

1998 Report of the Standing Committee

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1. Introduction

1.1 Charter

The duties of the Standing Committee include -

- (a) Considering and reporting upon matters referred to it by the Synod and carrying out the resolutions of the Synod.
- (b) Making ordinances concerning church trust property.
- (c) Preparing and administering the diocesan estimates.
- (d) Making arrangements for Synod sessions and preparing and proposing business for the Synod.
- (e) Acting as a council of advice to the Archbishop (the "Archbishop-in-Council").
- (f) Appointing persons to fill casual vacancies among persons elected by the Synod to boards etc.
- (g) Monitoring the financial affairs 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). Office hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

1.3 Meetings and Members

Since 24 October 1997, the Standing Committee has met 13 times. The names of the members are listed on pages 30 and 31 of the 1998 Diocesan Year Book.

1.4 Management and Structure

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

Audit Committee	Ordinance Review Panels
Diocesan Executive Board	Ordination Training Fund Committee
Finance Committee	Social Issues Committee

General Synod Canons Committee Synod Arrangements Committee
Legal Committee Synod Ordinance Review Panel

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

1.5 Major Activities Since October 1997

The major activities have been -

- (a) Administering the Synod Appropriations Ordinance 1997 and preparing the Synod Appropriations Ordinance 1998.
- (b) Passing ordinances dealing with church trust property.
- (c) Administering the ordinances of the Synod, acting as the "Synod in recess" and giving advice to the Archbishop.
- (d) Filling casual vacancies on committees etc.
- (e) Preparing the business for this Synod session.

We are grateful to God for all that has been achieved in this time, and for the resources of people and assets which constitute the Diocese of Sydney.

1.6 Archbishop Hugh Gough

We noted, with sadness, the death of Archbishop Hugh Gough in November 1997 and recorded our appreciation for his service as Archbishop of Sydney (1958-1966).

1.7 Mr Peter Nicholson

Mr Peter Nicholson, formerly a member of the Standing Committee, retired as a member of the Secretariat in October 1997 after some 15 years service in that capacity. We recorded our thanks for Peter's long and distinguished service and noted, with sadness, Peter's death in June 1998.

1.8 Mr Warren Gotley

Mr Warren Gotley retired as Lay Secretary of the Synod and Diocesan Secretary on 31 October 1997, after holding those offices since 1973. We recorded our thanks for Warren's long and distinguished service.

Mr Mark Payne was appointed Lay Secretary of the Synod and Diocesan Secretary.

2. Actions with the Archbishop

2.1 16/97 Conference on Women's Ministry

The Archbishop-in-Council was responsible for organising the Conference on Women's Ministry held at Trinity Grammar School on 16 May 1998. A separate report is printed.

2.2 Assessment Authorisation Ordinance 1975: Declaration of “Desirable” Site

Under clause 4(b)(i) of the Assessment Authorisation Ordinance 1975 the Archbishop-in-Council declared the purchase of a new site at Fairy Meadow and a new site at Callala Bay to be “desirable”. This declaration means that the relevant parishes may each claim deductions (to a limit) for moneys received for the purchase of the site and the construction of buildings.

2.3 Parish of Kurrajong: Right of Presentation

The parish of Kurrajong became vacant in April 1998 but the Archbishop was unable to give the certificate required by clause 18(1) of the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988 because he did not consider that the arrangements for housing the new minister satisfied Diocesan guidelines. The question of whether the parish should have the benefits under the Ordinance was referred to the Archbishop-in-Council for determination. Upon receipt of certain undertakings from the churchwardens, it was declared that the parish should have those benefits.

2.4 Use of the Diocesan Coat of Arms

The Archbishop-in-Council has given permission for the Georges River Region to use the Sydney Diocesan Coat of Arms in the Regional logo.

2.5 Parramatta '54 Free Fund

This Fund is held upon trust to distribute the income among objects of the Diocese of Sydney determined by the Archbishop-in-Council. A distribution of \$7,000 was made this year towards the hospitality costs of the 1998 Australian Bishops' Conference (\$7,000 for 1997) held at Gilbulla.

2.6 Estate of Late M.A. Grant (Sisters' Endowment)

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$50,000 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop to assist clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

2.7 Change of Name of the Parramatta Region

The Archbishop changed the name of the Parramatta Region to the Western Sydney Region with effect from 1 January 1998. We concurred with the Archbishop in changing the title of the Bishop of Parramatta to “Bishop of Western Sydney”.

2.8 Declaration of Braeside Hospital, Prairewood as Extra-Parochial

Under the Extra-Parochial Ordinance 1918 the Archbishop-in-Council has declared Braeside Hospital, Prairewood to be extra-parochial. The minister and churchwardens of St James' Church, Smithfield did not object to the making of this declaration.

3. Financial and Property Administration

3.1 Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995

Organisations of the Synod which manage church trust property must make an annual report 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. We will report on any major problems found by the Finance Committee through the review of these accounts.

The annual report and audited accounts of an organisation may be circulated to Synod members: see item 4.3 of the *7th Handbook* for the rules which apply.

3.2 Audited Accounts of the Standing Committee

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

3.3 Ordination Training Fund

From this Fund, bursaries are available to candidates for ordination in Sydney studying through Moore College and to trainee deaconesses and parish sisters at Mary Andrews College who intend to serve in Sydney.

We have reviewed the rules applying to the Fund. The Fund may now also be used to provide bursaries to candidates for lay stipendiary ministry studying at Moore College who have been accepted as Sydney youth worker candidates, cross cultural worker candidates or indigenous worker candidates.

Bursaries of \$358,800 were paid direct to Moore College in 1997 (\$347,760 in 1996). We waived the reimbursement of bursaries of 2 people who ceased to be Sydney candidates for ordination. In both cases, the candidates will be ordained in other Dioceses.

3.4 Ordinances Passed Since 1997 Synod Session

The following table shows the numbers of ordinances passed and assented to in 1992 to 1997 and in 1998 so far.

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Standing Committee	46	43	48	38	37	45	25
Synod	7	17	9	13	14	11	-
	53	60	57	51	51	55	25

A separate report lists the ordinances passed by the Standing Committee since the 1997 session of the Synod.

A major ordinance was the Cathedral Appeal Ordinance 1997. This appropriated \$1.0 million from the Provision for Distribution for the purposes of the St Andrew's Cathedral Appeal, which aims to raise \$10.6 million in the City of Sydney and throughout the Diocese. The Federal Government has committed \$5 million and the State Government \$2 million and we are thankful for the generous support of these Governments.

Another major ordinance was the Investment of Church Trust Property Ordinance 1990 Amending Ordinance 1998 which allows church trust property to be invested in units in any unit trust scheme which is approved under the Corporations Law and for which a wholly owned subsidiary of the Glebe Administration Board is the manager at the time the investment is made. Therefore church trust property may now be invested in the Glebe Stewardship Investment Trusts, managed by Glebe Asset Management Limited.

A third major ordinance was the Town Hall Arcade Ordinance 1998 which was passed in anticipation of the proposed redevelopment of the Arcade. The ordinance removes restrictions which prevent lessees from selling liquor for consumption with food and is consistent with the policy made by the Synod by resolution 13/96.

3.5 Peakhurst Land Sale Ordinance 1995

As reported in previous years this Ordinance has been the focus of ongoing disputes. It authorises the sale of the Holy Trinity Peakhurst Church property and the application of the proceeds in building a new church etc in the Peakhurst/Mortdale area. Peakhurst and Mortdale have been amalgamated since the Ordinance was passed.

The power of sale cannot be exercised until the Standing Committee is satisfied of the feasibility of the whole proposal, and the parish authorities have been working towards that end. No submission has been received from them so far.

The Attorney General was asked to intervene by some of the Peakhurst parishioners but, after considering the matter, the Attorney General has advised that he does not consider that there are grounds for his intervention.

3.6 Ordinance Fees and Large Receipts

The Standing Committee approved the following scale of fees -

	1998		1999
	\$		\$
Ordinances requiring a Review Panel))	
Sale, Leasing and Other Complex)	750)	750
Ordinances))	
Other Ordinances	350		350
Synod Ordinances	Nil*		Nil*

* But a contribution may be sought towards printing costs.

The fees for 1998 are based on a 80% recovery of costs, which cover 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.

3.7 Distributions of Funds Under Ordinances

Several distributions of funds were approved -

Caringbah (Taren Point) Land Sale Ordinance 1996: up to \$400,000 is to be applied towards the cost of a residence for an assistant minister.

Hurlstone Park Sale Ordinance 1983: \$3,000 will go to the Georges River Regional Council for the expenses of the English as a Second Language ministry in the Marrickville Area Deanery.

North Epping Land Sale Ordinance 1994: \$8,525 is to be applied for maintenance and upgrading of the church.

Toongabbie (Girraween) Land Sale Ordinance 1994: an additional \$45,000 is to be applied towards the construction of a Family Education Centre.

Historic Building Restoration Fund: \$3,000 for the restoration of St Thomas' Hampton and \$3,000 for the restoration of St Thomas' Auburn.

Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney (Sundry Accounts) Ordinance 1992: the residue of the capital held under the 20th Schedule is to be paid to the parish council of the parish of Richmond for the purposes of repairs to the St Peter's Church building and other parish properties.

Gymea (Grays Point) Land Sale Ordinance 1996: \$60,000 is to be paid to the churchwardens for the upgrading of the assistant minister's house.

3.8 Assessment Authorisation Ordinance 1975

Relief from 1998 recovery charges of \$3,481.80 was granted to Abbotsford by excluding charges for an assistant minister because there is no paid minister in the provisional parish.

Relief from 1998 recovery charges of \$1,585.20 was granted to Erskineville by excluding charges for an assistant minister while there was a vacancy for the acting minister.

Relief from 1998 recovery charges of \$460.80 was granted to Enfield following the amalgamation with Croydon Park.

1997 arrears of \$9,292.46 owed by Ashbury were remitted when the provisional parish amalgamated with Summer Hill in 1998.

The dollar limits in clause 4 of the Ordinance have been reviewed. The size of the gift by one donor to qualify for a deduction under clause 4(a) has been reduced from \$2,500 to \$2,000. The dollar limits in clause 4(b) and 4(i)(i) have been retained at \$95,000 and \$2,000 respectively.

3.9 Arrears of Parish Ministry and Property Recoveries

The following table compares the arrears as at 31 July 1996, 1997 and 1998.

	1996 \$	1997 \$	1998 \$
Arrangements to Pay			
* Bexley & Bexley North	6,325.00	16,560.00	11,095.65
No Arrangements			
Annandale	2,300.00	1,090.50	-
Ashbury	2,766.50	9,292.46	-
Avalon	1,315.30	-	-
Birrong	1,230.00	2,362.00	6,780.19
Bondi Beach	-	-	440.50
Chester Hill	4,225.00	1,990.00	-
Clovelly	-	-	1,762.00
Corrimal	-	1,990.00	-
Cremorne Point	-	1,990.00	-
Dulwich Hill	845.00	-	-
Engadine	-	-	1,125.16
Fairfield	-	-	440.50
Greenacre	-	4,711.20	4,523.10
Keiraville	845.00	-	881.00
Littleton	690.00	-	-
Robertson	9,125.00	6,642.15	5,497.87
Rooty Hill	7,561.50	3,135.00	-
Smithfield	-	3,980.00	5,742.00
* St Johns Park with			
Canley Vale	5,575.00	1,568.20	-
Sutherland	845.00	-	-
West Ryde	6,292.00	7,372.00	440.50
Westmead	1,656.28	354.17	-
Total	<u>51,596.58</u>	<u>63,037.68</u>	<u>38,728.47</u>

* Bexley and Bexley North were amalgamated on 12/11/1997.

- * St Johns Park and Canley Heights were amalgamated on 1/1/97.

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.

3.10 St Peter's Hornsby Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Ordinance 1978

This Fund is held upon trust to apply the income through Synod Appropriations Ordinances. A condition at the time the Fund was created was that interest-free loans be made to St Mark's Berowra and St Luke's Hornsby Heights. As at 31 July 1998, the status of these interest-free loans was -

	<i>Berowra</i>	<i>Hornsby Heights</i>
Balance owing	\$14,369	\$20,500
Annual Repayment Rate	\$1,000	\$8,000

The repayment rate of the Berowra loan will be reviewed by 31 December 2000. At the present rate it will take 15 years to repay the loan.

3.11 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 \$45,000 in 1998 for the Archdeacon of Women's Ministries.

3.12 Borrowing Limits for Organisations

Increased borrowing limits were approved for 7 organisations and the borrowing limits for another 2 organisations were reviewed.

3.13 Gilbulla

It was reported in 1997 that the future of Gilbulla as a diocesan conference centre was being reviewed and that we had set up a committee to manage Gilbulla. Our concerns about the future of Gilbulla included the need to upgrade the property and make it viable from ministry and financial points of view, to overcome the smell from an adjoining pig farm, to reduce the noise penetration from the nearby expressway, and to acquire access to the river.

The management committee reported in December 1997 and advised that progress was being made in addressing these concerns. The Committee was given permission to continue work for a further 12 months and must present its final recommendations about a Diocesan Conference Centre by 31 December 1998.

3.14 Offshore Distributions by Tax Exempt Bodies

In February 1997, the Treasurer announced changes to the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 to limit the availability of the income tax exemption for bodies which distribute funds offshore. A number of religious and charitable organisations made representations to Government which resulted in changes to the original proposal. While the effect of the legislation is uncertain in some respects, we received verbal assurances that it was not the Government's intention to tax the activities of our church. Other denominations received similar assurances.

3.15 Use of Churches for Mobile Phone Towers

We have determined that churches in the Diocese should not be used for mobile phone towers. This determination follows a decision not to pass an ordinance to authorise the leasing of part of a church building for a mobile phone installation. During debate on the proposed ordinance a number of general concerns were expressed.

- (a) Anglican church buildings should not be let for long term commercial purposes since, in the view of many, such uses of a church building are profane.
- (b) The lessee will need the ability to access the church building at most times, if not all times, and this may impact on the use of the building for church purposes.
- (c) Public perception about the deleterious effect on health of mobile phone towers (even if scientifically unsustainable) may generate ill will, seriously affecting the effectiveness of the work of the Church in the local community.

3.16 Sunday Trading at Manly

In the context of local circumstances, we approved of Sunday trading at the shops known as 46-58 The Corso, Manly which are held on trust for the parish of Manly.

3.17 Notification of Proposals to Sell Land

We have asked that the Diocesan Secretary prepare a proposal to notify relevant Diocesan bodies of the proposed sale of land which is held for the purposes of a parochial unit or a Diocesan organisation.

3.18 Year 2000 Problem

The Year 2000 Problem is also known as the "millennium bug" or "Y2K". The problem will affect older computers and programs when 1 January 2000 occurs because that date will be considered an earlier date than 31 December 1999. We have asked that the Diocesan Secretary write to Diocesan organisations to ensure they are aware of the problem and are taking appropriate remedial action.

4. General Administration

4.1 Report of the Archbishop's Working Group on Children's and Youth Ministry

We noted the report of the Archbishop's Working Group on Children's and Youth Ministry: *Growing Up Without God?* and asked the Anglican Youth and Education Division to examine the report's recommendations and identify opportunities, strategies and funding implications with suggested priorities for each.

On the recommendations of the Anglican Youth and Education Division ("AYED") the Standing Committee has -

- (a) established a working group to consider and report on a clearly articulated theology of children and youth;
- (b) requested that AYED set up a working group to evaluate young people's ministry pre-service and in-service training, to explore programs in Australia and overseas and to make recommendations for a staged and more effective program to prepare youth ministers;
- (c) requested that AYED review the present location and distribution of camp sites in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer of Sydney Diocesan Secretariat with a view to making recommendations on the adequate provision of suitable facilities for all regions of the Diocese and for future directions and programs; and
- (d) requested that AYED consult with Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society (Anglicare) to consider ways and means of envisioning all congregations in the Diocese about the importance of cross-cultural children's and youth ministries.

Other recommendations from AYED have been referred to the Diocesan Executive Board for consideration and report.

4.2 Contemporary Music for Public Worship

In his 1997 Presidential Address the Archbishop recommended to the Synod that we should seek to advance "the cause of theologically sound, pastorally relevant and eminently singable contemporary music for public worship".

We have appointed a committee of the Rev Geoff Deutscher, Mr Rob Brown, the Rev Rob Smith, Mrs Annie Judd, Mr David Stonestreet and Mrs Nicky Chiswell, with power to co-opt, to recommend the best way to spend up to \$10,000 to promote the writing and publicising of modern worship music.

4.3 Elections

The appointment of persons to serve on committees etc, continued to be a major part in the Standing Committee's business. Some appointments are to fill casual vacancies among Synod appointees, and these appointments fall vacant at this coming

Synod session. But other appointments are made by the Standing Committee in its own right.

From October 1997 to July 1998, 61 such positions were filled (149 for the same period last year).

4.4 Camperdown Cemetery Trust

In 1997 we reported that alternatives for the future management of the Camperdown Cemetery were being considered. This matter remains under consideration.

4.5 Code of Conduct for Clergy

The Archbishop advised the Standing Committee of the issue of the Code of Conduct for clergy in March 1998. The Code was distributed and explained at regional meetings, and at a meeting with the faculty of Moore College.

4.6 Sydney Diocesan Educational and Book Committee

We have asked that the Archbishop, as president, convene a meeting of this committee to consider its future and report to a future meeting.

4.7 Issues Dividing Australians

We have asked that the Anglican Media Council, in consultation with the Social Issues Committee, publish a series of articles in *South Cross Newspaper* over successive months in the lead up to the next Federal election which provide a Christian perspective on issues which are dividing the Australian community.

4.8 Anglican Counselling Centre - Enquiry into Operations

We have appointed a committee to survey and enquire into the operations of the Anglican Counselling Centre. In particular the Committee has been asked to consider and report on-

- (a) the number of persons employed in counselling;
- (b) the nature of their experience and qualifications;
- (c) what regulations/guidelines are in place and how they are monitored;
- (d) what insurance arrangements exist and what is the history of claims; and
- (e) the range and nature of the counselling practices and techniques used by the Centre.

The committee has been asked to present its report by the first meeting of the Standing Committee in 1999.

4.9 Kuala Lumpur Statement

We have endorsed the recent *Kuala Lumpur Statement* on human sexuality issued by the Second South to South Anglican Encounter since we considered that the statement clearly and accurately

reflects a current biblical understanding of the subject. We encouraged the bishops from the Diocese of Sydney to promote the statement at the Lambeth Conference in 1998.

4.10 Internet Web Site

The Diocese now has its own Internet web site home page at sydney.anglican.asn.au. Links on the home page appear from Anglican Media, the Archbishop, the Regions, the Cathedral, the Archbishop's Appeals Office and the Synod. The Standing Committee has approved of the following information being put on the Internet under the Synod link -

- (a) Presidential Addresses to the Synod;
- (b) annual reports of the Standing Committee;
- (c) special reports to the Synod;
- (d) ordinances (including explanatory memoranda and ordinances passed by the Standing Committee); and
- (e) resolutions of the Synod.

It is hoped that the use of the Internet will allow a wider dissemination of information about the Diocese. Thought is being given to what other information can be placed on the Internet.

4.11 Review of the Anglican Media Council

The Anglican Media Council Ordinance 1993 provides for a review of the Anglican Media Council ("AMC") after 5 years. The Standing Committee has appointed a committee to review the operations of AMC and prepare its report by 31 October 1998.

5. General and Provincial Synod Matters

5.1 1998 General Synod Session

The 11th General Synod was held from 14 to 20 February 1998 in Adelaide. A separate report is printed.

5.2 General Synod Statutory Assessment

The Statutory Assessment payable by Sydney in 1999 is 18% higher than was charged in 1998 because Sydney's representation on General Synod and General Synod's costs have both increased.

5.3 Appellate Tribunal - Reference re Lay and Diaconal Administration of Holy Communion

On 7 March 1996 the Primate referred 2 questions to the Appellate Tribunal about lay and diaconal administration of Holy Communion for an opinion under section 63 of the 1961 Constitution. The Appellate Tribunal gave its opinion on 24 December 1997.

By a majority of 4-3 the Appellate Tribunal held that it was consistent with the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia to permit or authorise, or otherwise provide for deacons and lay

persons to administer the Holy Communion. However by a 6-1 majority, the Appellate Tribunal held that a diocesan synod does not have power, in the absence of an authorising General Synod canon, to permit, authorise or provide for diaconal or lay administration.

We asked our Doctrine Commission to comment on the Appellate Tribunal's opinion: the report of the Doctrine Commission has been printed separately. We have also asked our Legal Committee to consider the opinion and provide a report.

5.4 Appellate Tribunal - Reference at the Request of 25 Members of the General Synod

On 7 May 1996 the Primate referred 4 questions to the Appellate Tribunal at the request of 25 members of the General Synod. The questions requested opinions on matters related to the practices and prayers for the dead at Divine Service, the reservation of the elements, the performance of certain manual acts in relation to the consecration of the elements at Holy Communion not specifically allowed for in the Book of Common Prayer and the performance by a lay person of certain functions during Divine Service.

In a report dated 24 December 1997 the Appellate Tribunal declined to give its opinion on any of the questions referred to it for the following reasons -

- (a) it did not receive any submissions by or on behalf of the members of the General Synod who were responsible for the reference;
- (b) the manner of the formulation of the questions was unsatisfactory and, in some cases, the questions were vague and imprecise; and
- (c) the questions asked for opinions about established procedures or usages within the Church where changes are not evidently proposed.

We have referred the report to the Doctrine Commission for its comment.

5.5 1998 Provincial Synod Session

The 31st Provincial Synod met in February 1998. A separate report is printed.

6. Sydney Synod Matters

6.1 Commencement of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995

The Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 (pages 591 to 606 of the 1996 Year Book) commenced on 1 March 1998 following the passing of a General Synod Canon approving the revised 1902 Constitutions. A circular was sent to ministers advising them of the

commencement of the ordinance. Under transitional provisions, members of the Synod elected or appointed prior to 1 March 1998 continue to be members of the Synod under those provisions of the ordinance which correspond to the provisions under which those members were originally elected or appointed.

6.2 Parental Leave for Clergy

We considered a proposal from the Stipends and Allowances Committee for parental leave (maternity, adoption and paternity leave) for parochial clergy in Sydney. Clergy are not entitled to such leave under State legislation because they are not employees.

After debating the matter, and considering draft legislation, we decided not to promote an ordinance to the Synod. The majority considered that entitlements to parental leave should not be prescribed by ordinance and that maternity leave of up to 12 months for female clergy would not assist in promoting women's ministry in the Diocese. A bill to provide for parental leave is being promoted as a private members bill.

6.3 Church School Councils

During the year we continued to debate a lengthy report on various aspects of church school councils including the optimum size of a council, the "mix" of members, the election and tenure of members, the appointment of principals, and other matters. A separate report summarises the recommendations made in the report and the Standing Committee's responses to those recommendations.

A copy of the report, and the report of the Review Committee will be sent to each school council for its consideration. Each school council will be assured that copies of the proposed legislation will be sent to them, that the council will be able to raise objections and suggest amendments, and that any objections/amendments will be considered when the proposed legislation is considered.

6.4 Resolutions Passed by the Synod in 1997 and not Mentioned in this Report

Circulars were sent to parishes and organisations about the matters arising from the 1997 Synod session. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons and organisations.

6.5 Election of Standing Committee/Regional Council Members

Following consultation with regional councils, we are promoting legislation to this session of the Synod to overcome the problems referred to in paragraphs 6.5 of the 1997 report (see page 349 of the 1998 Yearbook).

The bill for the Standing Committee (Elections) Amendment Ordinance 1998 proposes the same rules for the election of

members of the Standing Committee in 1999 as were adopted in 1996.

The bill for the Regional Councils Ordinance 1998 seeks to confirm the process for electing certain members of regional councils and allow regional councils to co-opt up to 2 additional persons.

6.6 14/94 Retirement Housing for Church Workers

The resolution asked that we investigate alternative accommodation or remuneration packages to enable church workers to retire with equity in a residence. Following receipt of a report from a committee appointed to investigate this matter churchwardens were asked to comment about the effects of the proposed deregulation of housing for parish clergy in their parish. Those comments are now being considered and we will make recommendations to the Synod in due course.

6.7 Ordinances for this Session

The drafting and language of bills for ordinances for this session promoted by request of the Standing Committee has been or will have been examined by members of the Standing Committee's Ordinance Drafting Panel before the Synod meets.

6.8 Matters for which there are Separate Reports

Separate reports for certain matters have already been referred to. Separate reports for the following matters are also printed -

- Amendment of Section 26 of the 1917 Act (43/94)
- Assistant Ministers Ordinance 1990, Review of (19/97)
- Bioethical Issues (7/97)
- Copyright Licences for Parishes (7/94)
- Future Patterns of Ministry (27/96)
- Stipends and Allowances Committee (9/97)
- Vacant Parishes, Guidelines for (10/97)
- Work, Value of

6.9 Matters Awaiting Reports

At the time this report was completed, we had not received reports from committees on the following matters and leave has been granted for those responsible for the carriage of the matters to report next year -

- Ordinance Promotion Procedures, Review of Reformed and Biblical Theology of Work (50/95)

The Standing Committee received a report from the committee appointed to report on the Recruitment and Training of Christian Educators (21/96) but has asked that the committee give further consideration to the matter and report to the Synod in 1999.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARK PAYNE
Diocesan Secretary

7 October 1998