

# Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

## 2nd Session of the 46th Synod Business Paper: Monday 20 October 2003

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*(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 15 October 2003**
3. **Answers to questions**
  - 3.1 Miss Elaine Peterson to ask –
    - (a) Under what rule or rules does the Principal of Mary Andrews College have membership of –
      - (i) the Synod, and
      - (ii) the Standing Committee?
    - (b) Does this person have voting rights in these bodies?
    - (c) Is it true that the current Principal of Mary Andrews College, who also holds the position as Archdeacon of Women's Ministry, has thus lost her voting rights as Principal?
    - (d) If so, under what rule has this been authorised?
  - 3.2 Assoc Professor Michael Horsburgh to ask –
    - (a) In the light of the current discussions in the Anglican Communion, what consideration has the Archbishop, the Standing Committee or any other part of the Diocesan administration given to the following matters –
      - (i) the way in which the Diocese of Sydney is in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury,
      - (ii) the way in which the Anglican Church of Australia is in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury,
      - (iii) the way in which the Diocese of Sydney might move out of communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury,
      - (iv) the effect of any such move on the Diocese of Sydney's membership in the Anglican Church of Australia, and
      - (v) the effect of any such move on the Diocese of Sydney's trust property?
    - (b) If an such consideration has been given, what was the result?
  - 3.3 Assoc Professor Michael Horsburgh to ask –

Given that the Archbishop has undertaken to consult with the bishops of the Anglican Communion prior to the adoption of lay and diaconal presidency at the Holy Communion, sometimes call "administration" -

    - (a) what consultations have already taken place?
    - (b) with what results?
    - (c) when is it expected that a final report on the consultations will be available to the Synod?

3.4 The Rev Rick Miller to ask –

Regarding the Government's Occupational Health and Safety legislation –

- (a) by what date must parishes comply with this legislation?
- (b) how many parishes complied with the legislation by that date?
- (c) what are the penalties for not complying with the legislation?
- (d) has the Diocese sent information about its relevance and its details to parishes, and if so when?
- (e) will parishes be receiving further information from the Diocese about its application to them in the near future, and if so when?

3.5 The Rev Rod Harding to ask –

Noting that –

- (a) Synod resolution 14/00 requesting the appointment of a committee to examine certain aspects of the practice of confirmation and report to the next session of Synod was passed 3 years ago, and
- (b) in October 2001, the Standing Committee reported that it was still considering the appointment of the committee (Annual Report 2001, 7.21, pages 31-32),
- (c) after another year the Standing Committee reported that a committee has been appointed to consider and report on the matters raised, but that it had not yet reported (Annual Report 2002, 8.11, page 32),
- (d) after another year, the Standing Committee had been appointed, but the committee has still not reported on the matters raised by the resolution,

I therefore ask –

- (i) who are the members of the appointed committee, and when was it appointed?
- (ii) how many times has the committee met since its appointment?
- (iii) have submissions from interested persons been invited, and if so, how many have been received?
- (iv) when is it likely that the Synod will be able to receive and consider the report of the committee, which was originally requested to be completed by October 2001?

3.6 Mr Peter Yates to ask –

- (a)
  - (i) Has the sale of Gilbulla, permitted by the "Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre Sale Ordinance 2001" been completed?
  - (ii) If so, who was the purchaser, what was the amount paid and how was that amount paid?
  - (iii) If the sale is still in progress by way of part payments, what is the status of the sale and has the purchasing party honoured its contractual obligations to make payments by specified dates. If not, have extensions of time been given by the Diocese of for the purchasing party to make its payments? What is the nature of those extensions and why have they been given?
  - (iv) Where are the payment funds, or part payment funds, found in the Diocesan financial income and expenditure statements?
  - (v) Have those funds been set aside for the purchase of a new Diocesan conference centre?
- (b) What is the status of the search for a new Diocesan Conference Centre to replace Gilbulla?
- (c) What is the status of the "Gilbulla" Menangle Memorial Chapel to the clergy of the Diocese? Is the Chapel to be demolished and/or removed and relocated?

4. **Petitions**
5. **Procedural motions from members**
6. **Calling of motions on the business paper**
7. **Motions**

***To be taken today from 4:30 pm***

**7.1 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)

**7.2 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 today at 8:00 pm***

**7.3 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 4:00 pm***

**7.4 Future shape of ministry**

Synod encourages the Standing Committee and its Mission Taskforce to continue to consider proposals for the future shape of ministry in the Diocese and, in relation thereto, encourages consideration of the following specific matters –

- (a) .....
- (b) ....
- (c) ....

(Dean Phillip Jensen)

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

**7.5 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)

## 7.6 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)

#### **7.7 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***

#### **7.8 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)

#### **7.9 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)

#### **7.10 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)

#### **7.11 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 deputised 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)

#### **7.12 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)

#### **7.13 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)

#### **7.14 Proclamation of the word of God**

Enthusiastically accepting the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations, acknowledging the Diocesan Mission to be one expression of that mission and noting the Archbishop's reference in his Presidential Address to each church being a "context of the unbeliever to hear God's word and be saved", this Synod recognises that from the earliest times, as recorded in Scripture, and throughout history, the word of God, by the will of God, is often proclaimed to the unbeliever outside of the context of church and urges Christian people to proclaim this message from God and about God in many different contexts, including the "market places" of our world.

(Dr Barry Newman)

#### **7.15 Creation of a mission partnership fund**

Synod requests that the Standing Committee, in calculating the cost recoveries charges payable by parochial units in 2005, provide for the creation in that year of a mission partnership fund to be funded by such charges and applied between the regional councils in such manner as the Standing Committee may determine, and, if necessary, to limit the impact on the total parish cost recoveries charges of this provision, by reintroducing the contribution from Synod for the insurance of heritage buildings.

(The Rev Andrew Monk)

#### **7.16 Anglican Provident Fund (Sydney)**

Synod requests that the board of the Anglican Provident Fund (Sydney) consider seeking from the New South Wales Parliament an appropriate amendment or amendments to the Anglican Clergy Provident Fund Act 1908 and the Anglican Clergy Provident Fund (Sydney) (Amendment) Act 1941 to enable the Standing Committee to exercise delegated powers of the Sydney Synod in passing any ordinance in respect of the Fund.

(Mr Richard Lambert)

#### **7.17 Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy**

Noting the Diocesan Mission of seeing at least 10% of the population of the Diocese in Bible-based churches in the next ten years and particularly noting policy 2, "...to take further initiatives to create fellowships by penetrating structures of society beyond the reach of the parish church ...", this Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the continued progress of the Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy (ARCC) in seeking to establish a gospel ministry to people working in the thoroughbred horse-racing industry, and
- (b) urges members to pray for harmonious relationships with racing clubs, administrators and individuals, so that the gospel may not be hindered in any way, and
- (c) urges members to pray that a suitable candidate with a licence to officiate will be found for the position of chaplain.

(The Rev Jeremy Tonks/Dr Karin Sowada)

#### **7.18 Listing of children's workers in the Diocesan year book**

Synod requests that, in the 2004 and subsequent Diocesan Year Books, provision be made for a separate listing of children's workers, in addition to, but separate from the youth workers' listing.

(Miss Jennifer Flower)



**Bible Reading: Isaiah Chapter 36**

## Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem

<sup>1</sup>In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. <sup>2</sup>Then the king of Assyria sent his field commander with a large army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. When the commander stopped at the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field, <sup>3</sup>Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went out to him.

<sup>4</sup>The field commander said to them, "Tell Hezekiah,

"This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: On what are you basing this confidence of yours? <sup>5</sup>You say you have strategy and military strength-but you speak only empty words. On whom are you depending, that you rebel against me?

<sup>6</sup>Look now, you are depending on Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff, which pierces a man's hand and wounds him if he leans on it! Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who depend on him. <sup>7</sup>And if you say to me, "We are depending on the LORD our God"-isn't he the one whose high places and altars Hezekiah removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, "You must worship before this altar"?

<sup>8</sup>"Come now, make a bargain with my master, the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses-if you can put riders on them! <sup>9</sup>How then can you repulse one officer of the least of my master's officials, even though you are depending on Egypt for chariots and horsemen? <sup>10</sup> Furthermore, have I come to attack and destroy this land without the LORD? The LORD himself told me to march against this country and destroy it.' "

<sup>11</sup>Then Eliakim, Shebna and Joah said to the field commander, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, since we understand it. Don't speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people on the wall."

<sup>12</sup>But the commander replied, "Was it only to your master and you that my master sent me to say these things, and not to the men sitting on the wall-who, like you, will have to eat their own filth and drink their own urine?"

<sup>13</sup>Then the commander stood and called out in Hebrew, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! <sup>14</sup>This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you! <sup>15</sup>Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the LORD when he says, 'The LORD will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'

<sup>16</sup>"Do not listen to Hezekiah. This is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me and come out to me. Then every one of you will eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern, <sup>17</sup>until I come and take you to a land like your own-a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards.

<sup>18</sup>"Do not let Hezekiah mislead you when he says, 'The LORD will deliver us.' Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria? <sup>19</sup>Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand? <sup>20</sup>Who of all the gods of these countries has been able to save his land from me? How then can the LORD deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"

<sup>21</sup>But the people remained silent and said nothing in reply, because the king had commanded, "Do not answer him."

<sup>22</sup>Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went to Hezekiah, with their clothes torn, and told him what the field commander had said.

## Hymn: God is our strength and refuge

1. God is our strength and refuge,  
our present help in trouble;  
and we therefore will not fear,  
though the earth should change!  
Though mountains shake and tremble,  
though swirling floods are raging,  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!
2. There is a flowing river,  
within God's holy city;  
God is in the midst of her -  
she shall not be moved!  
God's help is swiftly given,  
thrones vanish at His presence -  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!
3. Come, see the works of our maker,  
learn of his deeds all-powerful:  
wars will cease across the world  
when he shatters the spear!  
Be still and know your creator,  
uplift him in the nations -  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

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Pianist: The Rev Peter Stavert