

# 50<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session

### Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Tuesday 20 October 2015

#### 1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

#### 2. Bible study

Canon Stephen Gibson led the Bible study.

#### 3. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Monday 19 October 2015.

#### 4. Procedural motions from members

##### 4.1 Arrangements for speaking to certain motions after the callover

The Rev Robin Kinstead moved –

“Synod agrees that if either or both of the motions at items 5.9 and 5.10 on today’s business paper are passed formally on the call-over, the mover may speak for up to three minutes on each motion passed immediately after the call-over of motions.”

Seconded

Mr Kinstead’s motion was put but was not carried.

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

The President called the motions in order in which they appeared on the business paper, except those motions about a proposed ordinance or those motions to be considered at a time fixed by the Synod.

##### 5.1 Funding of Safe Ministry Training and SRE Accreditation

Having been granted leave, the Rev Roger Cunningham moved –

“That the motion concerning funding of safe ministry training and SRE accreditation of which notice had previously been given on the business paper be withdrawn.”

Seconded and carried

#### 6. Motions

##### 6.1 The Rev Bruce Hall

The Rev Archie Poulos moved –

“Synod gives thanks to God for the work of the Rev Bruce Hall from 2012 to 2015 in carrying forward the legacy of Canon John Chapman as the Director of Evangelism and New Churches, in particular –

- (a) his unceasing desire to see the gospel of Christ crucified preached to all the people of Sydney,
- (b) his support for new and creative initiatives to reach people from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and
- (c) his encouragement of new church plants under the banner of Evangelism Ministries to reach people who would not be reached through our existing structures.

Synod also welcomes with joy the appointment of the Rev Phil Wheeler as the new Director of Evangelism and New Churches and assures him of our prayerful support as he begins in the vital role of encouraging and supporting evangelism and the planting of new churches to reach the lost of Sydney.”

Seconded and carried

The Rev Joe Wiltshire led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for the ministry of Bruce Hall, and the churches and individuals that he has worked with, as well as the continuing work of Evangelism and New Churches.

## 6.2 Biography of Sir Marcus Loane

The Rev Peter Tong moved –

“Synod thanks Canon Allan Blanch for his newly published biography of Sir Marcus Loane, *From Strength to Strength – a Life of Marcus Loane* launched on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Synod also encourages future biographical and historical work, which records and celebrates those whom God has used to help secure and develop the evangelical character of the Diocese.”

Seconded and carried

## 6.3 Nomination process for electing the Archbishop

Dr Stuart Piggitt moved –

“That Standing Committee consider bringing to Synod amendments to the *Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982* to give effect to a provision that, once the minimum number of 20 nominations for a nominee is reached, no more nominators are required, and only the first 20 nominations for a nominee received by the Returning Officer will be made known to members of Synod.”

Seconded and carried

## 6.4 Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

“That the Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour pass as a policy of the Synod.”

Seconded and carried

## 6.5 Implementation of the Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour

Canon Sandy Grant moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) determines that the Diocesan Policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour (the “policy”) commences on 1 January 2016 and that the existing

- Grievance Policy and Procedure for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour by clergy and church workers in parishes ceases on that date, and
- (b) requests that a copy of the policy be circulated to all rectors and parish councils for their attention and that parishioners be made aware of the policy, and
  - (c) requests that the Regional Bishops be offered training to undertake their responsibilities under the policy, and
  - (d) requests that the Regional Bishops report annually to Standing Committee on such training received for their policy responsibilities and on their use (or otherwise) of the policy and model procedures, and
  - (e) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the policy provided any amendments are reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod, and
  - (f) requests the Standing Committee to undertake a review of the policy after a period of 5 years from its commencement, and
  - (g) requests the committee appointed to review the *Discipline Ordinance 2006* to consider the relationship between the policy and the *Discipline Ordinance* and, in particular, to consider whether the *Offences Ordinance 1962* should be amended to include as an additional offence for clergy and other church workers “repeated and unreasonable behaviour directed towards a staff member or volunteer worker in a parish that creates a risk to the health or safety of that person”.’

Seconded and carried

## 6.6 Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015

Having been granted leave, Mr Tony Willis provided Synod an update regarding the process for considering this ordinance.

Debate resumed on the following motion –

“That the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015 be approved in principle.”

The President asked –

“Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?”

There was a time for questions.

The motion that the ordinance be approved in principle was put and was carried.

Mr Willis moved –

“That Synod resolve itself into the Synod in Committee to consider the text of the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

Before consideration of the text of the proposed ordinance in Committee had concluded, Mr Willis moved –

“That the Deputy Chair of Committees leave the chair and report progress.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Willis moved –

“That the report of the Deputy Chair of Committees be adopted.”

Seconded and carried

## 7. Professional Standards Unit presentation

Mr Lachlan Bryant and the Rev Catherine Wynn-Jones gave a presentation regarding the work of the Professional Standards Unit.

The Archbishop led the Synod in prayer for the work of the Professional Standards Unit.

## Adjournment

At 5:47 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.00 pm tonight.”

Seconded and carried

## Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.00 pm.

## 8. Motions

### 8.1 Syrian refugee crisis

The Rev Dr Mark Thompson moved –

“This Synod, mindful of the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe in the wake of the violence in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East, remembering the open handed generosity of Christ our Good Samaritan, and aware of the abundant resources with which our gracious God has endowed this nation –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the leadership of Archbishop Glenn Davies on this issue both in public and in private, and particularly in mobilising the Diocese through its parishes and organisations to assist those in such dire need;
- (b) commits itself to support him in prayer as he continues to play such an important role in our nation’s response to this crisis;
- (c) commits itself and encourages all in this Diocese to continue to pray for the people of this war-torn region, especially those who suffer persecution for the name of Jesus;
- (d) encourages all in the Diocese to seek to build personal helping relationships where possible;
- (e) commends the Australian Government for agreeing to increase the number of refugees from this region; and
- (f) respectfully calls on the Australian Government to consider further significant increases to this number and the provision of a permanent safe-haven for the men, women and children who have suffered as result of civil war, terrorism and the policies of regimes and organisations in the area, including all those who have suffered persecution for their faith.”

Seconded

The Rev Zac Veron moved the following amendment to Dr Thompson’s motion –

‘After (f) insert –

- “(g) encourages all members of the Anglican Church in Sydney to enthusiastically and generously support the fundraising initiatives of Diocesan organisations that have committed assistance, expertise, resources and facilities towards the needs of the Syrian refugees.”

Seconded

At the invitation of the President, members made brief suggestions in speeches of up to 2 minutes each as to how the Diocese might be mobilised to assist those who seek refuge in Australia as a result of this crisis.

Canon Sandy Grant moved the following amendment to Dr Thompson’s motion –

‘In paragraph (f) omit “in the area” and insert “in all parts of the world”.’

Seconded

The amendments of Canon Grant and Mr Veron were carried.

Dr Thompson’s motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

“This Synod, mindful of the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe in the wake of the violence in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East, remembering the open handed generosity of Christ our Good Samaritan, and aware of the abundant resources with which our gracious God has endowed this nation –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the leadership of Archbishop Glenn Davies on this issue both in public and in private, and particularly in mobilising the Diocese through its parishes and organisations to assist those in such dire need;
- (b) commits itself to support him in prayer as he continues to play such an important role in our nation’s response to this crisis;
- (c) commits itself and encourages all in this Diocese to continue to pray for the people of this war-torn region, especially those who suffer persecution for the name of Jesus;
- (d) encourages all in the Diocese to seek to build personal helping relationships where possible;
- (e) commends the Australian Government for agreeing to increase the number of refugees from this region;
- (f) respectfully calls on the Australian Government to consider further significant increases to this number and the provision of a permanent safe-haven for the men, women and children who have suffered as result of civil war, terrorism and the policies of regimes and organisations in all parts of the world, including all those who have suffered persecution for their faith; and
- (g) encourages all members of the Anglican Church in Sydney to enthusiastically and generously support the fundraising initiatives of Diocesan organisations that have committed assistance, expertise, resources and facilities towards the needs of the Syrian refugees.”

At the invitation of the President, Canon Phillip Colgan led the Synod in prayer for those who are suffering, for the leadership of the Archbishop and for our response as a Diocese.

## 8.2 Repentance and redress for child abuse

Having been granted leave, the Rev Nigel Fortescue moved –

“Synod acknowledges that the Anglican Diocese of Sydney –

- (a) continues to publicly repent of and apologise for child abuse suffered within the institutions of the Diocese, and
- (b) continues to engage with survivors as they come forward to offer redress that may include –
  - (i) an acknowledgment of the abuse,

- (ii) financial assistance,
- (iii) provision of specific services including counselling, and
- (iv) a meaningful personal apology.”

Seconded and carried

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford led the Synod in prayer for the continuing response of this Diocese to matters of child sexual abuse and for the survivors of abuse.

## 9. Procedural Motion

### 9.1 Consideration of deferral motion of Bishop Edwards

The Rev Dane Courtney moved –

“Synod resume forthwith consideration of the motion moved yesterday by Bishop Chris Edwards regarding deferral of consideration of the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015.”

Mr Courtney’s motion was not carried.

## 10. Motions

### 10.1 Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015

Mr Tony Willis moved –

“That the Synod resolves itself into the Synod in Committee to consider further the text of the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015.”

Seconded and carried

The text of the proposed ordinance was considered by the Synod in Committee. After consideration of the text was completed, the Deputy Chair of Committees reported the proposed ordinance with amendments.

Mr Willis moved –

“That the report of the Chairman of Committees be adopted.”

Seconded and carried

Having been granted leave, Bishop Chris Edwards moved that Synod resume consideration of the motion moved yesterday in the following amended form –

“Synod defers further consideration of the bill for the Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015 until the next session of Synod and requests the Standing Committee to –

- (a) consult with the Chairs, Heads and Chaplains of Anglican schools in respect to a suitable form of the bill and any matters of principle identified in any proposed amendments to the text of the bill which have not been dealt with at this session,
- (b) invite the Chairs, Heads and Chaplains to send any comments on the bill and matters of principle to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 March 2016, and
- (c) make arrangements to resume consideration of the bill at the next session having regard to any comments that are received.”

Seconded

The Rev Fergus Semler moved the following as an amendment to Bishop Edwards' motion –

'At the end of paragraph (c) insert the matter "and the need for the Synod to have the in principle debate".'

Seconded

Mr Semler's amendment was not carried.

Bishop Edwards' motion was carried without amendment.

## 11. Further calling of motions on the business paper

### 11.1 Professional Pastoral Supervision for Clergy and Stipendiary Lay Ministers

The Rev Robin Kinstead moved –

"Synod –

- (a) recognises and gives thanks to God for the sacrificial and tireless efforts of our clergy and stipendiary lay ministers in parish ministry;
- (b) notes the need for all clergy and stipendiary lay ministers to debrief in a safe, stable and suitable supervisory space;
- (c) requests that the Standing Committee ask for a report from the Pastoral Supervision Working Group, and then review and report back to the Synod."

Seconded and carried

### 11.2 Career Transition Management for Clergy and Stipendiary Lay Ministers

Having been granted leave, the Rev Robin Kinstead moved –

"Synod –

- (a) recognises and gives thanks to God for the sacrificial and tireless efforts of our clergy and stipendiary lay ministers in parish ministry;
- (b) requests that the Standing Committee establish a Working Group to explore ways of making it possible for those clergy and stipendiary lay ministers who need to transition from their parish ministry role to do so with honour and dignity, and report back to the Synod."

Seconded and carried

### 11.3 Large Receipts Policy

Having been granted leave, the Rev Craig Roberts moved –

"Synod requests Standing Committee to adhere to its Large Receipts Policy until such time as a proposal for a levy as an alternative to a LPRP is considered by Synod."

Seconded and carried

## 12. Closure

### 12.1 Leadership of Bible studies

Having been granted leave, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Synod records its appreciation of the preaching and leadership of Canon Stephen Gibson for the Synod Service and the Bible studies during the remainder of this session.”

Seconded and carried by acclamation

**12.2 Officers of the Synod**

Having been granted leave, Bishop Robert Forsyth moved –

“Synod records its appreciation of –

- (a) the President for his chairmanship, and
- (b) the Chair and Deputy Chairs of Committees for their work in the Committee stages of ordinances, and
- (c) the members who helped during the session by giving advice and serving on committees, and
- (d) the services given by the Secretary, the staff of SDS, the Archbishop’s Office and Anglican Media, the music team and all those who have helped with the arrangements for sittings.”

Seconded and carried by acclamation

**12.3 Minutes of 20 October 2015**

Having been granted leave, Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod authorises the President to sign the minutes of 20 October 2015 upon the production to the Standing Committee of the certificate of any 2 members of the Minute Reading Committee.”

Seconded and carried

**12.4 Hymn and Benediction**

Members joined in the singing of the hymn “Praise My Soul the King of Heaven” after which the President gave the Benediction.

**12.5 Adjournment**

Mrs Catherine Rich moved –

“Synod adjourns without appointing another day of meeting.”

Seconded and carried

We certify that, to the best of our recollection, these minutes are a correct record of the Synod’s proceedings.

Two Members of the            )  
Minute Reading Committee    )

Signed by the President

16 November 2015