

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 13 February 2023

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 16:16-33, Miss Jenny Flower and the Rev Dr Raj Gupta opened the meeting in prayer.

Australia Day Honours

Standing Committee congratulated the following members of the Church in the Diocese who were named in the Australia Day Honours list –

Professor Emerita Diane Speed AM, a member of the parish of St Mark's Darling Point, for significant service to tertiary education, and to the Anglican Church of Australia.

Mrs Aileen Davis OAM, a member of the parish of The Oaks, for service to people with disability.

Dr Darren Mitchell OAM, a member of the parish of St Barnabas Broadway, for service to veterans.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved of the minutes of 5 December 2022.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

Commonwealth review of Religious Educational Institutions and Anti-Discrimination Laws

Response to the ALRC Consultation Paper

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that on 27 January 2023, the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) released its Consultation Paper on removing religious exemptions from the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth),
- (b) noted that the ALRC proposals will have a significant impact on Anglican Schools in the Diocese, because they will severely restrict the ability of a religious school to preference staff who share the faith of that school,
- (c) noted that responses to the ALRC Consultation Paper are due by 24 February 2023, and that the Religious Freedom Reference Group (RFRG) will submit a response on behalf of the Diocese,
- (d) noted that a briefing session for Heads and Chairs of Anglican Schools in the Diocese was held on Wednesday 8 February 2023, and
- (e) received an oral report from the Chair of the RFRG, Bishop Michael Stead.

The Archbishop thanked Bishop Stead on behalf of the Standing Committee, which was received with acclamation.

Correspondence with the Attorney-General

Standing Committee noted a letter to the Attorney-General from Faith Leaders regarding the ALRC Consultation Paper on Religious Educational Institutions and Anti-Discrimination Laws, sent on 13 February 2023.

Bishop Chris Edwards led the Standing Committee in prayer regarding this matter.

General Synod of the Church of England

Standing Committee recorded its thanks to Archbishop Raffel for a media statement on the decision of the General Synod of the Church of England to permit blessing of same sex marriages, and committed itself to continue to pray for the Archbishop as he leads our Diocese nationally and internationally.

The Rev Stephen Gibson led the Standing Committee in prayer regarding this matter.

Ordinances

Ordinances passed at the last meeting

Standing Committee received from the Diocesan Secretary, the following summary of the status of ordinances passed at the Standing Committee meeting held on 5 December 2022 –

Ordinance	Status
<i>Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2022</i>	Assented
<i>Cathedral Ordinance 1969 Amendment Ordinance 2022</i>	Assented
<i>Long Term Pooling Fund Ordinance 2012 Amendment Ordinance 2022</i>	Assented, with commencement date certified as 1 January 2023

Belrose Trust Ordinance 2008

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted a letter from the Wardens of St Stephens Anglican Church Belrose, and
- (b) resolved under clause 9(2)(b) of the *Belrose Trust Ordinance 2008* to determine \$200,000 (including GST) as the limit of rent payable by a lessee or licensee for the premises at 12 Lockwood Avenue, Belrose.

Elections

Membership of the Standing Committee

Lay persons elected by the Regional Electors of the Wollongong Region

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Members of the 53rd Synod under Part 7 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*

Standing Committee received a report from the Archbishop's Executive Officer.

Election of members of the 53rd Synod under Part 8 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and agreed –

- (a) to consider appointing 27 members of the 53rd Synod under Part 8 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* at the meeting on 1 May 2023, and
- (b) that nominations for the election will close at 5.00 pm on 21 April 2023.

Glebe Administration Board

Ms Raewyn Williams was elected.

The remaining vacancy was deferred.

King's School, The Council of The

Bishop Gary Koo was elected.

Ordinance Evidence Committee

Archdeacon Anthony Douglas was elected.

Anglican Media Council
Anglican National Superannuation Board
Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks), Council of
Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council
Diocesan Retirements Board
Living Faith Council
Macarthur Anglican School Council
St Andrew's House Corporation
Stipends and Allowances Committee
Synod Minute Reading Committee
Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee
The Illawarra Grammar School, The Council of
Work Outside the Diocese Committee

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) Anglican Church Growth Corporation – the Rev Canon Christopher Allan had resigned. Standing Committee resolved not to declare a vacancy in the membership of the Anglican Church Growth Corporation at this time.
- (b) Anglican Community Services (Anglicare) – Mr Martyn Mitchell had resigned effective 28 February 2023 and a vacancy was declared for a lay person.

Motion of thanks for Mr Martyn Mitchell

Standing Committee thanked Mr Martyn Mitchell for his 12 years of faithful, humble and committed service as a Board member of Anglican Community Services (and the Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society Council), and as Chair of the Board's Audit & Risk Committee, and assured him of its prayers as he continues to serve the Diocese as a member of the Anglican Schools Corporation and through various roles in the parish of St Matthew's Manly.

- (c) Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council – Mr Peter White had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.
- (d) Social Issues Committee – Mrs Emma Penzo had resigned, and a vacancy was declared for a member of the Standing Committee.
- (e) St Andrew's House Corporation – Mr Chris Bertinshaw had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.
- (f) Abbotsleigh, Council of – Dr John Burns had resigned effective 6 April 2023 and a vacancy was declared for a layman.
- (g) Arden Anglican School Council – Canon Alistair Seabrook had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a member of clergy.

Sydney Diocesan Services, Glebe Administration Board and other Diocesan Organisations

Sydney Diocesan Services Minutes

Standing Committee noted that the minute book of the Sydney Diocesan Services had been tabled.

Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Receipt of report – SDS

Standing Committee received a report concerning the Sydney Diocesan Services.

Receipt of report – GAB and Diocesan Endowment

Standing Committee received a report concerning the Glebe Administration Board and the Diocesan Endowment.

Services provided by Sydney Diocesan Services to the Synod and Standing Committee

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received report.

Services provided to the Synod and the Standing Committee

Standing Committee confirmed that SDS has satisfactorily provided services under the current Service Level Standards document for the period between October 2021 and October 2022 –

- (a) to the Synod and the Standing Committee and its subcommittees,
- (b) regarding the Diocesan HR Partner, and
- (c) for the Diocesan Researcher,

and agreed to the revised form of Service Level Standards documents for services provided by SDS during 2023.

Blue Mountains Grammar School – amendments to constitution and replacement of the ACPT as a corporate member

Standing Committee received a report from the Senior Legal Counsel.

Financial Matters

Actions by the Finance Committee under delegated authority

Standing Committee noted the actions of the Finance Committee under delegated authority.

Council of Living Faith

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Council of Living Faith.

Request for financial support

Standing Committee, in light of the urgent need for specialised training in pastoral care and pastoral support, agreed in principle to provide \$60,000 for the 2023 calendar year to support the ongoing ministry of Living Faith and enable it to work towards a sustainable funding model, subject to the Diocesan Resources Committee providing advice to the next meeting on potential source(s) of funds, noting that there is no in-principle commitment to funding future years other than through the normal funding procedures.

Long Service Leave Board

Standing Committee requested the Diocesan Secretary to convey a suitable form of a draft letter to the Long Service Leave Board on behalf of the Standing Committee, asking the Board to consider whether it is feasible and desirable to resolve an anomaly in the *Long Service Leave Canon 2010*.

Synod

35/22 Synod in the Greenfields of the Northwest of Sydney

Standing Committee agreed to hold a 'Synod in the Greenfields of the Northwest of Sydney' event in 2024.

33/22 First Nations Voice

Standing Committee noted a letter from Professor Chris Bellenger and referred it to the Social Issues Committee for consideration by the Standing Committee at the 1 May 2023 meeting.

34/22 Religious Freedom

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 34/22 in the following terms –

‘Synod –

- (a) expresses its disappointment that there is still no NSW or Commonwealth legislation prohibiting religious discrimination, and therefore that it continues to be lawful to discriminate against people on the basis of their religious belief or religious activity in New South Wales,
- (b) calls on the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Government to reaffirm their commitment to religious freedom as set out in international law including Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and to take all practical steps necessary to ensure that the following six freedoms are protected in Australia within the constraints of the civil and criminal law generally applicable and consistent with Australia’s obligations under international law –
 - (i) freedom to manifest a religion through religious observance and practice,
 - (ii) freedom to preference the employment of persons of faith to organisations run by faith communities,
 - (iii) freedom to teach and uphold moral standards within faith communities and organisations run by faith communities,
 - (iv) freedom of conscience to differentiate between right and wrong,
 - (v) freedom to teach and propagate religion, and
 - (vi) freedom of a person to change their religion,
- (c) notes that Australia's obligations under Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to uphold freedom of religion is, in part, acquitted by means of legislative exemption clauses for religious bodies, and that that these exemption clauses only apply where "an act or practice conforms to the doctrines[, tenets, beliefs or teachings] of that religion" or words to that effect,
- (d) notes the 2020 Majority Opinion of the Appellate Tribunal in both the Wangaratta and Newcastle references sought to distinguish between “doctrine” in the technical sense in which that word is used in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia (limited to those matters that which are required of necessity to be believed for salvation) and “doctrine” in the broader sense generally used in the Church,
- (e) recognises that, for the avoidance of doubt, it is expedient to affirm that past statements of this Synod about our Church’s “doctrine” of marriage use the word in the generally accepted broader sense, and therefore that these statements continue to describe the “doctrines” of our Church,
- (f) in particular, this Synod continues to affirm that our doctrine of marriage is determined by the teaching of Christ that, “from the beginning the Creator made them male and female”, and in marriage, “a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh” (Matt 19:4-5), and that it would not conform to the doctrine, tenets, beliefs or teachings of our Church for clergy to solemnise or bless a marriage between two people of the same sex,
- (g) affirms that when a Sydney Anglican Diocesan School seeks to teach and uphold the doctrine of Christ on marriage and human sexuality it does not thereby discriminate against students, parents and others in the school community who do not hold to these teachings; further, Synod laments the harm caused both among our school communities and the wider community by the propagation of suggestions to the contrary and supports the ongoing commitment of Anglican Schools to the inclusion, pastoral care and support of all members of their school communities,

and therefore calls upon both the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Government to give priority to the passage of legislation that respects the six freedoms listed above, and to do this in such a way that does not further polarise the community on these issues; and requests the

Diocesan Secretary to communicate this resolution to NSW and Federal Attorneys-General and shadow Attorneys-General.'

and noted a letter in response from the Attorney-General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP.

Doctrine Commission Report – The Doctrine of concupiscence and its relevance to the experience of same-sex attraction

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Sydney Diocesan Doctrine Commission and approved the printing of a suitable form of this report for the forthcoming ordinary session of the Synod.

Appreciation of the Diocesan Doctrine Commission

Standing Committee thanked the Diocesan Doctrine Commission for their work in preparing the Report on concupiscence.

Other Matters

Prioritisation of Standing Committee's outstanding matters

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and agreed to the recommended priority classification made in the report.

Indigenous spirituality

Receipt of correspondence

Standing Committee received an email from the Rev Andrew Barry.

Art installation in St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne

Standing Committee requested the Diocesan Secretary to convey a suitable form of response to Mr Barry on behalf of the Standing Committee, subject to approval by the Archbishop.

Request for advice – Welcomes to, and Acknowledgements of, Country

Standing Committee referred the email to the Social Issues Committee in consultation with the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples Ministry Committee for advice regarding theological and practical considerations for the Diocese towards Welcomes to Country and Acknowledgements of Country, in light of the varying Indigenous understandings of "Country" present in Australia.

Request for advice – smoking ceremonies

Standing Committee requested the Social Issues Committee in consultation with the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples Ministry Committee to provide advice regarding theological and practical considerations for the Diocese regarding the varieties of Indigenous smoking ceremonies used in our community and their implications for our churches and organisations.

Submission to the Federal Government's Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into universal access to reproductive healthcare

Social Issues Committee submission to Senate inquiry

Standing Committee noted a submission by the Social Issues Committee to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into universal access to reproductive healthcare.

Appreciation for the Diocesan Research Officer

Standing Committee thanked the Diocesan Research Officer, the Rev Dr Danielle Treweek, for her diligence in preparing this submission, and for the extensive research and consultation that she was able to complete within the short time frame available for responding to this inquiry.

62/19 Gender Representation on Diocesan Boards and Committees

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Reporting schedule

Standing Committee requested SDS to report the annual statistics regarding gender composition on Diocesan boards and committees pursuant to Synod resolution 62/19 to the Standing Committee on a financial year, rather than calendar year, basis.

Date of next meeting

Monday 27 March 2023.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 27 March 2023

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 6:16-34, Mrs Emma Penzo and the Rev Dr Gavin Perkins opened the meeting in prayer.

Welcome to Mr Rowen Atkinson and Mr Jeffrey Reilly

Standing Committee welcomed Mr Rowen Atkinson and Mr Jeffrey Reilly to the meeting as members elected by the Wollongong Regional Electors from 1 March 2023, and looked forward to their contributions to the meetings.

Diocese of North West Australia

Standing Committee noted correspondence from the Council of the Diocese of North West Australia.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved of the minutes of 13 February 2023.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

National and International relations

The Archbishop made a statement on this matter.

Ordinances

Nomination Ordinance 2006 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Nomination Ordinance 2006*.

Interpretation Ordinance 1985 Amendment Ordinance 2023

Purpose of ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Interpretation Ordinance 1985*.

Definition in the Ministry Standards Ordinance

Standing Committee agreed to recommend to the Synod, when it next amends the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* (MSO), that the definition of “doctrine” be omitted from the MSO.

Christ Church Inner West (Five Dock Urban Renewal) Trust Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property at Five Dock is held and to establish the Christ Church Inner West (Five Dock Urban Renewal) Trust.

Cronulla Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Ordinance 2022 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Cronulla Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Ordinance 2022*.

Wollongong Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property is held, to consolidate the property in the ACPT – Wollongong Trust and make consequential amendments to the *Wollongong Trust Ordinance 2016*.

St John's Parramatta Endowment Fund Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2019

Receipt of letter

Standing Committee received a letter from the parish of St John's Parramatta.

Exclusions applicable to the calculation of Net Operating Receipts

Standing Committee determined the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 for the purposes of clause 7 of the *St John's Parramatta Endowment Fund Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2019*.

Property Receipts Levy Exemption

Standing Committee declared 31 December 2024 as a later date for the purposes of clause 8 of the *St John's Parramatta Endowment Fund Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2019*.

Elections

Declaration of nominated organisations for the 53rd Synod under Part 6 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and agreed to consider declaring up to seven nominated organisations for the 53rd Synod at its meeting in May 2023.

Members of the 53rd Synod under Part 7 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*

Standing Committee received a report from the Archbishop's Executive Officer that, pursuant to clause 32(1) of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*, the Archbishop has appointed 27 Nominated Ministers for the 53rd Synod.

Members of the 52nd Synod under Part 8 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and requested the Diocesan Secretary to include this matter for consideration the next time the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* is amended or reviewed.

Appointment of Returning Officers for all sessions of the 53rd Synod

Standing Committee recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that he appoint Mr Gilbert van der Jagt as returning officer and Mrs Briony Bounds as deputy returning officer for the purposes of elections conducted during all sessions of the 53rd Synod.

Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)

Mr Rod Dring was elected.

Arden Anglican School Council

The Rev Jeremy Morris was elected.

Blue Mountains Grammar School

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and –

- (a) noted the vacancy for one director for a term of 3 years will arise at the conclusion of the Blue Mountains Grammar School AGM due to be held on 16 June 2023, and
- (b) agreed to consider filling the vacancy at its meeting in May 2023.

Diocesan Resources Committee

Bishop Michael Stead was elected as an additional member of the Diocesan Resources Committee.

Glebe Administration Board

Mr Jonathan Ng was elected.

New College

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and noted that two vacancies in the membership of New College that will arise at the Annual General Meeting of the company on 3 May 2023.

Mr Malcolm Beard and Mrs Janet Simpson were elected.

Robert Menzies College

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and –

- (a) noted that three vacancies will arise in the membership of Robert Menzies College at the Annual General Meeting of the company to be held on 26 June 2023, and
- (b) agreed to consider filling the vacancies at its meeting in May 2023.

SCECGS Redlands

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and noted that a vacancy for one person to be appointed as a director of SCECGS Redlands will arise at the conclusion of the AGM on 26 April 2023.

Filling of vacancy

Standing Committee recommended to Sydney Diocesan Services that the Rev Timothy St Quintin be reappointed as a director of SCECGS Redlands upon the expiry of his current term at the end of the AGM due to be held on 26 April 2023.

Synod Minute Reading Committee

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and noted that there is no vacancy on the Synod Minute Reading Committee.

The Illawarra Grammar School, The Council of

The Rev Gary Eastment was elected, effective from a date determined by the Archbishop upon Mr Eastment receiving a licence in the Diocese of Sydney.

Work Outside the Diocese Committee

Dr Jean Ashton was elected.

**Abbotsleigh, Council of
Anglican Media Council
Anglican National Superannuation Board
Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks), Council of
Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council
Diocesan Retirements Board
Living Faith Council
Macarthur Anglican School Council
St Andrew's House Corporation
Social Issues Committee
Stipends and Allowances Committee
Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee**

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) Work Outside the Diocese Committee – The Rev Caitlin Orr had resigned and the Standing Committee resolved not to declare a vacancy at this time.
- (b) Robert Menzies College – Ms Nicola Warwick-Mayo had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.
- (c) The Illawarra Grammar School Council – Dr Bryan Cowling had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a lay person.
Mr Roger Summerill OAM was elected.
- (d) Trinity Grammar School, Council of – Mr Matthew Bradfield had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a lay person.

Sydney Diocesan Services, Glebe Administration Board and other Diocesan Organisations

Anglican Church Growth Corporation Progress Report – Quarter 4, 2022

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report,
- (b) noted the progress made in Q4 2022 against the Growth Corporation 2020-2022 Strategic Plan, and
- (c) noted the update on additional actions being taken by the Growth Corporation.

Leasing space for 5G infrastructure as a source of additional parish income

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report from the Anglican Church Growth Corporation,
- (b) noted the Growth Corporation's intention to include leasing of space for 5G telecommunications infrastructure in Urban Renewal Pilot Program (URPP) projects.

Financial Matters

Actions by the Finance Committee under delegated authority

Standing Committee noted the actions of the Finance Committee under delegated authority.

Council of Living Faith – funding for ministry in 2023

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Resources Committee.

Application of Sydney Diocesan Sickness and Accident Fund Ordinance 1969

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report.

Authorisation of payment

Standing Committee determined that the circumstances giving rise to this request are “within the spirit and intent of this Ordinance”, using its power under clause 12 of the *Sydney Diocesan Sickness and Accident Fund Ordinance 1969* to authorise payment of a claim.

Report from the Work Outside the Diocese Committee

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report, noting that it provides the information requested in Synod resolution 16/22 and addresses Synod resolution 53/22.

Printing of report for Synod

Standing Committee approved the printing of a suitable form of this report for the next ordinary session of the Synod.

Long Service Leave Board – Application of the Diocese of the Southern Cross

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a letter dated 8 March 2023 from the Secretary of the Long Service Leave Fund to the Archbishop of Sydney,
- (b) encouraged Archbishop Raffel, in his capacity as a Diocesan Bishop, to respond with favourable support to the request for comment from the Long Service Leave Board on the application from the Diocese of the Southern Cross Limited to become a participating organisation of the Long Service Leave Fund,
- (c) noted there are clergy who hold a current licence from the Bishop of the Diocese of the Southern Cross who have been long term participants in the Long Service Leave Fund and wish to continue as participants of the Fund in their current roles,
- (d) regarded clergy who hold a current licence from the Bishop of the Diocese of the Southern Cross to be involved in Anglican pastoral ministry and therefore should be able to obtain the benefits of long service leave across a variety of Anglican ministries as is the situation of the many other clergy who work in parish or organisational ministry across Australia,
- (e) noted the Long Service Leave Fund, established some 60 years ago, is one part of the National Church structure which has wide support from all dioceses despite differences of theology and practice, and
- (f) asked the Diocesan Secretary to convey the text of this motion to the Secretary of the Long Service Leave Fund.

Synod

Review of the Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982

Standing Committee received a report.

15/22 Toward the development of a Diocesan Property Strategy

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Receipt of report from the ACGC

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report from the Anglican Church Growth Corporation,
- (b) noted a response received from a member of Synod to the request for submissions on the development of a diocesan-wide, ministry-directed property strategy, and
- (c) noted a program for the development of the South-West Region, Ministry-led Buildings & Property Strategy during 2023.

Request for a report from the ACGC

Standing Committee requested the Anglican Church Growth Corporation to provide a report to the Standing Committee by July 2023 for promotion to the Synod.

Minutes of the Synod session held in 2022

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Other Matters

Parish of Bondi and Waverley

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Bishop of South Sydney.

Bishop of South Sydney to approve a licence for the use of St Matthew's Bondi

Standing Committee noted that the Bishop of South Sydney intended to approve a licence for the former St Matthew's Bondi church building on the terms outlined in the report.

Standing Committee venue

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report.

Standing Committee meetings to be in the Diocesan Hub

Standing Committee noted that its meetings will be held in the Diocesan Hub on an ongoing basis.

Thanks to St Andrew's Cathedral School

Standing Committee expressed its thanks to St Andrew's Cathedral School for hosting its meetings over the last seven years.

Commonwealth review of Religious Educational Institutions and Anti-Discrimination Laws

Standing Committee noted a submission dated 23 February 2023 made on behalf of the Diocese by Bishop Michael Stead as Chair of the Religious Freedom Reference Group to the ALRC Consultation Paper.

Federal Government's Family Law Amendment Bill 2023 exposure draft

Standing Committee noted a submission dated 24 February 2023 made on behalf of the Diocese by Dean Sandy Grant as a member of the Social Issues Committee on the Family Law Amendment Bill 2023 exposure draft.

Date of next meeting

Monday 22 May 2023.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 22 May 2023

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 6:35-51, Mrs Jeanette Habib and Archdeacon Anthony Douglas opened the meeting in prayer.

Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks), Council of

Standing Committee noted the Rev Chris Braga has resigned as Chair of the Council of Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks) after 13 years of exemplary service to that organisation. In particular Standing Committee thanked Chris for his dedication and faithfulness to the cause of youth and children's ministry in the Diocese through Youthworks.

Standing Committee also noted that on 6 May 2023 the Youthworks Council elected Archdeacon Simon Flinders to be the next Chair and undertakes to pray for him in this new role.

Canon Craig Roberts led the Standing Committee in prayer for Mr Braga and Archdeacon Flinders.

Amalgamation of the Parishes of Ashbury and Canterbury with Hurlstone Park

Standing Committee noted that on 30 March 2023 the South Sydney Regional Council approved the amalgamation of the parish of Ashbury with the parish of Canterbury with Hurlstone Park under clause 10 of the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*, effective from 1 April 2023. The new parish is to be known as the parish of Canterbury with Hurlstone Park.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved of the minutes of 27 March 2023.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

GAFCON IV 2023 and Anglican Aid

The Archbishop made a statement to the Standing Committee about GAFCON IV 2023, and the work of Anglican Aid in Tanzania.

Ordinances

Ordinances passed at the last meeting

Standing Committee received from the Diocesan Secretary, the following summary of the status of ordinances passed at the Standing Committee meeting held on 27 March 2023 –

Ordinance	Status
Nomination Ordinance 2006 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Interpretation Ordinance 1985 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Christ Church Inner West (Five Dock Urban Renewal) Trust Ordinance 2023	Assented
Cronulla Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Ordinance 2022 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Wollongong Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented, having received the consent of the Parish Council'

Nomination Ordinance 2006 Further Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to further amend the *Nomination Ordinance 2006*.

Regions Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Regions Ordinance 1995*.

Sydney Diocesan Sickness and Accident Fund Ordinance 1969 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Sydney Diocesan Sickness and Accident Fund Ordinance 1969*.

Clergy Removals Fund Ordinance 2003 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Clergy Removals Fund Ordinance 2003*.

Synod Fund (Living Faith) Application Ordinance 2023

Purpose of ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the application of funds for the purposes of the Council of Living Faith.

Application of funds

Standing Committee applied \$15,200 from the available balance of Synod Fund Contingencies for 2023 in order to provide \$60,000 in total to support the ministry of Living Faith in 2023.

Canterbury with Hurlstone Park Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property is held, to consolidate the property in the ACPT – Canterbury with Hurlstone Park Trust, and make consequential amendments to the *Canterbury with Hurlstone Park Trust Ordinance 2022*.

Carlingford and North Rocks Easement Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to authorise an easement over certain land at Carlingford and to provide for the application of the proceeds.

Wentworthville Easement Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to authorise an easement over certain land at Wentworthville and to provide for the application of the proceeds.

Sans Souci Trust Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property is held and to establish the ACPT – Sans Souci Trust.

Unichurch (UNSW) Trust Ordinance 2023

Directions as to proper and reasonable notice

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that the posting of the Ordinance would be impossible to implement as the Parish does not have a church building, but that the Ordinance has been emailed to the congregation and announced at two consecutive services, and
- (b) resolves under subclause 13(6) of the *Ordinance Procedure Ordinance 1973* that proper and reasonable notice in the circumstances has been given to the parishioners.

Purpose of ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property is held and to establish the ACPT – Unichurch (UNSW) Trust.

Camden Land Sale Ordinance 2017

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted a letter from the Wardens of the Parish of Camden, and
- (b) noted a letter from the CEO of the Anglican Church Growth Corporation supporting the extension, and
- (c) resolved under clause 3 of the *Camden Land Sale Ordinance 2017* to extend the period within which the land contained in folio identifiers 550/737448, 1/816287, 2/816287 and 56/239467 known as 22 Menangle Road Camden and the site of a rectory and a vacant plot of land, and the land contained in folio identifier 20/6261 known as 43 Alpha Road Camden and the site of a residence, can be sold by a further 3 years to 22 May 2026.

Elections

Declaration of nominated organisations for the 53rd Synod under Part 6 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that a maximum of seven organisations may be nominated for the 53rd Synod under Part 6 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*, and
- (b) declared that the following are nominated organisations for the 53rd Synod under Part 6 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* –

- The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid
- Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)
- Anglican Media
- Anglican Schools Corporation
- Anglican Youth and Education (Youthworks)
- Evangelism and New Churches
- Sydney Diocesan Services

Members of the 53rd Synod under Part 8 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Synod membership of Mr Mark Streeter

Standing Committee noted that Mr Mark Streeter had been elected as a parish representative to the 53rd Synod and therefore was not be elected to the Synod under Part 8.

Heads of Diocesan Schools

Standing Committee received a report from the Archbishop's Executive Officer.

Election of Part 8 members

Standing Committee elected the 27 persons listed in a document as members of the Synod under Part 8.

Abbotsleigh, Council of

Mr Paul Fontanot was elected.

Anglican National Superannuation Board

Dr Khim Harris was elected.

Blue Mountains Grammar School

Mr Phillip Cunningham was elected.

Robert Menzies College

Mr Paul Mendham was elected.

The Illawarra Grammar School, The Council of

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Anglican Media Council

Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks), Council of

Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council

Diocesan Retirements Board

Living Faith Council

Macarthur Anglican School Council

St Andrew's House Corporation

Social Issues Committee

Stipends and Allowances Committee

Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

Trinity Grammar School, Council of

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) Tara Anglican School for Girls, Council of – Mr Glenn Wilkins had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.
- (b) William Branwhite Clarke College Council – Mrs Cathy Knudson and Mr Matthew Smith have resigned and vacancies were declared for 2 lay persons.
- (c) Ministry Standards Committee – the Rev Bruce Stanley had resigned effective from 22 June 2023 and a vacancy was declared for a person who has been a member of the clergy for not less than 10 years.
- (d) Stipends and Allowances Committee – Mrs Lenore Symons and Mr Paul Willis have resigned and vacancies were declared for a clergy spouse and a person.
- (e) Blue Mountains Grammar School Council – Mr Mark Hamwood had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.
- (f) Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks), Council of – the Rev Christopher Braga had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.
- (g) Trinity Grammar School, Council of – The Rev James Harricks had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a member of the clergy.
- (h) Sydney Church of England Grammar School Council (Shore) – Dr Elizabeth Cope had resigned a vacancy was declared for a lay person.

Sydney Diocesan Services, Glebe Administration Board and other Diocesan Organisations

Sydney Diocesan Services Minutes

Standing Committee noted that the minute book of the Sydney Diocesan Services had been tabled.

Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Receipt of report – SDS

Standing Committee received a report concerning the Sydney Diocesan Services.

Receipt of report – GAB and DE

Standing Committee received a report concerning the Glebe Administration Board and the Diocesan Endowment.

Parish Property Sales (Q2, 2018 – Q1, 2023) and the status of sale funds allocations

Standing Committee received a report and spreadsheet from the Anglican Church Property Trust.

Financial Matters

Actions by the Finance Committee under delegated authority

Standing Committee noted the actions of the Finance Committee under delegated authority.

Review of Synod and PCR Funds

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report.

Funds available to Synod for appropriation and allocation in 2024

- (a) Standing Committee noted that the Finance Committee had advised the Diocesan Resources Committee regarding sources of funds available to Synod for appropriation and allocation in 2024.

Pastoral Consultation (Professional Supervision) Funding to administer Pastoral Consultation

Receipt of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Request for consultation to determine funding requirements

Standing Committee requested the Diocesan Resources Committee to consult with Ministry Training & Development to determine what funding is required from 2024 to administer a pastoral consultation program in our Diocese, the timing and implementation of which will be subject to the outcomes of the Pastoral Consultation Pilot Program.

Long Service Leave Board

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Synod

First ordinary session of the 53rd Synod

Standing Committee received a report.

General Synod 2022 Legislation

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a General Synod 2022 Legislation Report.

Adoption of Safe Ministry Legislation Amendments Canon 2022

Standing Committee received a report from the Senior Legal Counsel.

Responses to General Synod 2022 canons

Standing Committee –

- (a) recommended to the Synod that it –
- (i) assent to the Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Suspension) Canon 2022,
 - (ii) assent to the Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Deposition) Canon 2022,
 - (iii) adopt the Safe Ministry Legislation Amendments Canon 2022,
 - (iv) not adopt the Episcopal Standards Investigations Amendment Canon 2022, and

- (b) requested that the Bills be promoted to the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee”,
- (c) approved of the printing for the Synod of a suitable form of the Explanatory Statements,
- (d) authorised the printing of a suitable form of the General Synod 2022 Legislation Report for the forthcoming session of the Synod,
- (e) requested that the Bills for the General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Suspension) Canon 2022 Assenting Ordinance 2023 and General Synod - Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Deposition) Canon 2022 Assenting Ordinance 2023 be sent to each member of Synod at least 3 months before the first day of the 2023 session of Synod as required by the *Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019*.

Request for the preparation of bills

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested the Diocesan Secretary to prepare a bill to amend the *Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2020* in the manner outlined in the ‘General Synod 2022 Legislation Report’, for consideration at a future meeting and promotion to the forthcoming session of Synod, and
- (b) requested the Diocesan Secretary to prepare a bill to amend the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* to provide for mandatory suspension and deposition in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the Royal Commission, for consideration at a future meeting and promotion to the forthcoming session of Synod.

Amendment to Faithfulness in Service: A national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report, and
- (b) asked that the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod “by the request of Standing Committee” –
 - “Synod, noting the report ‘Amendments to *Faithfulness in Service: A national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers*’, adopts the amendments to *Faithfulness in Service* as set out in the report.”, and
- (c) approved the printing of a suitable form of the report for the next session of the Synod.

45/09 Policy on Consumption of Alcohol in the Parish Context

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report from the Social Issues Committee, and
- (b) requested that a suitable form of the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod “by the request of Standing Committee” –
 - ‘Synod, noting the updated report on “Consumption of Alcohol in the Context of Parishes, Churches, Congregations and Fellowships in the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney” –
 - (i) requested that a copy of the updated report be sent to all parish ministers and wardens,
 - (ii) requested that all parish ministers and wardens be reminded of the ‘Policy on Consumption of Alcohol in the Parish Context’ adopted by Synod in 2009,
 - (iii) encourages all wardens to implement a parish policy on alcohol, or review their existing policy, in the light of the updated report and existing Synod policy, and
 - (iv) requested the General Synod to consider the impact of social media on parishioners, especially the vulnerable, and educate clergy on faithful usage of these media. This may include instruction on any potential harm of posting photographs of leaders consuming alcohol.’, and
- (c) approved the printing of a suitable form of the report for the next session of the Synod.

19/22 Doctrine Commission Report on parish system

Standing Committee received a report from the Sydney Diocesan Doctrine Commission and approved the printing of a suitable form of this report for the forthcoming ordinary session of the Synod.

33/22 First Nations Voice

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Response from the Social Issues Committee

Standing Committee received a report from the Social Issues Committee.

The Voice Referendum

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that the Synod has not articulated a firm position regarding the proposed Voice Referendum, but has instead, in Synod Resolution 33/22, encouraged church members to give generous consideration to the case to vote “Yes”,
- (b) noted that its Social Issues Committee may take further action in response to Synod Resolution 33/22, and that it is an open question as to whether Synod expresses a further mind on this matter at Synod in 2023.

54/22 Ministry Wellbeing and Development

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and noted that the committee constituted to address the request of resolution 54/22 has not yet completed its work and it is anticipated that a report will be provided to the 2024 session of Synod.

Application for presentation at Synod: Anglicare

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report from the Chair of Anglican Community Services,
- (b) approved a presentation being included in the Synod agenda “at the request of the Standing Committee” at the forthcoming session of Synod –
 - (i) to be jointly delivered by Mr Simon Miller, Chief Executive Officer, and the Rev Dr Andrew Ford, Chief Executive Community and Mission, of Anglican Community Services,
 - (ii) of approximately 15-20 minutes duration,
 - (iii) at any time convenient to the Synod, and
 - (iv) with an opportunity to pray for aged care in Australia and Anglicare Sydney’s ongoing provision of care and the gospel for older people.

Other Matters

Indigenous Spirituality

Receipt of correspondence

Standing Committee noted correspondence between the Diocesan Secretary and the Rev Andrew Barry following the Standing Committee meeting of 13 February 2023.

Response to concerns

Standing Committee requested the Diocesan Secretary to write to Mr Barry, in a further response to his later correspondence.

Standing Committee meeting dates for 2024

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and agree that the meeting scheduled for 18 March 2024 instead be held on 25 March 2024.

Date of next meeting

Monday 19 June 2023.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 19 June 2023

Following a reading Bishop Peter Hayward of John 6:52-71, Ms Karen Calayag and the Rev David Mears opened the meeting in prayer.

President

In the absence of the Archbishop, Bishop Peter Hayward chaired the meeting as Commissary.

King's birthday honours

Standing Committee congratulated the following members of this Diocese who were recently awarded a King's birthday honour –

Dr Stuart Braga, Castle Hill – a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to education administration, and to community history.

Mrs Pam Brock, Burwood – a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community as a church bell ringer.

Mrs Catherine Crouch – a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to education administration.

Mr Graham Kingsland, Glenbrook – the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM).

Amalgamation of the Parishes of Barrenjoey with Mona Vale

Standing Committee noted that on 17 April 2023 the Northern Regional Council approved the amalgamation of the parish of Barrenjoey with the parish of Mona Vale under clause 10 of the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*, effective from 1 January 2023. The new parish is to be known as the parish of Barrenjoey.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved of the minutes of 22 May 2023.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

Purpose and priorities for our Diocesan Fellowship

Statement of Diocesan Purpose and Priorities

Standing Committee noted a statement of diocesan purpose and priorities produced by the Archbishop with his Senior Staff Team (and in consultation with many other diocesan leaders) and encouraged the Archbishop to present a current version to the next session of Synod in an appropriate form.

Request for Synod motion

Standing Committee requested that the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod “by the request of Standing Committee” –

“Synod, noting that the horizon envisaged by Mission 2020 has now passed –

- (a) give thanks to God for the way He used Mission 2020 to further the work of the gospel in the Diocese,
- (b) welcomes the leadership of the Archbishop in our common mission as expressed in the document *Purpose and Priorities for our Diocesan Fellowship*,
- (c) commits to prayerfully working together to pursue the purpose and priorities the Archbishop has articulated for us, and
- (d) calls on all our churches, schools and organisations to consider how they can contribute to this endeavour.”

Broader charitable purposes of the diocese

Standing Committee requested that the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod “by the request of Standing Committee” –

“Synod, recognising the increasing need for, and benefits of, diocesan organisations working together as part of the broader diocesan network –

- (a) recognises the document *Purpose and Priorities for our Diocesan Fellowship* as an expression of the “broader charitable purposes of the Diocese” for the purposes of the Synod’s *Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations*,
- (b) notes that, in conformity with the Synod’s Governance Policy, a number of diocesan organisations have sought and obtained amendments to their constituting ordinances which expressly permit them to pursue their specifically mandated purpose in a manner which also advances the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese,
- (c) regards such amendments as a tangible expression of commitment to working together as part of the broader diocesan network and encourages all diocesan organisations, to the extent they are legally able to do so, to consider seeking such amendments, and
- (d) further encourages all diocesan organisations to include in their annual reports to Synod a summary of the steps they have taken in pursuit of the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese.”

Pastoral Consultation (Professional Supervision)

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report of the Pastoral Consultation Committee.

Bill for a Pastoral Consultation Ordinance

Standing Committee requested the Pastoral Consultation Committee to arrange a Bill for a Pastoral Consultation Ordinance to be brought for consideration in July, including the following elements –

- (a) Provision for a Pastoral Consultation Policy,
- (b) Approval for a person to be a Pastoral Consultant in the Diocese of Sydney,
- (c) Classes of persons required to undertake Pastoral Consultation, and
- (d) Insurance requirements for Pastoral Consultants,

noting that the Pastoral Consultation Committee intends to bring the associated Pastoral Consultation Policy to the July meeting for approval.

Request for a report

Standing Committee requested the Pastoral Consultation Committee to include in their report consideration of whether it is considered appropriate for fulltime licensed stipendiary workers (i.e., rectors and assistant ministers) in the Diocese to be employed as Pastoral Consultants. If it is considered that this is a possibility, the report should also include a draft policy providing expectations for currently licensed Rectors (or other fulltime stipendiary workers) who offer services as a Pastoral Consultant, including but not limited to –

- (a) expectations regarding approvals required from their bishop and parish wardens with respect to their time being used for this purpose;
- (b) expectations regarding how any money “earned” for provision of such services should be paid (e.g. to the worker’s parish rather than to the worker themselves).

Ordinances

Ordinances passed at the last meeting

Standing Committee received from the Diocesan Secretary, the following summary of the status of ordinances passed at the Standing Committee meeting held on 22 May 2023 –

Ordinance	Status
Nomination Ordinance 2006 Further Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Regions Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Sydney Diocesan Sickness and Accident Fund Ordinance 1969 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Clergy Removals Fund Ordinance 2003 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Synod Fund (Living Faith) Application Ordinance 2023	Assented
Canterbury with Hurlstone Park Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Carlingford and North Rocks Easement Ordinance 2023	Assented
Wentworthville Easement Ordinance 2023	Assented
Sans Souci Trust Ordinance 2023	Assented
Unichurch (UNSW) Trust Ordinance 2023	Assented

Anglican Church Growth Corporation Ordinance 2018 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Anglican Church Growth Corporation Ordinance 2018*.

Campbelltown Trust Ordinance 2016 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Campbelltown Trust Ordinance 2016*.

Miranda Trust Ordinance 2015 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Miranda Trust Ordinance 2015* to make arrangements for the long-term lease of Lot 2/809270.

Sutton Forest Trust Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property is held and to establish the ACPT – Sutton Forest Trust.

Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report.

Request for feedback from affiliates

Standing Committee requested the Chair of the Affiliated Churches Committee (the Rev Phil Wheeler) to –

- (a) advise current Affiliates that consideration is being given to winding up the Affiliated Churches program, and
- (b) seek feedback by 31 July 2023 from Affiliates as to the implications of such a decision upon them, noting that in place of affiliation with the Diocese –
 - (i) Affiliates within the Diocese may consider becoming a Recognised Church (under the Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000), and
 - (ii) Affiliates generally may consider joining the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Incorporated (FIEC) or access services provided by SDS by direct agreement under clause 17(2)(c) of the Sydney Diocesan Services Ordinance 2017.

Motion for Synod

Standing Committee noted that, subject to there being no significant objections provided by Affiliates, the Subcommittee reviewing the *Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005* intends to bring a report to the August meeting of the Standing Committee with a report and suitable form of motion for Synod, to allow Synod to note the intention of Standing Committee to wind up the Affiliated Churches program in 2024.

Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and requested the Diocesan Secretary to arrange for a Bill to amend the *Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019*, as outlined in the report, to be prepared for consideration at a future meeting of Standing Committee and promotion to the forthcoming session of Synod.

Bill to amend Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report from Archdeacon Anthony Douglas, and
- (b) requested the Diocesan Secretary to arrange for a Bill to amend the *Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019*, as outlined in the report, to be prepared for consideration at a future meeting and promotion to the forthcoming session of Synod.

North Sydney Trust Ordinance 2019

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted a letter from the Wardens of the Parish of North Sydney, and
- (b) directed under clause 6(2)(d) of the *North Sydney Trust Ordinance 2019* that the part of the ACPT – North Sydney Trust comprised in ACPT Client Fund 650 (arising from the estate of F.P.C Morris) is to be applied towards repayment of the loan obtained from the Westpac Banking Corporation in 2021 to acquire a rectory for the Parish.

Elections

Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks), Council of

Ms Catherine Crouch and the Rev Katrina Haggard were elected.

Board of Enquiry

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and noted a vacancy on the Diocesan Tribunal for a member of the clergy for not less than 10 years.

Ministry Standards Committee

Standing Committee recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that the Rev Timothy St Quintin be appointed to the Ministry Standards Committee.

Robert Menzies College

Ms Tracey Laming and Mr Danny Selamet were elected.

Stipends and Allowances Committee

Mrs Louise Crawshaw and Mr Jeff Reilly were elected.

The remaining vacancy for a person was deferred.

Sydney Church of England Grammar School Council (Shore)

Mr Marcin Firek was elected.

Tara Anglican School for Girls, Council of

Mr James Moore was elected.

Trinity Grammar School, Council of

Mr Stephen Simonds was elected.

The remaining vacancy for a member of clergy was deferred.

William Branwhite Clarke College Council

Mr Alan Moran and Mrs Catriona Wood were elected.

Anglican Media Council
Anglican National Superannuation Board
Blue Mountains Grammar School Council
Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council
Diocesan Retirements Board
Living Faith Council
Macarthur Anglican School Council
St Andrew's House Corporation
Social Issues Committee
Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council – Mr Christian Grassy had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.
- (b) Barker College, Council of – Ms Robyn Hobbs OAM had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.

Declaration of urgency

Standing Committee agreed to fill this vacancy at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

Filling of vacancy

Mr Andrew King was elected.

- (c) Ministry Standards Committee – Mrs Jacqueline Dawson had resigned effective from 17 July 2023 and a vacancy was declared for a person who is an experienced lawyer and, so far as is reasonably practicable, a non-Anglican.
- (d) Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks), Council of – the Rev Michael Leite had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a member of clergy licensed in the Diocese of Sydney with at least a three-year theological degree from Moore Theological College or another college that is endorsed by the Archbishop.

Declaration of urgency

Standing Committee agreed to fill this vacancy at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

Filling of vacancy

The Rev Prashanth Colombage was elected.

- (e) Synod Membership, Part 8 (53rd Synod) – Mrs Emma Penzo had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a nominated lay person.

Sydney Diocesan Services, Glebe Administration Board and other Diocesan Organisations

2023 Survey of members and executive officers of central diocesan organisations

Standing Committee noted a report.

AICD governance training for members of diocesan boards and school councils

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report, and
- (b) agreed to contribute \$6,400 from Synod fund contingencies to fund the participation in the 3 day AICD governance training course being run by SDS in October/November 2023 of 2 clergy persons nominated by the Archbishop.

Financial Matters

Actions by the Finance Committee under delegated authority

Standing Committee noted the actions of the Finance Committee under delegated authority.

Finance Committee Sub-Delegations

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Synod

First ordinary session of the 53rd Synod

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report.

Events planned by diocesan organisations during Synod

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities 2025-2027

Standing Committee –

- (a) received the “Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities 2025-2027” which has been prepared by the Diocesan Resources Committee,
- (b) approved the printing of a suitable form of the Statement for the Synod, and
- (c) requested that the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod “by request of the Standing Committee” –

“Synod approves the ‘Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities 2025-2027’.”

Archdeacon Narelle Jarrett

Standing Committee requested that the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod “by request of the Standing Committee” –

‘Synod gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Archdeacon Narelle Jarrett, who went home to be with the Lord on Friday 4 November 2022.

After graduating from the University of New South Wales (BA and Dip Ed), Narelle started teaching at Sydney Girls High School. There, she was led to Christ by another teacher and began attending St John's, Darlinghurst. After teaching, Narelle studied at Deaconess House, completing her ThL (Hons) in 1969 and London BD in 1970. She was active in ministry within the Sydney Diocese before she was admitted as a deaconess in 1985 upon her appointment as Principal of Mary Andrews College (formerly Deaconess House). She was ordained Deacon in 1989, among the first cohort of female deacons. As Principal of Mary Andrews College, Narelle had a significant role in training and development of the female students at Moore Theological College, as well as serving as a lecturer in Church History and Pastoral Care and training lay women across the Diocese. In 2002, she was appointed Archdeacon for Women's Ministry, while continuing as Principal of Mary Andrews College.

In 2008 she became Archdeacon full time and held this position until her retirement in 2012. Narelle also served on various boards such as the Council of Ministry Training & Development, the Mission Task Force, the Standing Committee and Synod of the Sydney Diocese as well as General Synod. She was active in the governance of the Archbishop's Overseas Mission Fund and Anglican Deaconess Ministries. She also served as an Honorary Minister at South Coogee. Synod gives thanks to God for Narelle's valuable contribution to the life of our Diocese, her passion for advancing the ministries of women and her commitment to biblical truth and making Christ known.'

and requested the Diocesan Secretary to arrange for this matter to be scheduled at a suitable time in the forthcoming session of Synod.

Application for presentation at Synod

Standing Committee agreed to allow at the forthcoming session of the Synod a presentation (including a video) of up to ten minutes from the Endowment of the See Corporation regarding the Archbishop's residence, at a time considered suitable by the President.

Printing of reports for Synod

Standing Committee approved of the printing of reports about the following matters for the Synod –

- Ordinances passed by the Standing Committee
- Parish Funds Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2022
- Synod Funds Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2022
- Synod – St Andrew's House Fund Financial Report for 2022

38/22 Request for Doctrine Commission report on the relationship between church and state, in the absence of religious freedom

Standing Committee received a letter from the Chair of the Diocesan Doctrine Commission.

Other Matters

City of Sydney – Briefing Paper about City of Sydney's Heritage Floor Space Scheme

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report,
- (a) noted that the Chapter of St Andrew's Cathedral and the three parishes of St James King Street, Church Hill, and Christ Church St Laurence are now eligible to participate in the sale of air rights above their heritage buildings via the City of Sydney Council's Heritage Floor Space Scheme (HFSS), and
- (b) noted the St Andrew's Cathedral Chapter and parish councils of St James King Street, Church Hill and Christ Church St Laurence may progressively promote land sale and mortgaging ordinances to facilitate heritage maintenance works and/or participation in the HFSS over the coming 12 months or so.

Date of next meeting

Monday 17 July 2023.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 17 July 2023

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 7:1-24, Mrs Stacey Chapman and Dean Sandy Grant opened the meeting in prayer.

Chair of Sydney Anglican (National Redress Scheme) Corporation

Standing Committee noted that Mrs Emma Penzo was recently re-appointed as Chair of the Sydney Anglican (National Redress Scheme) Corporation (the Corporation), having been first appointed as Chair in 2021 following the resignation of Mr Doug Marr as inaugural Chair of the Corporation.

Dr Robert Tong AM

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that Dr Robert Tong AM celebrated his 80th birthday on 2 July 2023,
- (b) received the following report from the Diocesan Secretary –

“Robert was elected as a member of the Standing Committee in October 1978 and has served continuously since then. He also has been a member of the Moore Theological College Council and the Diocesan Tribunal since 1981, the Nomination Board (formerly Presentation Board) since 1993, and was a trustee of the Anglican Church Property Trust for over 42 years, including fifteen as Chairman of the Board. He was appointed as Deputy Chancellor in 2009 and has been on countless Synod and Standing Committee committees over the years, including over twenty years as an Ordinance Reviewer.

Over and above all of this, Robert has also been highly engaged with national church matters for over 40 years. He was elected as a Diocesan representative on General Synod, and Diocesan representative on Provincial Synod, both in 1979. At a national level, he has served on the Standing Committee, Church Law Committee and Audit Committee, and as the Chancellor to the Diocese of The Murray. He was appointed as a member of the Order of Australia in 2010, for service to the Anglican Church of Australia through a range of diocesan and national executive and administrative roles, and to the law as a practitioner and as an academic.

At the Anglican Communion level, Robert was the lay representative of the Anglican Church of Australia at the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Panama, Lambeth Conference (1998) and Dundee, and a member of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Panel of Reference arising from the Windsor Report. He is presently the Leader of the Gafcon Lawyers Task Force.”

- (c) gave thanks to God for the enormous contribution Robert has made to Christ’s church, through the work of the Standing Committee, the Diocese of Sydney and the wider church,
- (d) expressed its appreciation to Robert for his service to date and ongoing ministries, and to Robert’s wife, Winsome, for her tireless support, and
- (e) prayed for God’s continued blessings on Robert and Winsome and their family.

Bishop Stead led the Standing Committee in prayer for Dr Tong and his family.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved of the minutes of 19 June 2023.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese

Printing of report for Synod

Standing Committee noted a report and approved the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of the Synod.

Motion for Synod

Standing Committee requested that the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod “by the request of Standing Committee” –

‘Synod, noting the report “Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese” –

- (a) expresses its gratitude for the work of the volunteers who serve on the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples’ Ministry Committee (SAIPMC),
- (b) noted the report from the SAIPMC that indigenous ministry in the diocese is hampered because a committee of volunteers is not able to lead and drive the vision for indigenous ministry (and true gospel reconciliation) across our Diocese and beyond,
- (c) expresses in-principle support for the recommendation of SAIPMC for the recognition and appointment of an indigenous person (or persons) to lead and represent Indigenous ministry in our Diocese,
- (d) requests the Standing Committee to appoint a committee to explore how best to implement the recommendation of SAIPMC. The committee should consider –
 - (i) the scope of the role,
 - (ii) whether this role should be full time or part time, and/or a possible staged implementation,
 - (iii) whether there should be Indigenous representation on the Standing Committee,
 - (iv) the appropriate form of appointment (e.g., Canon, Archdeacon or Bishop), and
 - (v) the funding of this role.
- (e) requests, to the extent that the recommendations of the committee require ordinance changes, that such changes be brought to the next session of the Synod for consideration.’

Ordinances

Ordinances passed at the last meeting

Standing Committee received from the Diocesan Secretary, the following summary of the status of ordinances passed at the Standing Committee meeting held on 19 June 2023 –

Ordinance	Status
Anglican Church Growth Corporation Ordinance 2018 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Campbelltown Trust Ordinance 2016 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Miranda Trust Ordinance 2015 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Sutton Forest Trust Ordinance 2023	Assented

Pastoral Supervision Ordinance 2023 Pastoral Consultation (Professional Supervision)

Use of terminology ‘pastoral supervision’

Standing Committee agreed to adopt the phrase “pastoral supervision” instead of “pastoral consultation” or “professional supervision”.

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Pastoral Supervision Committee.

Promotion to Synod

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a suitable form of the Bill for the Pastoral Supervision Ordinance 2023 be promoted to the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee”,

- (b) recommended that the Synod pass the Bill as an ordinance of the Synod, and
- (c) approved of the printing for the Synod of a suitable form of a report from the Pastoral Supervision Committee and Report of the Ordinance Reviewer as an Explanatory Report.

Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998*.

Sydney Diocesan Services Ordinance (Interim Membership Arrangements) Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide special arrangements for the membership of Sydney Diocesan Services for a period determined by the Standing Committee and for matters incidental thereto.

Safe Ministry Board Ordinance 2001 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Safe Ministry Board Ordinance 2001*.

South Head Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2021 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *South Head Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2021*.

Wollondilly Land Sale and Mortgaging Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to permit the sale of certain land at Tahmoor, the mortgaging of other land and to provide for the application of the proceeds.

Figtree Trust Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property is held and to establish the ACPT – Figtree Trust.

Extra-Parochial Ordinance 1918

Standing Committee, for the purposes of the *Extra-Parochial Ordinance 1918* –

- (a) recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that he declare the following properties as extra-parochial –
 - (i) Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital,
 - (ii) Cobham Youth Justice Centre (Werrington),
 - (iii) Francis Greenway Correction Complex (incorporating Geoffrey Pearce Correction Centre, John Morony Correction Centre, and Dillwynia Correction Centre for Women),
 - (iv) Lithgow Correction Centre,
 - (v) Parklea Correction Centre,
 - (vi) South Coast Correction Centre (Nowra),
 - (vii) Concord Hospital,
 - (viii) Liverpool Hospital,
 - (ix) Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (Camperdown),
 - (x) Northern Beaches Hospital (Frenchs Forest),
 - (xi) St George Hospital (Kogarah),
 - (xii) Sutherland Hospital (Caringbah),
 - (xiii) Wollongong Hospital,

noting that the minister and wardens of each parish containing the above properties have been furnished in writing with the grounds of such action and have been invited to express their opinion on the proposed exclusion,
- (b) recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that he declare that the following properties cease to be extra-parochial, by reason of having closed –
 - (i) Minda Remand Centre,
 - (ii) Parramatta Gaol,

- (iii) Lidcombe State Hospital,
- (c) noted the following properties, which have previously been declared as extra-parochial, have changed their name since the declaration was made –
 - (i) Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, is now The Children’s Hospital at Westmead,
 - (ii) Westmead Centre, is now Westmead Hospital,and that the Registrar intends to update these names in the Yearbook accordingly.

Elections

Synod Membership, Part 8 (53rd Synod)

Dr Sarah Irving-Stonebraker was elected.

Anglican Media Council
Diocesan Retirements Board
Living Faith Council
Ministry Standards Committee
Social Issues Committee
Stipends and Allowances Committee

These matters were deferred.

Sydney Diocesan Services, Glebe Administration Board and other Diocesan Organisations

Sydney Diocesan Services Minutes

Standing Committee noted that the minute book of the Sydney Diocesan Services had been tabled.

Sydney Anglicans co-branding

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report.

Use of ‘Sydney Anglicans’ logo

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that the Registrar, in consultation with the Archbishop, intends to usually use the “Sydney Anglicans” logo with tagline “Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney” when communicating in her capacity as Diocesan Registrar, and
- (b) approved the Diocesan Secretary (and Synod Secretary) usually using the “Sydney Anglicans” logo with tagline “Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney” when communicating on behalf of the Standing Committee and Synod.

Financial Matters

Parramatta ’54 Free Fund

Standing Committee received a report and recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that he distribute an amount from the accumulated surplus of the Fund held by the Property Trust under clause 3(5) of the *St John’s Parramatta Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 1954* and applied to partially reimburse the Endowment of the See Property Fund for payment of the General Synod Office invoice for the cost of the Sydney Bishops’ attendance at the Australian Bishops’ Conference in March 2023.

Impact of high inflation

Standing Committee received a report from the Stipends & Allowances Committee regarding the impact of high inflation on both clergy and parishioners.

Finance Committee Sub-Delegations

Standing Committee approved amendments to the Finance Committee's sub-delegations.

Ethical Investment

Standing Committee noted a report from the Glebe Administration Board.

Synod

First ordinary session of the 53rd Synod

Standing Committee received a report.

Elections associated with the first ordinary session of the 53rd Synod

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that he –

- (a) determine, under Rule 8.2(1)(a)(ii) of the Schedule to the *Synod Elections Ordinance 2000* (the Ordinance), that it is impracticable to conduct an election at the ordinary session of the Synod in September 2023, and
- (b) specify the date of 11 September 2023 to be regarded as the first appointed day of the first ordinary session of the 53rd Synod for the purposes of the election, pursuant to Rule 8.2(3) of the Ordinance, the effect of which will be to enable the elections to be conducted by online ballot.

33/22 First Nations Voice

Educational resources

Standing Committee received –

- (a) a draft paper *Responding Generously to a Generous Voice* by the Rev Dr Andrew Errington, on behalf of the Social Issues Committee,
- (b) a draft paper *No, Not this way: One Christian response to the Voice Referendum* by Dean Sandy Grant, as educational resources on the Voice referendum suitable for distribution to our churches.

Statement from SAIPMC

Standing Committee noted the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee statement about the Voice referendum, as follows –

“The Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee affirms that God's voice is sovereign over all peoples and lands, and notes –

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been denied a voice following European settlement in this land,
- that there are benefits and challenges for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a recognised Voice to the Australian parliament,
- the passing of Resolution 33/22 “First Nations Voice” by the Sydney Anglican Diocesan Synod, and
- the “Statement on the Voice to Parliament” as affirmed by the General Synod Standing Committee of the Anglican Church of Australia.

We encourage all church members to prayerfully seek God's voice as they search his wisdom in considering a 'yes' vote for the approaching referendum.”

Correspondence with rectors

Standing Committee encouraged the Archbishop to write to all rectors encouraging prayer for the Voice referendum, and distributing the SAIPMC statement and a suitable form of the educational resources received by the Standing Committee (in consultation with the authors), as relevant to considerations about the referendum, along with any other comments or advice he deems pastorally relevant.

Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2023

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a Bill for the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2023 be promoted to the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee”,
- (b) recommended that the Synod pass the Bill as an ordinance of the Synod, and
- (c) approved of the printing for the Synod of a suitable form of an Explanatory Report.

Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2023

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a Bill for the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2023 be promoted to the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee”,
- (b) recommended that the Synod pass the Bill as an ordinance of the Synod, and
- (c) approved of the printing for the Synod of a suitable form of an Explanatory Report.

Diocesan Doctrine Commission’s terms of reference

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted a report,
- (b) requested that the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod “by request of the Standing Committee” –

‘Synod, noting Resolution 19/81 regarding a Diocesan Doctrine Commission, requests that the Commission appointed by the Archbishop in consultation with the Standing Committee –

- (a) be comprised of ten persons, to serve for a term of three years,
- (b) have a Chair, appointed by the Archbishop from among the members, and
- (c) consider and report on issues which may be referred to it from time to time only by the Synod, the Standing Committee, or by the Archbishop.

and encourages the Standing Committee to approve suitable Terms of Reference for the Commission that reflect the recommendations of this motion.’

- (c) agreed in principle to approve the terms of the reference for the Commission as set out at Appendix A, subject to the Synod passing the above motion, and
- (d) noted that the terms of reference modify that part of the resolution made by the Standing Committee on 8 December 2014 which requires all Commission reports to be immediately published on a publicly accessible website when completed.

Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019 Amendment Ordinance 2023

Standing Committee –

- (a) request that a Bill for the Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019 Amendment Ordinance 2023 be promoted to the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee”,
- (b) recommend that the Synod pass the Bill as an ordinance of the Synod, and
- (c) approve of the printing for the Synod of a suitable form of an Explanatory Statement.

46/15 Diocesan Policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and –

- (a) agree to amend the Diocesan Policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour by –
 - (i) substituting all references to ‘Director of Professional Standards’ with ‘Director of Safe Ministry’, and
 - (ii) substituting all references to the ‘Professional Standards Unit’ or ‘PSU’ with ‘Office of the Director of Safe Ministry’ or ‘ODSM’,where they appear throughout the Policy, and
- (b) request that this amendment be reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

Report to Synod by Anglican Community Services on its strict compliance implementation approach for the commencement of voluntary assisted dying in NSW

Receipt of report

Standing Committee noted a report from Anglican Community Services.

Motion for Synod

Standing Committee requested the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod “by the request of the Standing Committee”–

‘Synod, noting the report “*The commencement of voluntary assisted dying in NSW*” –

- (a) gives praise and thanks to God for his continued goodness in the provision of care and support to older persons living in residential aged care homes by Anglican Community Services (Anglicare Sydney),
- (b) thanks the members of the Archbishop’s Working Group on Voluntary Assisted Dying and recommends the Working Group’s Report to all who consider the passage of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022 (NSW)* (Act) to be a tragedy for our society and a profound challenge for the church,
- (c) commends the decision by Anglicare Sydney to continue providing aged care services whilst adopting an approach that refuses to actively support euthanasia but complies with the Act, regulations and guidelines,
- (d) prays for the care and protection of all residents, their families and friends, and the staff, executives, and Board of Anglicare Sydney, as access to voluntary assisted dying becomes available on 28 November 2023 and beyond, and
- (e) reaffirms its opposition to voluntary assisted dying and calls on the NSW Parliament to repeal the Act, and failing that to administer the Act in such a manner as to permit faith-based organisations, including residential aged care providers, who oppose euthanasia on the grounds of institutional conscientious objection, not to participate in, facilitate or permit voluntary assisted dying in or at their premises, facilities or services in any way.’

Recognition of Grace City Church under the *Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000*

Standing Committee requested the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod “by the request of the Standing Committee” –

‘Synod notes that Grace City Church, Waterloo, has been declared to be a recognised church by the South Sydney Regional Council from 1 January 2021 under clause 8 of the *Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000*. Grace City began as an initiative of Evangelism and New Churches, and held its first public service in May 2015. Synod thanks God that from small beginnings, Grace City has grown both numerically and spiritually, and joins in praising God as it celebrates its 8th year of ministry.’

11/22 Adequacy of clergy superannuation contribution rates

Standing Committee received a report from the Stipends & Allowances Committee.

Standing Committee’s report to the Synod for 2023

Standing Committee approved the printing of a suitable form of a Standing Committee’s report to the Synod, noting that the form of a report will be amended to incorporate matters decided at this meeting.

Anglican Church Property Trust’s Annual Report to the Synod

Standing Committee noted a report and approved the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of Synod.

Application for presentation at Synod

Standing Committee received a report from the Acting CEO of SDS, Mr Daniel Glynn and agreed to allow Mr Robert Wicks, CEO of SDS, to make a three-minute presentation including visuals at the forthcoming ordinary session of the Synod, at a time determined at the discretion of the President.

Other Matters

Review of handling of COVID-19 Pandemic

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Indigenous spirituality

Standing Committee received a report from the Social Issues Committee.

62/19 Gender Representation on Diocesan Boards and Committees

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Online gambling

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the report "You win some, you lose more: Online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm" issued unanimously by the members of the federal House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs,
- (b) commend the committee members for their incisive and cooperative work on research-informed reform for the prevention online gambling harm, and
- (c) respectfully request the Archbishop to write to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, commending the unanimous report, and urging them to act promptly, and in a bipartisan way, to legislate for the reforms recommended by the report, as a matter of urgency in a public health context, especially the recommendations –
 - (i) that the Australian Government prohibit all online gambling inducements and inducement advertising, and that it do so without delay (Recommendation 16), and
 - (ii) that the Australian Government, with the cooperation of the states and territories, implement a comprehensive ban on all forms of advertising for online gambling, to be introduced in four phases, over three years, commencing immediately (Recommendation 26).

Date of next meeting

Monday 14 August 2023.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 14 August 2023

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 7:25-36, Mrs Patricia Jackson and the Rev Zac Veron opened the meeting in prayer.

Chair of the Ministry Standards Committee

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that, pursuant to clause 89(6) of the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017*, the Archbishop has appointed Mr Matt Bond as Chair of the Ministry Standards Committee,
- (b) congratulated him on his appointment, and
- (c) thanked Mrs Jacqueline Dawson for her service as Chair since 2014 (originally of the Professional Standards Committee).

Chair of the Council of William Branwhite Clarke College

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the retirement of Mr Philip A Bell as Chair of the Council of the William Branwhite Clarke College,
- (b) thanked him for his service as Chair over the past 14 years, and
- (c) congratulated Mr Alan Moran on his election as Chair of the Council.

Chair of The Council of The King's School

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that Mrs Rosemary Abrahams will retire as Chair of The Council of The King's School on 31 August 2023,
- (b) thanked her for her 10 years of service as a member of the Council, including five years as Chair, and
- (c) congratulated Mr Ken Chapman on his election as Chair of The Council of The King's School, noting that he will take office as of 31 August 2023.

Mr Philip Bryson

Standing Committee noted with sadness the death of Mr Philip Bryson on 31 July 2023. Mr Bryson served as founding Headmaster of William Clarke College from 1987 to 2002. His vision for the school and tireless effort established firm foundations that have enabled the school to flourish in subsequent decades. Mr Bryson also served as a member of the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney from 1996 to 2008. Mr Bryson had an extensive and distinguished career in education, including 15 years at The King's School prior to his appointment to William Clarke College, and in subsequent years at St Andrew's Cathedral School, and as a member of the Arden Anglican School Council.

Standing Committee gave thanks to God for the life and service of Mr Bryson, and assured his children of its prayers for them in their time of loss.

Bishop Chris Edwards led the Standing Committee in a prayer of thanks for Mr Bryson.

Retirement of Mr Clive Ellis

Standing Committee noted that Mr Clive Ellis will retire as a member of the Standing Committee at the forthcoming session of the Synod, having been a member for 27 years. Clive was first elected to the Standing Committee in 1996 and has served in many capacities since that time, including as a Diocesan Representative on General Synod since 1998, member of the Parish Relationships Ordinance Appeal Group since 2002, Endowment of the See Corporation since 2014, and as an Ordinance Reviewer since 2013.

Standing Committee thanked God for Clive and prays God's blessing upon his future ministries.

Dr Laurie Scandrett led the Standing Committee in a prayer of thanks for Mr Ellis.

Retirement of Mrs Patricia Jackson

Standing Committee noted that Mrs Patricia Jackson will retire as a member of the Standing Committee at the forthcoming session of the Synod. Patricia was first elected to the Standing Committee by the regional electors of the Western Region in 2015, and has served in a number of capacities in that time, including as a member of the Social Issues Committee, Ministry in Marginalised Areas Committee, and most recently to undertake the work requested by Synod resolution 35/22 Synod in the Greenfields of the Northwest of Sydney.

Standing Committee thanked God for Patricia and prays God's blessing upon her future ministries.

Dr Robert Tong AM led the Standing Committee in a prayer of thanks for Mrs Jackson.

Retirement of Mrs Emma Penzo

Standing Committee noted that Mrs Emma Penzo will retire as a member of the Standing Committee at the forthcoming session of the Synod. Emma was first elected to the Standing Committee in 2017 by the regional electors of the Wollongong Region, and has served in many capacities since that time, including as Chair of the Social Issues Committee, Chair of the Sydney Anglican (National Redress Scheme) Corporation, member of the Religious Freedom Reference Group, and member of the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid.

Standing Committee thanked God for Emma and prays God's blessing upon her future ministries.

Dr Laurie Scandrett led the Standing Committee in a prayer of thanks for Mrs Penzo.

Retirement of the Rev Zac Veron

Standing Committee noted that the Rev Zac Veron will retire as a member of the Standing Committee at the forthcoming session of the Synod. Zac was first elected to the Standing Committee by the regional electors of the Georges River Region in 1999, and has served in many capacities since that time, including as a Diocesan Representative on General Synod since 1997, CEO of Youthworks, a member of the Council of Ministry Training & Development, the Mission Property Committee, the Mission Board, and many other ad hoc subcommittees.

Standing Committee thanked God for Zac and prays God's blessing upon his future ministries.

Dr Robert Tong AM led the Standing Committee in a prayer of thanks for Mr Veron.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved of the minutes of 17 July 2023.

Chair of the Anglican Church Property Trust

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that Mr Richard Neal stepped down as Chair of the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney (ACPT) on 11 August 2023,
- (b) expressed its appreciation for Richard's diligence, expertise, generous and prayerful leadership of the ACPT over the past 6 years, and welcomes his continued contribution as a member of the ACPT,
- (c) congratulated Mrs Melinda West and the Rev Andrew Schmidt, respectively, on their election as Chair and Deputy Chair of the ACPT.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

Review of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report.

Printing of report for Synod

Standing Committee approved the printing of a suitable form of this report for the forthcoming session of the Synod.

Circulation of Exposure Draft

Standing Committee noted that the Governance Policy Review Committee had circulated a suitable form of the Exposure Draft to schools and organisations, and intends the Exposure Draft to be shared with Synod members, churches and other entities to which the policy is proposed to apply, for comment and feedback.

Request for Report to Synod

Standing Committee noted the request made in Synod Resolution 6/22(f) for a further report on the Governance Policy to be brought to Synod in 2023.

Motion for Synod

Standing Committee requested that the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee” –

‘Synod, noting the report “Review of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations” –

- (a) affirms that churches, schools and organisations to which the policy is proposed to apply, in pursuing their individual charitable purpose(s), are partners in our shared ministry, and part of a network collectively seeking to advance the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese while maintaining high standards of governance,
- (b) confirms the importance of churches, schools and organisations to which the policy is proposed to apply pursuing their individual charitable purpose(s) in a manner which is consistent with the doctrines, tenets and beliefs of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney,
- (c) requests Synod members, churches, schools and organisations to which the policy is proposed to apply, to review the Exposure Draft and provide feedback to the Governance Policy Review Committee by 31 December 2023, and
- (d) requests that a further revised form of the Governance Policy be brought back to the Synod in 2024 incorporating, as appropriate, comments and feedback from Synod members, churches, schools and organisations to which the policy is proposed to apply.’

Ordinances

Ordinances passed at the last meeting

Standing Committee received from the Diocesan Secretary, the following summary of the status of ordinances passed at the Standing Committee meeting held on 17 July 2023 –

Ordinance	Status
Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Sydney Diocesan Services Ordinance (Interim Membership Arrangements) Ordinance 2023	Assented
Safe Ministry Board Ordinance 2001 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
South Head Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2021 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Wollondilly Land Sale and Mortgaging Ordinance 2023	Assented
Figtree Trust Ordinance 2023	Assented

Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2020 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2020*.

South Western Region (Belfield Proceeds) Ordinance 1998 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *South Western Region (Belfield Proceeds) Ordinance 1998*.

Strathfield and Homebush Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property is held and to amend the *Strathfield and Homebush Land Sale Ordinance 2015*.

Croydon Land Sale Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to permit the sale of certain land at Croydon, and to provide for the application of the proceeds of sale.

Elections

Elections associated with the first meeting of Standing Committee following the first ordinary session of the Synod

Vacancies arising in October 2023

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted a Schedule which sets out the vacancies that will arise at the first meeting of the Standing Committee following the first ordinary session of the Synod,
- (b) agreed to consider filling the vacancies at its meeting in October 2023,
- (c) agreed that, in accordance with our usual custom, the retiring members on the boards and committees listed in the Schedule which are not constituted by ordinance continue as members until their successors are appointed.

Consideration of Terms of Reference

Standing Committee agreed in principle to consider the Terms of Reference of its permanent subcommittees at the first meeting of the Standing Committee following the first session of each Synod.

Members of the 53rd Synod under Part 7 of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995

Standing Committee noted that the Archbishop had appointed the Rev Timothy Bowden to be a member of the 53rd Synod following the resignation of the Rev Dr Nick Foord.

Members of the 53rd Synod under Part 8 of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995

Standing Committee received a report and noted a vacancy for a Nominated Layperson who is the Head of a Diocesan School.

Mr Tony George was elected.

Ministry Standards Committee

Vacancy for a person who is an experienced lawyer and, so far as is reasonably practicable, a non-Anglican, as declared 19 June 2023.

Standing Committee recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that Mrs Sonja Daly be appointed to the Ministry Standards Committee.

Sydney Diocesan Services

Standing Committee noted a vacancy for a person pursuant to the *Sydney Diocesan Services Ordinance (Interim Membership Arrangements) Ordinance 2023*.

**Anglican Media Council
Diocesan Retirements Board
Living Faith Council
Social Issues Committee
Stipends and Allowances Committee**

These matters were deferred.

Sydney Diocesan Services, Glebe Administration Board and other Diocesan Organisations

Sydney Diocesan Services Minutes

Standing Committee noted that the minute book of the Sydney Diocesan Services had been tabled.

Report of the Acting Chief Executive Officer

Receipt of report concerning Sydney Diocesan Services

Standing Committee received a report concerning Sydney Diocesan Services.

Receipt of report concerning the Glebe Administration Board

Standing Committee received a report concerning the Glebe Administration Board.

Anglican Church Growth Corporation Progress Report – Quarter 1 & 2, 2023

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report,
- (b) noted the 2023-2025 Anglican Church Growth Corporation Strategic Plan, and
- (c) noted the progress made in Q1 and Q2 2023 against the Growth Corporation 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

Financial Matters

Actions by the Finance Committee under delegated authority

Standing Committee noted the actions of the Finance Committee under delegated authority.

Diocesan organisations' annual reports to Synod

Standing Committee noted a report from the Finance Committee.

**Stipend Determination Methodology
Guidelines for the Remuneration of Parish Ministry Staff 2024**

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Chair of the Stipends & Allowances Committee.

Methodology for determining the recommended minimum stipend

Standing Committee agreed to apply the proposed methodology for determining the recommended minimum stipend, being stipend increases targeting 75% of November 2025 AWE, as projected from November 2022 by 3.7%p.a for three years.

Recommended minimum stipend

Standing Committee resolved to set the recommended minimum stipend at –

- (a) \$76,170.05 from 1 January 2024 (being an increase of 4.50% from the recommended minimum stipend applying from 1 July 2023),
- (b) \$79,293.02 from 1 January 2025 (being an increase of 4.10% from the recommended minimum stipend applying from 1 January 2024), and

- (c) \$82,464.74 from 1 January 2026 (being an increase of 4.00% from the recommended minimum stipend applying from 1 January 2025).

Further actions regarding Remuneration Guidelines

Standing Committee –

- (a) agreed to advise Synod and parishes now of its decision in relation to the recommended minimum stipends to apply from 1 January 2024, 1 January 2025 and 1 January 2026, and
- (b) deferred the consideration of changes to the Remuneration Guidelines until its meeting on 23 October 2023.

Synod

First ordinary session of the 53rd Synod

Standing Committee received a report.

Synod business paper for Monday 11 September 2023

Standing Committee approved a suitable form of business paper for the meeting of the Synod on Monday 11 September 2023, subject to the decisions made at this meeting.

Recommendations from the Education Committee

28/22 Diocesan support for the development of missional leaders and excellent educators in Anglican Schools

29/22 Request to appoint a diocesan educational advisor

30/22 Establishment of an Education Committee

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report from the Education Committee,
- (b) approved the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of the Synod, and
- (c) requested that a suitable form of the following three motions be moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod “by the request of Standing Committee” –

“Synod, noting the report ‘Recommendations from the Education Committee’ –

- (a) acknowledges and thanks Anglican schools for their work as partners in the mission and ministry of the Diocese,
- (b) requests the statement on Reformed Anglican Education be presented as a draft policy of the Synod to School Principals for their consideration and comment at the next Ascension Day meeting of Principals with a view to adoption at next year’s Synod, and
- (c) encourages participation in mentoring, professional development and networking through diocesan associations and professional bodies.”

“Synod requests –

- (a) the Archbishop to consider appointing a suitably qualified education advisor to support his advocacy on behalf of Anglican Schools and to assist the Synod and schools to form an effective partnership towards their shared ministry goals, and
- (b) the Standing Committee to consider ways to fund such a role.”

“Synod recommends that the Standing Committee –

- (a) request SDS to include instructional training that provides contextual information about the Diocese and its structures in conjunction with SDS supported AICD governance courses, and also requests including the offering of this training or an alternative version to diocesan school staff (possibly using a similar online platform as is currently operating for safe ministry training),
- (b) request the education advisor to report to the Standing Committee on the creation of tertiary training programs for school chaplains, assistant chaplains, and Christian Studies teachers, including the development of a sample K-12 Christian Studies curriculum,

- (c) request Youthworks to develop training units to support the teaching of the Bible in primary schools, and distinctive Christian teaching, and
- (d) consider ways to fund such requests.”

Domestic Violence Monitoring Committee

23/18 Responding to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Good Practice Guidelines

13/22 National Anglican Family Violence Research project

Receipt of report and printing of report for Synod

Standing Committee received a progress report from the Domestic Violence Response Monitoring Committee and approved the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of the Synod.

Recommendation to Synod

Standing Committee recommended that the Synod adopt the revised version of ‘Responding to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Good Practice Guidelines’.

Motion for Synod

Standing Committee requested that a suitable form of the following draft motion be moved at the next ordinary session of the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee”–

‘Synod, noting the report “Domestic Violence Response Monitoring Committee Progress Report”, adopts the updated *Responding to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Good Practice Guidelines* as a policy of the Synod.’

Appreciation for members of the Committee

Standing Committee thanked Archdeacon Kara Hartley and Dean Sandy Grant, as well as others involved in this revision process, for their wise, considered, generous, and important work.

Performance Appraisal Committee

54/22 Ministry Wellbeing and Development

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Performance Appraisal Committee and authorised the printing of a suitable form for Synod, incorporating any changes required by the Standing Committee.

Performance appraisals of ministry workers

Standing Committee –

- (a) agreed in principle that all licensed or authorised ministry workers in the Diocese (ministry workers) should undergo regular performance appraisals, in fulfilment of Recommendation 16.5(c) of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and
- (b) requested the following motion be moved at Synod ‘by the request of Standing Committee’ –

“Synod, noting the report ‘Performance Appraisals of Ministry Workers’ –

- (a) invites members of the Synod to provide feedback to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2023 on the proposed arrangements for all ministry workers in the Diocese to undergo regular performance appraisals as contemplated in the report, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to implement arrangements for regular performance appraisals for all ministry workers in light of feedback received.”

Pastoral Supervision

54/22 Ministry Wellbeing and Development

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Pastoral Supervision Committee.

Printing of report for Synod

Standing Committee approved the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of the Synod.

Motion for Synod

Standing Committee requested that a suitable form of the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod “by the request of Standing Committee” –

‘Synod, noting the report “Pastoral Supervision in the Diocese of Sydney” –

- (a) affirms the importance of Pastoral Supervision, both as a measure to enhance the ministry wellbeing and development of church workers in the Diocese, and to implement a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and
- (b) requests that the Standing Committee approve a Pastoral Supervision Policy as provided for by the Pastoral Supervision Ordinance 2023.’

Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 46/19 Fellowship with Anglicans outside the Diocese

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report.

Closure of the Affiliated Churches Program

Standing Committee agreed in principle to discontinue the Affiliated Churches Program in 2024, subject to any further direction of the Synod made by resolution at its forthcoming session.

Printing of report and motion for Synod

Standing Committee approved the printing of a suitable form of the report, and requested that the following motion be moved, at the forthcoming session of the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee” –

‘Synod, noting the report, “Discontinuation of the Affiliated Churches Program”, notes that following discussion with and support from current Affiliated Churches, the Standing Committee intends to discontinue the Affiliated Churches Program in 2024.’

Ongoing support for current affiliates

Standing Committee, noting the desire expressed by some current affiliates to continue to have access to advice from SDS and the Office of the Director of Safe Ministry once the Affiliated Churches Program ceases operation, agreed in principle to support the continued provision of limited free advice and services by SDS and the Office of the Director of Safe Ministry to independent churches specified using an appropriate mechanism by the Standing Committee, noting that some matters may attract a fee for service (advised in advance).

Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2023

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a Bill for the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2023 be promoted to the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee”,
- (b) recommended that the Synod pass the Bill as an ordinance of the Synod, and
- (c) approved of the printing for the Synod of a suitable form of the Explanatory Statement.

Development of a Diocesan-wide, ministry-led, buildings and property strategy 15/22 Toward the development of a Diocesan Property Strategy

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report,
- (b) approved the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of the Synod, and

- (c) requested that a suitable form of the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod “by the request of Standing Committee” –

‘Synod, noting the report ‘Development of a diocesan-wide ministry-directed property strategy’ –

- (a) notes that the members of Synod have been invited to provide feedback on the draft South Western Region Buildings and Property Strategy, and that they can send their feedback on the Strategy to the Diocesan Secretary (DiocesanSecretary@sydney.anglican.asn.au) by 15 November 2023,
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to consider approving the South Western Region Buildings and Property Strategy, having taken into account the feedback from Synod members, and
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to prepare the remaining four Regional strategies and an over-arching Diocesan-wide ministry-directed property strategy and report back to the next session of the Synod.’

Property priorities to progress Indigenous ministry 22/22 Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese of Sydney

Standing Committee received a report and approved the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of the Synod.

33/22 First Nations Voice

Standing Committee, having noted at its last meeting the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples’ Ministry Committee statement about the Voice referendum, requested that a suitable form of the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod “by the request of Standing Committee” –

“Synod welcomes the statement of the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples’ Ministry Committee about the Voice referendum, as follows:

‘The Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples’ Ministry Committee affirms that God’s voice is sovereign over all peoples and lands, and notes –

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been denied a voice following European settlement in this land,
- that there are benefits and challenges for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a recognised Voice to the Australian parliament,
- the passing of Resolution 33/22 “First Nations Voice” by the Sydney Anglican Diocesan Synod, and
- the “Statement on the Voice to Parliament” as affirmed by the General Synod Standing Committee of the Anglican Church of Australia.

We encourage all church members to prayerfully seek God’s voice as they search his wisdom in considering a “yes” vote for the approaching referendum.”

Provisional Parish of Leppington

Standing Committee requested the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod “by the request of the Standing Committee” –

‘Synod thanks God for the new Provisional Parish of Leppington in the South Western Region which commenced from 1 November 2022 and prays for the new rector, the Rev Mike Leite, and the congregation in this new phase of ministry and mission in the greenfields.’

42/18 Reporting on the National Redress Scheme

Standing Committee received a report and approved of the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of the Synod.

7/22 Implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Receipt of report and printing for Synod

Standing Committee received a report and approved of the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of the Synod, subject to indicating which actions have been updated since the 2022 report.

Motion for Synod

Standing Committee requested that the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee” –

‘Synod, noting the report 7/22 Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, requests the Standing Committee to provide a further update to the next session of the Synod in relation to implementation of the actions set out in the table to the report.’

Safe Ministry Board and Office of the Director of Safe Ministry Annual Report

Standing Committee received a report and approved of the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of the Synod.

Ministry Spouse Support Fund Report to Synod

Standing Committee received a report and approved of the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of the Synod.

Printing of reports for Synod

Standing Committee approved of the printing of a suitable form of the report about the following matters for the Synod –

2/05 Stipends, Allowances and Benefits for 2024
Regional Councils’ Annual Reports for 2022 (compilation)

Diocesan Doctrine Commission’s terms of reference

Standing Committee, having noted at its last meeting the report “The Diocesan Doctrine Commission’s terms of reference”, approved the printing of a suitable form for the forthcoming session of Synod.

Applications for presentation at Synod

Presentation from Anglican Schools Corporation

Standing Committee received an email from the CEO of the Anglican Schools Corporation (ASC), Mr Peter Fowler, and agreed to allow the ASC to make a 10 minute presentation including visuals at the forthcoming ordinary session of the Synod.

Presentation from Anglican Church Growth Corporation

Standing Committee agreed to allow at the forthcoming session of the Synod a presentation (including a video) of up to five minutes, including prayer, from the Anglican Church Growth Corporation regarding Greenfields matters, at a time considered suitable by the President.

Acts of the Archbishop-in-Council

Parish of Glebe

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Registrar concerning the Parish of Glebe and recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that it be determined, in the circumstances, that the parish of Glebe should not have the benefits under the Ordinance.

Parish of Greystanes – Merrylands West

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Registrar concerning the Parish of Greystanes – Merrylands West and recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that the parish not be entitled to benefits under the Ordinance.

Other Matters

Ministry in Marginalised Areas Committee: *The Well Training* governance and administration

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report on the work of MIMAC, including the establishment of The Well Training,
- (b) agreed that the membership of MIMAC be increased from the current four persons to seven persons appointed by the Standing Committee, with at least two being members of the Standing Committee, and that Anglican Community Services and Evangelism and New Churches each be invited to each appoint a principal contact person to the Committee,
- (c) agreed to approve updated terms of reference for MIMAC, as outlined in the report, and
- (d) agreed that the work SDS does to support MIMAC, at a current estimate of \$5,000 per year, be paid by means of the Synod grant to SDS under the annual Synod Appropriations Ordinance.

Ministry in Marginalised Areas Committee annual consultation regarding Anglicare’s delivery of welfare services

Standing Committee received a report.

Social Issues Committee – Voluntary Assisted Dying

Standing Committee noted a report from the Social Issues Committee.

Parish of Parramatta – In principle agreement to ACPT signing an in perpetuity licence to the Council of the City of Parramatta

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report from the ACPT and Parramatta parish project control group, and
- (b) approved in-principle the execution of the Voluntary Planning Agreement as negotiated with the City of Parramatta Council during the process that led to the consideration of a Planning Proposal for the parish site in the Parramatta CBD that has recently been gazetted with a Floor Space Ratio (FSR) of 12:1 (including bonuses), representing the NSW Department of Planning’s reduced FSR, as gazetted, from the requested FSR of 17.5:1.

Date of next meeting

Monday 23 October 2023.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 23 October 2023

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 7:37-52, Dr Laurie Scandrett and Bishop Chris Edwards opened the meeting in prayer.

Membership of the Standing Committee

Standing Committee welcomed with acclamation the following new members and looked forward to their contribution to our work –

Mr Adam Darvell
Ms Michelle England
Ms Evelyn Horton
The Rev Jodie McNeill

Provisional parish of Balmain

Standing Committee noted that on 28 September 2023, the South Sydney Regional Council passed the following resolution regarding the provisional parish of Balmain –

‘The South Sydney Regional Council, noting that the Archbishop created the ecclesiastical district of the provisional parish of Balmain on 23 November 2020, resolved that the provisional parish of Balmain shall continue indefinitely, pursuant to the provisions of the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*.’

Chair of the Sydney Anglican Loans Board

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the retirement of Mr Mike Jones as Chair, and as a member, of the Sydney Anglican Loans Board at the recent session of the Synod,
- (b) thanked him for his service to the Board over the past 14 years, including four years as Chair of the Board, and
- (c) congratulated Associate Professor Alan Kilgore on his election as Chair, having commenced on 11 September 2023.

Chair of The Council of Abbotsleigh

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the retirement of Mr Paul Fontanot as Chair, and as a member, of the Council of Abbotsleigh,
- (b) thanked him for his service to the Council as a member since 2012, and as Chair for the past six years, and
- (c) congratulated Ms Linda Ellis on her election as Chair, commencing 25 October 2023.

Chair of the Living Faith Council

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the retirement of the Rev Dominic Steele as a member, and as inaugural Chair, of the Living Faith Council, and
- (b) thanked Mr Steele for his service to, and advocacy for, gospel ministry to persons who wish to stay true to the historic Christian faith and who experience same-sex attraction or gender incongruence.

Nineteenth session of General Synod

Standing Committee noted that the nineteenth session of General Synod has been scheduled for Sunday 9 – Friday 14 August 2026, to be held at the Pullman Melbourne Albert Park, Victoria.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved of the minutes of 14 August 2023.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

Review of the Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982

Archbishop Kanishka Raffel, Bishop Chris Edwards, and Bishop Michael Stead absented themselves from the meeting during the consideration of this item. Bishop Peter Lin took the Chair.

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report.

Changes to be proposed to Synod

Standing Committee agreed in principle to propose to Synod changes to the *Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982*, the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* and the *Consecration of the Archbishop of Sydney Ordinance 2021*.

Request for bills to implement Standing Committee's in-principle decisions

Standing Committee requested that Bills to amend the *Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982*, the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* and the *Consecration of the Archbishop of Sydney Ordinance 2021*, and a suitable form of this report, reflecting Standing Committee's in principle decisions taken at this meeting, be brought to a future meeting of the Standing Committee, with a view to being promoted to the Synod.

Ordinances

Ordinances passed at the last meeting

Standing Committee received from the Diocesan Secretary, the following summary of the status of ordinances passed at the Standing Committee meeting held on 14 August 2023 –

Ordinance	Status
<i>Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2020 Amendment Ordinance 2023</i>	Assented
<i>South Western Region (Belfield Proceeds) Ordinance 1998 Amendment Ordinance 2023</i>	Assented
<i>Strathfield and Homebush Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2023</i>	Assented
<i>Croydon Land Sale Ordinance 2023</i>	Assented

Anglican Church Growth Corporation (Pilot Program Enabling 2) Ordinance 2020 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Anglican Church Growth Corporation (Pilot Program Enabling 2) Ordinance 2020*.

Church Land Acquisition Levy (Leppington Project) Application Ordinance 2020 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Church Land Acquisition Levy (Leppington Project) Application Ordinance 2020*.

Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000*.

Riverwood-Punchbowl Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts of certain funds held on trust for the Parish of Riverwood-Punchbowl.

Campbelltown Land Sale Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to permit the sale of certain land at Bradbury, and to provide for the application of the proceeds of sale.

Ryde Trust Ordinance 2013 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Ryde Trust Ordinance 2013*.

St Mary's Balmain Trust Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property is held and to establish the ACPT – St Mary's Balmain Trust.

Review of the Living Faith Council Ordinance 2020

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a letter from the Chair of Living Faith Council, and
- (b) determined for the purposes of clause 24 of the *Living Faith Council Ordinance 2020* that, taking into account the considerations outlined in the letter, it is not practicable to review the ordinance until or about its meeting in July 2024.

Elections

Elections associated with the first meeting of Standing Committee following the first ordinary session of the Synod

Continuation of existing members

Standing Committee noted that at its meeting on 14 August 2023 it agreed, in accordance with the usual custom, that existing members on the boards and committees to be filled by the Standing Committee continue as members until their successors are elected, unless otherwise specified in their constituting ordinance.

Anglican Media Council

The following persons –

Mrs Deborah L Blackwell
Mr Niall I Henderson
Bishop Gary Koo
Mr Scott Monk
Mr James Wackett

were elected.

Glebe Administration Board

The following persons –

Ms Christine Hawkins AM
Mr Jonathan Ng

were elected.

Living Faith Council

The following persons –

Ms Sally Hutchinson
Bishop Michael Stead

were elected.

Safe Ministry Board

Miss Stephanie M Cole was elected.

Sydney Anglican (National Redress Scheme) Corporation

Mrs Emma Penzo was elected.

Sydney Diocesan Services

Mr John Pascoe was elected.

Ministry Standards Committee

Standing Committee recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that the following persons –

Mrs Helen Blake
Mr Matthew Bond
Mrs Sonja Daly
The Rev Timothy St Quintin
Mr David Wright-Smith

be appointed.

NSW Ecumenical Council Incorporated

The following persons –

Dr Diane Speed
Ms Mandy Tibbey

were elected.

Diocesan Resources Committee

The following persons –

The Rev Andrew R Bruce
Mrs Stacey Chapman
Canon Phillip J Colgan
Mr John S Pascoe
Bishop Michael R Stead

were elected.

General Synod Relations Committee

The following persons –

Archbishop Kanishka Raffel
The Rev Dr Andrew L Ford
The Rev Nigel E J Fortescue
Dean Sandy Grant
The Rev Gavin M Poole
Dr Laurie Scandrett
Dr Karin N Sowada
Bishop Michael R Stead
The Rev Dr Mark D Thompson
Dr Robert Tong AM
The Rev James C B Warren

were elected.

Ministry in Marginalised Areas Committee

The following persons –

The Rev Joanne Gibbs
Bishop Peter L Hayward
Mr Peter Kell AM
The Rev Neil Scott
Mrs Josie Seto
The Rev Mark Tough
The Rev Joseph Wiltshire

were elected.

Religious Freedom Reference Group

The following persons –

Mr Gavin Jones
The Rev Dr Edward Loane
Bishop Michael R Stead
Dr Robert Tong AM
Mr Robert J Wicks

were elected.

Social Issues Committee

That the following persons –

Dr Megan Best
The Rev Dr Andrew Errington
Dean Sandy Grant
Mrs Jeanette Habib
The Rev Dr Chase R Kuhn
Dr Darren C Mitchell OAM
Professor Jonathan Morris AM
The Hon John Ryan AM JP
Ms Simone Sietsma

were elected.

Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)
Anglican Media Council
Anglican National Superannuation Board
Blue Mountains Grammar School
Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council
Diocesan Retirements Board
King's School, The Council of The
Living Faith Council
Ministry Training and Development, Council of
St Andrew's House Corporation
Stipends and Allowances Committee
Sydney Anglican Loans Board
Sydney Diocesan Services
Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) The Council of Abbotsleigh – Mr Paul Fontanot had resigned effective from 25 October 2023 and a vacancy was declared for a layman.
- (b) Glebe Administration Board – Mr David Wong had resigned. Standing Committee agreed not to declare a vacancy in the membership of the Glebe Administration Board at this time.
- (c) SCECGS Redlands – Mr Michael Winram had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.

Declaration of urgency

Standing Committee agreed to consider making a recommendation to Sydney Diocesan Services regarding the filling of the vacancy for a person as Director of SCECGS Redlands Ltd at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

Recommendation for appointment

Having received the requisite certification concerning the signing of the statement of personal faith, and confirmation under Regulation 8.4.2 that the Chair was consulted and expressed satisfaction that this nomination proceed, it was resolved that Standing Committee recommend to Sydney Diocesan Services that it appoint Mrs Juliet Wenden to fill the vacancy for a person as Director of SCECGS Redlands Ltd.

- (d) Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council – The Rev Nigel Webb had resigned and a vacancy was declared for member of the clergy.
- (e) St Andrew's Cathedral Chapter – Archdeacon Kara Hartley had resigned effective from 31 December 2023 and a vacancy was declared for a member of the clergy.
- (f) Tara Anglican School for Girls, The Council of – Mr David Braga and the Rev David Keun had resigned effective from 31 December 2023 and vacancies were declared for a person and a member of clergy respectively.

Sydney Diocesan Services, Glebe Administration Board and other Diocesan Organisations

Sydney Diocesan Services Minutes

Standing Committee noted that the minute book of the Sydney Diocesan Services had been tabled.

Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Standing Committee received a report concerning the Sydney Diocesan Services.

Parish Property Sales (Q4, 2018 – Q3, 2023) and the status of sale funds allocations

Standing Committee received a report and spreadsheet from the Anglican Church Property Trust.

Service Review Committee

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that the Service Level Agreement (SLA), for services provided by SDS to the Synod and the Standing Committee, for a Diocesan Research Officer, and for Parish HR Support, will be reviewed at the forthcoming meeting of the Service Review Committee, and
- (b) invited members to provide feedback on the SLA and/or the performance of SDS to the Chair of the Service Review Committee.

Synod

Synod minutes of 19 September 2023

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that the Synod authorised the President to sign the minutes of 19 September 2023 upon the production to the Standing Committee of the certificate of any 2 members of the Minute Reading Committee,
- (b) noted that 2 members of the Minute Reading Committee have now signed the Synod minutes of 19 September 2023, and
- (c) recommended that the Archbishop also sign them.

Proceedings of the 2023 Synod

Standing Committee noted the Synod Proceedings have been published on the Synod's webpage on the SDS website (www.sds.asn.au).

Synod attendances

Standing Committee noted the attendance statistics for the recent session of the Synod.

Review of Synod session

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and invited members to provide written feedback regarding the operation of the recent session of the Synod to the Diocesan Secretary by email.

Resolutions of the Synod and communication of Synod decisions

Resolutions of Synod

Standing Committee noted a report and the action taken in relation to each resolution made by the Synod at its recent session.

Synod circular

Standing Committee noted that the Diocesan Secretary sent a circular on 29 September 2023 to parishes on matters arising from the Synod session, including a copy of the resolutions passed and highlighting the matters of particular interest.

1/23 Amendments to Faithfulness in Service

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 1/23 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting the report "Amendments to Faithfulness in Service: A national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers", adopts the amendments to Faithfulness in Service as set out in the report.'

and noted that *Faithfulness in Service* has been amended accordingly and a revised version uploaded to the SDS website.

4/23 Diocesan Doctrine Commission's terms of reference

Noting of Synod resolution

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 4/23 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting the report "The Diocesan Doctrine Commission's terms of reference", requests that the Commission appointed by the Archbishop in consultation with the Standing Committee pursuant to resolution 19/81 –

- (a) be comprised of ten persons, to serve for a term of three years,
- (b) have a Chair, appointed by the Archbishop from among the members, and
- (c) consider and report on issues which may be referred to it from time to time only by the Synod, the Standing Committee, or by the Archbishop,

and encourages the Standing Committee to approve suitable Terms of Reference for the Commission that reflect the recommendations of this motion.'

Adoption of terms of reference

Standing Committee agreed to adopt a terms of reference for the Diocesan Doctrine Commission, shown in marked-up form, as agreed in principle by the Standing Committee on 17 July 2023 and included in the report noted by Synod on 11 September 2023.

5/23 Discontinuation of the Affiliated Churches Program

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 5/23 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting the report "Discontinuation of the Affiliated Churches Program", notes that following discussion with and support from current Affiliated Churches, the Standing Committee intends to discontinue the Affiliated Churches Program in 2024.'

and –

- (a) confirmed its in-principle decision, made in August 2023, to discontinue the Affiliated Churches Program in 2024, and
- (b) requested the Affiliated Churches Committee to promote suitable legislation to wind down the Affiliated Churches Program.

9/23 Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 9/23 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting that the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* (MSO) has been in operation for five years, asks Standing Committee to investigate –

- (a) the impact of the complaints processes of the Office of the Director of Safe Ministry (ODSM) under the MSO on church workers, their families, and their parish ministry, including duration of complaints handling, impact of confidentiality requirements, perceptions of the investigation process, and general confidence in the process,
- (b) the adequacy of support arrangements for complainants and respondents involved in ODSM processes,
- (c) the cost of processing complaints that ultimately do not proceed, or return no finding of unfitness, and how those costs can be minimised,
- (d) what steps can be taken to minimise negative impacts on church workers and their families that result from false, trivial or vexatious complaints,
- (e) whether the shift to a fitness for office test has achieved the intended objectives, what costs it has involved, and whether it should be maintained,
- (f) whether complaints of child sexual abuse and bullying are best governed by a common process and/or ordinance, or whether these complaints require different approaches, processes and/or ordinances,
- (g) the extent to which the biblical necessity for church discipline and the practical requirements of such church discipline are properly considered in our approach to, and definitions of, bullying and harassment, and
- (h) how we can make better use of the Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour and other processes in resolving conflict apart from the MSO,

and report its findings and recommendations to the 2024 session of Synod.'

and agreed to consider appointing a committee to address the request of resolution 9/23 at its meeting on 20 November 2023.

10/23 Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese

Noting of Synod resolution

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 10/23 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting the report "Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese" –

- (a) expresses its gratitude for the work of the volunteers who serve on the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee (SAIPMC),
- (b) notes the report from the SAIPMC that Indigenous ministry in the Diocese is hampered because a committee of volunteers is not able to lead and drive the vision for Indigenous ministry (and true gospel reconciliation) across our Diocese and beyond,
- (c) expresses in-principle support for the recommendation of SAIPMC for the recognition and appointment of an Indigenous person (or persons) to lead and represent Indigenous ministry in our Diocese,
- (d) requests the Standing Committee to appoint a committee to explore how best to implement the recommendation of SAIPMC. The committee should consider –
 - (i) the scope of the role,

- (ii) whether this role should be full time or part time, and/or a possible staged implementation,
 - (iii) whether there should be Indigenous representation on the Standing Committee,
 - (iv) the appropriate form of appointment (e.g., Canon, Archdeacon or Bishop), and
 - (v) the funding of this role, and
- (e) requests, to the extent that the recommendations of the committee require ordinance changes, that such changes be brought to the next session of the Synod for consideration.'

and agreed to consider appointing a committee to address the request of resolution 10/23 at its meeting on 20 November 2023.

Noting of SAIPMC request

Standing Committee noted the following motion passed by the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee on 23 September 2023 –

'The SAIPMC, noting the passing by the Synod of Motion 10/23 Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese; requests the Standing Committee appoint to the proposed Committee a minimum of two Indigenous persons and requests these positions be filled by the two current Indigenous members of the Synod: Ms Larissa Minniecon and Rev Michael Paduch-Duckett.'

12/23 Implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 12/23 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting the report "7/22 Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse", requests the Standing Committee to provide a further update to the next session of the Synod in relation to implementation of the actions set out in the table to the report.'

and –

- (a) referred the request of the resolution to the Safe Ministry Board,
- (b) noted that the Exposure Draft of the revised Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations includes at paragraph H.(g)(i) that members of Tier 1, 3 and 4 organisations must undertake safe ministry training, which, if implemented, will address recommendation 16.50, and
- (c) request the Board to provide a suitable report by the July 2024 meeting of the Standing Committee for promotion to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

15/23 Funding for Work Outside the Diocese

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 15/23 in the following terms –

'Synod notes that –

- (a) the Work Outside the Diocese allocation for 2024 in the *Synod Appropriation and Allocations Ordinance 2023* is based on 4.5% of the total income available to Synod,
- (b) this is despite a 22% increase in available income compared to 2023,
- (c) past Synods have requested 5% of the available income to be applied for this purpose, and
- (d) the relevant report states that the percentage reduction is temporary,

and therefore requests Standing Committee to work towards appropriation bills that return to the policy of applying 5% of available income for Work Outside the Diocese in future years.'

and referred the request of the resolution to the Diocesan Resources Committee.

21/23 Diocesan Organisations pursuing the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 21/23 in the following terms –

'Synod, recognising the increasing need for, and benefits of, diocesan organisations working together as part of the broader diocesan network –

- (a) recognises the document Purpose and Priorities for our Diocesan Fellowship as an expression of the 'broader charitable purposes of the Diocese' for the purposes of the Synod's Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations,
- (b) notes that, in conformity with the Synod's Governance Policy, a number of diocesan organisations have sought and obtained amendments to their constituting ordinances which expressly permit them to pursue their specifically mandated purpose in a manner which also advances the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese,
- (c) regards such amendments as a tangible expression of commitment to working together as part of the broader diocesan network and encourages all diocesan organisations, to the extent they are legally able to do so, to consider seeking such amendments,
- (d) requires all Category Two and Category Three diocesan organisations (under the Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995), except for schools, to annually report to Synod a summary of the steps they have taken in pursuit of the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese, and
- (e) encourages all Diocesan schools (mentioned in Category Three of the Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995) to annually report to Synod a summary of the steps they have taken in pursuit of the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese.'

and –

- (a) noted that the Diocesan Secretary has conveyed the terms of the resolution to all diocesan organisations and schools, drawing particular attention to paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) as appropriate,
- (b) requested the Diocesan Secretary to arrange for an ordinance to amend the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995* to enact the requirement of the Synod in paragraph (d), to be brought to a future meeting.

24/23 South Western Region buildings and property strategy

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 24/23 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting the report "South Western Region buildings and property strategy" –

- (a) notes that the members of Synod have been invited to provide feedback on the draft South Western Region Buildings and Property Strategy, and that they can send their feedback on the Strategy to the Diocesan Secretary (DiocesanSecretary@sydney.anglican.asn.au) by 30 November 2023,
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to consider approving the South Western Region Buildings and Property Strategy, having taken into account the feedback from Synod members, and
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to prepare the remaining four Regional strategies and an over-arching Diocesan-wide property strategy in support of ministry and report back to the next session of the Synod.'

and requested the Anglican Church Growth Corporation to –

- (a) assess the feedback received once the submission period has closed,
- (b) provide a final form of the South Western Region Buildings and Property Strategy, having taken into account the feedback from Synod members, to the Standing Committee for approval by February 2024, and
- (c) report to the March 2024 meeting of the Standing Committee with a recommended way forward regarding the remaining four Regional strategies and an over-arching Diocesan-wide strategy.

28/23 Questions during debates on motions

Noting of Synod resolution

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 28/23 in the following terms –

"Synod, noting that –

- (a) Part 4 – Resolutions of the *Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019* (the Ordinance) provides no clear permission for questions to be asked during debate on motions, and
- (b) it is often desirable for questions to be asked during debate on motions,

requests Standing Committee to consider whether the Ordinance should be amended, and if so, to bring any amendment to a forthcoming Synod.”

and requested members to send any feedback they have on the issue of questions during debate on motions to the Diocesan Secretary for her consideration, in consultation with the Archbishop’s Executive Officer, as she prepares any recommendations, including for amendments to this Ordinance, following the review of the recent session of Synod.

Receipt of correspondence

Standing Committee received correspondence from the Rev Scott Lovell.

32/23 Performance Appraisals of Ministry Workers

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 32/23 in the following terms –

‘Synod, noting the report “Performance Appraisals of Ministry Workers” –

- (a) invites members of the Synod to provide feedback to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2023 on the proposed arrangements for all ministry workers in the Diocese to undergo regular performance appraisals as contemplated in the report, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to implement arrangements for regular performance appraisals for all ministry workers in light of feedback received.’

and agreed to consider appointing a Committee to address the request of resolution 32/23 at its meeting on 20 November 2023.

48/23 Non-Disclosure Agreements

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 48/23 in the following terms –

‘Synod –

- (a) gives thanks for the important work of the committee established by the Standing Committee to review the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements and Non-Disparagement Clauses in the Diocese,
- (b) grieves that such agreements could be used to silence victims and cover up sin,
- (c) requests that the committee’s report be presented at the next session of Synod with a recommendation concerning the use of such agreements in our Diocese, and
- (d) prays for those impacted negatively by these agreements.’

and noted that the Diocesan Secretary has referred the request of the resolution to the Non-Disclosure Agreement Committee and requested a report be provided by July 2024 for promotion to the Synod.

52/23 Pastoral Supervision in the Diocese of Sydney

Noting of Synod resolution

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 52/23 in the following terms –

‘Synod, noting the report “Pastoral Supervision in the Diocese of Sydney” –

- (a) affirms the importance of Pastoral Supervision, both as a measure to enhance the ministry wellbeing and development of church workers in the Diocese, and to implement a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse,
- (b) requests the Archbishop-in-Council to approve a Pastoral Supervision Policy as provided for by the Pastoral Supervision Ordinance 2023,
- (c) requests that the Pastoral Supervision Policy include a review date five years in the future, and
- (d) requests Standing Committee give consideration to facilitating professional research to evaluate the effect of the policy during the review period.

Synod also requests that –

- (i) consideration be given to exempting from the requirement for pastoral supervision new assistant ministers and other church workers undertaking the 3-year post-college Ministry Development program, given their program already involves guided reflection, mentoring, participation in 360-degree feedback and use of other psychometric tools,
- (ii) in the production of the Pastoral Supervision policy, consideration be given to including options for costless or low-cost forms of pastoral supervision, including but not limited to group pastoral supervision,
- (iii) alongside and in conjunction with the production of the Pastoral Supervision Policy, a holistic consideration of the whole suite of expectations on ministry workers' time (with regard to training, support and development) be conducted in order to determine if there are redundancies that can be eliminated to make up for the added time and potential cost of pastoral supervision, and
- (iv) the Pastoral Supervision Policy provide for the confidentiality of discussions between church workers and Pastoral Supervisors.'

and noted that the Diocesan Secretary has referred the request of the resolution to the Pastoral Supervision Committee and requested a revised Pastoral Supervision Policy be promoted to the Standing Committee for approval, incorporating the matters in paragraph (c) and subparagraphs (i) to (iv).

Receipt of correspondence

Standing Committee received a letter from the Rev Gavin Poole regarding Resolution 52/23, and referred it to the Pastoral Supervision Committee for consideration.

53/23 General Synod Long Service Leave Fund

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 53/23 in the following terms –

'Synod –

- (a) notes the General Synod Long Service Leave Fund was established by a General Synod canon more than 60 years ago when the forms of paid ministry were very different to the various ministries which exist now, and
- (b) asks the Standing Committee –
 - (i) to consider whether the circumstances have changed so much over the last 60 years that it may be wise to establish a Sydney Long Service Leave Fund which could have the flexibility to reflect modern ministry arrangements,
 - (ii) to consult with the Board of the General Synod Long Service Leave Fund, former members of the Board and others as appropriate, and take whatever action it considers to be in the best interests of the ongoing ministry both in the Diocese of Sydney and the wider Australian church.'

and –

- (a) referred the request of the resolution to the General Synod Relations Committee, and
- (b) requested the Committee to bring a report with recommendations to a future meeting of the Standing Committee for promotion to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

54/23 Temporary arrangements for diocesan schools

Noting of Synod resolution

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 54/23 in the following terms –

"Synod, noting –

- (i) that it has endorsed the approach of requiring governors and leaders to be of Christian faith and character, as outlined in the Exposure Draft of the revised Diocesan Governance Policy, to be further considered at the Synod next year, and
- (ii) that the Synod has not yet made a decision whether the new Diocesan Governance Policy will require a signed Statement of Personal Faith,

encourages the Standing Committee to –

- (a) consider approving appropriate temporary arrangements for Diocesan schools based on the proposed 'Christian faith and character' model, provided that the temporary arrangements also require a signed Statement of Personal Faith in the form currently required by ordinance from the majority of Diocesan schools, and
- (b) report progress to each future session of Synod until these arrangements are no longer required.'

and noted that schools that wish to pursue 'appropriate temporary arrangements' should contact SDS Legal to request an ordinance.

56/23 Partnership with Anglican Schools

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 56/23 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting the report "Recommendations from the Education Committee" –

- (a) acknowledges and thanks Anglican Schools for their work as partners in the mission and ministry of the Diocese,
- (b) requests the draft statement on Reformed Anglican Education be presented to School Principals and ordained chaplains for their consideration and comment, particularly with reference to the nature and purposes of Anglican Schools within the larger context of Reformed Anglican Education,
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to form a suitably qualified committee, including current Anglican School principals and ordained chaplain(s), to prepare a draft statement for adoption by the Synod in due course, and
- (d) encourages participation by Anglican School staff in mentoring, professional development and networking through diocesan associations and professional bodies.'

and agreed to consider appointing a committee to address the request of resolution 56/23 at its meeting on 20 November 2023.

57/23 Training opportunities for Anglican educators

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 57/23 in the following terms –

'Synod recommends that the Standing Committee –

- (a) request SDS to include instructional training that provides contextual information about the Diocese and its structures in conjunction with SDS supported AICD governance courses, and to offer this training or an alternate version to diocesan school staff (possibly using a similar online platform as is currently operating for safe ministry training),
- (b) request the education advisor (or, in the absence of an education advisor, the Archbishop's delegate) to consult and work collaboratively with suitably qualified chaplains and heads of Christian Studies to determine time- and cost-effective models and pathways for inter-school Christian Professional Development for Christian teachers, including proposals for suitable tertiary institutional engagement (if any),
- (c) request the education advisor (or, in the absence of an education advisor, the Archbishop's delegate) to develop partnerships with university Christian fellowships in order to promote training opportunities and access to tertiary courses with cross-institutional credit which train teacher education students in distinctively Christian teaching,
- (d) request the education advisor (or, in the absence of an education advisor, the Archbishop's delegate) to report to the Standing Committee the findings at (b) for review and presentation to Synod, and
- (e) consider ways to fund such requests.'

and –

- (a) referred the request of paragraph (a) to SDS,
- (b) noted that the proposal regarding an education advisor was not voted on by the Synod,
- (c) referred the requests of paragraph (b) to (d) to the Archbishop's delegate, and
- (d) requested the Archbishop's delegate to bring recommendations to the Standing Committee about what funding may be required to enact these recommendations.

64/23 Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 64/23 in the following terms –

“Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to the Lord for –
 - (i) the faithful Anglican ministry efforts of both laity and clergy since 1788,
 - (ii) the crucial work of Moore Theological College, Anglicare, Youthworks, diocesan schools and other ministry organisations, in supporting the ministry of the Diocese's churches,
 - (iii) the visionary and theological leadership of archbishops, past and present, and
 - (iv) the property and financial resources which facilitate the ministry of the Word,which have all contributed to almost 40% of the national Anglican Church's weekly attendance being within the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Sydney,
- (b) therefore encourages all Sydney Anglicans to pray for the lost, so that the Lord would open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Christ (Acts 26:18),
- (c) notes –
 - (i) the baby boomer generation, which constitutes a large percentage of the average attendance per week, has begun its progression to glory,
 - (ii) the population within the boundaries of the Diocese is booming and is projected to include an additional one million people by 2041,
 - (iii) the majority of that net population growth is expected to reside within the brownfield areas of Sydney, and
 - (iv) the challenges of ministering with ageing and often inadequate infrastructure within those brownfield areas,
- (d) further notes the external, forthcoming government-imposed challenges to overcome, that may adversely affect the impact of our ministries, and
- (e) requests the Standing Committee to initiate an analysis of average attendance trends, and an assessment of the likely impact of social changes upon average attendance, and report back to Synod in 2024.”

and agreed to consider appointing a committee to address the request of resolution 64/23 at its meeting on 20 November 2023.

Second session of the 53rd Synod

Standing Committee noted the dates for the second session of the 53rd Session of the Synod are Saturday 14 (Synod in the Northwest Greenfields event), Monday 16, Tuesday 17, Wednesday 18, Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 September 2024.

13/23 New Diocesan Bishops

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 13/23 in the following terms –

‘Synod –

- (a) notes that, since it last met –
 - (i) the Ven Darrell Parker was consecrated at St Andrew's Cathedral on 3 February 2023 and installed as the eighth Bishop of North West Australia at Holy Cross Cathedral in Geraldton on Wednesday 15 February 2023,
 - (ii) the Right Rev Jeremy James was installed in the Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul, Port Pirie as the eighth Bishop of Willochra on 25 February 2023, and
 - (iii) the Right Rev Jeremy Greaves was elected on 26 August 2023 as the tenth Archbishop of Brisbane and Metropolitan of the Province of Queensland, and will be installed on 16 December 2023 at St John's Cathedral, and
- (b) assures these bishops of our prayers and good wishes in their episcopal roles, praying –

Lord, bless your servants Darrell, Jeremy and Jeremy called to the work and ministry of a bishop. So fill them with the truth of your doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may faithfully minister in this office to the glory of your name and the benefit of your Church. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

(Adapted from The Consecrating of a Bishop, AAPB p.617)

and noted a response from Bishop Darrell Parker.

Other Matters

Triennial review of Standing Committee subcommittees

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and –

- (a) approved the changes to the Terms of Reference for its permanent subcommittees as shown in a document, and
- (b) agreed to discontinue the Royal Commission Steering Committee, effective immediately, and discontinue the Affiliated Churches Committee when the Affiliated Churches program is wound up.

Online gambling

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Date of next meeting

Monday 20 November 2023.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 20 November 2023

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 8:12-30, Mr James Flavin and Archdeacon Simon Flinders opened the meeting in prayer.

Chair of Sydney Church of England Grammar School Council (Shore)

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the retirement of Mr Bay Warburton as Chair, and as a member, of the Sydney Church of England Grammar School Council (Shore) on 23 October 2023,
- (b) thanked him for his service to the Council over the past seven years, including three years as Chair of the Shore Council, and
- (c) congratulated Ms Jennifer Lambert on her election as Chair of the Shore Council, having commenced on 24 October 2023.

Chair of St Andrew's Cathedral School Council Chair of St Andrew's Cathedral Gawura School Council

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the retirement of Mr Ray Jarratt as Chair, and as a member, of St Andrew's Cathedral School Council and St Andrew's Cathedral Gawura School Council on 7 November 2023,
- (b) thanked him for his service to the Council over the past 19 years, including as Chair of the Council for the past two and a half years,
- (c) congratulated Mr Michael Winram on his election as Chair of St Andrew's Cathedral School Council and St Andrew's Cathedral Gawura School Council, having commenced on 8 November 2023, and
- (d) assured the Council and Head of School of the prayers of the Diocesan fellowship as they respond to recent tragic events.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved of the minutes of 23 October 2023.

GAFCON Primates and Global South Meetings

Bishop Malcolm Richards provided an oral report to the Standing Committee on the recent GAFCON Primates Meeting and the Cairo meeting of the Global South.

Church of England General Synod

Standing Committee –

- (a) grieved the decision of the Church of England General Synod to encourage the House of Bishops to continue their work of implementation of the Prayers of Love and Faith, including the development of 'stand alone' services for the blessing of people in same-sex marriages, in a clear departure from the teaching of Scripture,
- (b) noted that the motion was passed by very narrow margins in the Houses of Clergy and Laity (100/93 and 104/100 respectively) but by a significant margin in the House of Bishops (23/10),
- (c) commended all those who upheld the teaching of Scripture, the doctrine of marriage as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer, and Lambeth Resolution I.10 by voting against the motion,
- (d) called on the General Synod to repent of this decision and joyfully affirm the authority and trustworthiness of the Holy Scriptures in matters of human sexuality and marriage, including for people who identify as gay and lesbian,
- (e) called on the House of Bishops to uphold their consecration vows to 'banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrine contrary to God's Word' by halting implementation of the Prayers of Love and Faith,
- (f) assured all members of the Church of England of our prayers in this time of deep distress and division, and our solidarity with those who seek to uphold the teaching of Scripture including those who experience attraction to people of the same sex and live faithful and chaste lives of fruitful and joyful service of the Lord in the fellowship of his people, and

- (g) requested a copy of this resolution be sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Director of the Church of England Evangelical Council.

Bishop Malcolm Richards led the Standing Committee in prayer regarding this matter.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

Review of the central organisational structures of the Diocese

Receipt of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Central Diocesan Structures Review Committee (the Review Committee).

Establishment of Sydney Anglican Property (SAP)

Standing Committee, noting the pressing operational need to streamline and coordinate the governance and management of the property and related functions currently undertaken by the Anglican Church Property Trust (ACPT), Anglican Church Growth Corporation (ACGC), New Churches for New Communities (NCNC) and St Andrew’s House Corporation (SAHC) –

- (a) agreed in principle to establish Sydney Anglican Property (SAP) initially on a transitional basis through a common membership for the boards of the ACPT, ACGC (with NCNC) and SAHC,
- (b) requested that a “stapling” ordinance and associated motions be brought to the meeting on 11 December 2023 to establish the common transitional board membership for SAP with effect from 1 January 2024,
- (c) noted that SAP will be supported by a staff group led by a Head (or CEO) of SAP, and
- (d) requested the Review Committee to bring to a future meeting a proposed form of motion for promotion to the 2024 Synod session by which Synod can ratify the establishment of the transitional SAP board and approve the Standing Committee taking steps to consolidate further the structure of SAP.

52/23 Pastoral Supervision in the Diocese of Sydney Pastoral Supervision Pilot Program Review

Standing Committee noted a report from Ministry Training & Development.

52/23 Pastoral Supervision in the Diocese of Sydney Pastoral Supervision Policy

Receipt of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Pastoral Supervision Committee.

Pastoral Supervision Policy

Standing Committee, having debated matters of principle, requested the Pastoral Supervision Committee to revise the Pastoral Supervision Policy for consideration at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Ordinances

Ordinances passed at the last meeting

Standing Committee received from the Diocesan Secretary, the following summary of the status of ordinances passed at the Standing Committee meeting held on 23 October 2023 –

Ordinance	Status
Anglican Church Growth Corporation (Pilot Program Enabling 2) Ordinance 2020 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Church Land Acquisition Levy (Leppington Project) Application Ordinance 2020 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented

Ordinance	Status
Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Riverwood-Punchbowl Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2023	Assented
Campbelltown Land Sale Ordinance 2023	Assented
Ryde Trust Ordinance 2013 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Not assented; the Parish Council did not consent to the amended form in which the ordinance was passed
St Mary's Balmain Trust Ordinance 2023	Assented

Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney Ordinance 1965 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the constituting ordinances of the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney and for matters incidental thereto.

St Catherine's School Waverley (Temporary Arrangements) Ordinance 2023 54/23 Temporary arrangements for diocesan schools

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide temporary arrangements with respect to certain provisions of the constituting ordinance of St Catherine's School Waverley.

Ryde Trust Ordinance 2013 Amendment Ordinance 2023

Noting of correspondence

Standing Committee noted correspondence from the wardens of St Anne's Ryde, and correspondence from the Rector of St Anne's Ryde.

Purpose of ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Ryde Trust Ordinance 2013*.

Kensington Eastlakes Land Sale Ordinance 2023

Purpose of ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to permit the sale of certain land at Mascot, and to provide for the application of the proceeds of sale.

Consultation with neighbouring parishes

Standing Committee required the Parish of Kensington Eastlakes to consult with adjoining parishes regarding the sale and to give those parishes first right of refusal.

Roseville Trust Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property is held and to establish the ACPT – Roseville Trust.

Bondi and Waverley Trust Ordinance 2013

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted a letter from the Wardens of the Parish of Bondi and Waverley, including Parish information, Property income worksheet, and the *Bondi and Waverley Trust Ordinance 2013*, and

- (b) approved 20 November 2028 as a later date for the purposes of clause 8(2) of the *Bondi and Waverley Trust Ordinance 2013*.

Elections

Elections associated with the first meeting of Standing Committee following the first ordinary session of the Synod

Anglican Church Growth Corporation

Mrs Maureen Peatman and Mr Trevor Ratcliff were elected.

Diocesan Doctrine Commission

The following persons –

- The Rev Dr David A Höhne (subject to his consent)
- The Rev Dr Edward Loane
- The Rev Dr Gavin Perkins
- The Rev Dr Willis H Salier
- The Rev Dr Andrew G Shead
- The Rev Dr Robert S Smith
- Bishop Michael R Stead
- The Rev Dr Mark D Thompson (Chair)
- The Rev Dr Danielle Treweek
- Mrs Beth Webb

were appointed by the Archbishop in consultation with the Standing Committee.

Diocesan Retirements Board

Standing Committee recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that the following persons –

- Bishop Chris Edwards (Chairman)
- Bishop Gary Koo (Deputy Chairman)
- The Rev Timothy Booker
- The Rev Leanne Burns
- The Rev Dr Ken Simpson
- The Rev Malcolm York
- Dr Katherine Bruce
- Ms Kathryn Cook
- Dr Sylvia Steel

be appointed.

Finance Committee

The following persons –

- Mr Rodney C Cosier
- Mr Greg J Muddle
- Mr John S Pascoe
- Mr Mark A Robinson
- Mr Ian J Steward OAM
- Ms Nicola V Warwick-Mayo

were elected.

Service Review Committee

The following persons –

- Mr Jeremy Freeman
- Dr Claire S Smith
- The Rev Gavin Parsons

were elected.

Work Outside the Diocese Committee

The following persons –

Dr Jean Ashton
Archdeacon Simon Flinders
The Rev Alan J M Lukabyo
The Rev Jodie McNeill
The Rev Justin M Moffatt
The Rev Gavin Parsons
The Rev Gavin M Poole
Mr Malcolm J Purvis
Mrs Kathryn Thompson

were elected.

Abbotsleigh, The Council of

Mr Andrew Loel was elected.

St Andrew's Cathedral Chapter

The Rev Susan An was elected.

Social Issues Committee

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a report from the Diocesan Secretary, and
- (b) declared a vacancy for the Social Issues Committee for a member who is also a member of the Standing Committee.

Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)

Anglican Media Council

Anglican National Superannuation Board

Blue Mountains Grammar School

Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council

Diocesan Retirements Board

King's School, The Council of The

Living Faith Council

Ministry Training and Development, Council of

St Andrew's House Corporation

Stipends and Allowances Committee

Sydney Anglican Loans Board

Sydney Diocesan Services

Tara Anglican School for Girls, The Council of

Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) St Catherine's School, Waverley, Council of – the Rev Dr Danielle Treweek had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a member of the clergy.
- (b) King's School, The Council of The – Mr Craig Turner had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a lay person.
- (c) Domestic Violence Response Monitoring Committee – Dean Sandy Grant had resigned. Standing Committee thanked Dean Sandy Grant for his service as a member of the Domestic Violence Response Monitoring Committee since it was first established by the Standing Committee on 12 November 2018 and declared a vacancy for the Committee.

- (d) Sydney Church of England Grammar School Council (Shore) – Mrs Kirsty Bucknell had resigned and a vacancy was declared for lay person.

Synod

4/23 Diocesan Doctrine Commission's terms of reference

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and amended the Diocesan Doctrine Commission's terms of reference as shown in a marked form.

9/23 Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and appointed a Complaints Process Review Committee to address the request of Synod Resolution 9/23 and report to the Standing Committee by July 2024.

32/23 Performance Appraisals of Ministry Workers

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

54/23 Temporary arrangements for diocesan schools

Standing Committee noted a letter from the 'Love School Illawarra' group of parents from The Illawarra Grammar School regarding Resolution 54/23, with the qualification that it has been drawn to Standing Committee's attention that certain of the statements in the letter are disputed.

56/23 Partnership with Anglican Schools

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

64/23 Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Other Matters

Social Issues Committee – “Voluntary Assisted Dying in NSW: Pastoral Guidance for Sydney Anglican Diocesan Ministry Workers”

Noting of report and advice

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that the report from the Social Issues Committee regarding Voluntary Assisted Dying provided to the Standing Committee on 14 August 2023 anticipated the completion of guidelines, aimed primarily at pastoral ministry workers, in time for the commencement of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022 (NSW)* on 28 November, and
- (b) noted advice from the Social Issues Committee that its pastoral guidance is intended to be an initial resource that may be improved, expanded or supplemented over time.'

Publication of resource

Standing Committee –

- (a) received a resource from the Social Issues Committee, Voluntary Assisted Dying in NSW: Pastoral Guidance for Sydney Anglican Diocesan Ministry Workers,
- (b) approved the publication and distribution of a suitable form of the resource to all clergy, chaplains and church workers in the Diocese, and
- (c) thanked members of the Social Issues Committee for their work on this resource, especially the Rev Dr Andrew Errington, together with the Diocesan Research Officer, the Rev Dr Danielle Treweek, as its leading authors and editors.

Online gambling

Standing Committee respectfully requested that the Archbishop write to the Prime Minister a second time on the matter of online gambling, thanking him for the initial response given on his behalf by the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister dated 4 October 2023, noting the steps already committed to by the Government to reduce the harms done by online gambling providers, but again requesting the Prime Minister and the Government he leads to enact promptly the unanimous bipartisan recommendations of the "You win some, you lose more: Online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm" report, including a specific request for a timeline for when a decision on the matter may be expected and for when implementation may occur, insofar as the Government intends to implement the recommendations.

Social Issues Committee's terms of reference

Standing Committee amended the Social Issues Committee's terms of reference as shown in a marked form of the Committee's terms of reference.

Date of next meeting

Monday 11 December 2023.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 11 December 2023

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 8:31-47, the Archbishop opened the meeting in prayer.

Chair of Living Faith Council

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the election of Bishop Michael Stead as Chair of the Living Faith Council on 29 November 2023, and
- (b) congratulated Bishop Stead on his election, assuring him of its prayers for his work in leading the Council.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved of the minutes of 20 November 2023.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

Review of the central organisational structures of the Diocese

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Central Diocesan Structures Review Committee (the Review Committee).

Request for quarterly reports from Sydney Anglican Property

Standing Committee requested that Sydney Anglican Property provide its first two quarterly reports about its affairs to the Standing Committee meetings on 25 March 2024 and 24 June 2024.

Bishop Stead led the Standing Committee in prayer for Sydney Anglican Property.

52/23 Pastoral Supervision in the Diocese of Sydney Pastoral Supervision Policy

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report of the Pastoral Supervision Committee.

Adoption of policy

Standing Committee recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that he adopt the Pastoral Supervision Policy.

Request for changes to the Remuneration Guidelines

Standing Committee requested the Stipends & Allowances Committee to propose changes to the Remuneration Guidelines to enact the requirements of the Policy, including providing guidance on appropriate handling and recording of –

- (a) remuneration and expenses for Pastoral Supervisors engaged in stipendiary ministry, and
- (b) parish contributions for the cost of receiving Pastoral Supervision.

Response to correspondence

Standing Committee requested the Diocesan Secretary to respond to the Rev Gavin Poole's letter dated 20 October 2023 to advise him of the Archbishop-in-Council's decision on these matters.

Request for professional research

Standing Committee –

- (a) agreed in principle that professional research should be undertaken before the Policy review date, as requested by Synod resolution 52/23,
- (b) agreed in principle that such research should be a 'Mid-range' option as described in paragraph 57, and

- (c) requested Ministry Training & Development to bring a proposal to a future meeting before the Policy review date for such research.

Appreciation for the Committee

Standing Committee thanked the members of the Pastoral Supervision Committee, and its predecessor the Pastoral Supervision Working Group, for their significant efforts over many years in guiding the development of a Pastoral Supervision program in the Diocese, and noted that the Committee has now completed its work.

Ordinances

Ordinances passed at the last meeting

Standing Committee received from the Diocesan Secretary, the following summary of the status of ordinances passed at the Standing Committee meeting held on 20 November 2023 –

Ordinance	Status
Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney Ordinance 1965 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
St Catherine's School Waverley (Temporary Arrangements) Ordinance 2023	Assented
Ryde Trust Ordinance 2013 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Kensington Eastlakes Land Sale Ordinance 2023	Assented
Roseville Trust Ordinance 2023	Assented

Sydney Anglican Property (Provisional Restructuring) Ordinance 2023

Purpose of ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to deem certain amendments to the constituting ordinances of certain diocesan organisations and for matters incidental thereto.

Declaration of vacancies and election of members

Standing Committee, under section 12 of the *Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917* and with effect from 1 January 2024 –

- (a) declared vacancies in the office of all members of the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney (ACPT) (except the Archbishop of Sydney) by reason of the establishment of the Sydney Anglican Property board structure (as part of a broader restructure of the central affairs of the Diocese), and
- (a) elected, subject to their consent, the persons listed in subclause 9(1) of the Sydney Anglican Property (Provisional Restructuring) Ordinance 2023 as members of the ACPT.

Acknowledgment and thanks for retiring members

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that, as a consequence of the elections of persons listed in the Sydney Anglican Property (Provisional Restructuring) Ordinance 2023, a total of 13 persons will not be continuing as members of their respective organisations,
- (b) acknowledged the collective 129 years of service to the Anglican Church Property Trust, St Andrew's House Corporation, and Anglican Church Growth Corporation represented by the 13 retiring members, and
- (c) thanked each of the retiring members for their contribution to the wise stewardship of these organisations over many years.

Anglican Church Growth Corporation Amending Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend certain ordinances which regulate the Anglican Church Growth Corporation.

The Relay Anglican Aid Endowment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to re-declare the trusts of the property held in an ACPT client fund as the Anglican Aid Endowment Trust, and for purposes related thereto.

The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid Ordinance 2011 Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the constituting ordinance of The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid.

Synod Fund Application Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the application of funds for the purposes of meeting certain costs incurred by the Office of the Director of Safe Ministry under the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017*.

Parramatta Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property is held and to amend the *Parramatta Trust Ordinance 2017*.

Parramatta Trust Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2023

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report.

Purpose of ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Parramatta Trust Ordinance 2017*.

Voluntary Planning Agreement with the City of Parramatta Council

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that at its August 2023 meeting, the Standing Committee approved in-principle that the ACPT enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with the City of Parramatta Council, and
- (b) supported the ACPT entering into the VPA with the City of Parramatta Council.

Moss Vale Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Ordinance 2023

The purpose of this ordinance is to permit the sale of certain land at Old Hume Highway Berrima, and to provide for the application of the proceeds of sale.

Surry Hills Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2023

Purpose of ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to permit the sale of certain land at Randwick and Surry Hills, and to provide for the application of the proceeds of sale.

Consultation with neighbouring parishes

Standing Committee encouraged the Parish of Surry Hills to initially consult with parishes nearby whether they wish to purchase the property at market value.

Ingleburn with Glenquarie Trust Ordinance 2001 Amendment Ordinance 2023

Purpose of the ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the Ingleburn with *Glenquarie Trust Ordinance 2001*.

Review of the conditions of the lease by the ACGC

Standing Committee requested that, before any lease to a childcare provider is entered into, the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney provide the ACGC with an opportunity to review the conditions of the lease against the conditions the ACGC has negotiated with potential childcare partners under the Urban Renewal Pilot Program.

Elections

Elections associated with the first meeting of Standing Committee following the first ordinary session of the Synod

Stipends and Allowances Committee

The following persons –

Clergy

The Rev Richard J Blight
Mrs Louise Crawshaw (*clergy spouse*)
The Rev Ben Gray
The Rev Ross Ryan

Lay

Miss Jennifer S Flower
Mr Jeremy G Freeman
Mr Jeff Reilly

were elected.

Appreciation for Dr Darren Mitchell OAM

Standing Committee thanked Dr Darren Mitchell OAM for his service to the Diocese as a member of the Stipends and Allowances Committee for the past twenty years.

Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council

Mrs Lorraine Thomas and Mr Andrew Cameron were elected.

The remaining vacancy for a member of the clergy was deferred.

Domestic Violence Response Monitoring Committee

The Rev Mark Tough was elected.

King's School, The Council of The

Mrs Julia Anderson and Mr Andrew France were elected.

St Catherine's School, Waverley, Council of

The Rev Dr Michael Jensen was elected.

Sydney Church of England Grammar School Council (Shore)

Mr Robert Clarke was elected.

Sydney Diocesan Services

Dr Laurie Scandrett was elected.

The remaining vacancy for a person was deferred.

Tara Anglican School for Girls, The Council of

Mr Fabian Mandrini and Archdeacon Kara Hartley were elected.

Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)
Anglican Media Council
Anglican National Superannuation Board
Blue Mountains Grammar School
Diocesan Retirements Board
Living Faith Council
Ministry Training and Development, Council of
St Andrew's House Corporation
Social Issues Committee
Stipends and Allowances Committee
Sydney Anglican Loans Board
Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) William Clarke College, Council of – Mrs Catriona Wood had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a lay person.
- (b) Blue Mountains Grammar School Council – Mrs Christine Olliffe had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.
- (c) Diocesan Doctrine Commission – Mrs Beth Webb had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.

Sydney Diocesan Services, Glebe Administration Board and other Diocesan Organisations

Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Standing Committee received a report concerning the Glebe Administration Board and the Diocesan Endowment.

Anglican Church Growth Corporation Progress Report – Quarter 3, 2023

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted a report, and
- (b) noted the progress made in Q3 2023 against the Growth Corporation 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

Services provided by Sydney Diocesan Services

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Services provided to the Synod and the Standing Committee

Standing Committee confirmed that SDS has satisfactorily provided services under the current Service Level Agreement for the period between October 2022 and October 2023 –

- (a) to the Synod and the Standing Committee and its subcommittees,
- (b) regarding the Diocesan HR Partner, and
- (c) for the Diocesan Research Officer,

and agreed to a revised form of Service Level Agreement for services to be provided by SDS during 2024.

SDS Secure Portal for Board and Committee materials

Standing Committee noted a report.

Financial Matters

Actions by the Finance Committee under delegated authority

Standing Committee noted the actions of the Finance Committee under delegated authority.

Further Amendments to the Remuneration Guidelines – Travel Expenses and Pastoral Supervision

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Stipends & Allowances Committee.

Amendments to Remuneration Guidelines

Standing Committee approved the proposed amendments to the Guidelines for the Remuneration of Parish Ministry Staff for 2024.

Productivity Commission Draft Report on Philanthropy within Australia

Standing Committee received a report from the Chair of the Religious Freedom Reference Group and requested the Religious Freedom Reference Group to prepare and lodge a submission to the Productivity Commission's draft report on behalf of the Standing Committee.

Synod

10/23 Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and appointed a committee to address the request of paragraphs (d) and (e) of Resolution 10/23, and report to the Standing Committee by July 2024.

22/23 SAIPMC Statement on the Voice Referendum

Standing Committee noted correspondence from Professor Chris Bellenger.

25/23 Online Sports Betting – Federal Harm Reduction

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 25/23 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting that the Bible says, "Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished." (Proverbs 17:5) –

- (a) thanks the Federal Government for the steps they have already taken to address the public health crisis that is caused by online sports betting; in particular that the Federal Government has –
 - (i) introduced the "You win some, you lose more" campaign which mandated clearer warnings about the harms of online sports betting,
 - (ii) mandated that advertising for online sports betting include contact details of support services that can assist individuals experiencing gambling harm, and
 - (iii) held a wide ranging Parliamentary inquiry titled "You win some, you lose more: Inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm" producing unanimous bipartisan recommendations,
- (b) calls on the Federal Parliament, in light of this above inquiry and report, to implement the full 31 recommendations of the committee; in particular, that –
 - (i) the responsibility for online gambling harm reduction be held by a single Australian Government Minister (Recommendation 1),
 - (ii) the Australian Government prohibit all online gambling inducements and inducement advertising, without delay (Recommendation 16), and
 - (iii) the Australian Government implement a comprehensive ban on all forms of advertising for online gambling, with the phased implementation commencing as soon as possible (Recommendation 26),

- (c) requested that the Diocesan Secretary communicate the contents of this resolution to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Federal Opposition, along with the Minister for Communications, and the Minister for Social Services, and
- (d) encourages all members of Synod to write to their local Federal Members of Parliament urging them to support and implement all the recommendations of the 'You win some, you lose more: Inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm' report.'

and noted a response from Ms Anthea Fell, Assistant Secretary for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

26/23 NSW Poker Machine Use – State Harm Reduction

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 26/23 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting that –

- (i) Almighty God calls on governing rulers to 'defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed; (Psalm 82:3),
 - (ii) \$8 billion is lost annually through poker machines in NSW (i.e., approximately \$23 million every day), disproportionately from lower socioeconomic areas of NSW, where poker machines are often most concentrated, and
 - (iii) documents recently tabled in the NSW Parliament from a 2021 series of club inspections, as part of an Anti-Money Laundering Project run by NSW Liquor and Gaming and the NSW Crime Commission, revealed investigators suspected \$5.5 million was laundered through 178 venues, just in a seven week period, with ten venues accounting for more than 40% of that total, mainly located in south-west Sydney,
- (a) thanks the NSW State Government for the steps it has already taken to address the public health crisis that is caused by poker machine gambling in NSW; in particular that the NSW State Government has –
 - (i) shepherded legislation through the NSW Parliament to ban political donations from licensed clubs with poker machines,
 - (ii) instructed Liquor & Gaming NSW to enforce laws already in place to eliminate external gambling-related advertising, and
 - (iii) committed to a trial of a mandatory cashless gambling card system for poker machines in NSW, to be overseen by an independent advisory panel comprised of industry, harm minimisation, academic, cyber crime, police, and union representatives,
 - (b) calls on the NSW Government to implement this trial as swiftly as possible, within a framework of pre-implementation testing for a mandatory cashless gaming card, which public health, law enforcement and welfare policy experts have already recommended as a most effective harm minimisation method, both for problems caused by gambling and by money-laundering,
 - (c) supports urgent consideration by the NSW Government of the calls from NSW MPs –
 - (i) requesting a Royal Commission into the conduct, integrity and influence of the gambling industry in NSW, and
 - (ii) transferring regulation and oversight of 'casino-like' clubs operating more than 250 gaming machines from the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to the NSW Independent Casino Commission,
 - (d) requested that the Diocesan Secretary communicate the contents of this resolution to the Premier of NSW, the NSW Leader of the Opposition, and the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and
 - (e) encourages all members of Synod to write to their local Members of the Parliament of NSW urging them to work diligently towards reducing the misery caused by poker machine gambling.'

and noted a response from the Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Gaming and Racing.

56/23 Partnership with Anglican Schools

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and appointed a committee to –

- (a) present the draft statement on Reformed Anglican Education to School Principals and ordained chaplains for their consideration and comment, particularly with reference to the nature and purposes of Anglican Schools within the larger context of Reformed Anglican Education,
- (b) prepare a draft statement on Reformed Anglican Education for adoption by the Synod in due course, and report to the Standing Committee by July 2024.

64/23 Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and appointed a committee to 'initiate an analysis of average attendance trends, and an assessment of the likely impact of social changes upon average attendance' per Resolution 64/23 and report to the Standing Committee by July 2024.

38/22 Request for Doctrine Commission report on the relationship between church and state, in the absence of religious freedom

Doctrine Commission Report: The Relationship of Church and State and Religious Freedom

Standing Committee received a report from the Doctrine Commission.

Other Matters

Parishes without a full complement of wardens

Standing Committee received correspondence from Mr David Lloyd.

Prioritisation of Standing Committee's outstanding matters

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Date of next meeting

Monday 12 February 2024.