

2007 Report of the Standing Committee

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1. Introduction

1.1 Charter

The Standing Committee is constituted under the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897. Its duties arise under a number of ordinances and include the following –

- (a) making arrangements for the meetings of the Synod and preparing the Synod's business, and
- (b) acting as a council of advice to the Archbishop (the "Archbishop-in-Council"), and
- (c) considering and reporting upon matters referred to it by the Synod and carrying out the Synod's resolutions, and
- (d) deliberating and conferring upon all matters affecting the interests of the Church, and
- (e) making ordinances under delegated powers, and
- (f) preparing and administering parochial cost recoveries and Synod appropriations and allocations, and
- (g) appointing persons to fill casual vacancies among persons elected by the Synod to boards etc, and
- (h) monitoring the finances of diocesan organisations.

1.2 Access

Due to building works being undertaken at St Andrew's House, meetings during 2007 have been 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.

A report on each meeting is published a few days after the meeting on the Synod's website at www.sds.asn.au.

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1.3 Meetings and members

Since October 2006 we have met 9 times. The names of the members will be listed in the 2007 Diocesan Year Book and on the Synod's website at www.sds.asn.au.

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

- Bishop Reg Piper ceased to be a member on his retirement as Bishop of Wollongong. Bishop Al Stewart became an *ex-officio* member upon his appointment as the new Bishop of Wollongong.
- The Rev Al Stewart's position as a minister elected by the Synod became vacant upon his appointment as Bishop of Wollongong. We elected the Rev Zac Veron to fill the vacancy.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a minister elected by the Georges River Region upon the Rev Zac Veron becoming a minister elected by the Synod. The Georges River Region elected the Rev Ian Cox to fill the vacancy.
- Mr Rodney Dredge ceased to be a member on his retirement as Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat. Mr Steve McKerihan became an *ex-officio* member upon his appointment as the new Chief Executive Officer.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a minister elected by the Wollongong Region upon the resignation of Canon John Cornford. The Wollongong Region elected Canon Sandy Grant to fill the vacancy.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a lay person elected by the Northern Region upon the resignation of Mr Ian Minnett. The Northern Region elected Mr Bruce York to fill the vacancy.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a lay person elected by the Western Sydney Region upon the resignation of Mr Bill Nicholson. The Western Sydney Region elected Mr Andrew Frank to fill the vacancy.

1.4 Retirement of Bishop Reg Piper

In February 2007, we noted Bishop Reg Piper's retirement as Bishop of Wollongong. We gave thanks for his significant ministry in the Diocese over many years, particularly as a member of the Standing Committee. We prayed for God's continued blessing on both Reg and Dorothy as they continue in ministry at Gymea.

1.5 Appointment of the Rev Al Stewart as Bishop of Wollongong

Under clause 5 of the Assistant Bishops Ordinance 1947, we approved the appointment of the Rev Alan James Stewart as Bishop of Wollongong, to succeed Bishop Reg Piper upon his retirement. We congratulated Mr Stewart on his appointment and assured him and his wife Kathy and their family of our prayers and in particular that his ministry in the Wollongong Region will be greatly blessed by God.

1.6 Retirement of Mr Rodney Dredge

In June 2007, we noted Mr Rodney Dredge's retirement as Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat. We recorded our gratitude to Almighty God for Rodney's service on the Standing Committee for 14 years and wished Rodney and Jenny God's blessing in his retirement.

1.7 Appointment of Mr Steve McKerihan as Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat

We noted that Mr Steve McKerihan had been appointed to succeed Mr Rodney Dredge as Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat upon Mr Dredge's retirement. We congratulated Mr McKerihan on his appointment.

1.8 Management and structure

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

Audit Committee	Ordination Training Fund Committee
Mission Board	Research Committee
Finance Committee	Social Issues Executive
General Synod Canons Committee	Stipends and Allowances Committee
Ordinance Reviewers and Panels	Work Outside the Diocese Committee

Other committees are appointed from time to time for special tasks. 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.”

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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

Last year we established the Mission Board to replace the Mission Taskforce. The terms of reference and structure of the Mission Board seek to guide us effectively through the current phase of the Mission by ensuring that –

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

At each meeting we receive a draft copy of the minutes of the last Mission Board meeting. We also determined that, as a matter of policy, where any recommendation or decision of the Mission Board involves an approach being made or a proposal being given to a parish or diocesan organisation in the name of the Standing Committee or the Synod, the Mission Board seek our prior approval to such approach or proposal being made.

We delegated to the Mission Board the function of determining the priority in which funds from the Mission Property Fund are to be applied under clause 5C of the Mission Property Ordinance 2002 (see item 4.5). We delegated this function to the Mission Board on the basis that –

- a copy of each statement by which the Mission Board prioritises the application of funds is to be provided to the meeting of the Standing Committee which next follows the statement being made, and
- not less than 25% of the members of the Mission Board may, in a particular matter, require the exercise of any authority within this delegation to be exercised by the Standing Committee.

We also delegated to the Mission Board a number of functions under the Special Allocations Ordinance 2007 (see item 4.5). This ordinance

enables Synod funds allocated within a particular policy area for a year but not spent during that year to be reallocated within the same policy area. In making this delegation, we required that the Mission Board report to us on any exercise of the delegated authority.

2.3 Work Outside the Diocese Committee

We agreed to constitute the Policy 1b subcommittee of the Mission Board (“Work Outside the Diocese”) as one of our subcommittees.

The newly constituted subcommittee is to make recommendations to the Mission Board about triennial Synod funding arrangements under Policy 1b generally. We also delegated to the new subcommittee a number of our functions under the Special Allocations Ordinance 2007 in relation to Policy 1b Synod funding. In making this delegation we required that the subcommittee report to us on any exercise of the delegated authority.

2.4 Use of the Diocesan Endowment

During the year we engaged in extensive debate about the use of the Diocesan Endowment for the purposes of the Mission. During the debate we –

- affirmed our commitment to the maintenance of the real value of the Diocesan Endowment at a growth rate established by the Glebe Administration Board consistent with prevailing economic conditions, and
- confirmed our preference for a steady and reasonably predictable flow of income from the Diocesan Endowment to the Synod fund, and
- acknowledged the need for modest capital amounts to be drawn from time to time for specific Mission purposes.

We also requested the Glebe Administration Board –

- to report progress on the sustainability of the current formula for determining distributions from the Diocesan Endowment, and
- to advise us whether there are structural arrangements that could be put in place to support the perceived need for limited capital appropriations from time to time, and
- to advise us of the long term consequences on the Diocesan Endowment of paying an amount of \$30 million from the Endowment to the Mission Property Committee.

We received a report which indicated that the long term consequences of appropriating \$30 million from the Diocesan Endowment would be –

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- to reduce the income distributable to Synod by \$1.7 million every year (in today's dollar terms), and
- to diminish the Glebe Administration Board's ability to fulfil its object of maintaining the real value of the Diocesan Endowment.

We received a report from the Glebe Administration Board about the sustainability of distributions from the Diocesan Endowment. In order to better maintain the real value of the Diocesan Endowment and a steady and reasonably predictable flow of income from the Endowment to Synod, we agreed in principle to replace the distribution formula in the Diocesan Endowment Ordinance 1984 with a formula which makes the distribution in the following year dependent on –

- the amount of the current year's distribution to the Synod (excluding any special distribution or capital appropriation), increased by the most recent CPI, weighted at 70 percent, and
- the average of the market value of the Diocesan Endowment at the end of each of three consecutive years leading up to and including the previous year, multiplied by 4.2% (except that the rate for 2004 and 2005 shall be 5.4%) weighted at 30 percent.

We will consider an ordinance to give effect to this change after the forthcoming session of the Synod.

The Glebe Administration Board has also reported on possible structural arrangements for limited capital appropriations. However we have not yet considered this matter.

2.5 Mission Property Fund

We asked that, in anticipation of a major fund raising appeal, an ordinance be prepared to appropriate \$20 million from the capital of the Diocesan Endowment for the purposes of establishing a Mission Property Fund to be held by the Property Trust and administered by the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat. This Mission Property Fund would be used for the purposes of acquiring land and constructing ministry buildings and also for capital investment in the campus of Moore Theological College.

An ordinance was prepared. However, at the request of the Mission Board, we agreed to defer consideration of the ordinance and requested that the ordinance be redrafted to reflect the following principles –

- that the amount of \$20 million proposed to be appropriated to establish the new Fund should be amalgamated with the existing assets of the Mission Property Committee, and

- that the Standing Committee should have the function of determining the priority of applications from the amalgamated Fund, and
- that the exercise of such function should be delegated to the Mission Board.

In order to reflect these principles, a further ordinance, the Mission Property (Appropriation and Amendment) Ordinance 2007, was drafted to amend the Mission Property Ordinance 2002. We passed this further ordinance and, pursuant to clause 5C of the amended Mission Property Ordinance 2002, made a statement of priority for the application of \$14.8 million from the Mission Property Fund. This amount comprises –

- \$4.8 million for the construction of the Hoxton Park Ministry Centre, and
- \$10 million for the purchase of land for ministry centres in new areas of the Diocese.

See items 2.2 and 4.5.

2.6 Connect 09

We gave our in principle support for an evangelistic campaign known as Connect 09. Connect 09 will invite the membership of all parishes, congregations, fellowships, Anglican schools and Anglican organisations to work together to contact and connect with all residents of the Diocese. The focal point of Connect 09 will be the communication of the Word of God. In order to fund Connect 09, we requested that a bill for the Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007 be promoted to the Synod.

The bill and an explanatory report are printed separately.

2.7 Location of Moore Theological College

Moore Theological College informed us that its main campus is to remain in Newtown. The College also informed us that it has commissioned a documented master plan for the whole of the Newtown campus with a view to the development of the library and assessment of the priorities of other capital works.

3. Actions with the Archbishop

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

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$40,000 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop to assist clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

3.2 Parish of Greenacre

The parish of Greenacre became vacant during the year but the Archbishop was unable to declare that the parish had complied with

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clause 5 of the Nomination Ordinance 2006. The matter was referred to the Archbishop-in-Council which determined that, in the circumstances, the parish should not have the benefits under the Ordinance.

3.3 Appointment of the Professional Standards Committee

The Archbishop-in-Council appointed Archdeacon Deryck Howell, Professor Kim Oates, Mr Allan Lucas, Miss Emma Collett, Mrs Collette Read and Dr Debra Tattersell as members of the Professional Standard Committee for the purposes of the Discipline Ordinance 2006. The Archbishop-in-Council also appointed Archdeacon Deryck Howell as the chairman of the Professional Standards Committee.

3.4 Extension of retirement age of Archdeacon Narelle Jarrett

Acting with the Archbishop, we extended the retirement age of Archdeacon Narelle Jarrett until 8 February 2010 under clause 5(1)(b) of the Retirements Ordinance 1993. The extension was made on the understanding that Archdeacon Jarrett's appointment as Archdeacon of Women's Ministry will be reviewed annually by the Archbishop until that time.

3.5 Extension of retirement age of Archdeacon Terry Dein

Acting with the Archbishop, we extended the retirement age of Archdeacon Terry Dein until 31 December 2008 under clause 5(1)(b) of the Retirements Ordinance 1993.

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 including Anglicare and Anglican Retirement Villages 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 3 organisations including Anglicare.

We approved an increase in the borrowing limit of Anglicare from \$1 million to \$75 million. The increase was approved subject to the lending authority being made aware that the sole security for any loan is the assets of Anglicare and that Anglicare is dependent upon the continuation of the present level of government funding. We also required that the new limit be subject to a review every 2 years.

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 diocesan lay workers 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.

Bursaries of \$355,375 were paid in 2006 (\$489,190 in 2005).

4.5 Ordinances

The following table shows the number of ordinances passed and assented to in 2001 to 2006 and in 2007 to 27 August.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Standing Committee	54	69	57	48	50	48	23
Synod	5	12	8	6	8	5	0
	59	81	65	54	58	53	23

A separate report lists the ordinances passed by us since the 2006 session of the Synod. There are 9 ordinances of particular interest.

The William Branwhite Clarke College Amendment Ordinance 2006 implemented a number of changes to the composition and governance structure of the College and its Council. The ordinance also gave effect to a number of decisions we had previously made concerning schools and school councils. The Council was unable to consent to the ordinance as passed due to amendments made to the ordinance in Committee. The Archbishop therefore declined to assent to the ordinance which subsequently lapsed.

The Anglican Education Commission Ordinance 2006 established the Anglican Education Commission Diocese of Sydney in response to

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Synod's request to do so in resolution 29/06. Prior to this ordinance being passed, the Commission formed part of Anglican Youthworks. See item 8.9.

The Cathedral (Amending) Ordinance 2007 extensively amended the provisions of the Cathedral Ordinance 1969 to provide for the use and governance of St Andrew's Cathedral. The main change made by the ordinance was to reduce the size of the Cathedral Chapter from 27 to 18 members.

The Mission Property (Appropriation and Amendment) Ordinance 2007 appropriated \$20 million from the Diocesan Endowment and paid this amount as an addition to the fund established under the Mission Property Ordinance 2002. The ordinance enabled the Standing Committee to determine the priority in which the personal property of the Fund is to be applied towards projects involving the acquisition and development of land and the construction and renovation of ministry buildings. The ordinance also redefined the functions of the Mission Property Committee to include implementing the completion of prioritised projects.

The Special Allocations Ordinance 2007 enabled Synod funds allocated within a particular policy area for a year but not spent during that year to be reallocated within the same policy area. The ordinance also made provision for an amount from the Ordination Training Fund to be returned to the capital of the Diocesan Endowment.

The Barker College Ordinance 1978 Amendment Ordinance 2007 provided for a reduction in the size of the School Council from 16 elected members to 14 elected members.

The Hope Anglican Church (East Chatswood) (Special Arrangements) Ordinance 2007 authorised the Archbishop to license a building in East Chatswood as a church to enable a congregation meeting in that building to become part of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney.

The Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975 Amendment Ordinance 2007 enabled moneys received as a contribution to a trust which is not held for the purposes of a parochial unit to be treated as an allowable deduction. See item 4.18.

The Pastoral Care and Assistance Appropriation Ordinance 2007 provided for the application of \$150,000 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.

4.6 Synod appropriations and allocations in 2008

Under clause 5(5) of the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2005 we are required to report to the 2007 session of the

Synod about the appropriations and allocations for 2008. A report on this matter will be printed separately.

4.7 Special allocations for the 2006 – 2008 triennium

Under clause 4(2) of the Special Allocations Ordinance 2007 we applied –

- \$109,000 to Special Curacies under Policy 2a, and
- \$52,000 to Evangelism Ministries under Policy 2b for the purposes of producing the “Welcoming Resources” DVD, leader’s manual and participant’s book, and
- up to \$100,000 under Administration for the Mission for the purposes of meeting the costs of employing or contracting for the services of a fundraising professional for the period until 30 June 2008.

Under clause 5A(1)(b) of the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2007 we applied –

- \$70,000 to the Archbishop’s pre-ordination conferences, assessments and Bibles for ordinands and deacons under Policy 3, and
- \$49,000 to the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat under Policy 4.

See items 2.2 and 4.5.

4.8 Parochial cost recoveries - arrears

The following table compares the arrears of cost recovery charges as at 30 June 2005 and 2006 and 31 May 2007.

No Arrangements	2005	2006	2007
	\$	\$	\$
Ashbury	956	-	-
Berala	2,403	5,129	4,203
Beverly Hills	-	1,849	-
Bossley Park	-	516	-
Cabramatta	-	19,727	-
Campsie	-	6,819	11,645
Chester Hill	-	1,264	-
Canterbury	2,656	-	-
Clovelly	4,934	-	-
Dulwich Hill	5,729	16,291	20,460
Minchinbury	1,369	-	-
Picton	1,529	2,627	1,313
Richmond	-	2,041	1,967
Rooty Hill	4,368	-	-

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No Arrangements	2005	2006	2007
	\$	\$	\$
Rouse Hill	10,063	17,736	-
St Clair	11,017	14,660	-
Smithfield Road	29,587	29,662	- *
Woollahra	1,476	-	-
Arrangements in place			
Cabramatta	10,242	-	-
Norfolk Island	21,248	-	-
Parramatta North/Harris Park	3,121	-	-
Total	110,698	118,321	39,588

* During the year the Finance Committee declared it expedient to remit \$12,000 being the arrears of parish cost recovery charges owed by the parish of Smithfield Road relating to 2004, in recognition of the considerable costs and efforts of the parish in absorbing the provisional parish of St James' Smithfield.

4.9 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 4 June 2007 65 parochial units had not lodged a complete annual financial return, although 16 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.

4.10 Local revenues test for parish status

During the year the Finance Committee advised us that the parishes of Bankstown, Chester Hill and Clovelly failed the 3 year test for retaining parish status under clause 8(1) of the Parishes Ordinance 1979. In the circumstances the Georges River Regional Council determined under clause 8(1A) of the Ordinance that the test does not apply to Bankstown during 2004. Accordingly Bankstown retained its parish status for at least 1 further year. The parishes of Chester Hill and Clovelly were reclassified as provisional parishes from 1 January 2007.

The parishes of Bankstown, Bellevue Hill, East Gardens, Glenquarie, Helensburgh/Stanwell Park, Kingsford, Mt Druitt, Northbridge and

Summer Hill each had local revenues below the requisite amount in 2006. 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 2007 and future revenues meet the relevant threshold figures.

4.11 Parochial cost recoveries for 2008

Under clause 3(2) of the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2005 we are required to report to the 2007 session of the Synod about the cost recoveries charge for 2008. A report on this matter is printed separately.

4.12 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 2007 for the promotion of women's ministries.

4.13 Anglican Provident Fund

During the year we were advised by the chairman of the Board of the Anglican Provident Fund of the Board's intention to close the Fund following the transfer of its assets to ASSET Limited. We agreed that it would be undesirable for the Anglican Provident Fund to continue as a legal entity following such transfer. Accordingly we approved of an application being made to the New South Wales Attorney General to have the Anglican Clergy Provident Fund (Sydney) Act 1908 repealed. Following the repeal of the Act we passed an ordinance to repeal the Anglican Provident Fund Ordinance 1990.

4.14 Funding for research

Last year we received a submission from Anglicare about the future planning needs of the Diocese and commenced the development of a diocesan research agenda.

During this year, we were informed that a range of research projects were in the process of being finalised with Anglicare. In order to fund the shortfall in the cost of Anglicare undertaking this research for the Diocese in 2007, we approved the payment of an additional amount of \$72,000 to Anglicare from Synod Fund Contingencies.

4.15 Synod funding for 2009 to 2011 triennium

We expressed our regret to the Synod that we were not able to fulfil the requirements of clause 6 of the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2005. We authorised the Mission Board Finance Committee to continue to develop the strategy and focus for funding the Mission for the next few years and to prepare a report

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about that work for the forthcoming session of the Synod.

4.16 Employment Relations Guidelines

We agreed to contribute \$5,000 from Synod Fund Contingencies to the costs incurred by the Secretariat in publishing Employment Relations Guidelines for parishes. The Guidelines cover a full range of matters concerning employment specifically in the context of Anglican parishes in Sydney. A key feature of the Guidelines is the inclusion of standard form letters of appointment that can be used by churchwardens to document the employment of lay ministry, ministry training and administrative staff.

4.17 Asbestos inspection program

We received a report about the identification and management of asbestos in parish buildings. We supported in principle a proposed asbestos inspection and management program for parish properties to be managed centrally by the Property Trust. We agreed in principle to the cost of the program being funded through a charge on each parish and requested that an ordinance for this purpose based on both a net receipts and a flat charge basis be prepared for our consideration.

We considered a proposed ordinance and requested that the ordinance based on the net receipts of parochial units be promoted to the Synod, excluding from the proposed charge parochial units for which no real property is held on trust.

A bill for the Asbestos Inspection (Special Charge) Ordinance and an explanatory report are printed separately.

4.18 Amendment to the Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975

Under the Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975, parochial units are able to claim as an allowable deduction "moneys received as designated donations by parishioners to organisations, bodies and societies outside the control of the parochial unit". A deduction is also allowed for "amounts paid to missionary societies and other extra parochial bodies". However moneys received as a contribution to a trust which is not held for the purposes of the parochial unit is not an allowable deduction.

We requested that an ordinance amending the Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975 be prepared to enable moneys received as a contribution to a trust which is not held for the purposes of the parochial unit to be treated as an allowable deduction.

We considered and passed the Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975 Amendment Ordinance 2007.

4.19 Assessing the strategic value of retaining parish property

During the year we made changes to the procedures we follow in assessing the strategic value in retaining parish property for the purposes of the Diocesan Mission. Under the revised procedures, parish councils are to promptly notify their regional Archdeacon upon resolving to sell any parish property. Previously the procedures required the Secretary of the Standing Committee to notify the Archdeacon upon any application being received for an ordinance for the sale of parish property.

The changes seek to ensure that an assessment of the strategic value of retaining parish property is made as soon as possible.

4.20 Prudential standards for large diocesan organisations

During the year we received a report about the reputational risks to the Anglican name if a large diocesan organisation were to get into significant financial difficulty. In response to the report we requested that a survey of diocesan organisations be undertaken to gain an understanding of the corporate governance procedures currently in place and to identify possible weaknesses or possible enhancements.

The survey is yet to be undertaken.

4.21 Stipends, allowances and benefits for 2008

We approved the minimum stipends and allowances for 2008 and the distribution of *Guidelines for the Remuneration of Parish Ministry Staff for 2008*. In doing so we agreed to set, as a new category, minimum stipends and allowances for youth and children's ministry workers.

A report on stipends, allowances and benefits for 2008 is printed separately.

4.22 Greenoaks Apartments

By clause 9 of the Bishopscourt Backblock Development and Land Sale Ordinance 2004, we are required to report to each ordinary session of the Synod about –

- progress of the development authorised by the ordinance, now called "Greenoaks Apartments", and
- application of the sale proceeds of the land the subject of the development, and
- action taken by us in response to the statement of intention under clause 8(3) of the ordinance.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

4.23 Parishes (Special Administration) Ordinance 2004

By clause 8 of the Parishes (Special Administration) Ordinance 2004, we are required to report to the Synod in 2007 about the operation of the ordinance.

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A report about this matter is printed separately.

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 2006 to June 2007, 46 such positions were filled (52 for the period November 2005 to June 2006).

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, together with any reports for the reclassification of provisional parishes as parishes under the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

5.3 Affiliated churches

Last year we received notification that applications for affiliation under the Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 had been received from –

- The Point Community Church at Port Macquarie,
- Northern Lakes Evangelical Church on the Central Coast at Gorokan, and
- Albury Bible Fellowship.

Pursuant to clause 4(1) of the Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 we declared each of these churches to be affiliated with the Diocese. We also entered into an affiliation agreement with each of these churches pursuant to clause 5(1) of the Ordinance.

The Secretaries of the Synod have invited each affiliated church to nominate 2 representatives to attend the Synod under clause 7 of the Ordinance. Such representatives are not entitled to vote but may address the Synod at the invitation of the President or by resolution of the Synod.

5.4 Discipline Ordinance 2006

We determined, pursuant to clause 100 of the Discipline Ordinance 2006, that the Discipline Ordinance 2006 is to commence on 26 March 2007.

We noted that, in view of the commencement of the Discipline Ordinance 2006, the Director of the Professional Standards Unit would distribute to parishes, diocesan organisations and others affected by the Discipline Ordinance 2006 explanatory material about the

ordinance entitled *Taking Abuse and Other Misconduct Seriously*.

5.4A Faithfulness in Service

We noted that amendments to the code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers known as *Faithfulness in Service* were not adopted by the Synod last year. We requested that a motion by which these amendments can be adopted be moved at Synod this year.

5.5 Bullying in parishes

Last 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 is yet to completed its work.

5.6 Relationship between the Standing Committee and diocesan schools

Last 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 is yet to provide its report.

5.7 Annual Leave Ordinance 1983

Last year 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

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Secretary to prepare a paper, with recommendations, discussing the relevant issues.

The Diocesan Secretary is yet to prepare his paper.

5.8 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.

Last year 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 also requested that an ordinance for this purpose be prepared for our consideration.

Since making this request, a number of matters have emerged which need to be resolved before an ordinance can be prepared. We will consider an ordinance once these matters have been resolved.

5.9 Consumption of alcohol on church property

Last 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 in due course.

5.10 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 last year and in response 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 passed the Department of Evangelism Amendment Ordinance 2007 to implement these decisions.

5.10A Review of the membership of the Mission Property Committee

We received a report about the composition of the Mission Property Committee. In response to the report we requested that an ordinance be prepared to amend the Mission Property Ordinance 2002 for the purposes of making the Regional Archdeacons or their nominees ex-officio members of the Mission Property Committee.

5.11 Membership of the Archbishop on the councils of diocesan schools and organisations

We requested the Legal Officer to prepare a report summarising –

- the Archbishop's role in relation to each diocesan school and organisation, and
- the role and responsibilities inherent in the positions of "President" and "Visitor", and
- the legal responsibilities of members of a body corporate constituted by or under the Anglican Church of Australia (Bodies Corporate) Act 1938.

Upon receiving the report we intend to use it as the basis of a policy discussion on the membership of the Archbishop on the councils of diocesan schools and organisations.

5.12 Climate change

We recognised that climate change could create considerable social problems as well as significant opportunities for the Christian Mission

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in Sydney, NSW, Australia and around the world. We requested the Social Issues Executive to prepare a report on a Christian understanding of the issues involved and the potential impact on the life of our churches under different climate change scenarios.

A report from the Social Issues Executive is printed separately. We requested that a motion addressing the matters raised in the report be promoted to the forthcoming session of the Synod.

5.13 Review of Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance 1982

It is customary to review the processes by which the Archbishop of Sydney is elected at an appropriate time after the election of an Archbishop (the last being in 2001). Accordingly we appointed a committee to review the Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance 1982.

The committee is yet to complete its review.

6. Relations with Government

6.1 Vilification on the grounds of religion

During the year we received a report about a decision of the Victorian Court of Appeal to set aside a decision of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal concerning an alleged breach of Victorian anti-vilification legislation by Catch the Fire Ministries Inc. The effect of the Court of Appeal's decision was to set a more demanding test than that set by the Tribunal for demonstrating that a person has unlawfully vilified another person on the grounds of religious belief or activity.

Religion is not a prohibited ground of vilification in New South Wales. The New South Wales Parliament recently rejected proposals to introduce into New South Wales legislation similar to the Victorian legislation. Nonetheless we intend to keep a watching brief on this matter.

6.2 Government intervention on child abuse

In view of the Federal Government's recent intervention to address problems of child abuse, violence and substance abuse in Indigenous Communities in the Northern Territory, we requested that a motion dealing with this matter be promoted to the Synod.

7. The International, National and Provincial Church

7.1 Appellate Tribunal reference concerning women bishops

In 2005 the Primate, at the request of 25 members of the General Synod (the "Signatories"), referred to the Appellate Tribunal the following question 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?”

Following this reference being made, we prepared and lodged with the Tribunal submissions addressing various preliminary issues and also the substantive question raised by the reference. More recently, we made further submissions to the Tribunal that one of its members should disqualify himself from hearing the reference on the grounds of bias.

The Tribunal held a hearing on 31 March 2007 to consider the reference. The Tribunal was constituted by Justices Young, Mason and Bleby, Archbishops Aspinall and Herft, Bishop Brain and Mr Max Horton.

The Signatories were represented at the hearing by Dr Clyde Croft SC. Mr Richard Refschaug SC represented the Synod of the Diocese of Canberra – Goulburn. We were represented by Mr Geoff Lindsay SC.

Before oral submissions were made at the hearing, the President of the Tribunal announced that the Tribunal had determined, consistent with its usual practice, that any decision to disqualify a member from hearing the reference is to be made by the individual member concerned. The member concerned then announced that he had decided not to disqualify himself.

The Tribunal is yet to provide its opinion on the substantive question

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raised by the reference.

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 did not declare that these canons affect the order and good government of the Church within a diocese.

In 2005 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.

Last year the General Synod Standing Committee advised the President of the General Synod that it did not agree with this opinion. Hence the President referred this opinion to the Appellate Tribunal for its determination. We prepared and lodged with the Tribunal submissions in relation to this reference.

The Tribunal has determined that pursuant to section 30(c)(iii) of the Constitution –

- the Special Tribunal Canon 2004 affects the order and good government of the Church within the Diocese of Sydney, and
- the National Register Canon 2004 does not affect the order and good government of the Church within the Diocese of Sydney.

We indicated to the General Synod Standing Committee that the opinion of the Tribunal concerning the National Register Canon 2004 seems to be a significant departure from the way section 30(c) of the Constitution has been understood over many years and suggested that it set up a representative committee to consider the implications of the opinion on the federal structure of the Church.

We also noted that –

- the Diocese of Wangaratta and the Provincial Council of Victoria had made submissions that 2 members of the Tribunal should disqualify themselves from considering similar references made to the Tribunal concerning the National Register Canon 2004 and the Special Tribunal Canon 2004 on the basis that, as members of the Church Law Commission, they were also involved in drafting and reporting on both Canons, and

- the members of the Tribunal concerned declined to disqualify themselves.

We shared the concerns expressed by the Diocese of Wangaratta and the Provincial Council of Victoria. Accordingly we requested that the General Synod Standing Committee pass a rule or undertake whatever else is required to prohibit lay members of the Tribunal from participating in either the drafting or promotion of legislation and requiring such members to disqualify themselves from any Tribunal proceedings where they have been so involved.

7.3 Person licensed by the Primate in his capacity as Primate

We considered a proposed canon to amend the Constitution in respect of persons licensed by the Primate in his capacity as Primate. It is understood the proposed canon is being prepared primarily to address concerns about disciplinary arrangements for defence force chaplains. We recommended that certain changes be made to the proposed canon which would preserve the ability of a diocese to initiate proceedings against a chaplain in the event that the Primate decided not to do so.

7.4 National Register Canon 2004

See item 8.8.

7.5 Provisional canons passed by the General Synod in 2004

At its session in 2004, the General Synod passed the Episcopal Standards Canon 2004 and the Canon Concerning Holy Orders 2004. The Episcopal Standards Canon 2004 sets up a procedure for dealing with matters of sexual abuse and any matters of alleged misconduct or omission by a member of the House of Bishops. The Canon Concerning Holy Orders 2004 replaces canons 31 to 37 of the Canons of 1603 that deal with ordained ministry and puts in place minimum requirements for ordination as a deacon or a priest or consecration as a bishop. Both canons were passed as provisional canons and it is expected that both will be further considered, together with any comments made about the canons from dioceses, at the forthcoming session of the General Synod.

We recommended that the Synod not assent to either canon in their current form. We provided comments about the canons to the General Synod for consideration at its forthcoming session.

7.6 General Synod in 2007

The 2007 session of the General Synod is to be held at Rydges Lakeside, Canberra on 20 – 26 October 2007. Following the Primate issuing the mandate for the session, it was determined that the Diocese of Sydney was entitled to elect 4 additional representatives to

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the General Synod (being 2 more lay members and 2 more clerical members). These are in addition to the 52 representatives currently elected by the Synod.

We elected Professor Chris Bellenger and Mr Mark Payne to fill the additional vacancies for lay members and Bishop Al Stewart and the Rev Sarie King to fill the additional vacancies for clerical members.

7.7 Invitations to Lambeth

We noted that disregarding the clear requests of many bishops, the Archbishop of Canterbury issued invitations to attend the Lambeth Conference in 2008 to the bishops of The Episcopal Church of the USA who agreed to and/or participated in the consecration of the Bishop of New Hampshire.

We therefore –

- respectfully requested the Archbishop of this diocese to communicate to the Archbishop of Canterbury our dissatisfaction at the attempt to maintain union with the unrepentant, while continuing to refuse fellowship to faithful and orthodox Anglicans such as The Church of England in South Africa, and
- respectfully requested the Archbishop and bishops of this diocese not to accept the invitation to Lambeth without making public in protest, speech and liturgical action, both prior to and at Lambeth, our diocese's principled objection to the continuing participation of those whose actions have expressed a departure from the clear teaching of scripture, and who have consequently excluded orthodox faithful Anglicans from their fellowship, and
- respectfully requested the Archbishop and bishops of this diocese to approach other orthodox bishops of the communion with the purpose of meeting in England at the time of the Lambeth Conference for Christian fellowship and the planning of joint action within the Anglican Communion to contend for the faith of the Apostles once delivered to the saints.

7.8 Consecration of Canon Bill Atwood

We informed the Rev Canon Dr Bill Atwood of the deep pleasure of the Diocese of Sydney at the news of the announcement by Archbishop Nzimbi, Primate of Kenya of the consecration of Dr Atwood as Suffragan Bishop of All Saints' Cathedral Diocese, Nairobi on 30 August 2007. We assured Dr Atwood of our continuing prayer for his ministry as he supports Kenyan clergy and congregations in North America.

7.9 Ordination of “local priests” in other dioceses

Last year 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.

We received a brief report from the committee about this matter.

7.10 Communion with the Church of England in England

See item 8.5.

7.11 Anglican and Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC)

See item 8.6.

7.12 Archbishop Rowan Williams’ Larkin-Stuart Lecture

During the year we noted the response of the Sydney Diocesan Doctrine Commission to Archbishop Rowan Williams’ Larkin-Stuart Lecture.

The Doctrine Commission’s response is printed separately.

8. Sydney Synod Matters

8.1 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 propose dealing with this matter once a diocesan policy statement on education has been finalised. See item 8.11.

8.2 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 incorporated 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.

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Last year 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.

The committee has prepared its report which is printed separately together with our response.

8.3 11/05 New Capital Project and other fundraising initiatives

Last year we reported to the Synod about progress made in pursuing initiatives to fund the Mission. Since that report we agreed to appoint a fundraising committee to plan and hold fundraising campaigns in the first half of 2007. The first aim of the committee was to help to part fund the development of new church facilities for the parish of Rooty Hill in a way that encourages local giving.

We also requested that, following the addition of \$20 million to the Mission Property Fund, an appeal be launched to raise additional funds for the Fund to further meet priority Mission land and building requirements. See item 2.5.

8.4 15/05 Pastoral and practical support for clergy

By resolution 15/05, the Synod requested that we report to the 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 appointed a committee to consider and report on the matters referred to in resolution 15/05. The committee has completed its work and a report on this matter is printed separately.

8.5 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.

8.6 23/05 Anglican and Roman Catholic International Commission

By resolution 23/05, the Synod noted the release by the Anglican and Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) of *Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ (the Seattle statement)*. The Synod expressed its regret that many of the conclusions of the report are in conflict with the teaching of scripture and therefore distanced itself from the report and indicated that ARCIC does not represent or speak on behalf the Diocese of Sydney. Synod also requested that the Diocesan Doctrine Commission prepare a response to the report and that such response be made available to the Diocese for use with the statement as a basis of study and dialogue.

In response to Synod's request, the Diocesan Doctrine Commission prepared a response to the ARCIC report. This response is printed separately.

We thanked the Doctrine Commission for preparing its response and sent a copy of the response to Bishop Philip Huggins, Chairman of the General Synod Ecumenical Commission and the Rev Canon Gregory Cameron, Director of Ecumenical Affairs for the Anglican Communion.

8.7 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 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.

We received a report from the Ordinance Reform Group (previously the Policy 4 Committee) about an exposure draft for the Parish Administration Ordinance. The primary object of the draft ordinance is to bring together under a single ordinance all rules which are directly relevant to the administration of parishes in the Diocese.

The exposure draft and an explanatory report are printed separately.

8.8 15/06 National Register Canon

By resolution 15/06, the Synod requested 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

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this Diocese which constitutes sexual misconduct or child abuse. The Synod also requested that such an ordinance comply with all relevant statutes and provide a means of ensuring that persons subject to such communication are informed of its content. The request was made in view of the uncertain standing of the National Register Canon 2004 and the uncertain nature of some provisions of that Canon.

We appointed a committee which prepared an ordinance to give affect to the Synod's request.

We approved the ordinance in principle and requested that in order to achieve consistency of approach between the Canon and the ordinance, the committee consult with the Professional Standards Commission and others involved in preparing amendments to the National Register Canon 2004.

Such consultation was undertaken. During the consultation the Professional Standards Commission indicated its intention to promote to the forthcoming session of the General Synod a new National Register Canon 2007 to replace the existing canon.

We determined that any redraft of the National Register Canon should incorporate the following principles –

- Information included on any national register should be limited to information about clergy and lay persons who have been found to have engaged in child abuse or sexual abuse of an adult.
- Except for lay persons who have been refused ordination or clergy who have been refused a licence or authority because of an adverse risk assessment, information included on the register should not extend to information about clergy or laypersons in respect of whom there is an adverse risk assessment, an adverse Children's Commission background check, an adverse criminal history check or an adverse *Safe Ministry Check*.
- A notification of information on the register should be made upon completion of disciplinary proceedings arising from a written complaint alleging that a member of clergy or a layperson has engaged in child abuse or sexual abuse of an adult.
- Clergy or laypersons about whom information is notified on the register should in all circumstances be informed forthwith of the content of the information so notified.

We requested that the General Synod Standing Committee incorporate these principles into any bill for a National Register Canon 2007 being promoted to the forthcoming session of the General Synod.

The Professional Standards Commission responded to this request on behalf of the General Synod Standing Committee and provided a further draft of a proposed National Register Canon 2007.

Having considered the further draft, we indicated our preparedness to accept, in principle, the inclusion of notifiable complaints of child abuse and sexual abuse on the register provided that the draft was amended –

- to limit the circumstances in which access to the register can be obtained, and
- to make it clear that any information on the register about a candidate for election of a bishop or the Primate be disclosed to the candidate before such information is disclosed to the electing synod, nomination committee or Board of Electors, and
- to remove provisions which enable the Standing Committee of the General Synod to revise the protocol for accessing the register.

We also requested that the definitions for child abuse and sexual abuse of an adult in the draft Canon be extended to include the concept of “unchastity” as used in sections 7.4 and 7.5 of *Faithfulness in Service*.

Having considered the response of the Professional Standards Commission to these further requests, we requested that a motion be moved at the Synod to enable the Synod to express its views on the Canon. We also requested that the Pastoral Guidelines on Private Confessions (with special reference to child sexual abuse) prepared by the House of Bishops be extended to make special reference to the sexual abuse of an adult and to require a presbyter to report to the relevant Director of Professional Standards any confession of child abuse or the sexual abuse of an adult by a member of clergy or a churchworker.

8.9 26/06 Parish Development reviews

By resolution 26/06, the Synod encouraged every parish to undergo a development review utilising the terms of the Parish Development Review Ordinance 2001 within the next 5 years. The senior ministers of each parish were informed of the terms of Synod’s resolution and it was suggested that any parish that wished to initiate a review contact their regional archdeacon in the first instance.

As at 28 May 2007, there have been 3 enquiries with regional archdeacons about a review. Of these, 2 parishes have decided not to proceed with a review.

8.10 29/06 Training and recruiting teachers for Church Schools

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By resolution 29/06, the Synod –

- endorsed initiatives being taken by the Anglican Education Commission in teacher education and recruitment, and
- endorsed the reconstitution of the Anglican Education Commission as a separate body under its own ordinance to pursue these initiatives as part of a broader responsibility for advocacy, teacher recruitment and teacher education, and
- urged the Anglican Education Commission to actively train, recruit and encourage Christian teachers and specific teachers of Christian studies to minister in public schools as well as church schools, and
- requested that we pass such ordinances and take such further action as we consider necessary or desirable to implement and facilitate these matters.

In response to Synod's request, we passed the Anglican Education Commission Ordinance 2006 and the Anglican Education Commission (Transitional Provisions) Ordinance 2006. See item 4.5.

8.11 30/06 Diocesan Policy on Education

By resolution 30/06, the Synod supported the continued development of a broad based diocesan policy on education. Synod requested that we bring to its 2007 session a revised policy statement taking into account any written comments and suggestions made by Synod members.

A revised policy statement together with an explanatory report is printed separately.

8.12 36/06 Compensation for clergy

By resolution 36/06, the Synod –

- expressed a desire that members of clergy in the Diocese ought to have their medical expenses covered following workplace injury in a manner that is comparable with that afforded to employees under the NSW WorkCover legislation, and
- requested that we report to the Synod in 2007 on mechanisms by which this desire might be realised.

We received a report from the Finance Committee about this matter. We noted that none of the options set out in the report for providing clergy with cover which is comparable with that afforded under New South Wales WorkCover legislation are considered appropriate in view of the cost and other legal ramifications. However in recognition of the available statistics in relation to medical expense claims incurred by

clergy, we approved an increase in the amount prescribed under clause 10(2) of the Sydney Diocesan Sickness and Accident Ordinance 1969 from \$1,000 to \$5,000 effective 1 January 2008.

A report in response to the Synod's request is printed separately.

**8.13 Recognised Churches (Provisional Status)
Amendment Ordinance 2007**

We considered a bill for the Recognised Churches (Provisional Status) Amendment Ordinance 2007. The purpose of the bill is to provide for the recognition of the provisional status of churches.

The bill together with an explanatory report are printed separately.

**8.14 Resolutions made by the Synod in 2006 and not
mentioned in this report**

Circulars were sent to parishes and organisations about the matters arising from the 2006 Synod session. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons and organisations.

8.15 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

28 August 2007