
- endorsed the proposal that clergy, under licence from the Archbishop, be allowed to administer confirmation, and
- encouraged the involvement of senior lay persons in the catechetical preparation of candidates for confirmation, and
- endorsed the proposal that clergy, under licence from the Archbishop, be allowed to receive into the fellowship of the Anglican Church people who are communicant members of other Christian denominations, and
- requested that we bring an ordinance to the 2006 session of the Synod or promote a General Synod canon to the next General Synod that would make the above proposals possible.

We appointed a committee to review the ways in which the proposals set out in Synod resolution 30/05 should be implemented. We also requested that a report we requested last year from the Sydney Diocesan Doctrine Commission be provided to us by August 2006.

The committee has reported to us and we requested that a bill for the Admission to Holy Communion (Adult Baptisands) Ordinance 2006 be promoted to the Synod at our request. The bill and a report on this matter are printed separately.

The Doctrine Commission has also reported to us. The Doctrine Commission's report is printed separately.

8.15A Indigenous Representation on the Synod

We requested that a bill to provide for Indigenous representation on the Synod be promoted to the forthcoming session of the Synod.

A bill for the Synod Membership (Indigenous Representation) Amendment Ordinance 2006 and an accompanying report are printed separately.

8.16 Resolutions made by the Synod in 2005 and not mentioned in this report

Circulars were sent to parishes and organisations about the matters arising from the 2005 Synod session. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons and organisations.

8.17 Ordinances for this session

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

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

ROBERT WICKS
Diocesan Secretary

25 September 2006