

Annual Report of the Standing Committee - 1991

This report was received by the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney in October 1991.

1. Preliminary

1.1 Introduction

Since 8 October 1990, the Standing Committee has met 11 times and a further 2 meetings are anticipated before the Synod meets on 14 October 1991. This report has the following structure and covers actions taken by the Standing Committee pursuant to the powers delegated to it by the Synod -

	<i>Item</i>
Preliminary	1
Parish Administration (Extra-Parochial Ordinance 1918, Parishes Ordinance 1979, Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988, Church Administration Ordinance 1990, etc)	2
Financial and Property Administration (Accounts Ordinance 1975, Assessment Authorisation Ordinance 1975, Delegation of Powers and Ordinance Procedure Ordinance 1973, Diocesan Income and Expenditure Ordinance 1989, etc)	3
General Administration (Standing Committee Ordinance 1897, Elections Ordinance 1979, etc)	4
General Synod Matters (Standing Committee Ordinance 1897)	5
Provincial Synod Matters (Standing Committee Ordinance 1897)	6
Sydney Synod Matters (Standing Committee Ordinance 1897)	7

1.2 Retirement Dates: Archbishop and Other Senior Staff

The Standing Committee has extended Archbishop Donald Robinson's retirement date from 9 November 1992 to 31 January 1993 to enable the Archbishop to deal with end of year matters and have a few weeks to tidy up. A separate report has been printed on arrangements for the election of the next Archbishop.

The Archbishop and the Standing Committee have extended Bishop E.D. Cameron's retirement date until 10 weeks after the next Archbishop of Sydney takes office. Archdeacon B.W. Richardson's retirement date has been extended to the end of 1991.

1.3 Arrangements for Election of Next Archbishop of Sydney

As Archbishop Donald Robinson will retire on 31 January 1993, it is likely that the election Synod for the next Archbishop will be held on 3 consecutive days between 28 March and 25 May 1993. The meeting dates will be firmed up as soon as possible and a provision of \$35,000 will be made from the Standing Committee General Fund in 1991 to cover the expenses of the election Synod. Consideration is being given to the emoluments and housing arrangements to be offered to the next Archbishop.

The Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance and suitable reference material is being included in the 6th Handbook and a report on arrangements, so far as they are known at that time, will be made to the 1992 Synod Session.

1.4 Retirement of Mr Neville Malone

Mr Neville Malone, due to ill health, ceased to serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat from 8 February. After pre-retirement leave, he retired in May. The Standing Committee recorded the following minute of appreciation-

"..... Standing Committee records its appreciation of the outstanding contribution made by Mr Neville Malone to the upgrading of the central administration of the Diocese of Sydney, as a member of the Standing Committee from 19 November 1973, as a member of numerous other committees, as Chief Executive Officer (Designate) from 17 December 1979, and subsequently as Chief Executive Officer from 18 November 1980, and especially recalls his clear presentation

of reports on key financial matters, including the preparation and presentation of income and expenditure ordinances. Standing Committee wishes him well in his retirement.”

1.5 Chief Executive Officer: Mr David Fairfull

Mr David Fairfull was appointed as Chief Executive Officer from 1 May. He is married with 3 children, he is a parishioner of St Swithun's Pymble and he has had a distinguished career in the finance industry, his previous position being Deputy Chairman of McIntosh Corporation. Mr Peter Nicholson served as Chief Executive Officer after Mr Malone's cessation of duties and until Mr Fairfull took up office. The Standing Committee greatly appreciated Mr Nicholson's steadiness during this difficult time and his ability to "pick up the threads" at short notice.

1.6 Membership of the Standing Committee

The members of the Standing Committee at the date of this report were -

The Archbishop

Archbishop Donald Robinson

The Assistant Bishops

Bishop P.W. Barnett

Bishop R.H. Goodhew

Bishop J.R. Reid

Bishop P.R. Watson

The Archdeacons

Archdeacon A.F. Donohoo

Archdeacon G.R. Huard

Archdeacon B.W. Richardson

Archdeacon V.W. Roberts

The Dean of St Andrew's

Cathedral

Bishop K.H. Short

Clergymen Elected by Synod

The Rev B.A. Ballantine-Jones

Canon L.F. Bartlett

Canon J.C. Chapman

The Rev V.R. Cole

The Rev T.K. Dein

The Rev R.C. Forsyth

Canon P.F. Jensen

The Rev B.A. Jobbins

Canon P.S. Kemp

The Rev J.G. Mason

The Rev Dr P.T. O'Brien

The Rev J. Ramsay

Canon B.C. Wilson

The Chancellor

Mr Justice K.R. Handley

The Registrar

Bishop E.D. Cameron

The Secretaries of Synod

Canon G.K. Clifton

Mr W.G.S. Gotley

Laypersons Elected

by Synod -

Professor C.R. Bellenger

Mr N.M. Cameron

Mr G.A. Collins

Mr J.G. Denton

Mr D.J. Fairfull

Mr J.H. Foxton

Dr K. Hawtrey

Mrs E.C. Holley

Mr G.V. Kells

Mr R.H.Y. Lambert

Mr D.R. Lewarne

Mr D.S. Marr

Mr I.C. Miller

Dr B.C. Newman

Mr P.T. Nicholson

Mr W.H. Olson

Mr C.M. Orpwood QC

Dr S.F. Pigginn

Deaconess M.A. Rodgers

Dr L.A. Scandrett

Mr R. Tong

Mr Justice P.W. Young

Mr T.R. Smith resigned from 25 February and was replaced by Mr D.S. Marr. Mr Fairfull replaced Mr Malone.

1.7 "Tasking" Guide

The Standing Committee has a broad framework of powers under its Ordinance: it is a council of advice to the Archbishop, it deals with matters referred to it by the Synod or not otherwise provided for, it may deliberate and confer upon matters affecting the interest of the Church with which the Synod is competent to deal, it may make enquiries, it may communicate with the Government and other persons and present petitions and addresses. Various ordinances confer more specific powers on the Standing Committee or the Archbishop-in-Council (the Archbishop acting on the advice of the Standing Committee).

The Sydney Diocesan Secretariat provides the staff and office facilities to enable the Standing Committee to perform its role. A separate report from the Secretariat, Glebe Board and Investment Trust has been printed for the Synod.

Meetings of the Standing Committee are like Synod meetings, with most matters being the subject of reports. The major committees of the Standing Committee are -

Processing Bills for Ordinances -

Church Lands Committee
Parramatta Regional Lands Committee (PARC)
Wollongong Regional Lands Committee (WARC)
Large Receipts Committee

Financial Administration -

Audit Committee
Finance Committee
Financial Priorities Committee

Legal Questions -

Legal Committee
General Synod Canons Committee
Synod Ordinance Checking Panel

General Administration -

Anglican Inquiry Centre Committee
Ordination Training Fund Committee
Parochial/Regional Schools Committee
Permanent Investigation Committee
Social Issues Committee
Synod Arrangements Committee

The Standing Committee is most grateful to all of the persons who have served on its committees during the year.

The Standing Committee's principal place of business is St Andrew's House, Sydney Square and mail should be addressed to "The Diocesan Secretary, Standing Committee of Synod, P.O. Box Q190 Queen Victoria Building, Sydney NSW 2000". Telephone enquires may be made to the Diocesan Secretary on (02) 2651 555.

2. Parish Administration

2.1 Actions Under the Extra-Parochial Ordinance 1919 and the School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975

The Archbishop-in-Council has not been called upon to make any declarations under the 1919 Ordinance during the year. The Bankstown Grammar School (at Georges Hall) was declared extra-parochial under the 1975 Ordinance from 26 November 1990. Page 111 of the 1991 Year Book has a list of the buildings, institutions and schools which have been declared extra-parochial.

2.2 Actions under the Parishes Ordinance 1979

The following parishes now come within the scope of clause 8 of the Parishes Ordinance which provides for a parish, if it does not meet certain criteria for 3 consecutive years, to become a provisional parish from the end of the 4th financial year, unless the Standing Committee (PARC or WARC as appropriate) or the Synod otherwise determines -

1990	Abbotsford, Bexley North, Botany/Mascot/ Eastlakes, Dulwich Hill, Homebush West, Lidcombe with Berala, Petersham, Strathfield (St Andrew)
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1989, 1990	Riverstone, Paddington
1988, 1989, 1990	Leichhardt

The "local revenue thresholds" for 1988, 1989, and 1990 were \$27,488, \$30,132 and \$32,837 respectively.

The Parishes of Croydon and Burwood East were amalgamated from 1 November 1990.

The Parish of Ashbury was provisionally reclassified as a provisional parish from 1 January 1991 by the Standing Committee (see the separate report on Ashbury).

The Archbishop formed the Assisted Provisional Parishes of Quakers Hill from 1 January and Bossley Park from 1 February 1991.

2.3 Actions under the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988

Under Clause 18 of this Ordinance the Archbishop-in-Council decided that Westmead did not have the right of nomination and under clause 11 permission was given for members of the Presentation Board for the Parish of Watson's Bay to be elected at the annual vestry meetings of the churches in that Parish.

2.4 Actions under the Church Administration Ordinance, the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance and the Sydney Church Ordinance (Substantial Repeal) Ordinance 1990

The Archbishop-in-Council resolved that these Ordinances should come into effect on 1 January 1991. New regulations concerning faculties were approved on 25 February 1991.

3. Financial and Property Administration

3.1 Accounts Ordinance 1975

Clauses 7 and 8 of the Accounts Ordinance require diocesan organisations to lodge with the Standing Committee by 30 June each year, their audited accounts for the year ended 31 December last, together with a report on liquidity and other financial matters (a "clause 8" report). A few organisations have been given leave to lodge their accounts and clause 8 reports later than 30 June because of their balance dates being other than 31 December. The Finance Committee has appointed a panel to review these documents and attention will be drawn to any organisations which have not met the Synod's reporting requirements.

3.2 Audited Accounts of the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee has the custody of all property belonging to the Synod. The Secretariat keeps the Standing Committee's books of account and the audited accounts of the Standing Committee's General Fund and the Synod Fund for the year ended 31 December 1990 have been printed with this report. The 1990 audited accounts of the Sydney Diocesan Account, a group of small sub-trusts and clearing accounts, will be tabled with this report at the Synod session.

3.3 Ordinances Passed Since last Report Distributions of Funds Under Ordinances

A significant part of the business of the Synod and the Standing Committee is the consideration of bills for ordinances under the 1902, 1917 and 1938 Acts. The following table shows the number of ordinances passed and assented to for the years 1986 to 1990 and for 1991 so far.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Standing Committee	57	42	29	40	40	25
Synod	11	6	14	12	15	-
	68	48	43	52	55	25

Most of the ordinances passed by the Standing Committee required a hearing by a Lands Committee, and sometimes a second hearing with a Large Receipts Committee if a large receipt or "windfall" was involved. A list of the ordinances passed by the Standing Committee since the last report to Synod has been printed with this report and an updated list will be tabled at the Synod session.

The Standing Committee approved distributions of funds held under the following ordinances -

Berrima Cum Moss Vale Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Ordinance 1983 and 1989
\$564 to pay the costs of a variation of trusts ordinance and \$5,000 to upgrade the church driveway and parking area at Moss Vale.

Blacktown and Lalor Park and Seven Hills Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Amendment Ordinance 1981
\$10,416 for general parochial purposes in the Parish of Blacktown.

St Columba's Flemington Ordinance 1975
\$4,433 towards cost of plumbing repairs to the church.

Hurlstone Park Sale Ordinance 1983
\$26,000 to the Marrickville Area Deanery Committee for an English as a second language programme.

Mittagong Land Sale Ordinance 1983
\$6,814 towards restoration of external stonework of the church and \$7,100 pa for 1991 and 1992 to assist in the employment of an evangelist/youth worker.

Naremburn (Sale of Rectory) Ordinance 1985
\$12,000 towards temporary accommodation for the rector.

Neutral Bay Sale Ordinance 1989
\$520,000 towards a new rectory and \$75,000 (making a total provision of \$350,000) towards a residence for an assistant minister, and \$36,207 towards the restoration of and/or the provision of additional equipment for the church.

St Anne's Ryde (Kirkby Gardens ...) Ordinance 1968
\$89,726 for various parish operating costs for 1990 and \$149,129 for operating and capital costs for 1991.

St Anne's Ryde (Livingstone Lodge) Ordinance 1973
\$30,000 towards the stipend of an assistant minister, \$73,998 in reimbursement of expenditure on restoration of a historic building and \$180,000 towards the purchase of another rectory.

The amount which triggers a Large Receipts Committee hearing was reviewed but remains at \$300,000.

3.4 Assessment Authorisation Ordinance 1975

Relief from assessments or adjustments to assessments has been approved as follows -

- (a) Upon the formation by the Archbishop of the Assisted Provisional Parish of Bossley Park relief of \$3,957 was granted to Smithfield and \$275 was levied on Bossley Park.
- (b) Consequent upon the amalgamation of Croydon and Burwood East relief totalling \$5,500 has been granted over several years.
- (c) An adjustment of \$305 was made in favour of Coogee as a result of an omission from the 1989 annual financial return.
- (d) An adjustment of \$2,773 was made in favour of West Wollongong as a result of an omission from the 1989 Annual Financial Return.

3.5 Arrears of Assessments Payable by Parochial Units

The following table contrasts the arrears situations as at 15 August of the last 3 years -

	1989	1990	1991
	\$	\$	\$
Arrangements			
Cooks River	2,692.50	-	-
Harbord	-	1,274.75	794.00
Kurrajong	3,215.50	466.50	-
St George	1,569.25	1,494.25	1,394.25
No Arrangements			
Annandale	-	-	1,112.25
Ashbury	1,801.50	3,031.00	3,573.00
Auburn - St Philip	-	2,077.00	878.75
Avalon	2,219.00	1,669.00	-
Bankstown	873.00	1,043.75	-
Berrima	1,398.00	1,586.75	2,513.25
Beverly Hills	-	.20	-

Blackheath	1,143.00	-	-
Bulli	-	-	2,117.25
Cabramatta	5,302.50	2,702.75	-
Canley Heights	2,173.00	-	-
Drummoyne	-	-	1,526.00
Ermington	-	712.25	857.00
Fairfield	-	-	1,304.50
Forestville	-	-	5,898.00
Georges Hall	50.00	-	-
Katoomba	-	-	768.50
Killara	-	.50	-
Lidcombe/Berala	-	577.00	2,950.50
Littleton	-	1,070.50	-
Mt Druitt	-	1,093.00	-
Minto	-	1,486.75	1,484.75
Narellan	7,040.00	23,561.00	-
Northmead	-	3,431.50	3,419.50
Nowra	-	-	2,930.50
Oak Flats	1,178.75	-	-
Pitt Town	1,387.50	-	-
Richmond	-	2,116.50	2,215.25
Riverstone	-	-	869.50
Rozelle	-	1,814.28	-
Ruse, Airs, Kentlyn	422.75	1,773.50	2,645.50
St Clair	-	574.25	266.00
The Oaks	-	648.00	-
Westmead	-	1,226.75	18.00
West Wollongong	-	-	510.00
Wahroonga, St Paul	5,079.50	5,437.50	-
Willoughby East	1,105.75	-	-
Total	38,651.50	60,869.23	40,046.25

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

The St Peter's Hornsby Fund was created under this Ordinance and is held upon trust to apply the income as directed from time to time by ordinance of the Synod. Appropriations of income feature regularly in diocesan income and expenditure 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 11 July 1991, the status of these interest-free loans was -

	<i>Berowra</i>	<i>Hornsby Heights</i>
Balance owing	\$20,139	\$74,500
Annual Repayment Rate	\$1,000	\$7,000
Arrears of Repayments	\$500	-
Repayments Review Date	31.12.91	31.12.92

3.7 Parramatta '54 Free Fund

This Fund is held upon trust to distribute the income among such objects of the Diocese of Sydney as the Archbishop-in-Council may from time to time determine. Since the last report, a distribution of \$8,460 has been made towards hospitality costs of the 1991 Australian Bishops' Conference (\$6,750 for 1990) held at Gilbulla.

The Acting Primate has been advised that Sydney will be in a position to provide \$7,000 towards the hospitality costs for the 1992 Bishops' Conference if Sydney is again the host diocese.

3.8 Endowment of the See (Various Approvals)

The stipends, allowances and housing costs of the Archbishop, assistant bishops (including the present registrar) and archdeacons, the salaries of the deputy registrar, and registry staff (including the archivists) and the costs of regional episcopal offices are met from the Endowment of the See. The Endowment also reimburses the Cathedral Chapter for the stipend and allowances of the Dean.

During the year, the Standing Committee determined that the following amounts be paid from the Endowment of the See for purposes within the Diocese -

- (a) A grant of \$250,000 to be added to the capital of the Cathedral Buildings Endowment Fund.
- (b) A grant of \$250,000 for new buildings at Moore Theological College to be added to the \$300,000 granted to the College by the Synod in 1987.
- (c) A grant of \$100,000 to the Standing Committee for the preservation of historic buildings of the Diocese and the investigation of matters related thereto.
- (d) A grant of \$40,000 to Gilbulla for the provision of a new water supply system.
- (e) A grant of \$100,000 to the Vision for Growth Appeal.
- (f) A grant of \$50,000 for the Archbishop's Commission of Inquiry concerning ministry needs and priorities.
- (g) Grants of \$200,000 towards the establishment of the Vision 2001 Appeal and \$300,000 towards land purchases.

In terms of the trusts, the Archbishop approved of these payments.

Grants totalling \$400,000 were approved by an ordinance to endow the dioceses of Armidale, Bathurst, Grafton and Riverina (\$100,000 each).

3.9 Estate of Late MA Grant (Sisters' Endowment)

During the year \$45,000 was provided by the Archbishop-in-Council from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop in assisting clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

3.10 Structure and Priorities Investigation Committee

A report was received from SPIC in respects of the Marrickville Area Deanery Committee and the Inner City Committee. The report was in response to a request made in 1987 in different circumstances to those which prevail at present. In some respects, pressures for the development of parish and diocesan administration, including regionalisation or the formation of separate dioceses, have overtaken the original request for a report.

In these circumstances, the report was referred to the committees dealing with Regionalisation/Diocesan Development and Parish Property and Ministry for the consideration of areas where the report overlaps with the briefs of those committees.

3.11 Increases in Borrowing Limits

During the year new borrowing limits were approved for 2 church schools.

3.12 Finance and Loans Board Letters of Responsibility

Concern has been expressed over the Archbishop signing indemnity letters (see page 307 of the 1991 Year Book for last year's report on this matter).

The present letter of responsibility procedure benefits about 38 parochial units and secures loans to the extent of about \$2.2M but the procedure is in abeyance until the questions raised last year have been resolved.

3.13 Historic Buildings Restoration Fund

The Synod made a grant of \$42,000 to the Historic Buildings Restoration Fund for 1991 and the Archdeacons have been asked to make a joint recommendation on how this money should be applied. Distributions from this Fund for the last 3 years are shown in the following table -

Parish	1989 \$	1990 \$	1991 \$
Botany, St Matthew	-	-	2,000
Camden, St John	-	7,500	2,500
Emu Plains	-	-	3,500
Glebe, St John Bishopthorpe	20,000	-	-
Hunters Hill Rectory	-	-	4,000
Jamberoo, Church of the Resurrection	-	-	5,000
Marrangaroo	-	-	3,000
Newton	-	-	10,500
North Sydney, Christ Church	-	11,500	-
Rossmore, Holy Innocents	-	10,000	5,000
Smithfield, St James	20,000	-	-
South Sydney, St Saviour	-	-	3,000
Wilberforce	-	-	3,500
Windsor, St Matthew	-	11,000	-
	40,000	40,000	42,000

3.14 New Sites Advisory Committee

During 1982, \$1M was appropriated from the Diocesan Endowment for the Property Trust to purchase land approved by the New Sites Advisory Committee under the New Sites Ordinance 1982. In 1985, the Property Trust, on the advice of the Advisory Committee, became the "purchasing body" of land acquired through the Vision for Growth Appeal and the 1982 Ordinance was amended to reflect that procedure. Land is now held in the following localities, the Quaker's Hill parcels having been purchased since the last report -

Ambarvale - 2 parcels	Illawong - 1 parcel
Blacktown - 1 parcel	Menai - 2 parcels
Bomaderry West - 1 parcel	Minto - 1 parcel
Cranebrook - 1 parcel	Plumpton - 1 parcel
Crestwood - 1 parcel	Quaker's Hill - 3 parcels
Culburra - 1 parcel	Regentville - 1 parcel
Eagle Vale - 2 parcels	Rooty Hill - 1 parcel
Erskine Park - 1 parcel	

Contracts have been exchanged for the purchase of land at Shellharbour and Hinchinbrook.

Clause 3 of the New Sites Ordinance 1982 requires the Property Trust to sell any land acquired by it under that clause (from the original \$1M or subsequent income etc) after the Property Trust has held that land for 5 years, unless a majority of the members of the Advisory Committee certify that the land should be retained for a further 5 years. Extensions may be given up to 15 years in total after which the land must be sold. These conditions do not apply to land acquired through Vision for Growth.

3.15 Proposed Anglican College at Wollongong University

The Archbishop-in-Council has given conditional approval to the use of the name "Anglican" in connection with a university college at Wollongong.

3.16 Additional Grant to Moore Theological College

A grant of \$11,186 was made to Moore College from 1990 Synod Fund Contingencies to assist in the payment of fees associated with explorations for the development of the College.

3.17 Grant for "Easter 91"

A grant of \$7,500 was made for the "Easter 91" programme from 1991 Synod Fund Contingencies.

3.18 Centenary Gift to the Province of New Guinea

Through the General Synod an appeal has been made for a centenary gift from the Anglican Church of Australia to the Province of New Guinea, which was for many years a part of our Church. The appeal has 2 dimensions: to Anglicans generally and to dioceses.

The diocesan part of the appeal is to help with the staff retirement fund and we have given \$5,000 from 1990 Synod Fund Contingencies.

The appeal is still current and donations can be sent to the General Synod Office.

3.19 St Andrew's House Church Tenancies

From 1 January 1990, the Standing Committee has been responsible for the space in St Andrew's House occupied by the church-related tenants. See item 4.2 concerning the Radio Unit.

Proposals are under consideration for a central reception office for all church tenants, and for the redesign of the square and first floor levels, absorbing some balcony space into office area and creating open plan offices.

3.20 Board of Education: Overseas Operations

Because the level of book sales was below projections, the Council of the Board of Education closed its office in the USA. Efforts are being made to find a suitable agent in the USA through whom the Board's publications can be distributed.

3.21 St Bartholomew's Church Prospect

Last year we reported that the future of this property was under consideration (page 312 of the 1991 Year Book). After taking all the circumstances into account, the Standing Committee has taken steps to enable the sale of the property.

3.22 Clergy Removals Fund

A deacon or priest who has moved to a parochial unit or organisation within the Diocese of Sydney is entitled to reimbursement of removal costs (being the proper and reasonable costs, not necessarily the actual costs, and excluding costs of an unusual nature) from the parochial unit or organisation.

For many years, most of the income from the Moorebank Estate has been paid to HMS to help in the reimbursement of clergy removal expenses. But the level of reimbursements has been exceeding the income and remedial action was required. Despite a grant of \$10,000 from Synod Fund Contingencies in 1989, the accumulated deficit of the HMS Removals Fund was \$14,443 at 31 December 1990. The expenditure from the Fund was \$39,007 for 1988, \$47,683 for 1989 and \$46,679 for 1990.

By agreement with HMS, the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat is to administer the Clergy Removals Fund from 1 June 1991 and a further grant of \$16,000 from Synod Fund Contingencies has been made to eliminate the accumulated deficit of the HMS Removals Fund. To try and bring the outgoings back within the annual income, the Standing Committee has reduced the benefits and the effect of this reduction is shown in the following table-

	Old	New
Moving to a parish or diocesan appointment	50%	25%
Moving to a provisional parish or assisted provisional parish	100%	100%
Moving into retirement from a parochial unit or diocesan appointment	100%	100%
Moving the widow of a clergyman from a rectory or house provided with diocesan appointment	100%	100%

The limiting factors are unchanged. If a stipend greater than the minimum is to be paid, a lesser percentage or even no part of the removal costs may be reimbursed. If a move is from a place outside the Diocese, or if a move to retirement is outside the Diocese of Sydney, the reimbursement is limited to 50% of the current average removal cost within the Diocese.

The matter remains under review, including a proposal to widen the reimbursement arrangements to include "lay ministers".

3.23 Ordinance Fees

The fee payable for an ordinance has been \$50 since 1973 and it costs a great deal more than that to process a bill for an ordinance, including the giving of advice by diocesan officers and the maintenance of records in subsequent years. In the circumstances, the Standing Committee has resolved that the following scale of fees applies to bills for ordinances from 1 September 1991 -

	\$
Ordinances Requiring a Large Receipts Committee Hearing	500
Sale, Leasing or Other Complex Ordinances	250
Other Ordinances	100

This scale of fees is to be reviewed annually. Ordinances promoted to the Synod under the 1902 Act (as opposed to those promoted under the 1917 and 1938 Acts) will not attract a fee but a contribution may be sought towards printing costs.

4. General Administration

4.1 Delegation of Authority: Assessment Authorisation Ordinance 1975

The Standing Committee normally delegates to its Finance Committee the administration of the Synod Fund estimates of income and expenditure approved by the Synod. Last year, the Synod removed the requirement that delegations of authority under the Assessment Authorisation Ordinance be limited to committees consisting of members of the Standing Committee, but so far the Standing Committee has not appointed any persons to its Finance Committee who are not members of the Standing Committee.

The range of matters delegated to the Finance Committee under the Assessment Authorisation Ordinance 1975 has been widened comprehensively to remove numerous minor decisions concerning the administration of assessments from the agenda of the Standing Committee. The Finance Committee is required to report on exercises of this delegated authority and, at the request of not less than 25% of the members, a matter must be referred to the Standing Committee for decision.

4.2 Anglican Radio Unit

Leading on from last year's report (page 313 of the 1991 Year Book), the Radio Unit was closed for the last 4 months of 1990 to give the Radio Council time to formulate new stratagems. The Mother's Union and CEFM became direct tenants of the Standing Committee for the office space they had previously let from the Radio Unit, the office space of the Radio Unit was reduced, the Radio Unit produced a budget which showed it could live within the 1991 Synod grant and the Standing Committee authorised the payment of the grant.

Subsequently Mrs Bronwyn Hughes was appointed as Director of the Radio Unit and a Gospel ministry is again being exercised through the Radio Unit.

4.3 Elections

The appointment of persons to serve on committees etc, the filling of casual vacancies among the members of organisations under ordinances and resolutions of the Synod, and the appointment of persons to represent the Diocese on other organisations remains an important part of the business of the Standing Committee.

From October 1990 to July 1991, 186 such positions were filled (96 for the same period last year). This includes the persons elected to the committees listed in item 1.6 for the 3 years to end in October 1993.

4.4 "Consensual Compact" of the Diocese

The Legal Committee has prepared a summary of the law as to the "consensual compact" of the Diocese and appropriate parts of the summary will be included in the next edition of the Handbook.

4.5 Review of the Regulation of Charities in NSW

Further to last year's report on this matter (page 314 of the 1991 Year Book) agreement has been reached on a general exemption for religious bodies or organisations from the proposed new Charitable Fundraising Act. However, notwithstanding this exemption, it will be possible for the Minister of the Crown who administers the Act to declare that the provisions of the Act do apply to a body or organisation in which event the strict accounting, auditing, investment and reporting requirements of the Act will apply.

This exemption is given on the basis that we will endeavour to comply with the spirit of the Act and it is imperative, now and in future, that churchwardens and diocesan organisations comply strictly with the accounting, auditing, investment and reporting requirements which apply to them through various diocesan ordinances and Acts of Parliament.

4.6 Social Issues Committee

The Social Issues Committee is a committee of the Standing Committee and is serviced by the AIO. During the year, the Committee engaged in a number of projects.

- (a) Published a discussion paper on "Choices at the Coalface: Work in Christian Perspective".
- (b) Started a discussion paper on "Screen Violence".
- (c) Continued to address the problem of prostitution with a view to advising the Archbishop. Helped carry on the public debate about whether Sydney should have a casino.

- (d) Made 3 submissions or responses to government: on "Proposed Legislation to Give Legal Effect to Directions Against Artificial Prolongation of the Dying Process", on "Multiculturalism: Family Law" and on "Aboriginal Reconciliation".
- (e) Made a response to the draft paper by the Catholic Bishops of Australia on "Common Wealth, Common Good".
- (f) Started a response to "Multiculturalism: Criminal Law", a paper by the Australian Law Reform Commission.
- (g) Corresponded with the NSW Minister for Health on the subject of surrogate motherhood.

Bishop J.R. Reid retired as chairman of the Social Issues Committee in October 1990, after having held that position for many years. The Standing Committee publicly records its appreciation of Bishop Reid's work on social issues over the years. Deaconess Margaret Rodgers succeeds Bishop Reid as chairman.

The researcher and secretary of the Committee, Mrs J.R. Bartholomeusz, is located within the office of the AIO in St Andrew's House. Her salary is now funded by the Synod to the equivalent of 4 days per week. The Committee is considering the setting up of a database on social issues.

4.7 Parochial Statistics

Further to the report on page 316 of the 1991 Year Book, the Standing Committee has abandoned the concept of a Parish Ministry Return Form and has requested that the following statistics be collected and printed in the Standing Committee's annual reports to the Synod -

- (a) The average Sunday attendances for the year ended 31 December of the previous year, together with a plus or minus variation from the previous year, for each church (about 420) in the Diocese.
- (b) The total for baptisms confirmations, marriages and funerals conducted in association with each church for the same period.

An attempt will be made to obtain these statistics before the Synod session in October with a view to tabling a schedule at that session. Otherwise, the list will be printed in the Year Book.

4.8 Pre-Schools Kindergartens, Schools, Colleges or Similar activities Operated by Parishes

Clause 12 of the Church Grounds and Buildings Ordinance 1990 (previously clause 20A of the Sydney Church Ordinance, inserted in 1989) provided that no pre-school, kindergarten, school or college or similar educational activity requiring governmental registration, licence or authorisation can be commenced on behalf of any parish or church except by a body established under an ordinance or with the consent of the Standing Committee. This does not apply to an activity commenced by a lessee or licensee under a lease or licence granted by the Property Trust.

The clause also declares that existing pre-schools and kindergartens etc run by churches or parishes shall not continue after 1 January 1991 without the consent of the Standing Committee. A survey was made of the situation (several returns were unable to be identified) and subsequently the Standing Committee gave its consent to the continuation of the following activities -

Pre-Schools

Albion Park	Narrabeen
Ashfield	Neutral Bay/Kirribilli
Auburn St Phillip	Normanhurst
Beacon Hill	Northmead
Belmore	North Ryde
Bel rose	Oatley
Brighton/Rockdale	Port Kembla
Canterbury	Rose Bay
Coogee	Rozelle
Dapto	South Granville
Denistone East	South Hurstville
Lindfield East	Sylvania
Guildford	Willoughby East
Merrylands	Wollongong

Long Day Care Centres

Caringbah	Hurstville
Rozelle	

School and College
Campbelltown

*Before and After School Centres **

Engadine	Ermington
Manly	Springwood

* This activity appears to be a combination between a preschool, long day care centre and a kindergarten.

The clause does not apply to a play group or a creche. The Standing Committee's consent to the commencement of any new activities has not been sought since 1 January 1991. In future all applications for the Standing Committee's consent to commence one of these activities will have to comply with the guidelines established by the Synod and the Standing Committee.

5. General Synod Matters

5.1 Next Meeting of the General Synod

The next meeting of the General Synod will be held from 5 to 10 July 1992 in Sydney.

5.2 Election of Primate

The Board of Electors of the Primate is scheduled to meet on 23 October and a liturgical welcome is planned to the new Primate for 24 October in St Andrew's Cathedral.

Archbishop Rayner will have been Acting Primate for 22 months and the Standing Committee of the General Synod is planning legislation to modernise the election process.

5.3 Oaths and Declarations

The Canon Law Commission of the General Synod has made a lengthy report to the Australian Dioceses concerning the diversity of practice in the oaths and declarations required of bishops, clergy and laypersons.

The Standing Committee has invited the Archbishop to comment on the report after which the matter is to be referred to the Legal Committee for consideration.

5.4 Bills for General Synod Canons on Holy Orders, Relinquishment of Orders and Authorised Lay Ministry

The General Synod had referred these bills to the bishops and bishops-in-council of dioceses for review and comment. The legislation arises from the programme to repeal old church law and replace it with more contemporary law.

The bill for a Canon Concerning Holy Orders is to repeal Canons 31 to 37 of the Canons of 1603 and to prescribe requirements for the consecration of bishops and the ordination of priests and deacons. We suggested amendments to ensure that a person to be ordained has sufficient knowledge of our 2 prayer books and the 39 Articles, makes a declaration of assent to the doctrine and formularies of our Church, is an apt teacher and able to defend the doctrine of our Church, and is ordained in a church. We have also suggested that a person should minister as a deacon for not less than 9 months before being ordained as a priest and that the bill should not allow for the ordination of women as priests or the consecration of women as bishops.

The bill for the Relinquishment of Orders is to make provision for a bishop, priest or deacon to relinquish orders and to be deemed to be a layperson, and to repeal Canon No 76 of the Canons of 1603. We suggested several amendments of form.

The bill for Authorised Lay Ministry is to regulate public lay ministries and to repeal and replace the Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973. We suggested several amendments of form. This legislation is not expected to result in significant changes to the Sydney legislation on lay ministry.

The Ministry and Training Commission of the General Synod will review the bills in the light of comments received and it is likely that amended forms of the bills will be promoted to the General Synod session next year.

5.5 Review of the Present Method of Levying General Synod Assessments

Agencies of the General Synod are reviewing the present method of levying assessments on the member dioceses - see page 319 of the 1991 Year Book for last year's report on this matter.

Our response was sought to a further 5 questions. Broadly our replies were -

- (a) Linking the numbers of diocesan representatives with the amounts required to be raised is the best method of funding General Synod expenses.
- (b) A diocese should not be exempted from assessments. Any approval to write off long-standing arrears should be given by the General Synod in appropriate circumstances.
- (c) A common view must be worked out among the dioceses as to what constitutes a licence in terms of item 3 of the Table Annexed to the 1961 Constitution. The numbers of full-time paid clergy licensed to the parochial units in a diocese is probably indicative of the church-going population and seems to be the best and fairest measurement of "membership" contributions.

5.6 Towards a New National Ecumenical Body - A proposal

A request was received from the General Synod for comments on a proposal for setting up a "more comprehensive National Ecumenical Body" which would be a successor to the Australian Council of Churches, but constructed in such a way as to include ecclesial bodies which are not presently members of the ACC but who would have an interest in joining a "council of churches" modified in aims and structures. The main bodies in this category at the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Lutheran Church in Australia.

In essence, the proposed new body will ask no more nor less of the members than is asked of members of the Australian Council of Churches.

The Standing Committee has advised the General Secretary of the General Synod that we see no problem in giving general assent to the proposal, pending the study of a more detailed constitution, provided it is understood that membership of a new body would entail no greater financial contribution than is presently allocated to the Australian Council of Churches.

6. Provincial Synod Matters

6.1 Provincial Synod Sessions

A meeting of the Provincial Synod was held in 1989. The next meeting may not be until 1994.

6.2 Review of the 1902 Constitution

The review of the 1902 Constitution being carried out by the Standing Committee of the Provincial Synod is proceeding slowly - see page 282 of the 1991 Year Book for more background information on the review.

6.3 Synod Representatives Ordinance 1989

This ordinance of the Provincial Synod is to amend the 1902 Constitution to enable a diocesan synod to make ordinances with respect to the election or appointment of representatives to their Synod. All of the dioceses in the Province have adopted the Ordinance and next year the General Synod will be asked to ratify the amendments to the 1902 Constitution.

7. Sydney Synod Matters

7.1 Resolutions Passed by the Synod in 1990 and not Otherwise Mentioned in this Report

A circular was sent to parishes about the matters arising from the 1990 Synod session which required action at the parish level. Numerous letters were sent to appropriate persons conveying the text of Synod resolutions.

7.2 22/89 Communication of the Gospel to the Elderly

The Synod, by resolution 22/89, appointed a committee "on ministry to and by the ageing". An interim report was tabled at the Synod session last year and the Synod gave the committee leave to continue its work with a view to reporting this year.

The committee has reported, recommending the establishment of a Council on the Ageing, and a resource centre with an honorary executive officer capable of making representation to governments, to be attached to the Anglican Home Mission Society.

The proposal had not been considered by the HMS Council and, in the circumstances, the Standing Committee has referred the report to the Council for comment.

7.3 23/89 Diocesan Endowment Ordinance 1984

A committee was appointed to consider the matters raised by resolution 23/89. The committee has reported, the report was referred to the Glebe Administration Board (as trustee of the Diocesan Endowment) and the Board has advised -

“The subject matter of this report is obviously a major issue, and needs mature consideration on the part of the Board. The Board received the report for its comments at a time when it was considering a major revision of its present and planned investment strategies.

The Board is generally of the point of view that it might be wiser for the report to go no further at this stage. Members would wish to be able to study the report in further detail and to seek to submit to the Standing Committee some general outlines of its own investment plans and strategies. The Board remains concerned with what it understands its responsibilities to be in maintaining and improving its overall capital base, and in so doing being able to supply an income flow to the Diocese. The Board's own thinking may well be modified in the course of its consideration of the report, and for this reason, among others, this reply with its suggestions is submitted to you.”

in the circumstances, the Standing Committee agreed to report progress on this matter to the Synod.

7.4 3/90 Ecumenical Working Group

A committee consisting of Bishop P.R. Watson, Deaconess M.A. Rodgers and the Rev R.H. Avery was appointed to study the documents issuing from the 7th WCC Assembly in Canberra in 1991 and to prepare a report with a view to informing the Diocese generally.

7.5 7/90 Church Growth

In receiving the Church Growth report last year, the Synod requested members to convey to their parishes the urgent need for spiritual awakening and the spread of the Gospel. The Synod also requested area deans to have the report as the focus of consideration and discussion in 1991 at area deanery chapters with a view to each chapter initiating appropriate action at the parish, deanery or Synod level.

The Standing Committee had extra copies of the report printed, 5 copies were sent to each parochial unit and 1 to each diocesan organisation, and the Synod's request for the report to be considered by area deanery chapters was drawn to the attention of area deans. The Standing Committee has asked the Doctrine Commission to comment on items 15 to 25 of the report (“Biblical and Theological Considerations”).

7.6 8/90 Long Service Leave

The Synod requested the Standing Committee to examine the General Synod Long Service Leave Canon 1969 with a view to determining whether amending legislation should be prepared to enable more flexible handling of the “10-year provision” in cases of sickness or other emergency.

A submission was made to the Long Service Leave Board in Melbourne and the Board's Solicitor has indicated that an existing provision in the Canon adequately covers the situation by enabling a person to purchase “back-service” at a price determined on an actuarial basis.

7.7 10/90 Proposed Establishment of a Casino in Sydney

This Synod resolution was conveyed to the Premier. Our opposition to the building of a casino in Sydney was carried on by the Social Issues Committee and Bishop J.R. Reid obtained the following assurance from Mr Bob Carr, the Leader of the Labour Party in New South Wales -

- “* Labour is committed to a public inquiry into casinos using the Special Commission of Inquiry Legislation.
- * This inquiry would cover the social, financial and crime implications of such legislation.
- * In Government or Opposition we would provide for such an inquiry before legislation.”

It has been announced in the last few days that there is to be an inquiry and that the Government is planning 2 casinos.

The Standing Committee has approved a grant of \$2,500 from Synod Fund Contingencies to enable the employment of a journalist to write a submission to the inquiry into the social impact of casinos. The submission

was made jointly with the Council of Churches in NSW and was consistent with past submissions on this subject made by or on behalf of the Synod.

7.8 12/90 Commission of Inquiry Concerning Ministry Needs and Priorities

The Standing Committee has encouraged the Archbishop to appoint his foreshadowed commission.

7.9 17/90 Evangelical Anglicanism

This resolution requested the Archbishop to appoint a committee to “consider the situation (the change of direction of evangelical anglicanism in the past quarter century) with a view to strengthening the work of the Gospel in the Diocese and the avoidance of possible mistakes made elsewhere, and to report any recommendations to Synod”.

The resolution was conveyed to the Archbishop who is considering the matter.

7.10 19/90 Housing for People with Low Incomes

Several matters arose from this Synod resolution. First, the Glebe Board was asked to investigate the possibility of making more investments in housing for low income people. The Board has responded -

“... previous experience in this area of investment suggests that there are significant difficulties which arise when one of the investment arms of the Diocese is cast in the role of landlord for residential premises with the requirement to provide proper accommodation at below average prices. The Board sees its responsibility as providing the Synod with maximum possible income, after maintaining the purchasing power of the capital entrusted to it, with the Synod deciding the disposition of that income including such needs as housing for people with low incomes.”

Secondly, the Synod called on the State Government to give continued consideration to the needs of people awaiting public housing and to develop policies which will give low income people greater access to suitable housing. The Minister for Housing gave a very detailed reply indicating that the Department of Housing is making, and will continue to make, significant inroads in housing those who are on low incomes.

Thirdly, the Synod requested HMS to establish a committee to investigate a realistic response by our denomination to current housing needs, to consider proposals developed for housing homeless youth in the Wollongong area and to report back to Synod. A report is awaited.

7.11 20/90 Administration of the Holy Communion

This Synod resolution requested the Archbishop in consultation with the Standing Committee to appoint a committee to report on aspects of the administration of the Holy Communion. The following persons were appointed to the committee -

Mr Justice K.R. Handley	The Rev D.G. Peterson
The Rev B.G. Higginbotham	Bishop K.H. Short (Chairman)
The Rev B.A. Jobbins	

The committee is unable to complete its work in time to report for the 1991 Synod session and seeks leave to continue with a view to reporting next year.

7.2 24/90 Insurance

The Synod requested the Standing Committee to clarify the responsibilities and possible liabilities that may arise for churchwardens from the use of parish property by persons or organisations (other than parishioners or parish organisations) and, if liabilities exist, to advise on the need for additional legal liability insurance over and above or in addition to that specifically provided in the current diocesan legal liability policy.

The Manager, Finance and Administration (Mr Robert Wright), gave the following report on this matter -

“Churchwardens are a named insured under the policy administered by the Anglican Church Property Trust in respect of Legal Liability insurance. As such, churchwardens are covered for their legal liabilities, both personally and as members of the parish, from any negligence in the course of their duties as churchwardens which causes bodily injury or property damage to third parties. A condition precedent is therefore that negligence must be able to be proven before any claim can succeed.

Under the current policy the definition of bodily injury is very broad. It includes fright, mental anguish and mental injury, whilst the definition of property damage also includes loss of use of property not physically damaged.

There is no cover against financial loss under our Legal & Products Liability Policy - either by the churchwardens or the parish. A claim for financial loss would only be met by our insurers if bodily injury or property damage is present. It is considered that the prospect of churchwardens causing pure financial loss is relatively small and is more of a technical liability than a real exposure. An example of a possible claim is, say, the double booking of a hall resulting in a financial loss to one or both parties. Such a claim would not be covered by our existing insurance programme."

7.13 Policy on Rebates in Determining Parish Assessments

A notice of motion on this subject was referred to the Standing Committee for consideration at the close of the 1990 Synod session. The motion notes the support for the report on the Development of Parish Property and asks the Standing Committee to consider whether the "rebates" policy and practice has the potential to undermine the consolidation of parochial units "to facilitate team ministry".

The Standing Committee believes this matter would be more appropriately considered in view of any policy thrusts which emerge from the wide consultations which have taken place on the report. At this stage, little feedback is available.

7.14 Insurance of Church Property

A 2nd notice of motion referred to the Standing Committee for consideration at the close of the 1990 Synod session sought a report on "the principles involved in buying comprehensive insurance on the open market", the "longer term implications for the diocesan budget of continuing with this policy", and the "alternative of self-insurance" using the Diocesan Endowment.

The Standing Committee is not in favour of placing the Diocesan Endowment at risk in a self-insurance scheme.

7.15 Evangelisation of Young People

A 3rd notice of motion, requesting an investigation of difficulties and opportunities currently confronting adolescent Christians in evangelising their peers, was referred to the Standing Committee for consideration at the close of the 1990 Synod session.

The Standing Committee suggested that the mover of the motion take up this matter with the Council of the Anglican Youth Department, whose powers appear to be ample to undertake the suggested investigation.

7.16 Synod Contingencies Reserve

A 4th notice of motion, requesting that the contingency/reserve in future income and expenditure ordinances be not less than 3% of total outlays, was referred to the Standing Committee for consideration at the close of the 1990 Synod session.

The Standing Committee's views on this were reported to the Synod last year (page 531 of the 1991 Year Book), recommending that contingencies be maintained at less than 1% of total outlays. However, because of the possibility of unforeseen consequences from Synod grant reductions in 1992, a contingency figure of about 1.7% of total outlays is recommended for 1992 (item 16.4 of the report on the Diocesan Income and Expenditure Ordinance 1991).

7.17 Commission of Inquiry Concerning Ministry Needs and Priorities

A 5th notice of motion, requesting the Archbishop to include certain matters in the terms of reference of his proposed inquiry, was referred to the Standing Committee for consideration at the close of the 1990 Synod session.

The Standing Committee, without prejudice, passed the motion on to the Archbishop.

7.18 Suggested Amendment of the Elections Ordinance 1970

A 6th notice of motion, requesting the preparation of amendments to permit ballot papers to be forwarded to members of Synod with the 2nd mailing of Synod papers, was referred to the Standing Committee for consideration at the close of the 1990 Synod session.

The Synod elections work is ongoing throughout the year, with peaks from May to October. The Synod elects persons to over 500 positions on 38 organisations under ordinances and 4 affiliated organisations. The average term of office is 3 years but some positions carry 4 or 6 year terms of office. Organisations with different

membership requirements generate multiple elections (for clergymen, laypersons, laymen, laywomen, etc) and some elections include parts of the Synod only.

The elections required at the 1st session of a Synod are more extensive than for a 2nd or 3rd session. The incidence of casual vacancies also has a bearing, as the following table shows -

Type of Election	Positions		
	1988	1989	1990
Rotation	79	82	372
Casual	35	38	17
Total	114	120	389

At present, members of Synod wishing to vote must collect their ballot papers personally and cast their votes in a ballot box between certain hours on days 1 and 2 of a session.

Several alternatives for postal ballots were considered: partial, full and a combination of both. All of the alternatives would add to the expense of a Synod session -

- (a) 800 special envelopes will be required.
- (b) The mailing of ballot papers and precis of nominees will mean additional postage charges and the size of the "package" will be increased considerably.
- (c) The counting procedures will take longer because after the ballot closes the envelopes must be checked against the list of members before the ballot papers are removed.

To provide enough time for the printing and circulation of ballot papers and the precis of nominees, the election procedure would need to be set back up to 6 weeks.

Time and expense could be saved by eliminating the precis of nominees.

If the election procedures are set back 6 weeks, casual vacancies reported after 30 June (31 July at present) would not normally be filled by the Standing Committee before the October Synod session and would not be reported to the Synod until the following October.

There is an attraction about a full postal ballot But the intangible cost of making the change and the additional printing, stationery and mailing costs each year must be offset against the principal benefit of easing congestion around the ballot box.

7.19 Constitution Alteration (Making of Canons) Canon and Bill 1989

The Standing Committee of the General Synod has "signalled its deep concern" that the 1992 General Synod may lack the capacity to deal with constitutional change by simplified processes in certain 1987 and 1989 canons and bills which have not yet come into force.

The 1987 and 1989 legislation must be assented to by all of the diocesan Synods before coming into force. Sydney has adopted the 1987 legislation but last year we recommended that the 1989 legislation be considered by the Sydney Synod this year, by which time the outcome of the 1987 legislation should be known.

Advice was received on 24 July 1991 that the dioceses which have not assented to the legislation were -

<i>1989 Canon and Bill</i>	<i>1989 Canon and Bill</i>
Ballarat *	Ballarat
Carpentaria *	Carpentaria
	Sydney

* To be considered this year

The matter remains under review and it is likely that the Sydney Synod will be asked to consider the 1989 legislation this year. Our Standing Orders require that 3 months notice be given of an ordinance to assent to an alteration to the 1961 Constitution and that deadline has passed for the October 1991 session. It is possible, however, to consider the matter if 75% of the members present permit the bill to be included in the agenda.

7.20 Provisional Canon Law Repeal Canon No P1 1989

This General Synod Provisional Canon remains under consideration and a report will be made as soon as possible.

7.21 General Synod - Constitution Alteration (Canonical Fitness) Canon and Bill 1989 Assenting Ordinance 1990

The Constitution Alteration (Canonical Fitness) Canon and Bill 1989 is to alter the definition of canonical fitness in Section 74(1) of the 1961 Constitution. The present and proposed definitions are -

Present Definition

".... means the qualifications required by the Church of England in England for the office of a bishop, as at the date when this Constitution takes effect."

Proposed Definition

".... means, as regards a person, that -

- (a) the person has attained at least 30 years of age;
- (b) the person has been baptised; and
- (c) the person is in priest's orders."

The Standing Committee recommended last year that the Synod assent to the General Synod Canon and Bill, and the Synod gave its assent by an ordinance. The Canon and Bill cannot come into effect until 75% of the dioceses in Australia, including all of the metropolitan dioceses (which includes Sydney), have given their assent.

The ordinance passed by the Synod last year was not assented to by the Archbishop and it lapsed. The Archbishop withheld his assent as one of the qualifications required in the Church of England for the office of a bishop, in 1961 and still today, is that he be male, and the new definition does not require this.

7.22 Holy Baptism with the Laying on of Hands

The Standing Committee has requested the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to review "Holy Baptism with the Laying on of Hands 1990" from the General Synod Liturgical Commission and to prepare a report on doctrinal and other related matters which emerge from this review. The Commission has been asked to report to the Standing Committee on this matter prior to the 1992 session of Synod.

7.23 ARCIC: Salvation and the Church

12/84 Conduct of Marriage Services Involving Divorced Persons

God and Sexuality

Holy Baptism with the Laying on of Hands

Sunday/Sabbath Observance

Reports on these subjects are awaited from the Diocesan Doctrine Commission.

7.24 Ordinances for this Session

The bills for ordinances for this session promoted by request of the Standing Committee or Synod have been examined by members of the Standing Committee's Ordinance Drafting Panel with regard to drafting and language used. In most cases, bills promoted by request of Synod or Standing Committee have been drafted by members of the Legal Committee.

7.25 Reports etc which are part of the Standing Committee's Report

The following reports, audited accounts and bills for ordinances which have been printed for the Synod, are part of the Standing Committee's report -

Accounts -

- General Fund Audited Accounts for 1990
- Synod Fund Audited Accounts for 1990

Reports -

- Appellate Tribunal Questions 1990
- Ashbury, Proposal to Change Classification to a Provisional Parish
- Constitution Alteration (Making of Canons) Canon and Bill 1989
- Decade of Evangelism (18/89, 37/89 and 6/90 etc)
- Huskisson, Application for Parish Status
- Ordinances Passed Since Last Report

Parochial Statistics for 1990
Provisional Canon Law Repeal Canon 1989
Regionalisation/Diocesan Development (30/89, including reports from PARC and WARC)
Stipends and Allowances (5/90)
Woolloomooloo, Proposal for the Formation of the Provisional Parish of

Bills for Ordinances "by request of Synod or Standing Committee" -

Diocesan Income and Expenditure Ordinance 1991
Financial Requirements Ordinance 1991
General Synod - Provisional Canon Concerning Authority on Certain Matters Assenting Ordinance 1991
General Synod - The Use of the Surplice Canon Adopting Ordinance Amendment Ordinance 1991
Miscellaneous Amendments Ordinance (No 1) 1991
Miscellaneous Amendments Ordinance (No 2) 1991
Parishes Ordinance and Presentation and Exchange Amendment Ordinance 1991
Presentation and Exchange Amendment Ordinance 1991
Standing Committee Amendment Ordinance 1991
Standing Orders Amendment Ordinance 1991

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

W.G.S. GOTLEY
Diocesan Secretary

14 August 1991 *

* Updated to 11 October 1991