

# Synod of the Diocese of Sydney – 2010 Resolutions

## 11 October 2010

### 1/10 **Gambling in Australia**

Synod notes the Productivity Commission's report into gambling which notes that –

- (i) there are between 80,000 – 160,000 problem gamblers in Australia, along with another 230,000 – 350,000 vulnerable to problem gambling;
- (ii) poker machine users are disproportionately represented among the ranks of Australia's problem gamblers;
- (iii) 41% of the \$11.9 billion that Australians lose on poker machines comes from problem gamblers; and
- (iv) the public benefits and jobs creation, which the registered clubs claim to offer through their gambling profits, are highly questionable.

Therefore Synod endorses efforts being proposed in Australia's Federal Parliament to reduce the impact and incidence of problem gambling, for example, by the introduction of a compulsory pre-commitment system for poker machine use.

More broadly, Synod calls on the NSW Government to reduce its reliance on taxation on gambling and asks all political parties to refuse donations from organisations which gain revenue from gambling.

(Canon Sandy Grant 11/10/2010)

### 2/10 **Towards 2050**

Synod, noting that by the year 2050 projected population studies anticipate that Australia's population will exceed 40 million people and that the proportion of the population from non-Anglo-Celt background will be even more significant than is now the case –

- (a) requests the Standing Committee to explore, and report back to Synod next year, as to how our Church might meet this significant change (both in population numbers and population mix) in terms of its impact on our mission to the people of our Diocese and on the face and fabric of our Church, and
- (b) without limiting the matters to be considered, requests that the examination include the name or names that our Church may use as we present our mission objectives across the Diocese and the "logos" of our Church.

(The Rev Steve Abbott 11/10/2010)

### 3/10 **Glebe Board charter**

Synod requests the Standing Committee to produce a detailed report for the 2011 session of Synod regarding the operational application of the charter supplied to the GAB for its management of the Diocesan Endowment – as directed in the Glebe Administration Ordinance 1930 (section 2) and subsequent amending ordinances.

The report to include (but not be limited to) the following areas –

1. The formula(s) actually applied and actions taken to 'preserve the real value of the DE' in each year from 1975 to 2009.
2. The formula(s) and decisions applied in determining what constitutes 'a reasonable income from the DE' and how this was calculated in each year (or applicable budget triennium) from 1975 to 2009.
3. The weighting and/or priority order applied to each of the two principles in each year from 1975 to 2009 and reasons as to why such a weighting and/or priority order was applied in each case.
4. An examination of the ongoing appropriateness of both guiding principles for the future management of the DE including recommendations as to –
  - (a) future application of 'preserving the real value',
  - (b) future application of 'providing a reasonable income',
  - (c) future interaction (weighting and/or priority order) of the two principles in determining each future budget of Synod, and

- (d) any additional principle statements that might be added to the two present guiding principles for GAB management of the DE.

(The Rev Michael Williamson 11/10/2010)

#### 4/10 **King James Version of the Bible**

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the impact of the King James Version of the Bible on English speaking peoples over the past four centuries;
- (b) recognises that in 2011 the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible provides an opportunity to celebrate the profound contribution which that translation has made to shaping the life, language and culture of Australia and other nations;
- (c) commends the King James Version and other faithful translations of the Bible for personal and public instruction, affirming the importance of continuing biblical translation, scholarship and teaching;
- (d) notes with enthusiasm the events throughout 2011 organised by the Bible Society in Australia and the 2011 Trust in the United Kingdom;
- (e) requests that parishes and all Anglicans support the celebrations of the King James Version of the Bible and undertake local initiatives, where possible, to promote and teach the Bible both within the Church and throughout the Australian community.

(Bishop Glenn Davies 11/10/2010)

#### 5/10 **South Creek: Reclassification as a Parish**

Synod assents to the reclassification of South Creek as a parish with effect from 1 January 2011.

(The Rev Jonathan Squire 11/10/2010)

## **12 October 2010**

### **6/10 Resignation of Mr Steve McKerihan**

Synod notes with great sadness and regret the resignation of Mr Steve McKerihan as the Chief Executive Officer of the Glebe Administration Board and the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat and gives thanks to God for his overtly Christian leadership of those organisations from 2007 to 2010. It is appreciated that Steve led these organisations during a time of extreme difficulty arising out of the Global Financial Crisis and through all this he sought to honour God and the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in all he did. His humble determination and strength of character will be greatly missed.

Synod thanks God for Steve's fellowship in the Gospel and prays for a complete recovery for him from his illness. We particularly wish him and his wife Margaret God's richest blessings.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett 12/10/2010)

### **7/10 Work of Archbishop's Strategic Commission on Structure, Funding and Governance**

Synod expresses its thanks to the Archbishop for establishing the Archbishop's Strategic Commission on Structure, Funding and Governance (the Commission) and –

- (a) noting the ongoing work of the Commission in bringing recommendations to the Archbishop and the Standing Committee about ensuring the sustainability of the Endowment of the See and changes that need to be made to the operation and inter-dependence of diocesan bodies to ensure that the essential work and services of the Diocese are maintained while living within our means, and
- (b) noting that the Standing Committee has endorsed the general direction proposed by the Commission in an interim report provided to the Archbishop and Standing Committee and requested that the Commission progress its work with relevant diocesan agencies,

requests that –

- (i) Synod members be afforded the opportunity to provide comments to the Commission by 31 December 2010, and
- (ii) the Standing Committee provide a report to the Synod in 2011 about the steps that have or still need to be taken to ensure that diocesan finances are placed on a sustainable footing and the implications such steps will have on the funding of diocesan infrastructure and activities in 2012 and beyond.

(Mr Peter Kell 12/10/2010)

### **8/10 Connect09**

Synod, noting the report on the lessons learned from the Connect09 campaign prepared by the Connect09 Management Committee, endorses the recommendations for action in the report arising from the experience of the campaign.

(The Rev Andrew Nixon 12/10/2010)

### **9/10 Special Religious Education (SRE)**

Synod –

- (a) affirms its long-standing and firm support of free, secular and compulsory public education and regards as a matter of justice that every child in New South Wales should have access to education of an excellent standard,
- (b) in recognition that an understanding of religion, as a significant human activity, should be part of the education of the whole person, gives thanks for the existence of Special Religious Education (SRE) in New South Wales public schools which brings thousands of volunteers into such schools each week in a way that enriches education and represents a key interface between schools and their communities,
- (c) welcomes the recent statements from both the Minister for Education, the Hon Verity Firth, and the Shadow Minister for Education, Mr Adrian Piccoli MP, affirming the fundamental place of SRE in New South Wales public schools and committing the Government and Opposition respectively to the continuation of SRE in the curriculum offering of such schools,
- (d) affirms existing Departmental Policy concerning SRE which –

- (i) allows parents to exercise the right on behalf of their children to opt-out of SRE,
  - (ii) requires schools to support SRE by ensuring that no formal lessons or scheduled school activities occur during time set aside for SRE to avoid creating conflict of choice for some parents and some students attending SRE, and
  - (iii) requires students who do opt-out of SRE to receive appropriate care and supervision which may involve students in other activities such as homework, reading and private study,
- (e) expresses concern that many schools do not adhere to SRE Departmental Policy and calls on the Minister to ensure that Departmental Policy in this area is adhered to by all schools,
- (f) notes the recently concluded trial of 'ethics lessons' comprising 10 half-hour lessons conducted over 10 weeks in 10 Government primary schools to students in grades 5 and 6 by the St James Ethics Centre on behalf of the Federation of Parents and Citizens Association of NSW,
- (g) commends the Minister's selection of an academic from Adelaide, Dr Sue Knight, to conduct an external evaluation of the quality of learning in ethical decision-making by students who participated in the trial and expresses its gratitude for the opportunity afforded to this Diocese and other SRE providers to make submissions to Dr Knight on the operation of the trial and the evaluation of it,
- (h) reiterates the view expressed in the submission from this Diocese that, for the reasons set out in the submission, the trial cannot provide a sound basis for concluding that –
- (i) the status quo concerning SRE should be changed, and
  - (ii) the 'ethics lessons' as proposed should be made generally available in Government primary schools across the State on an on-going basis, and
- (i) calls on the Minister to decide against extending the teaching of 'ethics lessons' in Government primary schools.

(Dr Bryan Cowling 12/10/2010)

## **13 October 2010**

### **10/10 Conferral of Lambeth Doctorate on the Rev Dr John Harris**

Synod, noting that the Archbishop of Canterbury, by the powers invested in him by the Reformation Parliament's 1533 Ecclesiastical Licences Act, has conferred on the Rev Dr John Harris, the Lambeth degree of Doctor of Divinity, in recognition of his 'outstanding contribution as a Bible scholar and translator', his 'advocacy on behalf of Aboriginal Australians,' and his 'unstinting endeavours to raise awareness of indigenous issues within the church and the wider Australian community',

- (a) congratulates Dr Harris on this exceptional honour conferred on him, and only four others who have worked in the Australian Church;
- (b) gives thanks for the labours and devotion which justify this honour, especially his monumental histories of the encounter between the Christian faith and Aboriginal people and his participation in the translation of the Scriptures into Aboriginal languages;
- (c) acknowledges the faithful ministry which he and his wife, Judy, and his parents Len and Margarita Harris, have made through many decades to our Indigenous people through CMS, Zadok, the Bible Society and other organisations, and
- (d) joins its prayers with his for the temporal and eternal wellbeing and happiness of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters.

(Dr Stuart Piggin 13/10/2010)

### **11/10 General Synod Financial Statements**

Synod notes that the annual financial statements of the General Synod and its related bodies are not usually provided to each Australian diocese.

Synod asks the Diocesan Secretary to write to the General Synod Standing Committee to request that copies of the audited financial statements of the following bodies be sent to each Australian diocese each year, or alternatively made available on the General Synod web site, within 28 days of the signing of the audit report –

- (a) General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia (incorporating the Trust Fund, the Statutory Fund, the Special Fund, the Indigenous Endowment Fund, the Reserve Fund and any other fund established by the General Synod Standing Committee);
- (b) The Anglican Church of Australia Long Service Leave Fund;
- (c) Anglican Long Service Leave Fund Limited;
- (d) Broughton Publishing Pty Limited;
- (e) The Broughton Publishing Trust;
- (f) Defence Force Board of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia;
- (g) any other body under the ultimate control of the General Synod where the General Synod Standing Committee considers it appropriate to make the financial statements available.

(Mr Doug Marr 13/10/2010)

### **12/10 General Synod Assessments**

Synod notes with concern the following financial decisions of the recent General Synod and the General Synod Standing Committee –

- (a) the 23% increase in the rate of Statutory Fund assessment between the 2010 and 2011 financial years;
- (b) the allocation of substantial funds in 2011, with expected similar allocations in future years, to cover the costs of the Episcopal Standards Commission investigations concerning the Bishop of Ballarat and the Bishop of The Murray without any requirement that the dioceses concerned pay any of the costs involved except as part of the normal General Synod assessment process;
- (c) implementation of changes in policy on the use of General Synod reserves without the issues being discussed by the General Synod;

- (d) the transfer of all royalties and profits from sales of liturgical texts to a separate company (Broughton Publishing Pty Limited) even though the costs associated with producing these texts are fully funded from the Statutory Fund;
- (e) the use of surpluses generated by the administration of the Long Service Leave Fund and surpluses from Telstra commissions to pay for the Primate's Assistant and to offset payments from the Special Fund rather than use these surpluses to reduce Statutory Fund assessments;
- (f) the changed arrangement whereby grants to various Australian and international bodies from the Special Fund are no longer fully covered by Special Fund assessments but instead other financial resources of the General Synod are used for these purposes.

Synod asks the Sydney Standing Committee to enter into urgent consultation with the General Synod Standing Committee to negotiate a more equitable financial outcome for the dioceses of the Australian Church.

Synod further asks the Sydney Standing Committee to consider whether it should report on these matters to the 2011 session of Synod before arranging for payments to the General Synod in 2011.

(Mr Doug Marr 13/10/2010)

### 13/10 Mental health

Synod, mindful that we are rooted and established in the love of Christ (Eph 3.17) carrying each other's burdens (Gal 6:2) and doing good to all people (Gal 6:10) expresses concern for the plight of those who experience mental illness, which affects 1 in 5 Australians. Therefore Synod –

- (a) recognises that mental health illness adversely impacts family and relationships and makes people vulnerable and socially excluded,
- (b) notes that, both within our churches and the wider community, the issues which accompany mental illness can present significant barriers to hearing the gospel and enjoying Christian fellowship,
- (c) encourages our churches to provide outreach with loving care and support to people experiencing mental illness,
- (d) urges our churches to further develop partnerships and links with Anglicare to provide support to people with complex mental health issues with services such as –
  - mental health chaplaincy training and clinical pastoral care training,
  - relationship and individual counselling programs
  - intensive case management services such as the PHAMS program
  - respite services such as the Haven Project
  - youth outreach,
- (e) requests that the diocesan leadership and relevant Anglican organisations more broadly develop an advocacy campaign for government and the wider community to break down the barriers to inclusion for people experiencing mental health issues.

(Mr Peter Kell 13/10/2010)

### 14/10 Scepticism with respect to the gospel

That this Synod –

1. recognises –
  - (a) that in our society a profound scepticism exists with respect to the gospel and the fundamentals upon which it rests, and
  - (b) that this scepticism entails, among other things, matters of an historical, scientific, philosophical and moral nature and commitment to other beliefs, and
2. requests Standing Committee –
  - (a) to appoint a committee to consider theological perspectives on the issue and to investigate resources and consider strategies likely to assist parishes, Anglican organisations and individuals in the Diocese in the proclamation of the gospel in this atmosphere of scepticism and
  - (b) to bring a report on the findings and reflections of this committee to the next session of Synod.

(Dr Barry Newman 13/10/2010)

#### 15/10 Regulation of Holy Matrimony

This Synod requests the Standing Committee to bring to the first session of the next Synod either –

- (a) an ordinance which would repeal the Holy Matrimony Canon 1981 and an ordinance or regulations that would then govern the solemnization of holy matrimony in the Diocese of Sydney, or
- (b) any viable alternative to produce the same result.

(Bishop Glenn Davies 13/10/2010)

#### 16/10 Appellate Tribunal opinion on administration of Holy Communion by persons other than a presbyter

That this Synod –

- (a) notes the advisory opinion of the Appellate Tribunal given in relation to questions posed by Dr Muriel Porter and 25 members of the General Synod, and
- (b) affirms resolution 27/08 of this Synod, specifically the two statements, where Synod –
  - (i) affirms again its conviction that lay and diaconal administration of the Lord's Supper is consistent with the teaching of Scripture, and
  - (ii) affirms that the Lord's Supper in this diocese may be administered by persons other than presbyters.

(Bishop Glenn Davies 13/10/2010)

#### 17/10 The Lord's Supper in Human Hands Epilogue

Synod asks the Diocesan Secretary, upon the agreement of the Standing Committee, to forward to all members of the 2010 General Synod, a copy of its resolution concerning the Appellate Tribunal opinion on administration of Holy Communion by persons other than a presbyter and a copy of *The Lord's Supper in Human Hands Epilogue*.

(Mr Robert Tong 13/10/2010)

## **18 October 2010**

### **18/10 Affirming Biblical marriage**

Synod welcomes and endorses the affirmation of the recent General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia that marriage is the life long union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, as taught by God in Scripture, and calls on all levels of government to maintain and protect this definition of marriage for the good of society.

(Dr Claire Smith 18/10/2010)

### **19/10 Anglican Communion Covenant**

Synod notes that General Synod 2010 received the text of the Anglican Communion Covenant and resolved to request the synods of all dioceses to consider the question of the Anglican Church of Australia adopting the Covenant by resolution and report the results of their consideration to the General Synod Standing Committee by December 2012. Synod asks Standing Committee to take any necessary steps to enable synod to consider the question at the 2011 session of Sydney Synod.

(Mr Robert Tong 18/10/2010)

### **20/10 Mr Warwick Olson AM**

Synod notes that this is Warwick Olson's last session of Synod and wishes to record its thanks for Warwick's 50 years of service to this Diocese.

Synod notes that Warwick has been a member of Synod since 1961; during the episcopate of Archbishop Loane was variously editor of Southern Cross, Director of the Archbishop's Appeals and media officer for the Archbishop, the Diocese as well as General Synod; and was heavily involved in the organisation of the 1968 and 1979 Billy Graham Crusades.

Warwick served as a member of Standing Committee for over 30 years to 2005, and as a member of the Glebe Board and Sydney Diocesan Secretariat for over 25 years to 2009.

Warwick was actively involved internationally, notably as a member of the Board of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association for 34 years, including 15 years as Chairman, as full-time Director of Communications of the Lausanne Congress on Evangelization, as well two years as Vice President in charge of Communications for World Vision International based in the US.

Synod thanks God for such loyal, distinguished and selfless service to the work of His church in the Sydney Diocese and throughout the world and wishes Warwick and Maureen God's richest blessings as they serve in the parish of St Paul's Carlingford and particularly at a church plant at Baulkham Hills North.

(Dr Stephen Judd 18/10/2010)

### **21/10 The Rev Maureen Cripps**

Synod gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of the Rev Maureen Cripps who died last month on 4 September 2010 at the age of 75 from the debilitating effects of Motor Neurone Disease. Throughout this illness Maureen's commitment to the Lord Jesus was clear to all. Her confidence in Christ was clear evidence of her belief in the resurrection of believers to eternal life.

This year Maureen celebrated the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of becoming a Deaconess and the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of being ordained as a Deacon. Her ministry responsibilities included 8 years as a Deaconess in the parishes of Penrith, Yagoona, Lithgow and Lurnea. From 1971-1973 she served as the Deaconess in Charge of the parish of Ashford, Delungra and Tingha in the Armidale Diocese. She then served on the staff of Deaconess House as the Assistant Principal 1974-5, before resuming parish ministry for another 13 years as a Deaconess at Penshurst, and then at Sadlier where she was the Assistant Minister for 2 years.

Maureen was appointed by Archbishop Goodhew to a position in the Diocese that was the precursor to the position of the "Archdeacon for Women's Ministry". When she retired from stipendiary ministry, she was appointed as the Chaplain to the Mothers' Union a position she held for 6 years. In her retirement Maureen also ministered in the capacity of a locum minister in this diocese.

People had a profound respect for Maureen. She was a devoted servant of Christ and a dedicated leader of women in ministry. Her humour, hard work and good sense made her an effective minister of the Gospel. Maureen expressed her love for Christ by serving others in his Name. In the last stage of her life she displayed the same courage, faithfulness, determination, and good humour that were characteristic of her throughout her ministry.

(The Rev Trevor Young 18/10/2010)

#### **22/10 Christchurch New Zealand Earthquake**

Synod thanks God that there was no loss of human life during the powerful earthquake that hit the area of Christchurch New Zealand on 4 September 2010, and continues to pray that God will provide for the individuals and businesses that have suffered great loss. In particular, Synod prays for the staff and members of St John's Latimer Square as they meet in alternative locations over at least the next couple of years due to extensive damage to their church building and hall, asking God to grant them trust and patience in Christ and the resources they need to rebuild.

(Bishop Ivan Lee 18/10/2010)

#### **23/10 The Jerusalem Declaration**

Synod welcomes the 2010 General Synod's resolution –

“That General Synod notes the publication of the Jerusalem Declaration and acknowledges the particular context in which it has arisen. The General Synod encourages its study by dioceses and parishes in this Church to assist our understanding of some of the current issues facing the Anglican Communion.”

Synod therefore reaffirms its commitment to such study of the Jerusalem Declaration.

(The Rev Gavin Poole 18/10/2010)

#### **24/10 Fair trade with producers in developing countries**

This Synod –

- (a) acknowledges that Christian love includes paying a fair price for our neighbour's labour and produce,
- (b) notes that organisations such as Fair Trade and Rainforest Alliance seek to give a better return in profits and working conditions to primary producers in developing countries, and
- (c) asks Standing Committee to develop and implement a policy to encourage diocesan organisations and parishes to serve tea, coffee, chocolate and such consumables certified by Fair Trade or similar organisations, as the preferred option.

(The Rev Michael Robinson 18/10/2010)

#### **25/10 Printing of Synod proceedings in Diocesan Yearbook**

Synod requests the Standing Committee to have the Proceedings of Synod for each year printed in the Diocesan Yearbook, or as some alternative form of hard copy, and to set aside sufficient funds annually to make this possible.

Synod also requests the Standing Committee –

- (a) to print the Proceedings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 48<sup>th</sup> Synod (2009) together with the Proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the 48<sup>th</sup> Synod (2010), and
- (b) if thought fit, to examine other ways of funding such annual printing.

(Mr Donald McPhail 18/10/2010)

#### **26/10 Environmental initiatives in the Diocese**

Synod –

- (a) thanks the Standing Committee for its report on environmental initiatives being taken by parishes and diocesan organisations,
- (b) congratulates those parishes and organisations which have taken significant initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint (and notes that some parishes are aiming to go carbon neutral),
- (c) notes that a number of parishes have installed solar panels to generate electricity back to grid,
- (d) notes that there are good reasons for installing solar panels on the roofs of our non-heritage listed buildings, namely –
  - (i) it is a way of being good stewards of our environment,
  - (ii) it is a way we can easily lead (not follow) public opinion, and
  - (iii) at the moment there is a window of opportunity where it is likely to be a significant financial advantage,
- (e) noting the rapid rate in which government policy in this area is changing, asks the Property Trust as a matter of priority to provide an accessible guide for parishes on how they easily sign up to participate in government schemes to encourage renewable energy (indicating several options showing costs now and financial returns later), and
- (f) asks the Finance and Loans Board to work with the Property Trust and to develop some guidelines to facilitate parishes installing solar panels.

(The Rev Dominic Steele 18/10/2010)

#### **27/10 Special Religious Education**

Synod requests that the report “Trial of Ethics Lessons” dated 30 July 2010 be sent electronically to every rector, where possible, and that it be distributed to and discussed at parish councils and where practical distributed electronically to members of parishes.

(The Rev Nigel Fortescue 18/10/2010)

#### **28/10 Policy concerning divorced persons and ordination**

Synod respectfully requests the Archbishop to inform the Synod as to the biblical grounds for the policy in this Diocese, that divorced persons and those married to a divorced person are not ordained in the Diocese of Sydney, along with any other considerations relevant to this policy.

(The Rev Robert Cameron 18/10/2010)

#### **29/10 The Rev Andrew Nixon and the Year 13 program**

Synod gives thanks to God for the blessings that have flowed from the Connect09 ministries and initiatives, and for the leadership of Connect09’s Executive Director, the Rev Andrew Nixon, over the last three years.

Synod also congratulates the Rev Andrew Nixon on his appointment as Director of Youthworks’ Year 13 program, commencing in January 2011, following Synod’s provision for the Year 13 program to be expanded, and assures him of our prayers and support.

Synod also welcomes the aim expressed in the Archbishop’s Presidential Address on Monday 11 October 2010 and encourages all Anglican school leavers to consider doing Year 13, to build upon our Diocese’s rich tradition of large numbers of mature and well-trained lay men and women who are true partners in the gospel.

(The Rev Zac Veron 18/10/2010)

#### **30/10 General Synod’s resolution concerning alcohol abuse**

This Synod welcomes the General Synod’s recent resolution on alcohol abuse which –

- (a) notes the right of adult persons to enjoy alcohol in moderation,
- (b) expresses regret for the damaging consequences of our nation’s drinking culture,
- (c) encourages all Christian leaders and teachers to proclaim scriptural truths concerning the use of alcohol and to set a godly example in regard to any personal use of alcohol,

- (d) requests the NSW Government to consider research highlighting the relationship between crime and extended liquor trading hours, and the experience of police, paramedics and hospital staff who daily face the consequences of this problem,
- (e) calls on the NSW State Government to implement drinking laws to address the problem of alcohol abuse, and to redouble its efforts to engage debate and support for a New Moderation in how families and the community consume and abuse alcohol, and
- (f) requests the Archbishop to write to the Premier and Leader of the Opposition outlining this Synod's request for firmer action to facilitate a legal and community change in our drinking culture.

(The Rev Zac Veron 18/10/2010)

#### **31/10 Survey about alternate ministry review mechanism**

Synod notes the pending publication of a web-based survey of parish rectors, seeking their advice about alternate ministry review mechanisms available to ministers and parishes. Synod encourages all rectors to participate in order to aid greater understanding of the resources available to encourage a culture of review within our Diocese.

(Canon Sandy Grant 18/10/2010)

#### **32/10 Lausanne Conference on World Evangelism**

Synod, particularly in light of the Diocesan Mission –

- (a) praises God for the desire to take the gospel to the ends of the earth and make disciples of all nations that has led to the organisation of the Third Lausanne Conference on World Evangelism being held in Capetown from 16 to 23 October 2010, and
- (b) prays that the conference would be an agent for encouraging and equipping the church around the world to clearly and faithfully proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Canon Mark Williamson 18/10/2010)

#### **33/10 Late-term abortions**

Synod –

- (a) expresses its grief at recent media reports concerning the practice of late-term abortions,
- (b) opposes any changes to current legislation in New South Wales that might extend or promote or decriminalize the practice of abortion,
- (c) affirms that all human life is a precious blessing given by God, that bears his image and accordingly should enjoy the dignity and protection of a just society.

(The Rev Robin Kinstead 18/10/2010)

#### **34/10 Mrs Judith Long**

This Synod gives thanks to God for the recent appointment of Mrs Judith Long as the new Principal of Nungalinga College in Darwin and assures the College of its prayers and good wishes as it continues the important work of training indigenous people for Christian ministry.

(Dr Karin Sowada 18/10/2010)

#### **35/10 Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid**

Synod, noting the launch of the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid –

1. Gives thanks for the work of the Archbishop of Sydney's Appeals Unit and the generosity of God's people over many years.
2. Commends the ministry of the Anglican Aid and its funds, the Archbishop's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund (ORAF), the Archbishop's Overseas Ministry Fund (OMF) and the Archbishop's Community Care Fund (CCF) to the people and parishes of the Diocese of Sydney and beyond.

3. Encourages the parishes and people of the Diocese to consider the strategic importance of the ministry of Anglican Aid and to pray for and give generously to our Christian partners through Anglican Aid.
4. Extends to the Archbishop, the Board and the staff of Anglican Aid an assurance of its prayerful support for an ever expanding ministry that brings glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and the blessing of the Gospel to many people throughout the world and in our own back yard.

(The Rev Peter Rodgers 18/10/2010)

## 19 October 2010

### 36/10 Mr Charles Metcalfe

This Synod thanks Mr Charles Metcalfe, known affectionately to the mover and many others as Mr Med, for his nearly 60 years as a Synod representative, and wishes him the best as he tries to find another way to spend his evenings in future Octobers.

(The Rev Stephen Miller 19/10/2010)

### 37/10 Parish assessment towards the funding needs of the Endowment of the See

Synod –

- (a) asks the Endowment of the See and the Archbishop's Commission to look at ways of realizing part or all of the Endowment of the See's interest in SAHC as contemplated by the Property Trust's report or any other source of funds,
- (b) and in the event that the actions contemplated under (a) are not by 1/1/11 reasonably expected to inject adequate and long term cash into the EOS while maintaining the real value of the investment when completed, then –
  - (i) approves an assessment on parishes at a rate of 1.14% for the purposes of contributing to the EOS funding needs during 2011 only, and
  - (ii) requests that the EOS bring to Synod in 2011 a report on the future requirements and roles of the Archbishop's staff and a 5 year budget of projected costs, and
- (c) requires Standing Committee to report to the Synod in 2011 about the options that exist to place the EOS on a financially sustainable footing, together with a recommendation. This report should be prepared in consultation with the Endowment of the See, the Archbishop's Commission and the Anglican Church Property Trust.

(The Rev Craig Roberts 19/10/2010)

### 38/10 Euthanasia

This Synod, in response to the Greens' notice of motion to introduce into the NSW Parliament a Bill to legalise voluntary euthanasia and the Greens' Bill in Federal Parliament to overturn Commonwealth prohibitions against euthanasia legislation in the Territories –

1. notes that when adequate palliative care, symptom control and psychosocial support is available and accessible, only a tiny minority of those accessing such support express a preference for euthanasia,
2. observes that the outcome of legalised voluntary euthanasia will include the insertion of mistrust into patient-carer and patient-relative relationships, a creeping expansion of candidates for euthanasia, and reduced funding for terminal care;
3. notes that recent reports of community support for euthanasia fail adequately to distinguish the deliberate killing of people from the morally acceptable practice of not prolonging life with burdensome treatment, and
4. notes that most supporters for euthanasia are young and healthy, but that euthanasia legislation is not well supported among people with disability and by people who are old, infirm or vulnerable.

Accordingly, this Synod –

- (a) reaffirms that all human life is precious in God's sight, and that the Bible's clear prohibition of killing innocent humans has the positive effect of creating communities that love and care for others at their weakest and most vulnerable;
- (b) reiterates its opposition to voluntary euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide;
- (c) calls upon the Premier and the Prime Minister to oppose these initiatives;
- (d) calls on the NSW State and Federal parliamentarians to oppose these initiatives, and to inform themselves of the alternatives to euthanasia and of its negative consequences in jurisdictions that have adopted it; and
- (e) calls on these governments to increase funding to pain management and palliative care services.

(Dr Karin Sowada 19/10/2010)

#### 39/10 **Billboard advertising campaign for euthanasia**

Synod –

- (a) requests the Diocesan Secretary to write to Billboards Australia and the Advertising Standards Bureau informing them of our concerns that claims made in the Exit International billboard advertising campaign are based on misleading polling, and that an informed debate about euthanasia is not helped by such marketing methods, and asking them to reconsider their decision to allow the advertisement, and
- (b) encourages Synod members to do the same.

(The Rev Nigel Fortescue 19/10/2010)

#### 40/10 **Implementation of the Grievance Policy and Procedure**

Synod –

- (a) determines that the Grievance policy and procedure is to commence on 1 July 2011, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to approve up to 15 persons as the initial pool of regional conciliators for the purposes of the policy and procedure, being persons who have demonstrated competence in conflict resolution and conciliation or who have the capacity and willingness to acquire such competence, and
- (c) requests the Safe Ministry Board to oversee appropriate training and education in relation to the policy and procedure, and
- (d) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the procedure which are consistent with the terms of the policy, and
- (e) requests the Standing Committee to undertake a review of the policy and procedure after a period of 3 years from its commencement on 1 July 2011, and
- (f) requests that the parish risk management program address issues of abusive behaviour in the parish context, with a particular focus on responsibilities for providing a safe work place for parish staff.

(Canon Sandy Grant 19/10/2010)

#### 41/10 **Amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917**

Synod, noting the explanatory report about the proposed amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917 –

- (a) endorses the promotion to the New South Wales Parliament of the amendments proposed to be made by the insertion into the Act of new sections 6AA (in such amended form as will limit the exclusion to the term of office of the Archbishop who gives assent to the ordinance), 10A and 11A, and
- (b) requests that any proposal to seek further amendments to the Act to address the concerns which prompted the drafting of the new section 48 of the Act be brought to the Synod for approval before being promoted to the New South Wales Parliament, and

requests that the Diocesan Secretary circulate to the Bishops of the Anglican Dioceses in the State of New South Wales the proposed amendments referred to in paragraph (a) for their comment with the request that any comment be provided within a period of six (6) calendar months from the date of circulation and that the promotion of these amendments to the Attorney-General be deferred until the 6 month period has elapsed.

(Mr Robert Tong 19/10/2010)

#### 42/10 **Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee**

Synod –

- (a) notes the report of the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (TEMOC) (at pages 184 to 191 of the Standing Committee report to Synod) and thanks the committee for its initial work,
- (b) endorses the vision to grow Bible-based ministries on each University and VET (Vocational Education and Training) campus in the diocese that are –
  - (i) evangelistic
  - (ii) preparing students for a lifetime of Christian service, and

- (iii) particularly concerned to raise up future generations of vocational Christian ministers,
- (c) commits to ongoing financial support of TEMOC within the constraints of the Diocesan budget,
- (d) notes the financial challenges in establishing and supporting such ministries and that the initial policy of the committee to focus on growing new ministries is likely to have a negative financial impact on established University chaplaincies,
- (e) urges parishes and individuals to generously support Tertiary ministries, and
- (f) encourages parishes and Mission Area Teams to initiate and support such ministries on local VET campuses in consultation with TEMOC.

(The Rev Richard Blight 19/10/2010)

#### **43/10 Diocesan Corporate Governance**

Synod, noting the report on Diocesan Corporate Governance and the draft Diocesan Corporate Governance Policy attached to the report –

- (a) refers the draft policy to the Standing Committee to be revised in a manner which reflects the in-principle decisions made by the Synod in 2010 concerning the draft policy, and
- (b) requests that a copy of the revised form of draft policy together with any explanatory report be sent to each member of the Synod and to the board of each diocesan organisation for comments back to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 March 2011 (or such later time as the Diocesan Secretary permits), and
- (c) requests that a further revised form of the policy be brought back to the Synod in 2011 incorporating, as appropriate, comments made by Synod members and the boards of diocesan organisations, and the work of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission on Structure, Funding and Governance, and
- (d) requests that draft guidelines on the role and functioning of boards of diocesan organisations also be brought to the Synod in 2011.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett 19/10/2010)