

Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

2nd Session of the 46th Synod

Business Paper: Wednesday 15 October 2003

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

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

1. Devotions will be led by the Rev Ray Galea: see attached

2. Minutes of 14 October 2003

3. Answers to questions

3.1 Dr Laurie Scandrett to ask –

In the light of the statement made to last year's Synod that the total budget for all 23 Anglican dioceses for indigenous ministry was \$196,000, would the President please advise what was contributed by the Diocese of Sydney in 2002 for indigenous ministry both within the Diocese and outside it?

3.2 The Rev Stephen Semenchuk to ask –

During the last 6 years, how many elected Standing Committee positions were filled through contested elections and how many through uncontested elections?

3.3 Mr Ross Mitchell to ask –

Given the concerns that were widely expressed with the presentations made in our Synod meeting to elect an Archbishop in 2001, are there any plans now made to review the standards and processes that apply, so as to increase the probability that all future candidates proposed for consideration to that office would be treated with more respect, and fairness in future meetings?

3.4 Mr Ross Mitchell to ask –

Noting –

- (a) Synod resolution 23/02 "Support for churches and parishes without a minister", and
- (b) the recent diocesan website reference to a review of the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988, which advises readers that there is a committee looking at the review of this ordinance and that they are also seeking submissions on resolution 23/02, and

given the differences between the resolution and the stated task of the ordinance review committee, could the President advise what has been planned in relation to the matters specified in resolution 23/02?

3.5 Mr Ross Mitchell to ask –

In relation to the questionnaire on the diocesan website seeking submissions for the review of the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance –

- (a) what are the processes involved in its preparation/design, publication, availability and possible use, that would ensure it yields statistically accurate,

representative and significant results, that can be relied on when considering the results obtained to best alter our processes in appointing rectors to parishes?

- (b) Is it planned to make available a report on the results of this “survey” to Synod members?

4. **Petitions**
5. **Notices of questions**
6. **Procedural motions from members**
7. **Notice of other motions**
8. **Calling of motions on the business paper**
9. **Motions**

To be taken today from 4:30 pm

- 9.1 **Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2003: passing as an ordinance**

That the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2003 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.
(Page 143) (Bishop Glenn Davies)

- 9.2 **Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2003: passing as an ordinance**

That the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2003 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.
(Page 119) (Bishop Peter Tasker/Mr Peter Kell)

- 9.3 **Synod and Standing Committee (Membership) Amendment Ordinance 2003: passing as an ordinance**

That the Synod and Standing Committee (Membership) Amendment Ordinance 2003 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.
(Page 150) (Mr Robert Tong)

To be taken today after the Mission Property Committee's presentation

- 9.4 **Mission property strategic plan**

Synod, endorses the Mission Property Committee's strategic plan and encourages parishes and organisations to consider how they can support the implementation of that plan.
(Mr Peter Kell)

To be taken on Monday 20 October 2003 from 4:30 pm

- 9.5 **General Synod - Holy Communion Canon 2001 Adopting Ordinance 2003**

That the General Synod - Holy Communion Canon 2001 Adopting Ordinance 2003 be approved in principle.
(Page 113) (Bishop Glenn Davies)

9.6 Anglican Provident Fund Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2003

Synod permits the introduction of the Anglican Provident Fund Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2003.

(Supplementary Report - Page 9)

(Mr Robert Tong)

To be taken on Monday 20 October at 8:00 pm

9.7 Act of Uniformity (Section 10) Repeal Ordinance 2003

Synod permits the introduction of the Act of Uniformity (Section 10) Repeal Ordinance 2003.

(Supplementary Report - Page 6)

(Canon John Woodhouse)

To be taken on Tuesday 21 October at 7:00 pm

9.8 Anglican Communion

Synod reaffirms its commitment to the authority of Scripture and recognises that the Anglican Communion has traditionally maintained its adherence to that authority and that of the 39 articles of religion.

It notes the departure from biblical authority in the actions of -

- (a) the Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster by agreeing to bless same-sex unions, and
- (b) the Diocese of New Hampshire, endorsed by the Convention of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America, in electing a practising homosexual as a bishop.

Synod therefore dissociates itself from such actions which are contrary to biblical teaching, and calls on those involved to repent, and to reverse their decisions.

Synod also commends our Archbishop for his public comments on these issues and for standing with other leaders of like mind in their desire to maintain the truths of Scripture.

(Bishop Glenn Davies/Dr Laurie Scandrett)

9.9 Commitment to the Authority of Scripture (1)

Noting that the second Fundamental Declaration in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia states -

2. This Church receives all the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as being the ultimate rule and standard of faith given by inspiration of God and containing all things necessary for salvation.

and that the 1998 Lambeth Conference of Bishops of the Anglican Communion passed the following Resolution I.10 -

This Conference -

- (a) commends to the Church the subsection report on human sexuality;*
- (b) in view of the teaching of Scripture, upholds faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union, and believes that abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage;*
- (c) recognises that there are among us persons who experience themselves as having a homosexual orientation. Many of these are members of the Church and are seeking the pastoral care, moral direction of the Church, and God's transforming power for the living of their lives and the ordering of relationships. We*

commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and we wish to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ;

- (d) while rejecting homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture, calls on all our people to minister pastorally and sensitively to all irrespective of sexual orientation and to condemn irrational fear of homosexuals, violence within marriage and any trivialisation and commercialisation of sex;*
- (e) cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions nor ordaining those involved in same gender unions;*
- (f) requests the Primates and the ACC to establish a means of monitoring the work done on the subject of human sexuality in the Communion and to share statements and resources among us;*
- (g) notes the significance of the Kuala Lumpur Statement on Human Sexuality and the concerns expressed in resolutions IV.26, V.1, V.10, V.23 and V.35 on the authority of Scripture in matters of marriage and sexuality and asks the Primates and the ACC to include them in their monitoring process.*

Synod -

- (a) confirms its unqualified support for and endorsement of Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference, and
- (b) urges all Bishops of the Anglican Communion, in view of the teaching of Scripture, to neither ordain, nor propose for consecration, those involved in same gender unions.

Synod further requests the Diocesan Secretary communicate a copy of this resolution to the Archbishop of Canterbury and all other Bishops of the Anglican Communion.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett/the Rev Alan Stewart)

9.10 Commitment to the Authority of Scripture (2)

Synod, noting both the text of the second Fundamental Declaration in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia and the text of Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference of Bishops of the entire Anglican Communion, requests that all other Australian Diocesan Synods -

- (a) reaffirm, by resolution, their commitment to the authority of Scripture, and
- (b) affirm, by resolution, their unqualified support for and endorsement of 1998 Lambeth Conference Resolution I.10,
- (c) communicate their response to the requests in (a) and (b) to the Diocesan Secretary by Friday 24 September 2004.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett)

Motions for which no particular time has been specified for consideration

9.11 General Synod - Constitution of a Diocese Alteration Canon 1995 Adopting Ordinance 2003: introduction

Synod permits the introduction of the General Synod - Constitution of a Diocese Alteration Canon 1995 Adopting Ordinance 2003.

(Page 110)

(Mr Robert Tong)

9.12 Church Administration (Heritage Property) Amendment Ordinance 2003: introduction

Synod permits the introduction of the Church Administration (Heritage Property) Amendment Ordinance 2003.

(Page 102)

(Mr Mark Payne)

9.13 Reappointment of the Stipends and Allowances Committee

Synod hereby reappoints the Stipends and Allowances Committee, with power to co-opt and directs that it report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee for action.

(Page 79)

(Mr Philip Gerber)

9.14 Freemasonry

Synod, noting the 1988 Report to Synod entitled "Freemasonry Examined" and subsequent resolution 9/88 of that Synod -

- (a) affirms that Freemasonry and Christianity are fundamentally and irreconcilably incompatible, and
- (b) affirms that Freemasonry teaches and upholds a system of false religious and spiritual beliefs that are contrary to biblical Christianity.

Synod encourages all Christians who are members of a Masonic Lodge to demonstrate their commitment to Jesus Christ as the divine Son of God and as the sole way of salvation, by withdrawing from the Lodge.

Synod encourages ministers not to participate in, nor allow in their church buildings, any religious services or activities that uphold, condone, promote or encourage adherence to Freemasonry.

Synod requests the Councils of all Anglican Schools to consider any association that their school may have with any Masonic Lodge, and to withdraw from any such association. Synod further requests that Anglican Schools neither participate in any activity that may uphold, condone, promote or encourage adherence to Freemasonry, nor give publicity to any such activity, nor allow the name of the school to be used in association with any such activity.

Synod requests Standing Committee to undertake the preparation, production and distribution of a clear and unambiguous booklet suitable for wide distribution, examining the key rites, teachings and beliefs of Freemasonry and explaining why they differ from Biblical Christianity, and explaining why it is wrong for a Christian to belong to the Lodge.

(The Rev Bill Winthrop)

9.15 Assistance to other dioceses

Considering the difficulties faced by some of the other dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia, and especially in the Province of New South Wales, Synod agrees to set up a Commission under the leadership of the Archbishop (or one deputed by him) which would report to the Mission Taskforce to investigate ways by which this Diocese can bring help to another Diocese that may request it. Such help could include the possibility of sending subsidised clergy and/or other pastoral workers along with subsidised pastoral "tools" to that Diocese for the specific furtherance of Gospel ministry and outreach.

And

That such Commission be empowered to contact selected diocesan bishops to discuss this proposal.

The Commission is to consist of the Archbishop (or his appointed deputy) as Chairman, the Rev John Cornford, Bishop Glenn Davies and the mover, with power to co-opt.

The Commission is to report to the Synod no later than October 2005 when it will conclude its work unless reappointed by the Synod.

(The Rev Neil Flower/Canon John Cornford)

9.16 **Extension of the retirement age of the Archbishop**

Synod welcomes the Standing Committee's decision to extend the retirement age of the Archbishop and gives thanks to Almighty God for the Archbishop's leadership of the Mission.

(Bishop Glenn Davies/Bishop Reg Piper)

9.17 **Use of the word "Priest"**

Synod -

(a) reaffirms the terms of resolution 20/97-

"Synod considers -

(a) that the good reason for our reformers retaining the word 'Priest' in the Book of Common Prayer is its derivation from the Greek 'presbyteros', (which means a senior person, and 'elder', or a mature leader), and

(b) that much of this meaning has been lost, because modern English has come to use 'Priest' to mean a person who mediates between man and God, and therefore encourages all involved in liturgical revision, in place of the word 'Priest', to use words like 'elder', 'president', 'presbyter' or 'minister'." and

(b) considers that our continued use of the word "priest" in legislation and formularies describing New Testament ministers is unhelpful, confusing and dangerous, and

(c) asks that the Standing Committee bring to the next session a report on the action needed to replace the word "priest" with "presbyter" in all our legislation and formularies and, if possible, legislation to effect this.

(The Rev Chris Clerke/The Rev Joseph Thiem)

9.18 **Moore Theological College**

Synod requests that the Standing Committee –

(a) appoint a committee to prepare in consultation with the College Council, recommendations concerning ways in which the Diocese as a whole and individual churches may support the work of Moore College in its training of lay and stipendiary ministers, and

(b) report to the next ordinary session of Synod.

(Mr Rodney Dredge)

9.19 **Funding of the Mission**

In light of this Synod's commitment to the Mission, and the need to increase funds available for the Mission, Synod hereby requests -

(a) every parish, provisional parish, Anglican School and Diocesan organisation within the Sydney Diocese to transfer their main cheque account facility and deposits to the Glebe Income Accounts, by 31 March 2004, and

(b) all Sydney Anglicans consider investing their own term deposits and other funds into Glebe Income Accounts.

(The Rev Ian Millican/Mr David Sheldon)

9.20 Archbishop of Sydney's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund

Synod commends the ministry of the Archbishop of Sydney's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund especially under the leadership of Mrs Kim Vanden Hengel who has brought new impetus to the work as well as a new emphasis on partnership with CMS missionaries such as Mark and Annette Bennett in Cairo and Max and Hanna Collison in Nairobi and with churches planted by CMS missionaries such as at Katoke in Tanzania led by Canon Samuel Habimana.

We thank God for the renewed energy and growth this work has promoted in the churches and communities concerned, and we pray that the leaders in each place may have wisdom and grace to use this provision faithfully and well.

As a materially wealthy church in a wealthy society we affirm our commitment to stand with our brothers and sisters throughout the world especially those in churches begotten by Australian CMS missionaries located in areas of deep poverty and great physical need - need for improved education, health provision and food security.

We ask the Archbishop and his officers, as an expression of the Diocesan mission "in all the world", to ensure there is a vigorous expansion of work such as that of ORAF which we note has attracted increasing numbers of donors in recent times and higher total donations.

(Associate Professor Alan Watson)

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Indicative Timetable for Synod Business

References to items and motions are references to items and motions in the business paper for Wednesday 15 October 2003.

Wednesday 15 October 2003	
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other motions: From motion 9.13
4:30 – 5:45 pm	Ordinances: Motions 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.11 and 9.12 Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 pm	Anglican Youthworks: Waterslea presentation
7:10 pm +	Mission Property Presentation Mission property strategic plan: Motion 9.4

Monday 20 October 2003	
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other motions: From motion 9.13
4:30 – 5:45 pm	General Synod - Holy Communion Canon 2001 Adopting Ordinance 2003: Item 9.5 Anglican Provident Fund Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2003: Motion 9.6 Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Missionary Hour
8:00 pm +	Act of Uniformity (Section 10) Repeal Ordinance 2003: Motion 9.7

Tuesday 21 October 2003	
3:15 - 4:00 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other motions: From motion 9.13
4:00 - 5:45 pm	
7:00 pm	Anglican Communion: Motions 9.8, 9.9 and 9.10

Bible Reading, Hymn & Prayers: 15 October 2003

Bible Reading: Isaiah Chapter 25

Praise to the LORD

¹O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you and praise your name,
for in perfect faithfulness
you have done marvellous things,
things planned long ago.

²You have made the city a heap of rubble,
the fortified town a ruin,
the foreigners' stronghold a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will honour you;
cities of ruthless nations will revere you.

⁴You have been a refuge for the poor,
a refuge for the needy in his distress,
a shelter from the storm
and a shade from the heat.

For the breath of the ruthless
is like a storm driving against a wall
⁵and like the heat of the desert.

You silence the uproar of foreigners;
as heat is reduced by the shadow of a cloud,
so the song of the ruthless is stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine-
the best of meats and the finest of wines.

⁷On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;

he will remove the disgrace of his people
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

⁹In that day they will say,

"Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.
This is the LORD, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

¹⁰The hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain;
but Moab will be trampled under him
as straw is trampled down in the manure.

¹¹They will spread out their hands in it,
as a swimmer spreads out his hands to swim.
God will bring down their pride
despite the cleverness of their hands.

¹²He will bring down your high fortified walls
and lay them low;
he will bring them down to the ground,
to the very dust.

Hymn: Consider Christ

1. Consider Christ, the source of our salvation
That he should take the penalty for me
Though he was pure a lamb without a blemish
He took my sins and nailed them to the tree

Chorus

My Lord and God you are so rich in mercy
Mere words alone are not sufficient thanks
So take my life transform renew and change me
That I might be a living sacrifice

2. Consider Christ
That He could trust His Father
In the garden of Gethsemane.
Though full of dread
And fearful of the anguish;
He drank the cup
That was reserved for me.

Chorus

3. Consider Christ
For death He has defeated.
And He arose,
Appeared for all to see.
And now He sits
At God's right hand in heaven;
Where He prepares
A resting place for me.

Chorus

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Pianist: The Rev Bob Cameron

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.