

# Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

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16 March 2016

## Revised arrangements for postponed Special Session of the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod : Proposed merger of Anglicare and Anglican Retirement Villages

2<sup>nd</sup> circular to Synod Members

### Key points

- The special session of 50<sup>th</sup> Synod to consider the proposed merger of Anglicare and Anglican Retirement Villages (previously scheduled for 31 March 2016) has been postponed to **Wednesday 27 April 2016** commencing at **6.00 pm**. The venue for the session, the Wesley Theatre, remains the same.
- The revised deadline for members giving up to 2 notices of motion for inclusion in the business paper for the special session is **27 March 2016**.
- Initial information about the proposed merger will now be emailed to Synod members by **24 March 2016**.
- Pre-Synod briefings on the proposed merger will now be held for members as follows –
  - St John's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta at **7.30pm Tuesday 29 March 2016**
  - St Michael's Cathedral, Wollongong at **7.30 pm Wednesday 30 March 2016**
  - St Andrew's Cathedral Chapter House at **6.30 pm Thursday 31 March 2016**
- Further information about the proposed merger will now be emailed to members together with the business paper and a "self-printing" name tag for the special session by **8 April 2016**.
- If any member requires a paper copy of any large document (25+ pages) emailed to members for the special session of Synod, these will still be available for collection by members prior to the Synod at St Andrew's House or at the Wesley Theatre during the session of Synod.

# 1. Archbishop's letter postponing the special session of Synod

## Postponement of the Special Session of the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod to 27 April 2016

On 11 March 2016, the Archbishop sent the following circular letter to members of the Synod –

Dear Synod members

Greetings in the name of the Lord.

As you will be aware on 19 February, with the support of Standing Committee, I called you to a special session of the Synod on Thursday, 31 March to consider the proposed merger of Anglicare and Anglican Retirement Villages (ARV).

I am now writing to inform you that I have agreed to postpone this special session to **Wednesday, 27 April**. The venue is still the Wesley Centre and the starting time is still 6pm. As a consequence, the pre-Synod briefing which was due to be held in the Chapter House on Thursday, 17 March will now be held at 6:30pm on Thursday, 31 March (the original date for the special session of Synod).

I have also asked the Diocesan Secretary to arrange two other regional pre-Synod briefings across the Diocese during that week and he will advise you of these dates and locations as soon as they are confirmed.

I apologise for the inconvenience this change of date for the special session of Synod may cause for Synod members, but a number of factors necessitated this postponement. While the two organisations came to their common mind in advancing the proposal to Standing Committee at the end of January, Standing Committee did not consider the proposal until its meeting in mid-February. Since then a committee was appointed by the Standing Committee to review the merger proposal and they have been working with Anglicare and ARV to compile the information needed by Synod members to reach an informed view on the proposal. There are some complex matters to be considered before one can rightly assess the merits of such a merger. The next meeting of Standing Committee is not until 21 March, after which I intend to approve the circulation of a report from the two CEOs of Anglicare and ARV to Synod members, containing the advantages of a merger, the risks of a merger and the risks of not merging.

However, if we had kept the original date of the special session, members of Synod would have had only a brief window of opportunity (in the midst of our preparations for Good Friday and Easter Day) to read and digest the materials before the Synod scheduled for the following week. The committee was aware that this is one of the more significant matters to be considered by the Synod in recent years and, with this in mind, considered that "rushing" to a special session on 31 March would neither do justice to the proposal nor honour your time as members of the Synod.

Again, my apologies for any inconvenience that this revised date of the special session may cause you, but I believe the revised timetable will allow Synod members more time to consider this significant proposal.

Finally, I do ask for your prayers for the Synod's consideration of the proposed merger, and especially for the staff and residents at Anglicare and ARV, who will no doubt be unsettled by the delay as they await the decision of the Synod.

With every good wish

Grace and peace



DR GLENN DAVIES  
Archbishop of Sydney

## 2. Revised meeting arrangements for this Synod session

### Meeting time, place and purpose

- 2.1 In accordance with the Archbishop's decision, the special session of Synod (previously scheduled for 31 March 2016) will now be held on the evening of **Wednesday 27 April 2016**, commencing at 6.00 pm, in the Wesley Theatre, 220 Pitt Street Sydney.
- 2.2 The purpose of the special session remains unchanged, namely to consider and, if thought fit, approve the proposed merger of two diocesan bodies, namely the Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society (Anglicare) and Anglican Retirement Villages Diocese of Sydney (ARV).
- 2.3 As new arrangements are being trialled for name tags at the special session (see below), you are encouraged to arrive at the Wesley Centre no later than 5.30 pm. Doors to the Theatre will be open from 5.00 pm.

### Synod mailings

- 2.4 There will now be 4 main mailings for this session –
  - (a) The 1<sup>st</sup> mailing comprised the Archbishop's summons to the special session provided under cover of the circular dated 19 February 2016.
  - (b) The 2<sup>nd</sup> mailing comprises revised meeting arrangements for the postponed special session provided under cover of this circular.
  - (c) A 3<sup>rd</sup> mailing will be sent by 24 March 2016 and will include initial information about the proposed merger.
  - (d) A 4<sup>th</sup> mailing will be sent by 8 April 2016 and will comprise –
    - a second circular to Synod members providing additional information about the session, for example car parking arrangements,
    - further information about the proposed merger including a report from the Standing Committee together with draft ordinances,
    - the Business Paper for the special session,
    - a "self-printing" name tag for the special session (see items 2.7 and 2.8 below).
- 2.5 These mailings will be communicated to Synod members by email. It is therefore important to ensure that the Registry has your current email address and other contact details. Updated email addresses and other contact details can be sent to the Registry at [registry@sydney.anglican.asn.au](mailto:registry@sydney.anglican.asn.au). Alternatively, members can update their contact details directly on the Registry's secure website under the Maintain Personal Information option. If you have not already done so, you can request access to the Registry's secure website by sending your name, date of birth and current email address to [registry@sydney.anglican.asn.au](mailto:registry@sydney.anglican.asn.au).
- 2.6 If any member requires a paper copy of any large document (25+ pages) which has been emailed to members, copies will still be available for collection from the Reception at Level 2 St Andrew's House prior to the Synod and at the Wesley Theatre during the session of Synod.

### Name tags

- 2.7 The special session provides an opportunity to trial new arrangements for name tags. The new arrangements will involve a printable form of name tag (minus the plastic holder) being sent to you by email by 8 April as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> mailing. You will be asked to print (in black and white) the sheet on which your name tag appears, cut your tag out of the sheet and bring it to the session. Plastic name tag holders will be available at the Wesley Theatre.
- 2.8 If you have no capacity to print your name tag (in black and white), please contact Nerida Paul at [nkp@sydney.anglican.asn.au](mailto:nkp@sydney.anglican.asn.au) so that suitable alternative arrangements can be made in advance of the session.

### Pre-Synod briefings

- 2.9 In order to ensure that as many questions about the proposed merger can be answered before the special session, pre-Synod briefings for Synod members will now be held as follows –
  - St John's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta at **7.30pm Tuesday 29 March 2016**
  - St Michael's Cathedral, Wollongong at **7.30 pm Wednesday 30 March 2016**
  - St Andrew's Cathedral Chapter House at **6.30 pm Thursday 31 March 2016**

2.10 Presentations will be given at the briefing followed by a time for questions and answers. The briefing will not be a time to make speeches or other comments about the merger proposal. The opportunity to do this will be at the special session.

2.11 The pre-Synod briefing previously scheduled for Thursday 17 March 2016 has been cancelled.

### **Notices of motions for the Session**

2.12 Under rule 4.3(3) of the business rules, members are entitled to give up to 2 notices of motion for inclusion in the business paper for the session.

2.13 As a consequence of the postponement of the special session, the date by which notices of motion may be received by the Standing Committee has been extended to **27 March 2016**.

2.14 Notices should be emailed to the Diocesan Secretary at [synodbusiness@sydney.anglican.asn.au](mailto:synodbusiness@sydney.anglican.asn.au) with the subject field stating "Notice of motion" or posted to the Diocesan Secretary at "PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office, SYDNEY NSW 1230" and endorsed "Notice of motion".

## **3. Further information**

If you have any questions about the special session, please contact Daniel Glynn on 9265 1668 or at [dmg@sydney.anglican.asn.au](mailto:dmg@sydney.anglican.asn.au).

ROBERT WICKS  
**Diocesan Secretary**