

Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

1st Session of the 48th Synod Business Paper: Tuesday 21 October 2008

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

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

1. **Devotions will be led by the Rev Rick Lewers: see attached**
2. **Minutes of 20 October 2008**
3. **Petitions**
4. **Procedural motions from members**

4.1 **Mover and seconder for the motion concerning abortion**

Synod agrees to Canon Sandy Grant and Mrs Claire Smith moving and seconding the motion at item 6.7 on today's business paper concerning abortion in place of Dr Michelle Gajus Read.

(Canon Sandy Grant)

4.2 **Caption for the motion at item 6.10**

Synod notes that the caption for the motion at item 6.10 on today's business paper has been changed from "Bullying and grievance procedures" to "Report on procedures and sanctions for all standards in *Faithfulness in Service*".

(Mr Robert Wicks)

5. **Calling of motions on the business paper**

6. **Motions**

To be taken today from 4.30 pm

6.1 **Human rights framework for Australia**

Synod –

- (a) welcomes the proposed Federal Government consultation process on the protection of human rights in Australia, and
- (b) thanks the Social Issues Executive for the work they have undertaken in the area of human rights to date and requests that they maintain a watching brief on developments in this area, and
- (c) requests the Diocesan Doctrine Commission, in consultation with the Social Issues Executive, to prepare for the Standing Committee as a matter of priority a paper clarifying our theological understanding of human rights, and
- (d) requests the Standing Committee to engage with the Federal Government consultation process and report progress to the next session of the Synod.

(Supplementary Report page 34)

(Justice Peter Young/Mr Robert Tong)

6.2 Clergy Removals Fund Ordinance 2003 Amendment Ordinance 2008

Synod permits the introduction of the Clergy Removals Fund Ordinance 2003 Amendment Ordinance 2008.

(Supplementary Report page 5) (Mr James Flavin/Mr John Pascoe)

6.3 Cost Recoveries (Framework) Ordinance 2008

That the Cost Recoveries (Framework) Ordinance 2008 be approved in principle.

(Supplementary Report page 12) (Bishop Robert Forsyth/Mr John Pascoe)

6.4 General Synod – National Register Canon 2007 Adopting Ordinance 2008

Synod permits the introduction of the General Synod – National Register Canon 2007 Adopting Ordinance 2008.

(Page 236) (Mr Neil Cameron/Mr Philip Gerber)

To be taken today from 7.00 pm

6.5 Parish Administration Ordinance 2008

That the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.

(Page 261) (Bishop Robert Forsyth/Mr Robert Wicks)

Motions for which no particular time has been specified for consideration

6.6 Anglican chaplains

~~Synod requests the Standing Committee to investigate and report to Synod in 2009 on the best way to promote and support the work of the Anglican chaplains including the possibility of establishing a new diocesan body to oversee the ministry of Anglican chaplains on tertiary campuses including TAFEs, universities and private colleges with a view to further integrating the work of the Anglican chaplains within the Diocesan Mission and with a view to complementing the continuing work of Connect09. In view of the important contribution of tertiary chaplaincy to the Diocesan Mission, Synod appoints a committee to report to Standing Committee by March 2009 on the best way to promote and support the work of Anglican chaplains in universities and TAFEs, including the possibility of establishing a new diocesan body to oversee the appointment, funding and work of such chaplains. The report of the committee to recommend how (if appropriate) such a body would be structured and the implications for funding for the 2010-2012 funding triennium.~~

The committee to consist of –

The Rev Warwick de Jersey
The Rev Stephen Gooch
The Rev Richard Blight
Mr Andrew Frank
The Rev Stephen Semenchuk

Synod encourages the Standing Committee to ensure their investigation includes consultation with the National Director of AFES.

(Mr Andrew Frank/The Rev Stephen Semenchuk)

6.7 Abortion

Noting recent renewed debate about abortion around Australia, this Synod affirms –

- (a) pregnancy and childbirth are part of God's good plan for humankind,
- (b) pregnancy is the privilege and responsibility of both the mother and the father of the unborn person,
- (c) the sanctity of life, even of the unborn child,
- (d) supports legislative and social changes which would reduce the number of abortions in Australia, and
- (e) encourages and applauds health professionals who, for reasons of conscience, do not promote, aid or assist in ending the life of the unborn, except where the mother's life is gravely at risk,
- (f) recognises the need of those who have knowingly participated in ending the life of the unborn, especially women who have had abortions, to hear the wonderful news of forgiveness in the death and resurrection of Christ,
- (g) encourages all Christians equally to make known Jesus' love for all unborn human life and judgement of those who end it, and his offer of forgiveness for those who have done so.

Synod requests that the content of this motion be forwarded to the following persons – the Prime Minister, the Federal Opposition Leader, Senator Guy Barnett of Tasmania, the NSW Premier and Leader of the Opposition and the bishops of each of the Anglican dioceses of Australia.

(Dr Michelle Gajus Read)

6.8 Discipleship training

Synod –

- (a) noting the necessity to “make disciples” (Matthew 28:19) and the particular urgency for discipleship for the ongoing fruitfulness of our churches in regard of our Mission goal, and
- (b) noting the growing need for mature Christian workers to be available and ready as “lay” part time or as candidates for full time training, and
- (c) noting that as a result of a survey, by email, of 50 churches in our Diocese, only 3 responded positively to the question of whether there was a discipleship training facility in their church,

~~calls for discipleship training to be available and promoted~~ requests Christian Education Publications, in consultation with other organisations as appropriate, to consider the development of new discipleship material where a need is established, and to promote such materials along with any existing materials to all church members and other interested persons at all levels of spiritual maturity and age and including persons who are “transfers” and new converts.

(Mr Ian Mottram)

6.9 Alcohol abuse

Synod notes the right of adult persons to enjoy alcohol in moderation, and the legitimate enterprise of making and supplying alcohol to responsible adults.

Synod however regrets –

- (i) the increasing practice of binge drinking in society, particularly among young persons,
- (ii) the scourge on society of alcohol-fuelled violence and property damage,
- (iii) the high levels of injuries suffered by police officers while attempting to quell late night pub brawls,

- (iv) the knock-on effects of alcohol abuse which are felt by our hospitals,
- (v) the carnage on our roads often caused by speeding drunk drivers,
- (vi) the alcohol-led physical assaults on many women in their own homes, and
- (vii) the practice of specifically targeting teenagers in some advertising of alcohol campaigns, which is directly contributing to the establishment of a binge drinking culture among young people.

Synod applauds the recently reported plans for the NSW Cabinet to consider a range of drinking laws designed to address the problems brought on by alcohol abuse, and encourages our law makers to consider research which highlights the relationship between crime and extended liquor trading hours, when determining their response to community calls for an immediate cutback in licensing hours in NSW. Synod also encourages our politicians to examine other initiatives to limit the curse on society brought on by alcohol abuse.

Synod further requests the Archbishop to write to the Premier, Leader of the Opposition and Police Commissioner to encourage them to pursue this matter vigorously and to assure them of our support as they do so.

In light of this, Synod recalls the biblical teaching –

- (a) that “everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving” (1 Timothy 4:4, cf John 2:1-11, Psalm 104:15);
- (b) that drunkenness is always to be avoided (1 Cor 6:10, Eph 5:18),
- (c) that civil rulers and church leaders must take special care in any consumption of alcohol (Prov 31:4-5, 1 Tim 3:3),
- (d) that Christians should avoid causing others to stumble by what they drink (Rom 14:21).

Synod also notes section 6 of our code of conduct *Faithfulness in Service* and particularly items 6.5, 6.6 and 6.16 which relate to the consumption of alcohol.

Synod therefore encourages Christian pastors and other leaders and teachers to proclaim scriptural truths concerning the use of alcohol and to set a godly example in regards to any personal use of alcohol.

(The Rev Zac Veron/Mr Lachlan Bryant)

6.10 **Report on procedures and sanctions for all standards in *Faithfulness in Service***

Synod –

- (a) notes that the Code of Conduct for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers *Faithfulness in Service* (FIS) has been adopted by the Diocese and is applicable to all clergy and church workers,
- (b) notes that the Discipline Ordinance 2006 provides specific procedures and possible sanctions only for the FIS child abuse and sexual misconduct standards and for habitual drunkenness and failure to pay just debts,
- (c) notes that Standing Committee is considering a report on “Bullying in Parishes” (SC Report para 5.5) and is awaiting a report from the Safe Ministry Board on the adequacy of grievance procedures in the area of pastoral relationships and personal behaviour (SC Report 5.14),
- (d) requests Standing Committee to report to the 2009 Synod (with proposed draft ordinances if thought necessary) on the outcome of these two reports and the possibility of providing specific procedures and sanctions in relation to all the other standards enunciated in FIS, and

Indicative Timetable for Synod Business

References to items and motions are references to items and motions in the business paper for Tuesday 21 October 2008.

Tuesday 21 October 2008	
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4:30 – 5:45 pm	6.1 Human rights framework for Australia Announcement concerning the Freedom of Religion Project 6.2 Clergy Removals Fund Ordinance 2003 Amendment Ordinance 2008 6.3 Cost Recoveries (Framework) Ordinance 2008 6.4 General Synod – National Register Canon 2007 Adopting Ordinance 2008 Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 pm +	6.5 Parish Administration Ordinance 2008 Business as per the business paper

1st Session of the 48th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney

Bible Reading, Hymn & Prayers: 21 October 2008

Bible Reading: Romans 15:1-7

Bible Reader: The Rev Brian Tung

Bible Study Leader: The Rev Rick Lewers

¹We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.

²Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." ⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version

Talk 4 Outline: Saving People from the world of disappointment

The Brackets on the letter to the Romans – Scriptures 1:2, 15: 4-5, 16: 25-27

The Scriptures –

God's Word v4-5

Contemporary in intention v4

Christ Focused v5

Practical in Purpose v4

Foundations to Worship v5

Humanity has always been good at invading God's space with ourselves. Three types of relationships with the scriptures –

Answering disappointment the Bible offers us all we need for faith and practice –

Deliverance

Discernment

Development

Direction

Connection for Connect09

Hymn: Teach me your ways

Your way, your way,
is rest for the weary,
freedom for the prisoner.
Your way, your way
is feeding those who hunger,
carrying those who stumble.
And your way was to seek and save the lost.
To bear the sins of the world,
'Til death upon a cross.

Teach me your ways,
I want to walk in truth and righteousness,
teach me your ways,
let your word speak to my heart,
teach me your ways,
and lead me into truth,
until you come again,
teach me your ways

Your way, your way,
is thunder in the desert,
shelter in the tempest.
Your way, your way,
is praying "Father forgive them,
for they know not what they do"
and your way was to seek and save the lost.
To bear the sins of the world,
till death upon a cross.

Teach me your ways,
I want to walk in truth and righteousness,
teach me your ways,
let your word speak to my heart,
teach me your ways,
and lead me into truth,
until you come again,
teach me your ways
(repeat)

Words and music: Chris Griffiths © 1996 Yes! Ministries

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Prayer: Dr Philip Selden

The Mission Prayer

Our Gracious God, help us to proclaim our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, so that everyone around us will hear his call to repent, trust him, serve him in love and be established in the fellowship of his disciples while we await his return.

Strengthen us to pray, to depend on your Holy Spirit and to glorify you.

Amen.