

## 2003 Report of the Standing Committee

<b>Contents</b>	<i>Item</i>
Introduction	1
The Diocesan Mission	2
Actions with the Archbishop	3
Financial and Property Administration	4
General Administration	5
Relations with Government	6
The International, National and Provincial Church	7
Sydney Synod Matters	8

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### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Charter

The Standing Committee is constituted under the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897. Its duties arise under a number of ordinances and include the following -

- (a) making arrangements for the meetings of the Synod and preparing the Synod's business, and
- (b) acting as a council of advice to the Archbishop (the "Archbishop-in-Council"), and
- (c) considering and reporting upon matters referred to it by the Synod and carrying out the Synod's resolutions, and
- (d) deliberating and conferring upon all matters affecting the interests of the Church, and
- (e) making ordinances under delegated powers, and
- (f) preparing and administering parochial cost recoveries and Synod appropriations and allocations, and
- (g) appointing persons to fill casual vacancies among persons elected by the Synod to boards etc, and
- (h) monitoring the finances of diocesan organisations.

#### 1.2 Access

Meetings are held in St Andrew's House, Sydney Square and mail should be addressed to "The Diocesan Secretary, Standing Committee of Synod, PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230" (telephone (02) 9265 1555; Fax (02) 9261 4485; E-mail [map@sydney.anglican.asn.au](mailto:map@sydney.anglican.asn.au)). Office hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

A report on each meeting is published a few days after the meeting on the Synod's website at [www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod](http://www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod).

## **4 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

### **1.3 Meetings and members**

Since October 2002 we have met 11 times. The names of the members are listed in the 2003 Diocesan Year Book and on the Synod's website at [www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod](http://www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod).

During the year, the following changes took place to the membership of the Standing Committee -

- Bishop Brian King ceased to be a member upon his retirement as Bishop of Western Sydney. Bishop Ivan Lee became an *ex-officio* member upon being appointed as the new Bishop of Western Sydney.
- Archdeacon Trevor Edwards ceased to be a member upon his resignation as Archdeacon of South Sydney. Archdeacon Deryck Howell became an *ex-officio* member upon being appointed Archdeacon of South Sydney.
- The Rev Phillip Jensen's position as a minister elected by the Synod became vacant upon Mr Jensen's appointment as Dean. He is now an *ex-officio* member. The casual vacancy was filled by the Rev Alan Stewart.
- The Rev Stephen Gibson resigned as a minister elected by the Northern Region when he became rector of Miranda. The Northern Region Regional Council appointed the Rev Mark Calder to fill the vacancy.

We are thankful for the service which the former members provided to us.

### **1.4 Management and structure**

Each meeting of the Standing Committee is like a small Synod meeting. The major committees are -

Audit Committee	Ordinance Reviewers and Panels
Mission Taskforce	Ordination Training Fund Committee
Finance Committee	Social Issues Executive
General Synod Canons Committee	

We decided to discontinue appointing the General Purposes Committee, the Panel re drafting of Synod Ordinances, the Synod Arrangements Committee and the Legal Committee.

Other committees are appointed from time to time for special jobs. We thank God for the faithfulness and expertise of the people who serve on our committees.

## 2. The Diocesan Mission

### 2.1 Diocesan Mission Strategy

At Synod in 2002, the Synod adopted the mission strategy for the Diocese including the following Mission Statement –

“To glorify God by proclaiming our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit, so that everyone will hear his call to repent, trust and serve Christ in love, and be established in the fellowship of his disciples while they await his return.”

The initial goal of the mission adopted by the Synod as part of the strategy is –

“To see at least 10% of the population of the region of the Diocese in Bible-based churches in 10 years.”

The fundamental aim of the strategy is –

“To multiply Bible-based Christian fellowships, congregations and churches which equip and nurture their members and expand themselves, both in the Diocese and ‘in all the world’.”

The mission strategy has directed much of the work we have undertaken during this year. In particular, the Mission Taskforce has continued to play a central role in promoting the Diocesan Mission Strategy.

### 2.2 Extension of retirement age of the Archbishop

In April 2003, we extended the retirement age of Archbishop Peter Jensen to the date of his 70th birthday under clause 5(1)(a) of the Retirements Ordinance 1993. In making this extension, we recognised the historical significance of the recently adopted Diocesan Mission and the critical importance of Archbishop Jensen’s leadership to the Mission. The Archbishop’s retirement age is now the same as his predecessors and the other Archbishops in the Anglican Church of Australia.

At our request, the Diocesan Secretary informed parishes that our decision was taken without the Archbishop being present and without any request from him that this action be taken.

### 2.3 Discussions on policy, development and strategy

During the year we spent time discussing issues concerning policy, development and strategy for the Diocesan mission.

The issue which has initially been the focus of our discussions has been that of education and the mission. One outcome of our

## **6 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

discussions was to ask Dr Bryan Cowling to prepare for our consideration a draft diocesan policy statement on education.

### **2.4 Strategic plan for land acquisition**

Last year we reported on the establishment of the Mission Property Committee (MPC). The main function of the MPC is to prepare for our consideration a strategic plan for acquiring land and/or acquiring or constructing buildings in the Diocese for ministry uses.

We recently approved a strategic plan prepared by the MPC. In preparing the strategic plan the MPC adopted the following methodology –

- future development areas in the geographical boundaries of the Diocese were identified
- the adequacy of current land holdings and ministry buildings in and near future development areas were assessed
- our needs for land and ministry buildings in future development areas were identified and priorities and indicative costings for meeting those needs were determined
- potential sources of funds were investigated
- an action plan for the next 3 years was prepared

In summary, the strategic plan contemplates that a total of \$91 million needs to be spent over the next 15 years to address the property requirements of the Diocese in proposed development areas. Of that amount, \$28.5 million (\$21 million for land acquisition costs and \$7.5 million for building costs) should be spent in the next 3 years.

Potential sources of funding identified in the plan are –

- existing funds held by the MPC
- appeal funds raised from parishes and supporters of the Diocese to fund the purchase or construction of ministry buildings
- returns on the development of land acquired by the MPC
- redevelopment of existing assets held for the Diocese

Having regard to the need for \$28.5 million to fund the acquisition and construction activity identified in the strategic plan over the next 3 years we –

- requested that the Archbishop apply all

uncommitted monies held in the Visions fund towards the buildings works identified in the strategic plan

- requested that the Archbishop launch an appeal with a specific target of raising funds for the projects identified in the strategic plan
- requested that the MPC, in conjunction with the regional bishops and their archdeacons or assistants, review land holdings across the Diocese to identify assets which may well be considered to be unusable and report back to us with preliminary findings and recommendations by February 2004

We also requested the Mission Taskforce to review the property needs of the Diocesan Mission generally and establish a means by which these needs can be taken into account as the MPC pursues its strategic plan.

### **2.5 Assessing the strategic value of retaining parish property**

During the year, we became aware of the need to ensure that the sale of church buildings was undertaken having regard to the needs of the Diocesan Mission. On the recommendation of the Mission Property Committee and the Mission Taskforce we adopted the following procedures –

1. The Secretary of the Standing Committee is to promptly notify the Diocesan Property Manager and the relevant regional Archdeacon of any application received for an ordinance for the sale of parish property.
2. The Archdeacon and the Diocesan Property Manager are to assess the strategic value of retaining the property for the purposes of the Diocesan Mission.
3. If -
  - (a) the property is not property upon which a church building is situated, and
  - (b) both the Archdeacon and the Diocesan Property Manager consider that the retention of the property has no strategic value for the purposes of the Diocesan Mission,

the Diocesan Property Manager is to forward a

## **8 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

short report to this effect with reasons to the Ordinance Reviewer or Ordinance Review Panel for inclusion in the report prepared for the Standing Committee.

4. If -
  - (a) the property is property upon which a church building is situated, or
  - (b) either the Archdeacon or the Diocesan Property Manager considers that the retention of the property may have strategic value for the purposes of the Diocesan Mission,the Diocesan Property Manager is to refer the matter to the Mission Property Committee for its consideration.
5. The Mission Property Committee is to recommend to the Standing Committee whether the retention of the property has strategic value for the purposes of the Diocesan Mission. Such recommendation and the reasons for the recommendation are to be included in the report of the Ordinance Reviewer or Ordinance Review Panel.

Ministers, churchwardens and parish councillors were notified of these procedures and advised to discuss any proposed sale of parish property with their Area Archdeacon and the Diocesan Property Manager at the earliest possible stage of the proposed sale.

### **3. Actions with the Archbishop**

#### **3.1 Estate of Late M.A. Grant (Sisters' Endowment)**

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$49,000 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop to assist clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

#### **3.2 Regulations re Application for Faculties**

The Archbishop-in-Council amended regulation 8(1) of the Regulations re Application for Faculties made under the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance 1990. This gives the Archdeacon discretion as to whether a meeting of parishioners is convened when an objection is lodged to an application for a faculty. Previously, the Archdeacon was required to convene a meeting if an objection was lodged.

### **3.3 Parramatta '54 Free Fund**

This fund is held upon trust to distribute the income among the objects of the Diocese of Sydney as determined by the Archbishop-in-Council. No distribution from this fund has been made this year.

### **3.4 Parishes of Brighton/Rockdale and Northbridge - right of presentation**

The parishes of Brighton/Rockdale and Northbridge became vacant during the year but the Archbishop was unable to declare that either parish had complied with clauses 8 and 15 of the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988. These matters were referred to the Archbishop-in-Council which determined that, in the circumstances, neither parish should have the benefits under the Ordinance.

### **3.5 Application of Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988 to a recognised church**

Under clause 14 of the Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000, the Archbishop-in-Council resolved that clauses 8(1)(a) and 8(1)(b) of the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988 should not apply to a recognised church until 12 months after the date on which that declaration was made.

## **4. Financial and Property Administration**

### **4.1 Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995**

Organisations of the Synod which manage church trust property must report annually to the Synod. These reports include audited accounts and must be lodged, together with liquidity reports, by 30 June each year. A different lodgement date has been approved for a few organisations.

The annual reports and audited accounts for about 40 organisations will be tabled in the Synod. Any major problems found by the Finance Committee from a review of these accounts will be reported.

### **4.2 Audited accounts of the Standing Committee**

The audited accounts for the Synod Fund are printed separately for the information of Synod members. Those of the Sydney Diocesan Account (a small group of sub-trusts and clearing accounts) will be tabled.

### **4.3 General Synod statutory assessment**

Each year the General Synod levies a statutory assessment on dioceses under section 32 of the 1961 Constitution.

## **10 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

During the year we were advised that the amount of the General Synod statutory assessment for 2003 had increased by 6% over the previous year. Our share of this statutory assessment is \$185,446 but the sum allocated in the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2002 for this purpose was only \$169,000.

We approved the payment of \$16,446 from 2003 Synod fund contingencies to meet the shortfall in funds allocated in the General Synod statutory assessment for 2003.

### **4.4 Borrowing limits for organisations**

Increased borrowing limits were approved for 6 organisations.

### **4.5 Ordination training fund**

From this Fund, bursaries are available to -

- (a) candidates for ordination in Sydney studying through Moore Theological College, and
- (b) trainee deaconesses and parish sisters enrolled at Mary Andrews College who intend to serve in Sydney, and
- (c) candidates for lay stipendiary ministry studying through Moore Theological College who -
  - (i) have been accepted as Sydney youth worker candidates, or
  - (ii) have been accepted as Sydney cross-cultural or indigenous worker candidates, or
  - (iii) are women who have been accepted as Sydney lay worker candidates.

Bursaries and examination fees of \$578,810 were paid in 2002 (\$578,040 in 2001).

### **4.6 Ordinances**

The following table shows the numbers of ordinances passed and assented to in 1997 to 2002 and in 2003 to 3 October.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Standing Committee	45	39	45	37	54	69	43
Synod	11	18	6	6	5	12	0
	55	57	51	43	59	81	43

A separate report lists the ordinances passed by the Standing Committee since the 2002 session of the Synod. There are 9 ordinances of particular interest.

The Cathedral (Cheltenham) Land Sale Ordinance 1997 Amendment Ordinance 2002 directed the Property Trust to forgive loans made to the Cathedral Chapter under the Cathedral (Cheltenham) Land Sale Ordinance 1997. The loans were

initially made to the Chapter in 1998 to be applied to meet the costs of works intended to be undertaken from moneys raised in the course of the Restoration Appeal conducted by the Chapter. The Chapter was unable to repay the loans and in the circumstances the Standing Committee considered it appropriate to forgive the loans.

The Clergy Removals Fund Ordinance 2003 re-declared trusts in respect of the fund known as the "Moorebank Account (Clergy Portion)" so that the income from that fund could be used solely to meet the removal costs of members of the clergy. The ordinance also allows full reimbursement of the reasonable removal costs of a member of the clergy or surviving spouse who moves outside the Diocese to a place which is within 175 km of the place where they previously resided. Following the passing of that ordinance, we requested that the Secretary report on the costs of extending the benefits under the Clergy Removals Fund to full time lay ministers in the Diocese. A report has not yet been received.

The Ordination Training Fund Ordinance 2003 appropriated \$150,000 from the Provision for Distribution of the Diocesan Endowment for additional one time funding to enable the Ordination Training Fund to pay bursaries to qualifying students at an appropriate level for 2003. We considered it important to pass this ordinance given the critical importance to the Diocesan Mission of policy 3 "to multiple well trained persons".

The Church Administration Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2003 enabled the Archbishop, at the request of the minister and churchwardens of a church, to permit an annual vestry meeting for a particular year to be held on a day which is outside the usual period in which such meetings must be held, namely between 1 February and 31 March in that year.

The Use of Church Property Amendment Ordinance 2003 made amendments to the Use of Church Property Ordinance 1995. The amendments permit a church of another denomination whose profession of faith is Bible-based to hold an occasional service in a licensed church building.

The Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry (Land Acquisition) Ordinance 2003 provided for the addition of land at Tregear to the capital of the Fund established by the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Ordinance 2002. This is the first parcel of land held in that Fund.

The Prohibited Persons (Church Administration) Ordinance 2003 extended the prohibitions under the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998 to provide that a prohibited person is not entitled to be elected or appointed or to remain in the position of

## **12 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

parish councillor or churchwarden. The ordinance also expanded the declaration to be signed by a person who is proposed or nominated for election or appointment to these positions to include a statement that the person is not a prohibited person.

The Tribunal Appropriation Ordinance 2003 authorised the appropriation of up to \$100,000 from the Provision for Distribution of the Diocesan Endowment for such purposes of the Tribunal as the Standing Committee, acting on the advice of a committee comprising 1 clerical and 2 lay Standing Committee members, determines. The need for funding arose out of a recent hearing of the Tribunal. We subsequently determined that certain costs and expenses arising from that hearing be paid pursuant to this ordinance.

The Assessments and Charges Ordinance 1975 Amendment Ordinance 2003 amended the definition of gross receipts of a parochial unit under clause 3 of the Assessments and Charges Ordinance 1975. The amendment ensured that amounts (whether income or capital) received by the Property Trust for a parochial unit are generally included as part of the unit's assessable receipts. The amendment removed doubt as to whether additions to a standard trust fund for a parochial unit would be regarded as income received by the Property Trust for the purposes of clause 3(i) of the principal ordinance.

### **4.7 Ordinance fees**

We agreed to retain the existing scale of fees for 2003 and 2004 as follows –

	\$
Ordinances requiring a Review Panel and sale, leasing & other complex ordinances	850
Other ordinances	400
Synod ordinances	Nil*

\* But a contribution may be sought towards printing costs.

The fees are based on a 80% recovery of costs, which covers the examination of procedural requirements, the giving of advice, the writing of reports, the typing and sometimes the redrafting of bills, the keeping of records and, where required, the attendance of staff members at meetings.

### **4.8 Parochial cost recoveries - arrears**

The following table compares the arrears as at 30 June 2001, 2002 and 2003.

	2001	2002	2003
	\$	\$	\$
<b>No Arrangements</b>			
Annandale	491	-	-
Asquith	-	2,624	-
Bondi	1,945	-	-
Burwood	-	-	1,714
Cabramatta	-	7,065	21,195
Chester Hill	264	-	-
Dulwich Hill	72	-	-
Eastgardens	-	3,930	-
Ermington	-	984	-
Fairfield	632	-	-
Five Dock/Haberfield	-	-	1,536
Forestville	-	-	-
Greenacre	1,753	-	-
Hornsby Heights	-	2,306	-
Hurstville	2,059	-	-
Keiraville	439	-	1,240
Kellyville	3,416	5,904	3,051
Longueville	1,539	-	3,124
Lord Howe Island	6,545	-	-
Minchinbury	-	-	482
Minto	2,802	-	-
Mulgoa	-	3,396	-
Newtown	11,176	-	-
North Ryde	-	-	1,211
Picton	-	-	761
St Clair	2,391	1,000	1,118
Shell Harbour	-	-	2,280
Smithfield	3,614	8,086	14,854
South Creek	-	1,984	4,760
Summer Hill	-	-	1,420
St Andrews Cathedral	-	-	1,587
Sutherland	1,975	-	-
Windsor	2,119	-	2,827
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,232</b>	<b>37,279</b>	<b>66,160</b>

## **14 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

The Archdeacons are in regular contact with parochial units in arrears with a view to finding a solution to the situation. They report to the Finance Committee.

### **4.9 Parish of Picton – maintenance of parish status**

During the year we were advised that the parish of Picton had failed the “local revenues” test for the last 3 years under the Parishes Ordinance 1979. The parish is the subject of a review which will extend until December 2003. In the circumstances, we determined, under clause 8(1A) of the Parishes Ordinance 1979, that clause 8(1) of that Ordinance did not apply to the parish of Picton for 1999. This determination enabled Picton to retain parish status until at least 31 December 2003.

### **4.10 Parochial cost recoveries for 2004**

In accordance with clause 11 of the Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975 an ordinance was prepared for the 1st session of the 46th Synod (in 2002) specifying the cost recoveries charge for ministry and property costs to be paid by each parochial unit in 2003, together with the method or methods by which those charges would be determined for 2004 and 2005.

A report including a review of the description and estimated amount of those costs for 2004 and the cost recoveries charge estimated to be payable by each parochial unit in 2004 is printed separately.

### **4.11 Recovery of insurance premiums under parish cost recoveries charges**

Last year our previous insurance brokers advised that insurance premiums for the Diocesan Insurance Program for 2003 would rise by 20% from the previous year. The amount recovered from parishes for insurance premiums under the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2002 was based on this 20% increase. In February 2003, we received advice that the average premium increase would in fact be 43%.

Despite the higher than expected increase in insurance premiums, we decided to maintain the variable component of the 2003 parish cost recoveries charge at 5.18% of Net Receipts. In taking this decision we accepted that the planned additions to the provision for future self insurance and contingencies in 2003 would be limited to \$100,000 rather than \$400,000 as initially proposed.

### **4.12 Synod appropriations and allocations for 2004 and 2005**

Under the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2002, we are required to bring to the forthcoming session of Synod an

ordinance to authorise specific allocations for 2004 and to indicate the Synod's intentions for allocations in 2005.

A report and bill for the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2003 are printed separately.

#### **4.13 Endowment of the See (various approvals)**

The stipends, allowances, superannuation, long service leave, housing and office costs of the Archbishop, Assistant Bishops, the Registrar and Archdeacons, the salaries of the registry staff (including the Archives), and the stipend, allowances, superannuation, long service leave and housing costs of the Dean are met from the Endowment of the See. These costs are not a charge on Synod funds except for \$54,000 in 2003 for the Archdeacon of Women's Ministries.

During the year we determined that the salary, costs and other expenses of, and in relation to, the Archbishop's media officer be paid from the Endowment of the See.

#### **4.14 Sale of the Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre**

In 2001, the Synod passed the Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre Sale Ordinance 2001 to authorise the sale of the Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre. Last year we reported that contracts for the sale of the Centre had been exchanged.

The sale was completed in November 2002.

The proceeds of sale are held for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, adopting and/or renovating a property or building to be used as a conference centre and retreat house in connection with the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney. To date, no substantive progress has been made in finding a replacement for Gilbulla.

#### **4.15 Amalgamation of Anglican SuperFund Sydney and Anglican Superannuation Australia**

By resolution 21/02 the Synod consented to the merger of Anglican SuperFund - Sydney (ASF) and Anglican Superannuation Australia (ASA) and requested that progress reports be provided to each ordinary session of the Synod until the merger is completed.

Members of each fund were informed of the proposed merger in late 2002. The overall response of members to the proposal was very positive. Progress in this matter has also been communicated to members via the 2002 Annual Report and the members' newsletter.

At a meeting on 7 February 2003, representatives from the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority met with members of

## **16 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

the ASA/ASF Joint Committee and indicated their strong support for the merger based on Government policy initiatives.

Two joint meetings of the two boards have been held and another is scheduled in the near future. The merger is expected to be completed in the 2004/2005 financial year.

### **4.16 Anglican Provident Fund Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2003 – referral of bill**

At the request of the Board of the Anglican Provident Fund, we agreed to promote a bill to the Synod to amend the Anglican Provident Fund Ordinance 1990. The Anglican Clergy Provident Fund Act 1908 requires that an amendment to the Anglican Provident Fund Ordinance 1990 must be made by an ordinance of the Synod.

An explanatory statement and bill are printed separately.

## **5. General Administration**

### **5.1 Elections**

The appointment of persons to serve on committees etc, continued to be a major part in our business. Some appointments are to fill casual vacancies among Synod appointees, and these appointments fall vacant at this coming Synod session. Other appointments are made by the Standing Committee in its own right.

From November 2002 to June 2003, 153 such positions were filled (68 for the same period in 2001-2002).

### **5.2 Reports from regional councils**

Under clause 9 of the Regions Ordinance 1995 each regional council must give us an annual report for inclusion in our report to the Synod. The annual reports are printed separately, together with reports for the reclassification of provisional parishes as parishes under the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

### **5.3 Use of the common cup at Holy Communion**

Last year we asked the Archbishop to appoint a committee to consider concerns raised about the potential for disease being transmitted through the preparation and administration of the elements during Holy Communion.

A report was provided by Dr Bernard Hudson, head of the department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at the Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards. In response to concerns expressed in Dr Hudson's report, we asked that the Archbishop recommend to clergy that -

- (a) congregations be made aware that the use of the common cup poses a small but significant health risk, and
- (b) churches be encouraged, after discussion within the church, to provide an alternative to the common cup by supplying individual cups as well, and
- (c) bread be prepared by a person who has carefully washed his or her hands immediately before handling, and
- (d) all those involved in the distribution of the elements should wash their hands prior to the service.

At our request, the Archbishop included these recommendations in guidelines issued to all clergy concerning the distribution of the elements of the Lord's Supper.

#### **5.4 Review of the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988**

Last year we reported that we had appointed a committee to review the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988, and report with recommendations by 31 May 2003. At the committee's request, we have extended the time by which the report is to be made to 31 May 2004.

#### **5.5 Membership of the Synod**

Under part 7 of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995, the Archbishop is entitled to nominate a number of ministers to membership of the 46th Synod. The maximum number of ministers who may be nominated cannot exceed 10% of the total number of "parochial ministers" (as defined in the ordinance) determined on 1 January 2002. The Registrar advised that this number is 24.

For every nominated minister proposed to be nominated by the Archbishop, we can elect a lay person to be a member of the 46th Synod under part 8 of the ordinance.

Last year the Archbishop nominated 23 ministers as members of the 46th Synod under part 7. We elected 23 lay persons to be members under part 8.

The Archbishop recently appointed an additional nominated minister under part 7 thereby increasing the number of nominated ministers under part 7 from 23 to 24. In view of the increased number of nominated ministers, we elected an additional lay person under part 8 of the ordinance.

We were also advised that Archdeacon Deryck Howell had been appointed by the Archbishop under part 7 in place of Archdeacon Trevor Edwards who had resigned.

## **18 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

### **5.6 Recognition of Cherrybrook Anglican Church and UniChurch (UNSW) as recognised churches**

During the year Cherrybrook Anglican Church and UniChurch (UNSW) were declared to be recognised churches under clause 8 of the Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000. We sent our congratulations and best wishes to the ministers and members of those churches.

Before a declaration to recognise UniChurch (UNSW) was made, we were asked, under clause 2(3) of the Ordinance, to resolve whether the group of persons comprising UniChurch (UNSW) was a church capable of being recognised.

We determined that the group of persons comprising UniChurch (UNSW) was a church capable of being recognised. However in view of the issues raised during debate on this issue, we subsequently appointed a committee of 4 persons to undertake a review of the Ordinance including identifying any peculiarities in the process of transferring a congregation of an existing parish into a recognised church. The committee has not yet reported.

## **6. Relations with Government**

### **6.1 Sheppard inquiry into charitable and related organisations**

Last year we reported that the Government had responded to recommendations made in the report of an Inquiry Committee established to examine existing legal definitions of charitable, religious and community service not-for-profit organisations. The Government's response indicated, among other things, that it has decided to enact a legislative definition of charity for the purposes of the administration of Commonwealth laws. In accordance with recommendations made by the Inquiry, the proposed legislative definition was to closely follow the meaning of charity developed by the common law.

An exposure draft of the Charities Bill 2003 was released in late July 2003. The Government has asked the Board of Taxation to undertake a process of public consultation in respect of the draft bill and to report its findings to the Treasurer by 1 December 2003.

The draft bill proposes a core definition for charity as follows –

- “(1) A reference in any Act to a charity, to a charitable institution or to any other kind of charitable body, is a reference to an entity that –
  - (a) is a not-for-profit entity; and
  - (b) has a dominant purpose that –

- (i) is charitable; and
  - (ii) unless subsection (2) applies, is for the public benefit; and
  - (c) does not engage in activities that do not further, or are not in aid of, its dominant purpose; and
  - (d) does not have a disqualifying purpose; and
  - (e) does not engage in and has not engaged in, conduct (or an omission to engage in conduct) that constitutes a serious offence; and
  - (f) is not an individual, a partnership, a political party, a superannuation fund or a government body.
- (2) The entity's dominant purpose need not be for the public benefit if the entity is –
- (a) an open and non-discriminatory self-help group, or
  - (b) a closed or contemplative religious order that regularly undertakes prayerful intervention at the request of members of the public.”

The committee we appointed to respond on our behalf had lodged a submission with the Board in respect of the draft bill. The main issues raised in the submission are as follows –

- The draft bill fails to codify the common law meaning of charity despite the Government's stated intention that the definition is to closely follow the existing common law meaning of charity.
- The proposed definition is intended to be used in all Commonwealth legislation. However the use of the definition in all legislation (other than tax legislation) has not been properly considered and may give rise to unforeseen consequences in the way religious/charitable bodies are treated outside the context of taxation. It has therefore been suggested that the use of the definition be limited to taxation purposes for the time being.
- The use of the 'entity' concept in the definition is aimed at dovetailing the definition with existing tax legislation which already uses this concept extensively. However it is considered that the application of the 'entity' concept in the context of

## **20 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

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large and complex religious/charitable organisations such as the Diocese has the effect of inappropriately and artificially requiring the charitable status of the broader organisation to be determined by reference to its constituent parts rather than by reference to the work of the organisation as a whole. As such, it has been suggested that consideration be given to expanding the definition of entity to accommodate the concept of groups of entities forming part of broader religious/charitable organisations.

- The current presumption under common law that religious and certain other charitable purposes are for the public benefit unless the contrary is proved (public benefit being a requirement of charity under common law) has not been preserved in the proposed definition. It has therefore been suggested that the common law public benefit presumption be introduced in the proposed definition in respect of all religious and other charitable purposes except where the purpose is 'a purpose that is beneficial to the community'.
- The explanatory material accompanying the draft bill suggests that a charitable entity will be permitted to undertake commercial activities provided that such activities are only ancillary or incidental to its dominant charitable purpose. It has been suggested that the comments made in the explanatory materials should be recast so as not to rule out the possibility that, in appropriate circumstances, commercial activity may play a necessary and integral role in supporting or furthering an organisation's charitable purposes.
- The draft bill disqualifies an entity as a charity if it has a purpose of 'attempting to change the law or Government policy' and that such a purpose when taken together with certain other disqualifying purposes is more than ancillary or incidental to the other purposes of the entity. It has been suggested that it is not desirable to retain this disqualification for public policy reasons.
- The Board of Taxation asked for specific comment on whether the concept of 'altruism' should be included as an additional element in the definition of charity. It was submitted that the concept of altruism would not add much of significance to the definition and may have unintended consequences.

We asked that diocesan entities be advised of the issues raised by the draft bill. We also requested that, in due course, the committee appointed to consider this matter bring us a further report on the outcome of the consultation process being undertaken by the Board of Taxation.”

### **6.2 Law Reform Commission's proposals for the review of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977**

In 2000 we reported on proposals of the Law Reform Commission (in Report 92) for the reform of the current Anti-discrimination Act 1977. In response, by resolution 21/00, the Synod expressed its concern that the proposals, if adopted, would significantly restrict the freedom of members of a religious group to practise their religion in New South Wales.

In 2001 and 2002 we reported that, while the Government had not settled its final position on the report, the Premier had indicated in writing that the Government did not intend implementing the proposals in relation to religion. The Attorney General gave similar assurances.

We recently became aware that the Attorney General is considering certain amendments to the “ethno-religious” provisions of the Anti-Discrimination Act. We wrote to the Premier and the Attorney General to seek assurances that such amendments would not be a prelude to broader reforms in respect of religion under the Act. Assurances to this effect were received from both the Premier and the Attorney General.

We will continue to monitor and, where appropriate, make comment on any proposals to amend the Act.

### **6.3 Crimes Amendment (Sexual Offences) Bill 2003**

During the year the Crimes Amendment (Sexual Offences) Bill 2003 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly by the Attorney General. The Bill was subsequently passed by the NSW Legislature.

One of the objects of the legislation is to reduce the age of consent for consensual male homosexual acts from 18 to 16 years so that it conforms with the age of consent for consensual heterosexual acts.

We endorsed the following views expressed by the Social Issues Executive in a media release issued just before the Bill was passed –

- We reject the lowering of the age of consent for homosexual activity by males from 18 to 16 years.
- We reject claims that it is inconsistent and discriminatory for the age of consent for some

## **22 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

sexual acts to be 18 and others 16. There are a number of other discriminatory laws which do not permit teenagers to participate as equal in our community in certain areas of their lives. For example they are not permitted to vote, buy tobacco products or alcohol, join the armed forces or change their name.

- The reason why we have these laws is because our society rightly recognises that children are vulnerable and need protection. Sixteen year olds are vulnerable to sexual predators since they are still growing and developing into adult maturity, both physically and psychologically.
- Lowering the age of consent to 16 years takes away the onus of responsibility on adults to act with integrity towards young people.
- If consistency must be achieved in respect of the age of consent, the age of consent for all sexual acts should be raised to 18 years with exemptions that currently exist for peers that wish to participate in a sexual relationship on equal terms.
- In all of this, we hold the Biblical teaching that sexuality should only be exercised in the context of marriage. Nevertheless we recognise that this is not the choice for many members of our society.

### **6.4 1/02 Definition of the term “spouse” in New South Wales legislation**

By resolution 1/02, the Synod –

- (a) expressed its dismay at the recent decision of NSW Parliament to redefine the term “spouse” in certain legislation to include parties to a de facto relationship, and
- (b) expressed its strong concern about the redefinition of the meaning of “spouse” beyond the ordinary meaning of the term as party to a marriage, and
- (c) argued that this shift in terms has happened over a period of time without adequate community consultation, and
- (d) while acknowledging the existence of alternative living arrangements and the justice, which should be accorded to people who live in the context of such relationships, continues to uphold the Bible’s teaching on marriage as a monogamous, lifelong commitment between a male and female which should therefore receive special recognition by the

- state, and
- (e) called on the NSW Government in future, to legislate in a manner which retains terminology distinguishing between spouses and parties to a de facto relationship.

We wrote to the Attorney General about the Synod resolution and indicated that we believed the choice of terminology in legislation conveyed important messages about the Government's attitude to marriage. In particular, the fact that the Government has chosen to redefine the term "spouse" beyond its traditional meaning raised concerns about whether the Government intended to continue to uphold the special status of marriage in our community.

We drew the Attorney General's specific attention to Synod's call that in future the Government legislate in a manner which retains terminology which distinguishes between spouses and parties in a defacto relationship.

In response, the Attorney General indicated that the terminology adopted in Government legislation did not seek to equate defacto relationships with marriage but that since the same legal rights and responsibilities flow from a variety of long term domestic relationships it is desirable that a single, inclusive definition is used across a range of legislation dealing with these relationships. The Attorney General indicated that there is no intention on the part of the Government to undermine the institution of marriage through the use of this definition.

We will monitor this matter although it is likely that the Government will continue to use a legislative definition of "spouse" which includes parties to a defacto relationship.

## **6.5 5/02 Stem Cell Research**

By resolution 5/02, the Synod –

- (a) congratulated the House of Representatives on their decision to ban human cloning, and
- (b) gave thanks for the many members of the Diocese who have prayed and taken action on the issue of embryonic stem cell research, including writing to their Federal MPs, and
- (c) expressed its thanks and support to community and political leaders who have spoken out of their Christian conviction against the commodification and destruction of human life, and
- (d) continued to recognise the uniqueness of each individual as a being created by God in his own image and that any proposed starting point for life,

## **24 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

- other than conception, is arbitrary, and
- (e) rejected the philosophical shift in our society towards utilitarianism rather than the once commonly held Judeo-Christian values that seek to protect life. As the Apostle Paul writes in Romans, we are never justified in doing evil so that good may result, and
  - (f) asked the Social Issues Executive to continue its work on this issue.

We wrote to each member of the House of Representatives to communicate the applicable parts of the Synod's resolution.

A report summarising the response from certain members of the House of Representatives is printed separately.

### **7. The International, National & Provincial Church**

#### **7.1 Bishop's statement on sexuality and the Anglican Communion**

Last year we reported that the Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster in the Anglican Church of Canada, when it met on 14 and 15 June 2002 resolved (by majority) to request that its bishop authorise a rite for blessing couples of the same gender who covenant to live together and support each other. Despite calls from a number of bishops within the Anglican Communion, including our Archbishop, that this decision not be acted upon, the first blessing of a same sex union in the Diocese of Westminster took place in May 2003.

Since that time 2 other events have raised considerable concern within the Anglican Communion in the area of sexuality. The first was the appointment of a leading advocate for gay rights as a Bishop in the Diocese of Oxford in May 2003. The second, in June 2003, was the election as the Bishop of New Hampshire of a clergyman who is in a homosexual relationship. (This election was subsequently confirmed by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church of the USA in August 2003).

In late June 2003, we publicly welcomed and whole-heartedly endorsed the following statement by the Archbishop and Regional Bishops on these developments in the Anglican Communion –

"We, the Archbishop and Bishops of the Diocese of Sydney are Evangelical Anglican Christians who testify that through the preaching of the gospel, Jesus Christ has saved us from sin and its consequences. We rejoice at the authority of the

Bible which not only rules how we are called to live individually, but also provides a clear expression of the bonds and responsibilities of how we are called to live together.

Three recent developments in the Anglican Communion have created a tragic disruption of fellowship and led to a watershed in relationships within the Communion. The first is the distortion of Christian marriage in the officially sanctioned blessing of same sex unions in the Diocese of New Westminster in Canada. The second is the appointment of a leading advocate for gay rights as a Bishop in the Diocese of Oxford despite decades of sexual behaviour outside Biblical limits. The third is the election as a Bishop in New Hampshire of a clergyman who is in a homosexual relationship.

It is sadly inevitable that these recent challenges have severely damaged the fellowship of the Communion. We appreciate the strength and boldness of those many Primates who have spoken out against these developments. For our part, we cannot welcome into our Diocese those who have abandoned the teaching of Scripture in such a flagrant manner. We remain in communion with those who oppose these developments, even if the action of their bishop causes a separation from their own diocesan fellowship. Unless there is a change, the Communion is now lessened, becoming more like a federation or network of churches related by history and ties of affection, but containing fractures of relationship which must be healed if true communion is to be restored.

It is perfectly clear from the circumstances surrounding these recent events that they are the culmination of over thirty years of compromise with western culture and plain disobedience to the teaching of Holy Scripture. Biblical Christians have made allowances time and time again in order not to express or exacerbate division. But, as has been so clearly recognised by the many Primates and others who have begun to protest, we have reached a point where to go on would be to become parties to spiritual and moral confusion.

This form of secularism has particularly afflicted the western world. But there remain many faithful Christians throughout the west who are dismayed

## **26 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

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and who speak up for the word of God. Most recently there are the parishes in New Westminster who have refused to have communion with their Bishop while he endorses same sex unions. It is a prime duty of orthodox Anglicans everywhere to support such minorities and to insist that they are authentically Anglican. We applaud the willingness of Bishop Buckle of the Yukon to act as a Bishop for these parishes, and rejoice that many primates have expressed their solidarity with and commitment to links of communion remaining in place with these faithful people.

The moment for silence is past. There are many ways in which the diversity among churches of our communion demonstrates different redemptive gifts. But the departure from centuries of agreed Biblical authority constitutes departure from the fellowship that has linked us together. Reversal of our Biblical and historical stance on sexual immorality is too drastic to pass without comment and action. Faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ who rules and guides his church by his word requires that this level of difference cannot be overlooked. The point at issue is the lordship of Jesus Christ expressed through the supreme authority of Scripture. Although obedience to the word of Christ can at times be difficult and require sacrifice, his way of discipleship is always to be trusted and relied upon. This is the issue on which we must, with awareness of our own weaknesses, make our position clear, and offer our recognition and support to those who continue to do the same.

We therefore call upon our fellow bishops in the Anglican Communion to join with those who are making clear their abhorrence of adultery and all sexual immorality, and their commitment to the Bible as the supreme authority in doctrine and ethics for our churches.”

We called on all members of the Diocese of Sydney to study this statement and to pray accordingly.

We also asked that the Chancellor and the members of the former Legal Committee to advise us about the legal implications of the concept of “communion” with particular reference to the 1961 Constitution and the constitution of the organisation known as the “Anglican Communion”. No advice has been received to date.

We approved a motion concerning recent events and relationships in the Anglican Communion being promoted to the Synod at our request.

### **7.2 Anglican Consultative Council**

We received a report about the 12th Anglican Consultative Council meeting held in Hong Kong during September 2002. The official Australian representatives at the meeting were Bishop David Silk (Ballarat), Archdeacon Kaye Goldsworthy (Perth), and Mr Robert Fordham (Melbourne). Also in attendance were Archbishop Ian George (Adelaide), Mrs Lenore Parker (Grafton), Deaconess Margaret Rodgers (Sydney) and Mr Robert Tong (Sydney).

### **7.3 General Synod legislation**

In February 2003, we advised the President of the General Synod that we considered the Defence Force Ministry Canon 1985, as amended by the Canons Amendment (Bishop to the Defence Force) Canon 2003, affected the order and good government of the church in this diocese.

We were subsequently advised that the Standing Committee of the General Synod agrees with this opinion. Accordingly, under the 1961 Constitution, the Defence Force Ministry Canon 1985 as amended has no force in Sydney.

### **7.4 St Luke's Nursing Service, Brisbane**

The Archbishop of Brisbane wrote to us seeking our goodwill to allow St Luke's Nursing Service, Brisbane, being an organisation connected with the Diocese of Brisbane, to operate a home nursing service in the Diocese of Sydney. We expressed no objection to this occurring.

## **8. Sydney Synod Matters**

### **8.1 Remarriage of divorced persons**

Over the previous 2 years, we reported that we were seeking the comments of the Doctrine Commission on proposals for legislation to authorise the remarriage of divorced persons. The Doctrine Commission has recently provided its report which we have not yet considered.

### **8.2 Review of the lay ministry licensing system**

Last year, we advised that we had considered certain recommendations made by the committee appointed to review the lay ministry licensing system in the Diocese under the Deaconesses, Readers and Other Lay Persons Ordinance 1981 and that we would continue our consideration of this matter in due course.

## **28 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

We intend to resume consideration of this matter once a revised form of bill for an ordinance in respect of lay ministry licensing is prepared.

### **8.3 Oaths, Affirmations, Declarations and Assents Canon 1992**

Last year the Synod deferred until its 2003 session consideration of certain motions in relation to the Oaths, Affirmations, Declarations and Assents Canon 1992. These motions expressed conflicting views in relation to the canon.

At our request the Legal Committee is preparing an opinion about these conflicting views. It is unlikely that the Legal Committee's opinion will be available prior to 2003 session and accordingly we recommend that Synod defer consideration of this matter until its 2004 session.

### **8.4 Review of parochial classifications**

Last year we appointed a committee to consider the whole range of issues associated with parochial classifications. The committee has reported and we have referred the report to the Mission Taskforce for its consideration and report.

### **8.5 13/99 Cross cultural ministry 23/99 Georges River region to be declared a "missionary region" 24/00 Cross cultural ministry**

By resolution 13/99, the Synod requested that we -

- (a) examine the details of funding of cross-cultural ministry through the present system of grants to Regional Councils, and
- (b) investigate means of funding which would allow regions to engage seriously in these ministries and still maintain adequate support for other parish ministry, and
- (c) use its findings in determining the method for future allocation of grants to Regional Councils.

By resolution 23/99, the Synod requested that we -

- (a) give consideration to the Archbishop's suggestion in his Presidential Address that the Georges River region be declared a "Missionary Region" which is supported commensurately, and
- (b) advise the next session of the Synod on the feasibility and ramifications of implementing such a course of action.

By resolution 24/00, Synod thanked the Archbishop for his Presidential Address and noted the Archbishop's concerns about

cross cultural ministry and proposed future arrangements and asked the Diocesan Executive Board (now the Mission Taskforce), the Standing Committee and the Regional Councils to attend to the questions asked by the Archbishop and report on the ways forward at the next session in October 2001.

We appointed a committee to consider these matters but it did not actively pursue its reference. In the circumstances we terminated the appointment of the committee. We do not intend taking any further action in relation to these matters.

### **8.6 38/99 Clerical tenure - redundancy for clergy**

Last year we reported that a draft ordinance to authorise the activities of a board to administer and regulate a proposed system of redundancy for clergy was in the course of being prepared. There has been no significant progress in this matter because of other priorities.

### **8.7 14/00 Administration of confirmation by presbyters**

By resolution 14/00, the Synod requested that we appoint a committee, to include lay persons and not necessarily to be confined to members of Standing Committee -

- (a) to examine, from a theological, historical, ecumenical, pastoral and legal point of view, the possibility of -
  - (i) confirmation no longer being required after baptism as an adult, and
  - (ii) confirmation in the Anglican Church being administered by presbyters or appropriate laypersons as well as bishops, and
- (b) to make a similar examination of the possibility of enabling presbyters or appropriate laypersons as well as bishops to receive into the fellowship of the Anglican Church, people who are communicant members of other Christian denominations, and
- (c) invite submissions from interested persons, and
- (d) report to the next session of Synod.

Last year we reported that we had appointed a committee to consider and report on the matters raised in this resolution. The committee has not yet reported.

### **8.8 26/00 Faculties**

By resolution 26/00, the Synod requested that we appoint a committee to review the rationale for and procedures relating to faculties, items which do not require a faculty but do require the Archdeacon's approval, and related regulations and to prepare

## **30 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

legislation for consideration by the Synod to simplify and where practicable abolish requirements presently applying.

Last year we indicated that the committee appointed to consider this matter was expected to report in due course. The committee has not yet reported.

### **8.9 29/00 Role and function of Archdeacons**

By resolution 29/00, the Synod requested that we appoint a committee to investigate the role and function of archdeacons in their context and to report to the Synod in 2001 with suggestions about how the office may best develop and how the identified roles and functions may best be carried out.

Last year, we indicated that we had appointed a committee to consider and report on this matter. The committee undertook some preliminary work but has not pursued the reference. In the circumstances we terminated the appointment of the committee and do not propose taking any further action in relation to this matter.

### **8.10 8/01 Archbishop's power to withhold assent**

By resolution 8/01, the Synod requested that we -

- (a) examine the nature, basis, origin, history and development of the Archbishop's power to withhold his assent to the making of ordinances duly passed by the Synod, and
- (b) prepare a report detailing its findings, and
- (c) if thought appropriate, consider the preparation of legislation relating to this matter to the next session of the Synod.

Last year we provided an interim report which set out the nature, basis, origin, history and development of the power to withhold assent. We are presently considering what further action should be taken and will report further to the Synod in due course.

### **8.11 15/01 Term of office of assistant bishops**

By resolution 15/01, the Synod requested that we review the role of assistant bishops with a view to -

- (a) appointing assistant bishops to a fixed term of office subject thereafter to extensions, and
- (b) appointing some younger bishops to the episcopal team, and
- (c) developing a more flexible diocesan culture which facilitates the opportunity for bishops to return to parish ministry after serving their episcopal term of office within the Diocese.

As yet, we have not been able to consider this resolution.

**8.12 25/01 Lay and diaconal administration of Holy Communion**

**26/01 General Synod - Promotion of a canon concerning administration of Holy Communion by Deacons**

By resolution 25/01, the Synod requested that we appoint a committee to investigate the options, if any, consistent with law for the practice of lay and diaconal administration of holy communion.

By resolution 26/01, the Synod requested that our representatives on the General Synod, at the next session of the General Synod, promote a bill for a canon to permit a deacon to administer holy communion.

Last year we reported that we deferred any further consideration of resolution 26/01 until after the committee appointed to consider resolution 25/01 has reported.

The committee has now reported and the report is printed separately.

Having considered the committee's report, we requested that the form of bill annexed to the report be redrafted and that the redrafted bill be promoted to the Synod at our request. An explanatory statement and the redrafted bill for the Act of Uniformity (Section 10) Repeal Ordinance 2003 are printed separately.

**8.13 27/01 Diocesan files on clergy**

By resolution 27/01, the Synod requested that the Archbishop-in-Council prepare a protocol under which proper provision may be made for the keeping of material about members of the clergy and stipendiary lay workers in the Diocese, and to allow a member of the clergy or lay worker to inspect all material held on file about them including provision for the correction of apparent errors.

Last year we reported that we recommended to the Archbishop that the Sydney Anglican Master Privacy Policy be adopted for use in the Archbishop's office as the protocol requested by the Synod.

This recommendation has been accepted by the Archbishop thereby enabling clergy and stipendiary lay workers in the Diocese to access and correct personal information held about them in the Archbishop's office in accordance with the policy.

## **32 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

Further information about this matter is set out in the Archbishop's Office Privacy Statement posted on the diocesan website [www.sydney.anglican.asn.au](http://www.sydney.anglican.asn.au).

### **8.14 28/01 Tribunal Ordinance 1962 Amendment Ordinance**

A bill for the Tribunal Ordinance 1962 Amendment Ordinance was first introduced into Synod in 1997. It sought to amend the Tribunal Ordinance 1962 in accordance with the recommendations made by the Select Committee on Clerical Enquiries which reported to the Synod in 1997. At a subsequent session, the bill was approved in principle.

A new form of the bill was substituted in 2001. However before the committee stage, the Synod referred the bill to the next session and requested that the bill be redrafted in plain English.

Redrafting of the bill has not been completed. In addition, by reason of the experience arising from recent tribunal proceedings and the basic principles contained in proposed national model legislation to deal with abuse matters, it is likely that further amendments will need to be made.

In the circumstances we recommend that the bill for the Tribunal Ordinance 1962 Amendment Ordinance (being the form considered by the Synod in 2001) be withdrawn.

We also requested that a motion be promoted to Synod to facilitate a review of the Tribunal Ordinance 1962, the Church Discipline Ordinance 2002 and the Relinquishment of Holy Orders Ordinance 1994 and that any amending legislation arising from the review be drafted for consideration by Synod in 2004.

### **8.15 1/02 Definition of the term "spouse" in New South Wales legislation**

See item 6.4.

### **8.16 2/02 Stipends and Allowances Committee**

By resolution 2/02, the Synod reappointed the Stipends and Allowances Committee and directed that it report its findings and recommendations to us for action. A report on the work of the committee is printed separately.

### **8.17 3/02 Training and recruiting teachers for Church Schools 4/02 Church Schools**

By resolution 3/02 the Synod asked that we investigate the ways in which our church schools are, or are not, seeking to train and recruit Christian teachers. By resolution 4/02, the Synod asked

that we complete our task of reviewing and enacting legislation for church schools which are set up by ordinance.

We propose dealing with these matters once a diocesan policy statement on education has been finalised (see item 2.3).

### **8.18 5/02 Stem Cell Research**

See item 6.5

### **8.19 25/02 Funding for Indigenous Peoples' Ministry**

By resolution 25/02, Synod –

- (a) recommended to the Standing Committee that priority be given under the Mission Strategy to resourcing Indigenous peoples' ministry by directing that a percentage of the proceeds from all sales of church trust property per annum be added to the Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Trust Fund for Indigenous ministry within the Diocese or by allocating continuing funding through the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance, and
- (b) urged each parish of the Diocese to generously support Indigenous ministry in the Diocese any way it can, for example, by giving a percentage of any land sales to the Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Trust Fund or by giving 1% of their net income to the fund or supporting existing Indigenous ministries at a local level in every possible way.

A report is printed separately.

### **8.20 Resolutions made by the Synod in 2002 and not mentioned in this report**

Circulars were sent to parishes and organisations about the matters arising from the 2002 Synod session. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons and organisations.

### **8.21 Ordinances for this session**

The bills for ordinances for this session of the Synod are printed separately, together with explanatory statements.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARK PAYNE  
*Diocesan Secretary*

3 October 2003