

Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

1st Session of the 49th Synod Business Paper: Tuesday 18 October 2011

(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 Canon Rick Smith

2. Minutes of 17 October 2011

3. Petitions

4. Procedural motions from members

4.1 Solemnisation of Marriage Ordinance 2011

Synod –

- (a) agrees to substitute the form of bill for the Solemnisation of Marriage Ordinance 2011 currently before the Synod with the form of bill attached to today's business paper, and
- (b) suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent this.

(Bishop Glenn Davies)

4.2 Recommittal of vote in relation to deferral of Relinquishment Ordinance

Synod –

- (a) agrees to recommit the vote taken yesterday on the motion at item 7.5 on yesterday's business paper (Deferral of Relinquishment of Holy Orders (Exclusion and Reinstatement) Ordinance 2011) as a vote to be conducted by ballot immediately before the resumption of debate of the matter at item 6.4 on today's business paper, and
- (b) suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.

(Mr Bruce York)

4.3 Civil partnership involving the Dean of Leighlin Cathedral

Mr Roger Gallagher will seek leave to add the following motion as a new item 6.15 on today's business paper –

“Synod notes with concern the July civil partnership between the Dean of Leighlin Cathedral, the Very Reverend Tom Gordon, and his homosexual partner, and

- (a) urges the Church of Ireland to uphold the Bible's teaching on sexuality, namely faithfulness within lifelong heterosexual marriage and chastity outside of it, and adhere to Lambeth Resolution 1.10 (1998) that 'homosexual practice is incompatible with Scripture';

- (b) extends our prayers and support to those churches and members of the Church of Ireland who uphold the teaching of Scripture on sexuality.

(Mr Roger Gallagher)”

4.4 **General Synod Assessments and Consultation**

Synod suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent the immediate reconsideration of the motion passed last evening at item 7.11 on yesterday’s business paper – General Synod Assessments and Consultation – for the purposes only of considering the following amendment –

‘Insert new paragraphs (a) and (b) as follows (with subsequent relettering of the existing paragraphs) –

- “(a) encourages prayer for a just, equitable and harmonious resolution of this issue; and
- (b) encourages the Archbishop and other representatives of this Diocese to continue dialogue with representatives of the General Synod; and”

(The Rev Nigel Fortescue)

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

6. **Motions**

To be taken today immediately after the formal matters

6.1 **Unfilled vacancies on regional councils**

Synod, pursuant to clause 7.2(4)(b) of the Schedule to the Synod Elections Ordinance 2000, determines that any vacancy in the office of member of a regional council which is not filled at or during the first ordinary session of Synod may be filled by resolution of the regional council as if the vacancy were a casual vacancy occurring under clause 5(1) of the Regions Ordinance 1995.

(Mr Robert Wicks/Mr Peter Young)

6.2 **Wollondilly: Reclassification as a Parish**

Synod assents to the reclassification of Wollondilly as a parish with effect from 1 January 2012.

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(The Rev Kevin Flanagan/Mr Tony Willis)

6.3 **Malabar: Reclassification as a Parish**

Synod assents to the reclassification of Malabar as a parish with effect from 1 January 2012.

(Supplementary Report page 20)

(Mr Greg Bergan/The Rev Simon Roberts)

To be taken today from 4.30 pm

6.4 Relinquishment of Holy Orders (Exclusion and Reinstatement) Ordinance 2011

That the Relinquishment of Holy Orders (Exclusion and Reinstatement) Ordinance 2011 be approved in principle.

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(Dr Philip Selden/Mr Robert Tong)

6.5 Solemnisation of Marriage Ordinance 2011

That the Solemnisation of Marriage Ordinance 2011 be approved in principle.

(Supplementary Report page 52)

(Bishop Glenn Davies/Mr Justice Peter Young)

6.6 Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2011

Synod permits the introduction of the Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2011.

(Supplementary Report page 50)

(Canon Sandy Grant/Mr Clive Ellis)

6.7 Authorised Services Ordinance 2011

Synod permits the introduction of the Authorised Services Ordinance 2011.

(Page 164)

(Bishop Glenn Davies/Dr Philip Selden)

To be taken today from 7.00 pm

6.8 Common Prayer: Resources for Gospel-Shaped Gatherings

Synod –

- (a) receives Common Prayer: Resources for Gospel-Shaped Gatherings development version, and
- (b) commends its use and study by the parishes of the Diocese during the next year, and
- (c) requests that comments and suggestions be made to the Archbishop's Liturgical Panel, and
- (d) notes that services can be downloaded and feedback given at www.commonprayer.org.au, and
- (e) requests the Archbishop's Liturgical Panel to bring a revised form of the book to the next session of Synod with a view to considering adding its contents to the appendix of services recognised under the Authorised Services Ordinance.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth)

Motions for which no particular time has been specified for consideration

6.9 Deaconess Margaret Rodgers

Synod gives thanks to God for the ministry of Deaconess Margaret Rodgers, who retired from Synod last year, and in particular –

- (a) her distinguished presence on the floor of Synod for over thirty years;
- (b) her longstanding membership of Standing Committee (since 1982);

- (c) her service to the General Synod as a diocesan representative since 1979, serving on both its Standing Committee and international committees, including her time as General Synod Research Officer (1985-1993);
- (d) her commitment to the training of women in ministry through Deaconess House, as Tutor, Vice-Principal and finally Principal from 1976-1985;
- (e) her professional expertise in media relations, becoming the first CEO of Anglican Media (1994-2003) and then the Archbishop's Media Officer (2004-07); and
- (f) her unwavering commitment to Christ in the service of others for over forty years as a Deaconess.

Synod expresses its gratitude to Margaret and wishes her God's blessing upon her future life and ministry.

(Dr Karin Sowada/Bishop Glenn Davies)

6.10 Legal definition of marriage

In light of recent continued debate, this Synod again urges the Federal Parliament to retain the current definition of marriage at law, namely as 'the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life', in the Marriage Act. This definition not only reflects biblical teaching, but widespread and longstanding practice which has served the good of human societies independent of religious affiliation.

And Synod encourages ministers, Synod representatives, and other church members to write to their parliamentary representatives affirming the current legislative definition for marriage.

(Canon Sandy Grant/Mr Lachlan Bryant)

6.11 Review of the Department of Evangelism and New Churches

Synod –

- (a) thanks God for the work of the Department of Evangelism and New Churches (ENC) and rejoices in the potential of New Fellowships to reach many in the Diocese;
- (b) requests Standing Committee, in their review of the Department of Evangelism and New Churches (ENC) Reconstituting Ordinance 2010 which is due for report to the Synod in 2012, to include specific analysis of the following –
 - (i) how much ENC's operations reflect the priorities and modes of operation expressed in the Department of Evangelism (New Churches) Reconstitution Ordinance 2010 Explanatory Report, particularly in regard to church planting in new geographic areas where the local parishes have already created plans and have the resources to begin a new work,
 - (ii) what efforts are made to speak to local parishes and mission areas prior to developing plans for planting New Fellowships,
 - (iii) whether the priority in the ordinance of "resourcing churches and parishes to evangelise, including through the planting of new congregations in the Diocese" over "identifying, training, supporting and appointing suitably gifted persons to evangelise, including through the planting and leading of new fellowships in the Diocese" has been maintained (4.2.a and 4.2.b in the ordinance),
 - (iv) what the effect of ENC church in new geographic areas has on the impetus of local churches and Mission Areas considering their own plans for church planting,

- (v) what theological institutions ENC considers candidates from and what level of theological training is required in their New Fellowship planters,
 - (vi) what effect it would have on a New Fellowship in the case that a church planter is unwilling or unable to be ordained to the ministry of the word in the Sydney Diocese,
 - (vii) what effect it would have on the integration of a New Fellowship into the life of the Diocese in the case that a church planter is unwilling or unable to be ordained to the ministry of the word in the Sydney Diocese,
 - (viii) the relationship between ENC and the Mission Property Committee, and the process by which the use of Mission Property is decided,
- and, if necessary, to bring an amended ordinance reflecting any recommended changes to the next session of Synod.

(The Rev Joseph Wiltshire/Archdeacon Deryck Howell)

6.12 Efficiency and transparency of Synod election process

Synod asks the Standing Committee to consider possible improvements to the efficiency and transparency of the Synod election processes without changing the qualifications and composition of the various committees, councils and boards.

(Mr Doug Marr)

6.13 International Chinese Christian School

Synod –

- (a) notes the proposed commencement of the International Chinese Christian School (ICCS) in January 2012,
- (b) gives thanks to God for this gospel initiative,
- (c) prays that God will use ICCS for the evangelisation of Sydney and equipping of Christians for ministry to the Chinese in Sydney and around the world, and
- (d) encourages parishes and Diocesan organisations to pray for and otherwise support ICCS.

(The Rev Brian Tung/Mr Vanda Gould)

6.14 Sir Marcus Loane

On the 100th anniversary of his birth, Synod thanks God for the life and ministry of Sir Marcus Loane; Moore College Principal (1953-1966), Australian Army Chaplain (Kokoda Track, 1942-1945) the first Australian born Archbishop of Sydney (1966-1982) and Primate of Australia (1978).

We thank God for Sir Marcus' contribution to the evangelical identity of our Diocese. He served us by providing a model of godly leadership and leaving a legacy of published works. In particular those biographical books bringing to life heroes of the faith will ensure that our evangelical heritage is not easily lost.

With fondness we remember the clarity of his preaching, the strength of his convictions, the warmth of his pastoral care and his faithfulness in prayer.

In passing this motion, Synod thanks God for Lady Loane and her partnership in Sir Marcus' ministry. We send her greetings, love and God's comfort.

(Canon Rick Smith)



Indicative Timetable for Synod Business

References to items and motions are references to items and motions in the business paper for Tuesday 18 October 2011.

Tuesday 18 October 2011	
3.15 – 4.30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters 6.1 Unfilled vacancies on regional councils 6.2 Wollondilly: Reclassification as a parish 6.3 Malabar: Reclassification as a parish Interview about support for Aboriginal ministry Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4.30 – 5.45 pm	6.4 Relinquishment of Holy Orders (Exclusion and Retirement) Ordinance 2011 6.5 Solemnisation of Marriage Ordinance 2011 6.6 Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2011 6.7 Authorised Services Ordinance 2011 Business as per the business paper
7.00 pm +	6.8 Common Prayer: Resources for Gospel-Shaped Gatherings Thereafter, other business as per the business paper

Proposed Amendments: 18 October 2011

(Listed in the order of the business paper.)

6.6 Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2011		
1.	PAGE 51 <i>Line 10</i> <i>(Circular to the Members – Additional Bills)</i>	In clause 2(b) omit the matter “2” and insert instead the matter “4”. <p style="text-align: right;">(The Rev Gavin Poole/The Rev Zac Veron)</p>

Solemisation–Solemnisation of Marriage Ordinance 2011

No , 2011

Long Title

An Ordinance to repeal the General Synod – Solemnization of Matrimony Canon 1981 Adopting Ordinance 1982 and to provide regulations for the Solemnisation of Marriage in the Diocese.

The Synod of the Diocese of Sydney Ordains as follows.

1. Name

This Ordinance is the Solemnisation of Marriage Ordinance 2011.

2. Repeal and Exclusion

5 (1) The General Synod – Solemnization of Matrimony Canon 1981 Adopting Ordinance 1982 is repealed and the Canon is thereby excluded.

(2) Such repeal and exclusion does not invalidate any act taken under the General Synod – Solemnization of Matrimony Canon 1981 Adopting Ordinance 1982 prior to the date of assent to this Ordinance.

10 3. Definitions

In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires –

- (a) the expression “this Church” means the Anglican Church of Australia in this Diocese;
- (b) “Marriage Act” means the Marriage Act 1961 of Australia as amended from time to time;
- 15 (c) “marriage” means a voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others;
- (d) “minister” means a minister who, on the nomination of this Church, is authorised by the laws of the Commonwealth of Australia to solemnise ~~matrimony~~marriage.

4. Marriage Act Requirements

The obligations imposed by this Ordinance are in addition to the obligations imposed by the Marriage Act.

20 5. Requirements

~~Matrimony~~Marriage shall not be solemnised in the Diocese –

- (a) except in accordance with the rites and ceremonies of this Church;
- (b) unless the celebrant is a minister;
- 25 (c) except in a church or chapel of this Diocese provided that the Archbishop may give permission for the solemnisation of the marriage at some other specific place in this Diocese or a regional bishop has given such permission in relation to some other specific place in his region;
- (d) unless the persons to be married are not within a prohibited relationship; and
- 30 (e) where either or each of the parties to be married is a divorced person, unless, in accordance with the laws of this Church, the Archbishop has given permission for the solemnisation of the marriage in this Diocese or a regional bishop has given his permission for the solemnisation of the marriage in his region.

I Certify that the Ordinance as printed is in accordance with the Ordinance as reported.

Chairman of Committees

We Certify that this Ordinance was passed by the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney on 2011.

Secretaries of Synod

I Assent to this Ordinance.

Archbishop of Sydney

/ /2011

Motion concerning General Synod assessments and consultation as passed on 17 October 2011

Synod, noting the report on 12/10 General Synod Assessments and Consultation with the General Synod Standing Committee –

- (a) in light of –
- (i) page 4-084 of Book 4 – General Synod Standing Committee Financial Report, The Fifteenth General Synod, 2010, that records –
- the General Synod forecast surplus from its business activities in 2012 is \$143,360,
 - the General Synod forecast revenue that leads to that surplus is \$522,000, being \$294,000 from the Long Service Leave Fund and \$228,000 from Telstra Commissions, and
- (ii) the contribution that will be made to that surplus by –
- Sydney diocesan clergy, who make up approximately 33% of the active membership of the Long Service Leave Fund, and
 - the hundreds of Sydney parishes and parishioners and the dozens of Sydney diocesan schools, organisations and associated individuals who are contracted to Telstra via the Telstra Anglican Plan,
- requests that the General Synod Standing Committee –
- grants relief to Sydney's 2011 general assessment charge proportionate to Sydney's contribution to the surplus from the General Synod's business activities, and
 - sets future budgets for the general assessment aware of Sydney's contribution to the surplus from the General Synod's business activities, and
- (b) supports the adoption of the following principles in respect of the finances of the General Synod –
- (i) existing surpluses in the Special Fund should be used to reduce the amount of special assessment payable by those dioceses who choose to pay the special assessment,
- (ii) no surpluses should be accumulated in the Special Fund in the future,
- (iii) income from the General Synod reserve should be used to fund the General Secretary's office,
- (iv) royalties should be paid from the sale of liturgical resources back to the General Synod reserve, and
- (c) notes that 3 bills for canons promoted by representatives of this Diocese at the last session of the General Synod with the support of the Standing Committee, namely –
- (i) the bill to amend section 30 of the Constitution so as to make a declaration by the synod of a diocese that a canon affects the order and good government of the church within a diocese or the church trust property of the diocese conclusive, and
- (ii) the bill to amend section 32(2) of the Constitution so as to ensure a financial liability imposed on a diocese is limited to the costs, charges and expenses necessary to maintain the Constitution, and
- (iii) the bill to amend section 63 of the Constitution so as to bring to an end the advisory opinion jurisdiction of the Appellate Tribunal,
- were not debated or considered by the General Synod, and
- (iv) records its view that these amendments are critical to the maintenance of harmonious relationships within the Anglican Church of Australia, and
- (v) requests the Diocesan Secretary to pass these views on to the Standing Committee of the General Synod and to the National Unity Task Force established by that body, and
- (vi) further requests that these amendments, in the same or modified form be promoted to the next session of the General Synod by its representatives on that body.