

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 12 February 2024

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 8:48-59, Mr John Pascoe and Bishop Peter Hayward 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 –

Mr Julian Bickersteth (AO), a member of the parish of Turramurra, for distinguished service to the museum and arts sector, and to conservation and the environment.

Professor Julie-Anne Leask (AO), for distinguished service to health and medical research, to policy advice, and to enhancing community understanding of immunisation.

Professor Charlotte Hespe (AM), a member of the parish of Broadway, for significant service to general medicine as a practitioner, academic and mentor.

Mr Adrian Jackson (OAM), a member of the parish of Caringbah, for service to the community, particularly through the church.

Dr Stuart Quarmby (OAM), the Foundation Headmaster of Wollondilly Anglican College from 2004 to 2020 and previously Deputy Head of Broughton Anglican College, for service to primary and secondary education.

Mr Angus Olsen, a member of the parish of Katoomba, awarded 2024 'NSW Local Hero' for his work as a childhood cancer illustrator and author.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved the minutes of 11 December 2023.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

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

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Consideration of Doctrine Commission report

Standing Committee –

- (a) thanked the Doctrine Commission for its report, "The Relationship of Church and State and Religious Freedom", and invited the Commission to review the report in the light of feedback from members of the Standing Committee, provided by 1 March 2024, and
- (b) agreed that the report not be published on the SDS website until after it has been received by the Synod as the requesting body.

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 11 December 2023 –

Ordinance	Status
Sydney Anglican Property (Provisional Restructuring) Ordinance 2023	Assented
Anglican Church Growth Corporation Amending Ordinance 2023	Assented
The Relay Anglican Aid Endowment Ordinance 2023	Assented
The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid Ordinance 2011 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Synod Fund Application Ordinance 2023	Assented
Parramatta Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented
Parramatta Trust Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented, having received the ordinance fee
Moss Vale Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Ordinance 2023	Assented
Surry Hills Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2023	Assented
Ingleburn with Glenquarie Trust Ordinance 2001 Amendment Ordinance 2023	Assented, having received the consent of the Parish Council

Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2024

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*.

Interpretation Ordinance 1985 Amendment Ordinance 2024

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

Epping Trust Ordinance 2024

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

Windsor Trust Ordinance 2024

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

Dundas/Telopea Mortgaging Ordinance 2019

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Sydney Anglican Property ACPT Committee.

Receipt of correspondence

Standing Committee received a letter from the wardens of the Parish of Dundas/Telopea.

Permitted loan amount under the ordinance

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that, in November 2022, it resolved under clause 3 of the *Dundas/Telopea Mortgaging Ordinance 2019* to increase the permitted loan amount by \$600,000 from \$2,200,000 to \$2,800,000, and
- (b) agreed not to amend the permitted loan amount at this time.

Elections

Blue Mountains Grammar School

Vacancies for two persons; one not filled by the Synod session in September 2023 and the other as declared 11 December 2023.

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and noted that no vacancies will arise for directors of Blue Mountains Grammar School Ltd at the AGM to be held in June 2024.

Filling of vacancy

Mr Graham Isbister was elected.

The remaining vacancy for a person was deferred.

Diocesan Doctrine Commission

Vacancy for a person as declared 11 December 2023.

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

Diocesan Ordinance Review Panel

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and declared vacancies for four persons, two of whom must be members of the Standing Committee.

Filling of vacancies

Mr Jeremy Freeman, Mr Greg Hammond OAM and Bishop Michael Stead were elected.

The remaining vacancy for one person was deferred.

Mr Freeman, Mr Hammond and Bishop Stead did not speak or vote during consideration of this matter.

Minute Reading Committee

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and declared vacancies for four members of the Standing Committee.

Filling of vacancies

Mrs Stacey Chapman, Miss Jenny Flower, and Mrs Jeanette Habib were elected.

The remaining vacancy for a member of the Standing Committee was deferred.

Mrs Chapman, Miss Flower and Mrs Habib did not speak or vote during consideration of this matter.

New College Limited

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and –

- (a) noted that two vacancies will arise for Members of New College Ltd at the conclusion of the AGM to be held in May 2024, and
- (b) agreed to consider filling the vacancies at a future meeting, with effect from the conclusion of the forthcoming AGM.

Ordinance Reviewers

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and declared vacancies for eight members of the Standing Committee.

Filling of vacancies

Mrs Stacey Chapman, Archdeacon Anthony Douglas, Mr Jeremy Freeman, Mr Mark Streeter, Dr Robert Tong AM, and Ms Nicola Warwick-Mayo were elected.

The remaining vacancies for two members of the Standing Committee were deferred.

Mrs Chapman, Archdeacon Douglas, Mr Freeman, Mr Streeter, and Ms Warwick-Mayo did not speak or vote during consideration of this matter.

Robert Menzies College

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and noted that no vacancies will arise for Members of Robert Menzies College Ltd at the AGM to be held in May 2024.

SCECGS Redlands

See also Casual Vacancies

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and –

- (a) noted that a vacancy for one person to be appointed as a director of SCECGS Redlands Ltd will arise at the conclusion of the AGM on 30 April 2024, and
- (b) agreed to consider at a future meeting making a recommendation to SDS to fill this vacancy.

SCEGGS Darlinghurst

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and –

- (a) noted that vacancies for three persons to be appointed as directors of SCEGGS Darlinghurst Ltd will arise at the conclusion of the AGM on 27 May 2024, and
- (b) agreed to consider at a future meeting making recommendations to SDS to fill these vacancies.

Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)
Anglican Media Council
Anglican National Superannuation Board
Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council
Diocesan Retirements Board
Endowment of the See Corporation
Living Faith Council
Ministry Training and Development, Council of
Social Issues Committee
Stipends and Allowances Committee
Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee
Sydney Anglican Loans Board
Sydney Diocesan Services
Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee
William Clarke College, Council of

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) SCECGS Redlands – the Rev Timothy St Quintin 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

Standing Committee recommended to Sydney Diocesan Services that it appoint Ms Megan Coall to fill the vacancy for a person as Director of SCECGS Redlands Ltd.

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.

Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Standing Committee received a report concerning the Sydney Diocesan Services.

Synod

65/23 Conversion Practices Legislation

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 65/23 in the following terms –

‘Synod –

- (a) reaffirms Synod Resolution 31 of 2018, in particular that –
 - (i) ‘the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney does not practise, recommend or endorse “gay conversion therapy”, defined as psychological practices that ‘seek to re-orient sexual attraction to heterosexuality’, and that
 - (ii) Synod ‘values prayer for same-sex attracted Christians who wish to live celibate lives, noting that prayer is not a form of “gay conversion therapy”’,
- (b) notes that the Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2023 (NSW), introduced by Mr Alex Greenwich, has been closely modelled on the *Victorian Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021*, and adopts its expansive redefinition of Conversion Practices by including the broad and vague concept of suppression, according to which the following are illegal –
 - (i) a religious leader meeting one-on-one with a member of their congregation to encourage them not to act on same-sex attraction by practising celibacy,
 - (ii) religious teaching that someone is ‘broken’ because of their sexual orientation or gender identity,
 - (iii) the provision of support through group prayer to a young person to help them fight a desire to act on their feelings of same-sex attraction,
 - (iv) a religious leader telling a member of their congregation that they will be excommunicated if they continue their same-sex relationship,
 - (v) parents declining to support their child’s request for puberty blockers if a health professional recommends it, or otherwise restricting their child access to any health care services that would affirm their child’s gender identity, and
 - (vi) a teacher telling a student that God does not accept them unless they keep the sex they were assigned at birth and dress accordingly

(All examples from <https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/change-or-suppression-practices/have-you-experienced-a-change-or-suppression-practice/>),
- (c) notes the pre-election commitments of the Premier and other members of the ALP that its legislation would prohibit ‘dangerous and damaging’ conversion practices, but that it would not ban a consenting individual seeking prayer or other advice and assistance, nor would it ban the expression of religious belief through religious teaching,

- (d) notes that the government’s Consultation Paper on Banning Conversion Practices has proposed an approach that is very similar to the Victorian legislation and the Bill introduced by Mr Greenwich, which is inconsistent with the ALP’s pre-election commitments,
- (e) calls on the Minns Labor Government to uphold its commitments regarding LGBTQ conversion therapy by introducing legislation that –
 - (i) bans dangerous and damaging practices that seek or promise to change sexual orientation, but does not use the broad and vague concept of ‘suppression’,
 - (ii) does not prohibit a consenting individual from seeking the support and assistance that they consider appropriate for themselves,
 - (iii) does not prohibit religious instruction and guidance that encourages church members to live in conformity with the ethical teaching of the Scriptures by not acting on desires that are contrary to this teaching,
 - (iv) does not expose parents to prosecution for failing to affirm and support their child’s sexual orientation or gender identity, and
 - (v) does not introduce a bias towards gender-affirming treatment and the threat of prosecution for health professionals who recommend a different treatment approach, and
- (f) encourages Sydney Anglicans to meet with, or write to, their local MP to express their concerns and requests, and notes that Freedom for Faith has developed resources to assist in organising meetings and writing letters (<https://contactyourmp.org.au>).

and noted a response from the Hon Michael Daley MP, NSW Attorney General.

Other Matters

Productivity Commission Draft Report on Philanthropy within Australia

Standing Committee noted a submission dated 22 January 2024 made on behalf of the Diocese by Bishop Michael Stead as Chair of the Religious Freedom Reference Group to the Productivity Commission Draft Report on Philanthropy.

The Archbishop made a statement.

Archdeacon Simon Flinders led the Standing Committee in prayer for this matter.

Draft Standing Committee Policy on managing conflicts of interest

Standing Committee noted a report from the Chair of the Governance Policy Review Committee.

Finance Committee’s terms of reference

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Adoption of terms of reference

Standing Committee amended the Finance Committee’s terms of reference as shown in a marked form of the Committee’s terms of reference.

Standing Committee meeting dates for 2025

Standing Committee agreed to the following meeting dates for 2025 –

10 February	28 July
24 March	18 August
28 April	20 October
26 May	17 November
23 June	8 December

noting that third ordinary session of the 53rd Synod is proposed to be held in the weeks commencing Monday 15 and Monday 22 September 2025.

Date of next meeting

Monday 25 March 2024.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 25 March 2024

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 12:1-11, members joined in the singing of the hymn 'Jerusalem' (CityAlight). Mr Jeff Reilly and the Rev Dominic Steele opened the meeting in prayer.

Chair of Anglican Community Services

Standing Committee noted a media release from the Board of Anglican Community Services regarding the retirement of its Chair, Mr Greg Hammond OAM.

Chair of Social Issues Committee

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the resignation of the Rev Dr Chase Kuhn as Chair and as a member of the Social Issues Committee, following his induction as Rector of Centennial Park, on 8 February 2024, and
- (b) thanked him for his service as a member of the Social Issues Committee since 2016, and as Chair of the Committee for the past three years.

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

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the retirement of Ms Jennifer Lambert as Chair of the Sydney Church of England Grammar School Council (Shore) on 3 February 2024,
- (b) thanked her for her service as Chair of the Shore Council, and
- (c) congratulated Mr Robert Clarke on his election as Chair of the Shore Council, having commenced on 3 February 2024.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved the minutes of 12 February 2024.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

Sydney Anglican Property Quarterly Report – Q1 2024

Mr Peter Hicks and Mr Ross Jones made a presentation.

Standing Committee noted a report.

The Archbishop made a statement regarding this matter.

Metrics for measuring success in consolidating the central diocesan property undertaking

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Request for SAP board to develop its own KPIs

Standing Committee requested the SAP board to develop its own key performance indicators and, pursuant to clause 8(1) of the *Sydney Anglican Property (Provisional Restructuring) Ordinance 2023*, to report against these measures in its quarterly reports to 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 12 February 2024 –

Ordinance	Status
Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2024	Assented
Interpretation Ordinance 1985 Amendment Ordinance 2024	Assented
Epping Trust Ordinance 2024	Assented
Windsor Trust Ordinance 2024	Assented

Glebe Administration Board (Constituting Ordinances) Amendment Ordinance 2024

Purpose of ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Glebe Administration Board Ordinance 1930* and the *Long Term Pooling Fund Ordinance 2012*.

Timeframe and methodology for preservation of real value

Standing Committee noted that, for the purposes of clause 5(3) of the *Long Term Pooling Fund Ordinance 2012*, the Trustee will –

- (a) measure the preservation of real value of the LTPF unit over a 10 year rolling time frame, and
- (b) assess whether the real value will be preserved by comparing the forecast value of the LTPF unit with the inflation adjusted forecast value over a 10 year period, at a minimum 70% probability.

Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 Amendment and Repeal Ordinance 2024

Purpose of ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to repeal the *Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005* and to amend the *Safe Ministry Board Ordinance 2001*.

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Secretary of the Affiliated Churches Committee.

Rescission of Regulation 4.2

Standing Committee agreed to rescind its Regulation 4.2 (Procedures for Affiliation under the *Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005*), with effect from the commencement of the *Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 Amendment and Repeal Ordinance 2024*.

Termination of Affiliate Agreements

Standing Committee agreed to terminate all current Affiliate Agreements made under the *Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005* and requests the Diocesan Secretary to arrange a suitable notice of termination for each church.

Provision of advice and services by SDS and ODSM

Standing Committee confirmed that SDS and the ODSM, subject to capacity, should make available to bodies approved to receive services by the Diocese without fee those services and generic information made available to parishes in the Diocese of Sydney, and to provide legal, accounting, and Safe Ministry advice for up to one hour for free, and thereafter at rates determined in agreement with the relevant body.

Bodies approved to receive services provided by SDS and ODSM

Standing Committee agreed to designate the following churches as bodies approved by the Standing Committee to receive services provided by Sydney Diocesan Services and the Office of the Director of Safe Ministry, under the *Sydney Diocesan Services Ordinance 2017* subclause 17(2)(c) and the *Safe Ministry Board Ordinance 2001* subclause 7(a) respectively, subject to and with effect from the commencement of the *Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 Amendment and Repeal Ordinance 2024* –

- (a) Albury Bible Church (formerly Albury Bible Fellowship, East Albury, NSW)
- (b) Coast Evangelical Church (Forster, NSW)

- (c) Crossroads Christian Church (Lyneham, ACT)
- (d) Lighthouse Church (formerly Northern Lakes Evangelical, Woongarah, NSW)
- (e) Maitland Evangelical Church (East Maitland, NSW)
- (f) Mackay Evangelical Church (Mount Pleasant, QLD)
- (g) Singleton Evangelical Church (Hunternview, NSW)
- (h) Stromlo Christian Church (formerly Central Evangelical Church, Weston, ACT)
- (i) The Point Community Church (Port Macquarie, NSW)

and requested the Diocesan Secretary to convey this designation, and suitable instruction regarding the accessibility of services, to each of the listed churches.

Appreciation for the Committee

Standing Committee confirmed with appreciation that the work of the Affiliated Churches Committee is complete.

The Archbishop made a statement regarding this matter.

Blacktown Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2024

The purpose of this ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property is held and to amend the *Blacktown Trust Ordinance 2021*.

Helensburgh and Stanwell Park Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2024

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

Kellyville Trust Ordinance 2024

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

Robertson Trust Ordinance 2024

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

Elections

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

Standing Committee noted that the Archbishop had appointed the Rev Hank Lee to be a Nominated Minister for the 53rd Synod, in place of the Rev Dr Chase Kuhn who is now entitled to be summoned under Part 4 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*.

Diocesan Doctrine Commission

The Archbishop proposed the appointment of Mrs Rachel Ciano, to serve in the place of Mrs Beth Webb, who resigned from the Commission on 11 December 2023.'

Diocesan Ordinance Review Panel

Archdeacon Anthony Douglas was elected.

Diocesan Retirements Board

Vacancies for two lay communicant members of the Anglican Church of Australia, and one minister, not of or above the Retirement Age, not filled following the Synod session in September 2023.

Request for report

Standing Committee requested the Chair of the Diocesan Retirements Board to provide a report.

Report from the Chair of the Diocesan Retirements Board

Bishop Chris Edwards provided an oral report regarding the Diocesan Retirements Board.

Deferral of vacancies and request for ordinance

Standing Committee –

- (a) deferred the filling of these vacancies indefinitely, and
- (b) requested an ordinance be brought to a future meeting of the Standing Committee to amend the *Retirements Ordinance 1993* to reduce the size of the Diocesan Retirements Board.

Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee

Standing Committee, having taken into account the recommendations of the Committee, approved of the Archbishop appointing the following persons –

Indigenous

Mr Brendon Garlett
Mrs Kaylene Manton
Mr Mark Manton
The Rev Rick Manton
Ms Larissa Minniecon
Mr Tom Moore
The Rev Michael Duckett
Mr Leon Turvey

Non-Indigenous

The Rev Andrew Hudson
Mr Philip Miles
Ms Susan Sellar
Mr Anthony J Willis,

noting that Ms Minniecon will be a new member of the Committee.

Sydney Anglican Loans Board

Vacancy for a lay person not filled by the Synod session in September 2023.

Request for report

Standing Committee requested the Chair of the Sydney Anglican Loans Board to provide a report.

Deferral of vacancy

Standing Committee deferred the filling of this vacancy until the earlier of the reception of the above report or the forthcoming session of the Synod.

SCECGS Redlands

Standing Committee recommended to Sydney Diocesan Services that it appoint the Rev Greg Webster to fill the vacancy for a director of SCECGS Redlands Limited arising at the conclusion of the AGM on 30 April 2024.

SCEGGS Darlinghurst

Standing Committee recommended to Sydney Diocesan Services that the Rev Dr Daniel Dries and Dr Jeff Ling be reappointed as directors of SCEGGS Darlinghurst Limited upon the expiry of their current terms at the conclusion of the AGM due to be held on 27 May 2024.

Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

Vacancies for two persons not filled by the Synod session in September 2023.

Request for report

Standing Committee requested the Chair of the Tertiary Education Oversight Committee to provide a report.

Deferral of vacancies

Standing Committee deferred the filling of these vacancies until the earlier of the reception of the above report or the forthcoming session of the Synod.

William Clarke College, Council of

Mrs Susan Middlebrook was elected.

**Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)
Anglican Media Council
Anglican National Superannuation Board
Blue Mountains Grammar School
Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council
Endowment of the See Corporation
Living Faith Council
Ministry Training and Development, Council of
Minute Reading Committee
New College Limited
Ordinance Reviewers
Social Issues Committee
Stipends and Allowances Committee
Sydney Diocesan Services**

These vacancies were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) Social Issues Committee – The Rev Dr Chase Kuhn had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person who is a current member of the Moore Theological College faculty with relevant expertise.
- (b) Tara School for Girls, Council of – Mrs Alison Esdaile had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.
- (c) Diocesan Ordinance Review Panel – Bishop Michael Stead had resigned and a vacancy was declared.
- (d) Ministry Standards Committee – the Rev Timothy St Quintin will vacate office on 13 April 2024, consequent upon his induction as Rector of Mudgee (Diocese of Bathurst), pursuant to clause 91(1)(a)(v) of the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017*, and a vacancy was declared for a person who has been a member of the clergy for not less than 10 years.

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.

Diocesan Endowment – Proposed distribution for spending by the Synod in 2025 and forecast distribution for 2026

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Diocesan Endowment distribution for 2025

Standing Committee noted that the Glebe Administration Board has advised that a distribution of \$3,940,000 can prudently be provided in 2024 from the Diocesan Endowment for spending by the Synod in 2025, being the first year of the funding triennium.

Forecast distribution for 2026

Standing Committee noted that the Glebe Administration Board has advised that it forecasts a distribution of \$4,050,000 for spending in 2026.

Glebe Administration Board's Ethical Investment Policy – reporting on an aggregated basis

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted a report, and
- (b) approved the amended form of Ethical Investment Policy shown in marked form in the Attachment to the report.

Membership of SDS Legal Limited

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted a report, and
- (b) endorsed the proposed change in the structure of the Board of SDS Legal outlined in the report.

Financial Matters

Actions by the Finance Committee under delegated authority

Standing Committee noted that, acting under delegated authority, the Finance Committee –

- (a) noted that, on 7 February 2024, acting under sub-delegated authority, the Diocesan Finance Officer approved a 10 year extension (to 28 April 2034) to the date on which authority to distribute income under *The Oaks Trust Ordinance 2014* will terminate,
- (b) noted that, on 5 February 2024, acting under sub-delegated authority, the Diocesan Finance Officer approved a 10 year extension (to 27 May 2034) to the date on which authority to distribute income under the *Engadine Trust Ordinance 2014* will terminate, and
- (c) noted that, on 5 February 2024, acting under sub-delegated authority, the Diocesan Finance Officer approved a 10 year extension (to 30 April 2034) to the date on which authority to distribute income under the *Moss Vale Trust Ordinance 2014* will terminate.

Distribution from Synod – St Andrew's House Fund 134 for 2025

Standing Committee noted that the Finance Committee had resolved to advise the Diocesan Resources Committee that a distribution of \$3,220,000 will be available from the Synod – St Andrew's House Fund 134 in 2024 for appropriation and allocation by Synod in 2025.

Funding the publication of the Diocesan Year Book

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Registrar.

Allocation from Synod fund contingencies

Standing Committee authorised the application of up to \$40,000 from the 2024 Synod Fund Contingencies for the publication and distribution of the 2022-2023 Year Book.

Parish Property and Liability Insurance Program for 2024

Standing Committee noted a report.

Report from the Work Outside the Diocese Committee

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report, noting that it addresses Synod resolution 53/22 (establishing and supporting churches that faithfully proclaim the gospel) and provides the information requested in Synod resolution 16/22 (reporting on the projects and organisations that were funded).

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 received a letter dated 15 December 2023 from the Secretary of the Long Service Leave Fund.

Synod

Report from the Non-Disclosure Agreements Committee 48/23 Non-Disclosure Agreements

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report.

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

‘Synod, noting the report “Report from the Non-Disclosure Agreements Committee” –

- (a) endorses the principles articulated by the Report,
- (b) endorses the recommendations made at paragraphs 44, 45, and 46 of the Report,
- (c) encourages all parishes diocesan organisations, and schools to:
 - (i) adopt a policy in relation to the use of NDAs which reflects the principles of the Report and the recommendations made at paragraphs 44, 45, and 46, or
 - (ii) make a public “pledge” in relation to the use of NDAs which reflects the principles of the Report and the recommendations made at paragraphs 44, 45, and 46,
- (d) encourages all parishes, diocesan organisations, and schools to consider whether they have used NDAs in the past which contravene the principles and recommendations of the Report, and, if they have done so, to welcome approaches from those who may have been subject to such NDAs with a view to considering the offer of an apology for the use of such NDAs, and, the offer of a formal (written) release from the terms of the NDA, and
- (e) agrees to consider a motion at the next session of Synod by which the Synod will apologise to all those who have, historically, been subject to NDAs which contravene the principles and recommendations of the Report.’

The Archbishop made a statement regarding this matter, which was received with acclamation.

32/23 Performance Appraisals of Ministry Workers

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Appointment of Committee

Standing Committee appointed a Committee as described in the report.

Budget for Synod in the Northwest Greenfields

Receipt of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Budget for Synod in the Northwest Greenfields

Standing Committee –

- (a) authorised a budget of up to \$14,000 from Synod Fund Contingencies for the purpose of venue hire, audio-visual requirements, and staff associated with the Synod service and Presidential Address planned to be held on Saturday 14 September 2024,
- (b) authorised a budget of up to \$4,000 from Synod Fund Contingencies towards the costs of the pre-Synod Greenfields activities on the day, and
- (c) endorsed the pre-Synod Greenfields activities as activities of the Synod for the purposes of the involvement and utilisation of SDS staff.

Other Matters

Parishes without a full complement of wardens

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and noted a letter sent to Mr Lloyd on 19 February 2024, in response to his letter of 28 October 2023.

Standing Committee meeting dates for 2025

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and agreed that the meeting scheduled for 26 May 2025 instead be held on 19 May 2025.

Orange Evangelical Church

Dr Laurie Scandrett made a statement regarding Orange Evangelical Church, which was received with acclamation.

Archdeacon Simon Flinders led the Standing Committee in prayer for this matter.

Date of next meeting

Monday 22 April 2024.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 22 April 2024

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 9:1-41, Dr Robert Tong AM and the Rev Jodie McNeill opened the meeting in prayer.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved the minutes of 25 March 2024.

Appointment to the Industrial Court of NSW

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted a media release from the NSW Attorney General Michael Daley,
- (b) congratulated Ms Jane Paingakulam, a member of the Parish of Centennial Park, on her appointment as the Deputy President of the restored Industrial Court of NSW, and
- (c) assured her of its prayers as she prepares to take up this appointment in July 2024.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

Review of the central organisational structures of the Diocese

Metrics for measuring success in consolidating the central diocesan property undertaking

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Metrics for success

Standing Committee approved the proposed metrics for measuring the success in consolidating the central property undertaking of the Diocese under Sydney Anglican Property (SAP).

Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches

Standing Committee –

- (a) gave thanks to God for –
 - (i) the long relationship and deep gospel fellowship that has existed and continues to exist between the Diocese of Sydney and the churches of the Global South, now the GSFA, and
 - (ii) the commitment of GSFA to promote and defend both the Gospel of Jesus Christ, revealed in the Bible and the authority of the Bible in the life and ministry of Christ's Church, and
- (b) requested that the Archbishop and the Bishop for International Relations –
 - (i) continue to foster close relationships between the Diocese of Sydney and the GSFA and its member Churches,
 - (ii) make every effort to see that the Diocese is represented at GSFA meetings and Assemblies when the Diocese is invited to send observers, and
 - (iii) assure the leaders of the GSFA of our prayers and our deep desire to continue in strong Gospel partnership.

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 25 March 2024 –

<i>Ordinance</i>	<i>Status</i>
Glebe Administration Board (Constituting Ordinances) Amendment Ordinance 2024	Assented

<i>Ordinance</i>	<i>Status</i>
Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 Amendment and Repeal Ordinance 2024	Assented
Blacktown Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance 2024	Assented
Helensburgh and Stanwell Park Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2024	Assented
Kellyville Trust Ordinance 2024	Assented
Robertson Trust Ordinance 2024	Assented

Evangelism and New Churches Ordinance 2010 Amendment Ordinance 2024

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Evangelism and New Churches Ordinance 2010*.

Retirements Ordinance 1993 Amendment Ordinance 2024

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the *Retirements Ordinance 1993*.

Glenhaven Land Sale Ordinance 2024

The purpose of this ordinance is to permit the sale of certain land at 31 Glenhaven Road Glenhaven, and to provide for the application of the proceeds of sale.

Elections

Ministry Standards Committee

Standing Committee recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that the Rev Ben Gray be appointed to the Ministry Standards Committee.

New College Limited

Mr Lachlan Rogers and Professor Susan Thorp were elected.

Social Issues Committee

The Rev Dr David Höhne was elected.

Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)
Anglican Media Council
Anglican National Superannuation Board
Blue Mountains Grammar School
Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council
Diocesan Ordinance Review Panel
Endowment of the See Corporation
Living Faith Council
Ministry Training and Development, Council of
Minute Reading Committee
Ordinance Reviewers
Stipends and Allowances Committee
SCEGGS Darlinghurst
Sydney Diocesan Services
Tara School for Girls, Council of

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) Diocesan Retirements Board – The Rev Malcolm York had resigned.

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.

Financial Matters

Standing Committee received reports on a range of matters from the Diocesan Resources Committee relating to the preparation of the Synod budget for 2025-27.

Synod

Second ordinary session of the 53rd Synod

Standing Committee received a report.

Synod presentations

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Applications for presentations

Standing Committee agreed –

- (a) to schedule consideration of presentations to the Synod under Standing Order 3.6(2) for the penultimate meeting of the Standing Committee before the Synod session each year, and
- (b) that applications to make a presentation to the Synod received after the penultimate meeting are to be made to the Synod directly under Standing Order 3.6(4).

Principles for presentations

Standing Committee –

- (a) affirmed the following guiding principles it adopted in 2018 regarding presentations to the Synod –
 - (i) Presentations should not be considered for scheduling unless the intending presenter has indicated to the Secretary of Synod prior to the penultimate meeting of Standing Committee before the session –
 - (A) what the missional importance of the presentation is,
 - (B) what the proposed time limit is,
 - (C) what action is desired from Synod members, and
 - (D) why it is that Synod members need to receive the information this way, and not by some other means (for example, by regular notice of motion, or by SDS website access available to Synod members).
 - (ii) Presentations should usually be limited in time (including any prayers or ancillary comments) to no more than ten minutes and preferably to five or less.
- (b) adopted the following further principles in its consideration of presentations to the Synod under Standing Order 3.6(2) –
 - (i) a notional total time for presentations of 45 minutes for organisations, not all of which needs to be allocated, and 60 minutes for parishes should be allocated each session,

- (ii) the Regional Bishops are each invited to nominate one parish from their region (inclusive of any provisional parishes seeking reclassification under the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*) to present to the Synod each year,
- (c) requested that those determining the order of business of Synod prioritise presentations from organisations in the following order –
 - (i) Sydney Diocesan organisations,
 - (ii) other Anglican organisations, then
 - (iii) other organisations.

Elections associated with the second and third ordinary sessions of the 53rd Synod

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary and –

- (a) recommended to the Archbishop-in-Council that he –
 - (i) 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 sessions of the Synod in September 2024 and September 2025, and
 - (ii) specify the date of 14 September 2024 to be regarded as the first appointed day of the second ordinary session of the 53rd Synod for the purposes of the election, pursuant to Rule 8.2(3) of the Ordinance,
 - (iii) specify the date of 15 September 2025 to be regarded as the first appointed day of the third 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, and
- (b) requested the Diocesan Secretary to bring a report to a future meeting after Synod in 2025, reviewing the conduct of elections and making recommendations regarding the conduct of elections at future sessions of the Synod.

33/23 Review of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations

Standing Committee noted a letter, which was sent by the Governance Policy Review Committee on 9 April 2024 to each organisation and individual that provided a submission regarding the Diocesan Governance Policy Exposure Draft (20 July 2023).

24/23 South Western Region buildings and property strategy

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Other Matters

Date of next meeting

Monday 20 May 2024.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 20 May 2024

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 10:1-21, Ms Nicola Warwick-Mayo and Archdeacon Kara Hartley opened the meeting in prayer.

Attendance at Standing Committee

Standing Committee –

- (a) authorised the release of its agendas and minutes to the Rev Brett Hall and the Rev Gary Haddon, Assistants to Bishops Stead, Edwards, Lin, and Koo,
- (b) invited Mr Hall and Mr Haddon to attend and speak at meetings of the Standing Committee from time to time as required, but not vote.

Special Session of General Synod – July 2025

Standing Committee noted a circular letter from the General Secretary of the General Synod.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved the minutes of 22 April 2024.

Sports Chaplaincy Australia

Standing Committee noted –

- (a) a letter sent by the CEO of Sports Chaplaincy Australia (SCA) on 7 May 2024, announcing SCA has been put into voluntary insolvency and therefore into the hands of a liquidator,
- (b) 506 Sports Chaplains were supported across Australia by SCA before the liquidation, and
- (c) at least 20 Sydney Anglicans either serve as Sports Chaplains or support Sports Chaplaincy, and prayed this ministry, under God's sovereignty, will persevere.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

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 –

- (a) noted an updated report from the Doctrine Commission, “The Relationship of Church and State and Religious Freedom”,
- (b) commended the report for consideration by the Synod,
- (c) approved the printing of a suitable form of the report for the next ordinary session of the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee”.

Ordinances

Ordinances passed at the last meeting

Standing Committee noted from the Diocesan Secretary, the following summary of the status of ordinances passed at the Standing Committee meeting held on 22 April 2024 –

Ordinance	Status
<i>Evangelism and New Churches Ordinance 2010 Amendment Ordinance 2024</i>	Assented
<i>Retirements Ordinance 1993 Amendment Ordinance 2024</i>	Assented
<i>Glenhaven Land Sale Ordinance 2024</i>	Assented

Elections

Sydney Anglican Loans Board

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted –

- (a) a report from the Diocesan Secretary, and
- (b) a letter from the Sydney Anglican Loans Board.

Deferral of vacancy

Standing Committee deferred the filling of the vacancy on the Sydney Anglican Loans Board (if not filled by the Synod) until the Synod Session in September 2025.

Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)
Anglican Media Council
Anglican National Superannuation Board
Blue Mountains Grammar School
Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council
Diocesan Ordinance Review Panel
Endowment of the See Corporation
Living Faith Council
Ministry Training and Development, Council of
Minute Reading Committee
Ordinance Reviewers
Social Issues Committee
Stipends and Allowances Committee
SCEGGS Darlinghurst
Sydney Diocesan Services
Tara School for Girls, Council of

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) Glebe Administration Board – Mr David Sietsma had resigned.

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

No declaration of vacancy

Standing Committee agreed not to declare a vacancy in the membership of the Glebe Administration Board at this time.

- (b) Social Issues Committee – Associate Professor Megan Best had resigned.

Motion of thanks

Standing Committee thanked Associate Professor Megan Best for her service to the Diocese as a member of the Social Issues Committee for the past twenty-two years.

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

No declaration of vacancy

Standing Committee agreed not to declare a further vacancy in the membership of the Social Issues Committee at this time.

- (c) Complaints Process Review Committee – Ms Jillian Fulcher had resigned.
- (d) The Illawarra Grammar School, Council of – Dr Kimberley Davis had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a lay person.

Sydney Diocesan Services, Glebe Administration Board and other Diocesan Organisations

Report of the Chief Executive Officer

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

SDS Website refresh and Diocesan Gateway

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.

Review of Synod and PCR Funds

Standing Committee noted a report.

Sydney Diocesan Sickness and Accident Fund Ordinance 1969 – clarification of eligibility

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Archdeacon of Wollongong.

Application of ordinance

Standing Committee agreed, in accordance with clause 11 of the *Sydney Diocesan Sickness and Accident Fund Ordinance 1969*, that an incapacity caused by the sudden death of someone for whom the Person is the primary carer (if the circumstance is confirmed in writing by the regional bishop) is a circumstance “within the spirit and intent of the Ordinance”.

Synod

Second ordinary session of the 53rd Synod

Standing Committee noted a report.

Review of the Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Promotion to Synod

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that the following bills be promoted to Synod “at the request of the Standing Committee” –
 - (i) “Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982 Amendment Ordinance 2024”, and
 - (ii) “Consecration of the Archbishop of Sydney Ordinance 2021 Amendment Ordinance 2024”, and
- (b) recommended that Synod pass the bills,
- (c) approved the printing of a suitable form of this report for the forthcoming session of Synod (including a suitable form of the report, *Review of the Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982*).

54/22 Ministry Wellbeing and Development Professional Development for Ministry Workers

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Professional Development Committee.

Requirement for Professional Development

Standing Committee agreed in principle that ministry workers should be required to undertake mandatory, regular Professional Development in fulfilment of Recommendation 16.5(a) of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

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 "Professional Development for Ministry Workers" –

- (a) invites members of the Synod to provide feedback to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2024 on the proposed arrangements for all ministry workers in the Diocese to undertake mandatory, regular professional development as contemplated in the report, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to implement arrangements for professional development for all ministry workers having given regard to any feedback received.'

Printing for Synod

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

64/23 Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese

Standing Committee noted a draft report from the Attendance Patterns Committee.

Online provision of annual reports to Synod

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Online publication of annual reports to Synod

Standing Committee agreed in principle that any annual report made to Synod under clause 14 of the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995* should be published electronically for Synod via a secure portal, subject to any specific arrangements as may be agreed by the Standing Committee for an organisation from time to time.

Commencement of online publication

Standing Committee requested the Diocesan Secretary to, from 2025 onwards, compile the annual reports submitted under clause 14 of the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995* into an online-only Synod book in addition to being tabled physically.

Arrangements for Anglican Church Property Trust

Standing Committee agreed that the Annual Report of the Anglican Church Property Trust no longer form a part of the main Synod book but be published in the same manner as proposed for other diocesan organisations.

27/18 Voluntary Relinquishment of Incumbency

Noting of report

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

Completion of review and agreement to further review

Standing Committee –

- (a) accepted the recommendation of the Archbishop's Senior Staff team that no changes are required to the Voluntary Relinquishment of Incumbency Policy, and
- (b) agreed to review the Policy again in 2029 or after the 5th relinquishment, whichever comes sooner.

Proposal to classify Sussex Inlet as a parish

Standing Committee –

- (a) approved of the printing of a suitable form of a report for Synod, and
- (b) requested that a motion by which the Synod may assent to the classification be moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod "by request of the Standing Committee".

Other Matters

Parish of Marrickville

Standing Committee noted an oral report from Bishop Michael Stead.

Bishop Stead prayed for the Parish of Marrickville.

Online gambling

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary and noted a response from the Hon Patrick Gorman MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister.

Submission to the Review of Section 93Z of the *New South Wales Crimes Act 1900*

Standing Committee noted a submission dated 21 April 2024 made on behalf of the Diocese by Bishop Michael Stead as Chair of the Religious Freedom Reference Group to the NSW Law Reform Commission.

Submission on the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Bill 2023

Standing Committee noted a submission dated 13 April 2024 made on behalf of Freedom For Faith, which was written by Bishop Michael Stead, to the NSW Parliamentary Committee on Community Services.

The Archbishop made a statement, which was received with acclamation.

Date of next meeting

Monday 24 June 2024.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 24 June 2024

Following a reading by the Archbishop of John 10:22-42, the Rev Roger Cunningham and Dr Laurie Scandrett opened the meeting in prayer.

New Assistant Bishops of the National Church

Standing Committee noted that –

- (a) the Rt Rev Sarah Plowman was ordained as the Bishop for the Northern Region of the Diocese of Brisbane on 21 June 2024,
- (b) the Ven Sophie Relf-Christopher is to be ordained as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Adelaide on 15 August 2024, and
- (c) the Ven Vanessa Bennett is to be ordained as Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn on 24 August 2024.

Chair of SCECGS Redlands Limited

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the retirement of Ms Glenda McLoughlin as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of SCECGS Redlands Ltd on 1 June 2024,
- (b) thanked her for her service as Chairperson over the past six years, and
- (c) congratulated Professor Glenn Wightwick on his election as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of SCECGS Redlands Ltd, having commenced on 1 June 2024.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved the minutes of 20 May 2024.

First Assembly of the Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches

The Archbishop made a statement on this matter.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

Sydney Anglican Property Quarterly Report – Q1 2024

Mr Peter Hicks and Mr Ross Jones made a presentation, which was received with acclamation.

Standing Committee noted a report.

The Archbishop made a statement on this matter.

The Rev Philip Wheeler and Mr James Flavin led the Standing Committee in prayer for the work of Sydney Anglican Property.

Review of the central organisational structures of the Diocese

Noting of reports

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 endorsing the creation of Sydney Anglican Property

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a suitable form of the following motion in relation to the formation and further consolidation of the Sydney Anglican Property (SAP) board structure be moved at the forthcoming ordinary session of Synod, “by request of the Standing Committee” –

“Synod, noting –

- (i) the initial steps taken by the Standing Committee outlined in the report *“Review of the central organisational structures of the Diocese”* to form Sydney Anglican Property (SAP) with effect from 1 January 2024 through the appointment of a common transitional board membership for –
 - (A) Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney,
 - (B) Anglican Church Growth Corporation,
 - (C) New Church for New Communities, and
 - (D) St Andrew’s House Corporation, and
 - (ii) the metrics approved by the Standing Committee outlined in the report by which progress in consolidating the central property undertaking of the Diocese will be measured,
 - (a) endorses the initial steps taken by the Standing Committee in forming SAP,
 - (b) approves in principle the reduction in the number of bodies corporate operating in the SAP structure,
 - (c) encourages the Standing Committee to consider and, as appropriate, to take this and such further steps it considers necessary or desirable to realise the full benefit of the consolidation, and
 - (d) requests the Standing Committee to report progress to the next ordinary session of the Synod in 2025.”, and
- (b) recommended that Synod pass the motion as a resolution of the Synod.

Motion for Synod to thank and acknowledge retiring members

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a suitable form of the following motion in relation to the 14 members of Anglican Church Property Trust, Anglican Church Growth Corporation and St Andrew’s House Corporation who retired as members of those boards as a consequence of the formation of SAP from 1 January 2024 be moved at the forthcoming ordinary session of Synod, “by request of the Standing Committee” –

“Synod –

- (a) notes that, as a consequence of the formation of the transitional Sydney Anglican Property (SAP) board on 1 January 2024, 14 former members of the Anglican Church Property Trust, St Andrew’s House Corporation, and Anglican Church Growth Corporation did not continue as members of the SAP board,
 - (b) acknowledges the collective 133 years of service represented by those 14 former members, and
 - (c) thanks each of them for their contribution to the wise stewardship of these organisations over many years.”, and
- (b) recommended that Synod pass the motion as a resolution of the Synod.

Motion for Synod regarding Sydney Anglican Services

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a suitable form of the following motion in relation to the formation of the Sydney Anglican Services (SAS) board structure be moved at the forthcoming ordinary session of Synod, “by request of the Standing Committee” –

“Synod, noting the proposal to form Sydney Anglican Services (SAS) outlined in the report *“Review of the central organisational structures of the Diocese”* approves –

- (a) the formation of SAS from 1 January 2025 with the purpose, functions, structure and membership in or to the effect of those outlined in the report,
- (b) the Glebe Administration Board continuing as a separate specialist board but as part of the broader SAS structure with its membership appointed by SAS, and
- (c) the loans function currently administered by the Sydney Anglican Loans board being administered by SAS with appropriate input from clergy at board level,

and requests the Standing Committee to –

- (i) implement these outcomes and take such other associated action it considers necessary or desirable to realise, as far as possible, the full benefit of SAS’s

formation as the corporate body through which the Synod supports and regulates the central governance and administration of the affairs of the Diocese under the oversight of the Standing Committee, and

- (ii) report progress, with any further recommendations, to the next ordinary session of the Synod in 2025.”, and

- (b) recommended that Synod pass the motion as a resolution of the Synod.

Motion for Synod regarding Evangelism & Ministry Partnerships

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a suitable form of the following motion in relation to the formation of the Evangelism & Ministry Partnerships (EMP) board structure be moved at the forthcoming ordinary session of Synod, “by request of the Standing Committee” –

“Synod, noting the proposal to form Evangelism and Ministry Partnership (EMP) outlined in the report ‘Review of the central organisational structures of the Diocese’ –

- (a) approves in principle the formation of EMP with the purpose, functions, structure and membership as or to the effect of those outlined in the report,
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to continue to consult with the boards of Evangelism and New Churches (ENC), Ministry Training & Development (MT&D), the Anglican Media Council (AMC) and the other bodies involved in this proposal to determine the optimal structure and transition timing for this new entity, and to consult with specialists in organisational design and change management as necessary, and
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to take such other steps it considers necessary or desirable to achieve this outcome and report progress to the next ordinary session of the Synod in 2025.”, and

- (b) recommended that Synod pass the motion as a resolution of the Synod.

Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney (Delegation of Powers and Quorum) Amendment Ordinance 2024 **Review of the central organisational structures of the Diocese**

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a Bill for the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney (Delegation of Powers and Quorum) Amendment Ordinance 2024 be promoted to the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee”,
- (b) recommended that Synod pass the ordinance as an ordinance of the Synod, and
- (c) approved the printing for the Synod of a suitable form of a Explanatory Report.

Ordinances

Miscellaneous Amendments Ordinance 2024

The purpose of this ordinance is to make a number of miscellaneous amendments to ordinances of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney.

Elections

Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council

See also item 4.20(b) Casual Vacancies

Vacancy for a member of the clergy as declared 23 October 2023.

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary and noted that the existing vacancy is for a person.

Camperdown Cemetery Trust

The Rev Dr Andrew Errington had resigned.

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary and noted a vacancy for one person.

Filling of vacancy

The Rev Dr Andrew Errington was elected.

Minute Reading Committee

Mr Rowen Atkinson was elected.

Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)
Anglican Media Council
Anglican National Superannuation Board
Blue Mountains Grammar School
Diocesan Ordinance Review Panel
Endowment of the See Corporation
Living Faith Council
Ministry Training and Development, Council of
Ordinance Reviewers
Social Issues Committee
Stipends and Allowances Committee
SCEGGS Darlinghurst
Sydney Diocesan Services
Tara School for Girls, Council of
The Illawarra Grammar School, Council of

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) Arden Anglican School Council – The Rt Rev Ross Nicholson had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a member of the clergy.
- (b) Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council – Mr Ian Gannell had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.
- (c) St Andrew's Cathedral Chapter – Archdeacon Simon Flinders had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a member of the clergy.

Following the vacancy being declared, it was agreed that the vacancy be filled at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

The Rev Brian Tung was subsequently elected.

Financial Matters

Actions by the Finance Committee under delegated authority

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

Affiliation fees for the NSW Council of Churches and Freedom For Faith

Standing Committee noted a report.

Work Outside the Diocese Committee – Funding the General Synod Ministry & Mission Commission for the HOPE25 Mission

Standing Committee noted a report from the Chair of the Work Outside the Diocese Committee.

Standing Committee suggested the Work Outside the Diocese Committee respond positively to the request for funds for the HOPE25 Mission.

Mr Adam Darvell led the Standing Committee in prayer for this matter.

Synod

Second ordinary session of the 53rd Synod

Standing Committee noted a report.

9/23 Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017

Standing Committee noted a report from the Chair of the Complaints Process Review Committee.

***Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019* 28/23 Questions during debates on motions**

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Request for ordinance

Standing Committee requested the Diocesan Secretary to bring a draft Bill to the next meeting, for consideration of promotion to Synod, to amend the *Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019* to give effect to the changes outlined in the report.

53/23 General Synod Long Service Leave Fund

Standing Committee noted a report from the Chair of the General Synod Relations Committee, Dr Robert Tong AM and agreed to discontinue consideration of both –

- (a) the request of resolution 53/23 at this time, noting that the Standing Committee or Synod may at any time request the reconsideration of the matter, and
- (b) the matter raised by the Standing Committee in 2019 regarding the establishment of a separate Long Service Leave Fund.

56/23 Partnership with Anglican Schools

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Printing of report for Synod

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

Noting of presentation of the draft statement

Standing Committee noted that the draft statement on Reformed Anglican Education was presented to heads and chaplains as requested by Synod resolution 56/23.

Request for Synod motion

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 “56/23 Partnership with Anglican Schools” –

- (a) notes that the draft statement on Reformed Anglican Education has been presented to heads and chaplains as requested by the Synod, and thanks heads and chaplains for their thoughtful engagement with the statement and for their detailed feedback,
- (b) reaffirms Synod's acknowledgement of, and thanks for, Anglican Schools, as partners in the mission and ministry of the Diocese,
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to form a suitably qualified committee to review the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education, to report back to the next ordinary session of the Synod in 2025, and provide the committee with all the feedback received on the draft statement on Reformed Anglican Education,
- (d) requests that the revision of the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education address (among other things) the specific areas raised in the report,
- (e) requests that the revised Diocesan Policy Statement on Education incorporate key insights and principles contained in the draft statement on Reformed Anglican Education, and
- (f) requests the Diocesan Secretary communicate the substance of this resolution to heads and chaplains of Diocesan schools, including a copy of the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education, and expressing Synod's commitment to continuing dialogue with schools regarding these matters.'

Proposal to classify Sadleir as a parish

Standing Committee –

- (a) approved of the printing of a suitable form of a report for Synod, and
- (b) requested that a motion by which the Synod may assent to the classification be moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod "by request of the Standing Committee".

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

Standing Committee noted a report.

Other Matters

Parish of Malabar – negotiations for a 25-year lease and residential development at 17-19 Yarra Road, Phillip Bay

Standing Committee noted a report.

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

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Anglican Community Services Constitution Ordinance 1961

Standing Committee agreed in principle that Anglicare's ongoing delivery of welfare and support services sufficiently answers the concerns which prompted the insertion of clause 23A in the *Anglican Community Services Constitution Ordinance 1961* in 2016.

Ministry in Marginalised Areas Committee – Review of the operation of the Community Care Program

Standing Committee noted a report.

Standing Committee Policies

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary and, under clause 6(5) of the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897*, amended its Policies 1.6, 2.2 and 2.3.

Date of next meeting

Monday 22 July 2024.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 22 July 2024

Following a reading by the Archbishop of Philippians 1:1-11, Dr Jean Ashton and the Rev Stephen Gibson opened the meeting in prayer.

Dean of Rockhampton

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted with pleasure the installation of the Rt Rev Ross Nicholson in St Paul's Cathedral, as ninth Dean of Rockhampton, on Saturday 20 July 2024,
- (b) noted with thanks Bishop Ross' service to the Diocese as Rector of Epping (2017-2024), Rector of Willoughby (1998-2005), and as a Diocesan Representative on General Synod and a member of the Arden Anglican School Council, and
- (c) congratulated Bishop Ross and Mrs Jenny Nicholson and pray for God's blessing on their future ministries.

Parish amalgamation and change of parish name and church name

Standing Committee noted that –

- (a) the parish of Concord and Burwood was amalgamated with the parish of Croydon effective from 1 July 2024 and, with the approval of the Archbishop, the parish is to be known as Croydon, Burwood and Concord, and
- (b) the Archbishop has approved the following name changes –
 - (i) the parish of Ingleburn will now be the parish of Ingleburn with Glenquarie, from 25 June 2024, and
 - (ii) the church name of St John's Keiraville in the parish of Keiraville will now be Keiraville International Church, from 25 June 2024.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved the minutes of 24 June 2024.

Church of England General Synod

Standing Committee noted a statement from the Archbishop.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

10/23 Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

The Rev Michael Duckett made a statement on this matter, which was received with acclamation.

Office of a Director of Indigenous Ministry

Standing Committee agreed to recommend to the Synod that it create an office of a Director of Indigenous Ministry who would seek to fulfill the responsibilities set out in the report and would be appointed by the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee, with the concurrence of the Archbishop.

Director of Indigenous Ministry membership of Synod and Standing Committee

Standing Committee agrees that the Director of Indigenous Ministry should be an ex officio member of the Synod as an additional Nominated Indigenous Representative, and an ex officio member of the Standing Committee.

Funding for the role of Director of Indigenous Ministry

Standing Committee agreed to recommend to the Synod that the role of the Director of Indigenous Ministry be funded by an increase from 1% to 1.5% in the amount of the total available income for Synod that is applied to the Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Trust Fund.

Printing of report for Synod

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

Consideration of Bill for Synod

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a Bill for the Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese Amendment Ordinance 2024 be promoted to the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee”,
- (b) recommended that Synod pass the ordinance as an ordinance of the Synod, and
- (c) approved the printing for the Synod of a suitable form of the Explanatory Statement.

Request for Synod motion

Standing Committee requested a suitable form of the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod “by the request of Standing Committee” immediately prior to the consideration of the bill for the Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese Amendment Ordinance 2024 –

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

- (a) agrees to the creation of a position known as the Director of Indigenous Ministry, to be appointed by the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee with the concurrence of the Archbishop,
- (b) agrees that the role of the Director of Indigenous Ministry should be funded through an increase from 1% to 1.5% in the amount of the total available income for Synod that is applied to the Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Trust Fund,
- (c) agrees that the Director of Indigenous Ministry should be an ex officio member of the Synod as an additional Nominated Indigenous Representative, and an ex officio member of the Standing Committee, and
- (d) requests the Standing Committee amend the *Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Ordinance 2002* as required to give effect to the creation of the Director of Indigenous Ministry.”

The Archbishop made a statement on this matter.

Mr Fortescue led the Standing Committee in prayer for this matter.

33/23 Review of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report (including a report for Synod).

Printing of report for Synod

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

Request for Synod procedural motion

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

“Synod agrees to –

- (a) consider of the form of the statement in Appendix 3 of the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy prior to consideration of the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy as a whole,
- (b) schedule consideration of the motions regarding Appendix 3 (M#-M#) for ###, with the following arrangements –
 - (i) each Motion will be moved together without a seconder’s speech, with the mover speaking for up to 5 minutes in total to provide the context for the Governance Policy Review Committee bringing the motions to Synod,
 - (ii) following the speech of the mover, a ‘set piece debate’ will be held in the order shown, with speeches up to the duration shown–
 - (A) M1 ### (in favour) – 10 minutes,
 - (B) M1 ### (against) – 10 minutes,
 - (C) Debate to proceed on M1 – 5 minutes per speech,
 - (D) the speakers at (A) and (B) each be given the right of reply on M1 – 5 minutes each,
 - (E) M1 will be put to a secret ballot by houses,
 - (F) M2 ### (in favour) – 10 minutes,
 - (G) M2 ### (against) – 10 minutes,
 - (H) Debate to proceed on M2 – 5 minutes per speech,
 - (I) the speakers at (F) and (G) each be given the right of reply on M2 – 3 minutes each,
 - (J) M2 will be put to a secret ballot by houses,
 - (K) M3 ### (in favour) – 10 minutes,
 - (L) M3 ### (against) – 10 minutes,
 - (M) Debate to proceed on M3 – 5 minutes per speech,
 - (N) the speakers at (K) and (L) each be given the right of reply on M3 – 3 minutes each,
 - (O) M3 will be put to a secret ballot by houses,
 - (iii) a secret ballot by houses will be taken on each of the Motions, with each vote taken at the end of the debate on the corresponding Motion,
 - (iv) debate on the subsequent motions may nonetheless proceed before the result of the ballot on the prior motion is known,
 - (v) if the President announces that M1 has not been carried, Synod grants the mover leave to withdraw M2 and M3 immediately,
- (c) schedule consideration of the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy for a subsequent day of the session,
- (d) consider adopting the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy in a form which reflects the decisions made by the Synod regarding Appendix 3,
- (e) request the Diocesan Secretary to prepare and circulate electronically to the Synod a revised form of the Diocesan Governance Policy reflecting the outcome of Synod’s consideration of motions M##-M##, and
- (f) consider the Motion at M# immediately following the passing of the Policy, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.”

Request for Synod motions regarding Appendix 3

Standing Committee requested that a suitable form of the following three motions regarding Appendix 3 of the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy be moved on the first day of debate on the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy at the forthcoming ordinary session of Synod, “by request of the Standing Committee” –

“Motion 1

Synod, noting the report “Report of the Governance Policy Review Committee”, agrees that the following two paragraphs be inserted in the form of Appendix 3 of the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy as new paragraphs 1 and 2 (with consequential re-numbering) –

‘I believe –

- (a) that all the canonical scriptures of the books of the Old and New Testaments are the ultimate rule and standard of faith given by inspiration of God and contain all things necessary to salvation,
- (b) in the Christian faith as professed by the church of Christ from primitive times, and in particular as set forth in the creeds known as the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed, and
- (c) that there is only one way to be reconciled to God which is through his Son, Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and was raised for our justification, and that we are justified before God by faith only.

I also believe that all the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct and am personally committed to living in obedience to the commands of Christ.'

If Motion 1 is carried, Motions 2 and 3 will be considered.

If Motion 1 is not carried, Motions 2 and 3 lapse and will be withdrawn.

Motion 2

Synod agrees that the following paragraph be inserted in the form of Appendix 3 of the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy as a new paragraph 3 (with consequential re-numbering) –

'This faith produces obedience in accordance with God's word, including sexual faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman, and abstinence in all other circumstances.'

Motion 3

Synod, noting that the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy will require, for a Level C or D entity –

- (i) members of the governing body elected or appointed by Non-Diocesan Appointors to sign the form of Appendix 3 as shown in Synod Book 1,
- (ii) members elected or appointed by Diocesan Appointors, and chief executive officers, to sign the form of Appendix 3 as shown in Synod Book 1 including any new paragraphs inserted by resolution of the Synod,

agrees that members elected or appointed by Non-Diocesan Appointors must likewise sign the form of Appendix 3 including any new paragraphs inserted."

Request for Synod motion approving the Policy in principle

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that the following motion be moved on the second day of debate on the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy at the forthcoming ordinary session of Synod, "by request of the Standing Committee" –

"That the Diocesan Governance Policy be approved in principle.", and

- (b) recommended that Synod pass the Diocesan Governance Policy as a policy of the Synod in a form which reflects the decisions made by the Synod regarding Appendix 3.

Request for Synod motion for implementation of the Policy

Standing Committee requested that a suitable form of the following motion be moved following the passing of the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy at the forthcoming ordinary session of Synod, "by request of the Standing Committee" –

"Synod noting the *Accounts Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995* includes an obligation for diocesan organisations to report to the Synod every three years on their conformity to the Diocesan Governance Policy and explains any areas of non-conformance –

- (a) repeals the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations made by the Synod on 20 October 2014, as amended from time to time,
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to amend the *Interpretations Ordinance 1985* to provide that –
 - (i) any reference in an ordinance to the ‘Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations made by the Synod on 20 October 2014, as amended from time to time’, be taken to be a reference to the Diocesan Governance Policy, as adopted by the Synod at this session,
 - (ii) any reference in an ordinance to the ‘Statement of Personal Faith set out in the Synod Governance Policy’ or a similar expression, be taken to be a reference to Appendix 3 of the Diocesan Governance Policy as adopted by the Synod at this session, and
 - (iii) prior to July 2026 a person may sign a statement in the form of Appendix 3 to the Diocesan Governance Policy rather than a ‘Statement of Personal Faith’ annexed to an ordinance constituting an organisation to which the person is to be elected or appointed as a member of the governing body,
- (c) requests the Standing Committee make arrangements for an outline of, and references to, the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Sydney to be made available on the Sydney Anglicans website,
- (d) requests each Diocesan organisation to promote amendments to its constituting ordinance by July 2026 to achieve conformity with the Diocesan Governance Policy noting that where appropriate, provisions of the Diocesan Governance Policy may be included in a charter (or similar document),
- (e) requests the Standing Committee to –
 - (i) review the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*, other ordinances relating to the financial and property affairs of parishes, the *Accounts, Audits, and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*, the *Synod Elections Ordinance 2000*, and other relevant ordinances with a view to amending them to ensure conformity with the Diocesan Governance Policy, noting that it may not be appropriate for a particular ordinance to conform to the Diocesan Governance Policy in all respects,
 - (ii) consult with each Diocesan organisation before any amendments are made to the ordinance by which the Diocesan organisation is constituted, and
 - (iii) report progress to the next session of the Synod,
- (f) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the Diocesan Governance Policy, with the exception of Appendix 3, unless before such amendment is made, any 3 members of the Standing Committee request in writing that the amendment be referred to the Synod, and provided any amendment made by the Standing Committee is reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod.”

Request for Synod motion of thanks and encouragement

Standing Committee requested that a suitable form of the following motion be moved following the passing of the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy at the forthcoming ordinary session of Synod, “by request of the Standing Committee” –

“Synod –

- (a) thanks the members of the Governance Policy Review Committee for their work,
- (b) acknowledges and gives thanks for the persons responsible for the financial and property affairs of parishes, and the persons responsible for governing Diocesan organisations, who give generously of their time, energy and skills to exercise the responsibilities with which they have been entrusted,
- (c) encourages the persons responsible for the financial and property affairs of parishes, and the persons responsible for governing Diocesan organisations, to work in partnership with the Synod in seeking standards of governance appropriate to their context. Such standards are to be underpinned by prayer, sacrificial service, a dependence upon God for wisdom and a proper regard to best practice so that decisions made will enhance the effectiveness of each parish or Diocesan organisation in proclaiming and commending Jesus Christ as Lord and pursuing their purposes,
- (d) commits to having due regard to the principles set out in the Diocesan Governance Policy in formulating rules and policies for the conduct of its own affairs and business, and

- (e) commits to working in partnership with parishes and Diocesan organisations, seeking to be informed of both their purposes and contexts to communicate and collaborate with them in the pursuit of their purposes and the furtherance of the purposes and priorities of the Diocese.”

Authorisation for use of the Church Name

Standing Committee requested that all non-diocesan organisations which operate within the Diocese and use “Anglican” (or another church name) as a descriptor do so under an appropriate authorisation as provided for in section 6 of the *Anglican Church of Australia Act 1976* (NSW) and the *Use of Church Names Canon 1989*.

Ordinances

Ordinances passed at the last meeting

Standing Committee noted from the Diocesan Secretary, the following summary of the status of ordinances passed at the Standing Committee meeting held on 25 June 2024 –

Ordinance	Status
Miscellaneous Amendments Ordinance No 14, 2024	Assented

Croydon, Burwood and Concord Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance No 15, 2024

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

Review of Living Faith Ordinance 2020

Standing Committee noted a report from the Senior Legal Counsel and determined for the purposes of clause 24 of the *Living Faith Ordinance 2020* that it is not practicable to review the ordinance until the Standing Committee meeting on 18 November 2024.

Proposed amendments to the Anglican Community Services Constitution Ordinance 1961

Standing Committee noted a report.

Elections

SCEGGS Darlinghurst

Standing Committee recommended to Sydney Diocesan Services that it appoint Ms Amanda Tibbey to fill the vacancy for a person on the SCEGGS Darlinghurst Limited Board arising from the AGM on 27 May 2024.

Anglican Media Council
Diocesan Ordinance Review Panel
Endowment of the See Corporation
Living Faith Council
Ordinance Reviewers
Social Issues Committee
Stipends and Allowances Committee
Sydney Diocesan Services

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 Chief Executive Officer

Standing Committee noted a report concerning the Sydney Diocesan Services.

Financial Matters

Actions by the Finance Committee under delegated authority

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

Provision of annual reports to Synod by Sydney Anglican (National Redress Scheme) Corporation (SA(NRS)C)

Standing Committee noted a report from the Finance Committee.

Synod

Second ordinary session of the 53rd Synod

Standing Committee noted a report.

Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2024

Consideration of Bill for Synod

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a Bill for the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2024 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.

Allocation of funds from the Publishing Reserve

Standing Committee resolved to allocate \$90,000 p.a. in 2025, 2026, and 2027 from the “Publishing Reserve”, (Fund 317), a fund maintained by the ACPT pursuant to the *Anglican Media Council (Transitional Provisions) Ordinance 1993*.

Endorsement of proposed capital recycling

Standing Committee endorsed the following proposed capital recycling from Synod funds in the draft Synod budget for the 2025 – 2027 triennium –

- (a) reallocation of \$525,000 from the Synod Fund (Fund 129),
- (b) reallocation of \$100,000 from the Sydney Representatives at General Synod Fund (Fund 130),
- (c) reallocation of \$50,000 from the Ordination Training Fund (Fund 189), and
- (d) saving of \$44,000 in the cost of the Synod’s contribution to the Cathedral’s insurance cover in previous years.

Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2024

Consideration of Bill for Synod

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a Bill for the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2024 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.

Motion of thanks for the Committee

Standing Committee expressed its sincere thanks to the members of the Diocesan Resources Committee for their thorough, careful, and wise work in preparing the “money bills” for consideration by both the Standing Committee and the Synod.

64/23 Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

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 the Synod “by the request of the Standing Committee” –

“Synod, noting the report ‘64/23 Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese’, asks the Standing Committee to consider the recommendations of the report (paragraphs 113-131), to take appropriate steps to enact those recommendations it chooses to prioritise, and to bring a report to the next session of the Synod with an update on progress.”

24/23 South Western Region buildings and property strategy

This matter was deferred.

**15/22 Toward the development of a Diocesan Property Strategy
Diocesan Buildings and Property Strategy**

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Printing of report for Synod

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

22/22 Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese of Sydney

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Printing of report for Synod

Standing Committee approved the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of the Synod, subject to the report indicating that any amendment to the Ordinance will need to be approved by the parish of Church Hill prior to going to Standing Committee for approval.

Mrs West’s motion was carried.

**Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2024
Review of regulations for communicating with Synod members**

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Approval of regulations

Standing Committee, under clause 6B(4) of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*, approved the *Regulations for Synod Communications by email and post*.

Consideration of Bill for Synod

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a Bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2024 be promoted to the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee”,
- (b) recommended that Synod pass the ordinance as an ordinance of the Synod, and
- (c) approved the printing for the Synod of a suitable form of the Explanatory Statement.

Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019 Amendment Ordinance 2024 28/23 Questions during debates on motions

Standing Committee –

- (a) requested that a Bill for the Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019 Amendment Ordinance 2024 be promoted to the Synod “by request of the Standing Committee”,
- (b) recommended that Synod pass the ordinance as an ordinance of the Synod, and
- (c) approved the printing for the Synod of a suitable form of the Explanatory Statement.

The Archbishop made a statement on this matter.

Review of the *Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000* Shaping Parish Structures for Mission

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Recognised Churches Ordinance Review Committee 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 a suitable form of the following motion be moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod “by the request of the Standing Committee” –

‘Synod, noting the report “Shaping Parish Structures for Mission” –

- (a) invites members of the Synod to provide feedback to the Diocesan Secretary by 30 November 2024 on the proposed changes as contemplated in the report, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to implement the proposed changes in light of feedback received.’

57/23 Training opportunities for Anglican educators

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Archdeacon to the Archbishop.

Request for recommendation to determine funding for a support role

Standing Committee requested the Diocesan Resources Committee to provide a recommendation to the Archdeacon to the Archbishop about how best to fund a role for someone to work part-time in developing structures and resources for the support and development of school chaplains and teachers of Christian Studies (initially one day per week at \$25K per annum).

3/23 Newmarch House 2020 COVID-19 Outbreak

This matter was deferred.

62/19 Gender Representation on Diocesan Boards and Committees

Receipt of report

Standing Committee received a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Printing of report for Synod

Standing Committee approved the printing of a suitable form of the detailed report *Gender representation on Diocesan Boards, Councils and Committees* with de-identified data, for the forthcoming ordinary session of the Synod.

Doctrine Commission Report: The Anglican Communion and the Anglican Church of Australia (ACA)

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Printing of report for Synod and publication on SDS website

Standing Committee –

- (a) approved the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming ordinary session of the Synod, and
- (b) agreed that the report be made publicly available on the SDS website forthwith as it has been received by the Standing Committee as the requesting body.

Applications for presentations at Synod

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Presentations at Synod

Standing Committee agree to allow presentations at the forthcoming session of the Synod, inclusive of a time for prayer, as follows –

- (a) Parish of Pymble, 10 minutes
- (b) Parish of Woollahra, 10 minutes
- (c) Provisional Parish of Sadleir, 15 minutes in connection with the motion for reclassification as a parish
- (d) Provisional Parish of Sussex Inlet, 15 minutes in connection with the motion for reclassification as a parish
- (e) Moore College, 10 minutes
- (f) Youthworks, 10 minutes
- (g) Synod in the Greenfields organising committee, 5 minutes
- (h) Endowment of the See Corporation, 5 minutes
- (i) Anglicare, 10 minutes
- (j) HOPE25 Mission, 5 minutes.

Standing Committee's report to the Synod for 2024

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

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
- Regional Councils' Annual Reports for 2023 (compilation)
- Parish Funds Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2023

Other Matters

Submission to the Review of Section 93Z of the *New South Wales Crimes Act 1900* – Response to the Serious racial and religious vilification Options Paper

Standing Committee noted a submission dated 27 June 2024 made on behalf of the Diocese by Bishop Michael Stead as Chair of the Religious Freedom Reference Group to the NSW Law Reform Commission.

Date of next meeting

Monday 19 August 2024.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 19 August 2024

Bible Reading and prayer

Following a reading by the Archbishop of Philippians 1:12-30, Mr Robert Wicks and the Rev Dr Gavin Perkins opened the meeting in prayer.

Chair of Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)

Motion of thanks for Mr Greg Hammond

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the resignation of Mr Greg Hammond OAM as a member, and as Chair, of Anglican Community Services (Anglicare) on 31 July 2024,
- (b) thanked him for his service as Chair for over eight years, leading through a period of significant change, including the formation of Anglicare Sydney with the merger of Anglican Retirement Villages and Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society in 2016, and the merger with Anglicare New England and North West in 2018, and
- (c) assured him of its prayers for his future ministries.

Motion of congratulation for Ms Evelyn Horton

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted a media release from the Board of Anglicare Sydney,
- (b) congratulated Ms Evelyn Horton on her appointment as Chair of Anglican Community Services from 1 August 2024, and
- (c) assured her of its prayers as she leads Anglicare in serving people in need, enriching lives, and sharing the love of Jesus.

Motion for Synod

Standing Committee noted a report and approved a suitable form of the following motion being moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod, 'by request of the Standing Committee'–

'Synod, noting that on 31 July 2024, Mr Greg Hammond OAM retired as Chairman of Anglican Community Services (Anglicare Sydney) after eight years of faithful service –

- (a) gives thanks to God for His work through Anglicare Sydney during Mr Hammond's chairmanship of the organisation including –
 - (i) the successful formation of Anglicare Sydney with the merger of Anglican Retirement Villages and the Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society in 2016,
 - (ii) the increased alignment of Anglicare Sydney with the Diocesan Mission and the firm commitment of the organisation to partnerships with parishes to further the Gospel of Christ,
 - (iii) successfully managing the succession of the Chief Executive Officer of the organisation in 2021-2022,
 - (iv) the expansion of Anglicare Sydney's footprint to include the Armidale and Bathurst Dioceses and the growth of services to older Australians, and families and people in marginalised communities,
 - (v) leaving Anglicare Sydney in a robust financial position after the uncertainty and challenges following the Royal Commission into Aged Care, and
 - (vi) representing Anglicare Sydney on the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Sydney and Anglicare Australia as Chair of the Anglicare Australia Chairs Network, and
- (b) thanks God for Mr Greg Hammond's leadership and Mrs Beth Hammond's support, and prays for their ongoing commitment to the Gospel and contribution to the Diocese and beyond through service on the Standing Committee, the Governance Policy Review Committee and the Board of the Australian College of Theology.'

Chair of Anglican Super

Motion of thanks for Mr James Flavin

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted the resignation of Mr James Flavin as a member, and as Chair, of Anglican Super on 2 August 2024,
- (b) thanked him for his service to the Board as a member from 2001 to 2012, and since 2013, including 14 years as Chair of the Board (2002-2007 and 2015-2024), and
- (c) assured him of its prayers for his other ministries and ongoing service for Christ.

Motion of congratulation for the Rev David Clarke

Standing Committee congratulated the Rev David Clarke on his election on 31 July 2024 as Chair of Anglican Super, and assured him of its prayers as he leads the Board of Anglican Super.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved the minutes of 22 July 2024.

Proclamation under the *Marriage Act 1961*

Standing Committee noted that the Diocese of the Southern Cross has been proclaimed as a recognised denomination under Section 26 of the *Marriage Act 1961* and congratulated the Diocese on this achievement.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

Parish Governance Policy

33/23 Review of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Printing of report for Synod

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

Request for Synod motion for in-principle approval

Standing Committee requested that the following motion be moved at the forthcoming ordinary session of Synod, 'by request of the Standing Committee' –

'That the Parish Governance Policy be approved in principle.'

Request for Synod motion for ordinance amendment

Standing Committee requested that the following motion be moved at the forthcoming ordinary session of Synod, 'by request of the Standing Committee' –

'Synod –

- (a) requests the Standing Committee to review the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*, other ordinances relating to the financial and property affairs of parishes, and other ordinances (if applicable) with a view to amending them to achieve conformity with the Parish Governance Policy at the next session of the Synod,
- (b) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the Parish Governance Policy, unless before such amendment is made, any 3 members of the Standing Committee request in writing that the amendment be referred to the Synod, and provided any amendment made by the Standing Committee is reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod,
- (c) acknowledges and gives thanks for the persons responsible for the financial and property affairs of parishes who give generously of their time, energy and skills to exercise the responsibilities with which they have been entrusted.'

33/23 Review of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations

Selection of speakers for Synod debate

Standing Committee noted that the following speakers have been selected by the President from nominations received, for the set-piece debate on Appendix 3 –

- M11 (in favour) – The Rev Dr Mark Thompson,
- M11 (against) – The Rev Dr Andrew Katay,
- M12 (in favour) – Dean Sandy Grant,
- M12 (against) – The Rev Dr Michael Jensen,
- M13 (in favour) – Dr Laurie Scandrett,
- M13 (against) – The Rev Tim Bowden.

Request for Synod procedural motion

Standing Committee requested that a suitable form of the following revised procedural motion, amended from the motion as agreed at the July Standing Committee meeting, be moved at the forthcoming ordinary session of Synod, 'by request of the Standing Committee' –

'Synod agrees to –

- (a) consider of the form of the statement in Appendix 3 of the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy prior to consideration of the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy as a whole, without the necessity for the Diocesan Governance Policy to be approved in principle first,
- (b) schedule consideration of the motions regarding Appendix 3 (M11-M13) for Monday 16 September with the following arrangements –
 - (i) each Motion will be moved together without a seconder's speech, with the mover speaking for up to 10 minutes in total to provide background information to the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy and the context for the Governance Policy Review Committee bringing the motions to Synod,
 - (ii) following the speech of the mover, a 'set piece debate' will be held in the order shown, with speeches up to the duration shown–
 - (A) ...{set-piece arrangements unchanged}...
 - (iii) a secret ballot by houses will be taken on each of the Motions, with each vote taken at the end of the debate on the corresponding Motion,
 - (iv) debate on the subsequent motions may nonetheless proceed before the result of the ballot on the prior motion is known,
 - (v) if the President announces that M11 has not been carried, Synod grants the mover leave to withdraw M12 and M13 immediately,
- (c) schedule consideration of the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy for a subsequent day of the session,
- (d) such consideration to begin with a motion, without a seconder's speech, that the proposed Diocesan Governance Policy in a form which reflects the decisions made by the Synod regarding Appendix 3 be approved in principle,
- (e) request the Diocesan Secretary to prepare and circulate electronically to the Synod a revised form of the Diocesan Governance Policy reflecting the outcome of Synod's consideration of motions M11-M13, and
- (f) consider the Motion at M14 immediately following the passing of the Policy, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Royal Commission Recommendation 16.50

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Safe Ministry Board.

Requirement to undertake Safe Ministry Training

Standing Committee agreed in principle that the requirement to undertake Safe Ministry Training in the Diocese be expanded to include the following –

- (a) Wardens and parish councillors,
- (b) Employed permanent full or part time Parish staff, and
- (c) Members of the Standing Committee.

and requested an amendment to the *Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2020* to enact this decision.

Updated report for Synod

Standing Committee requested that this decision be incorporated into the report to Synod in relation to Resolution 12/23 Implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Ordinances

Ordinances passed at the last meeting

Standing Committee noted from the Diocesan Secretary, the following summary of the status of ordinances passed at the Standing Committee meeting held on 22 July 2024 –

Ordinance	Status
<i>Croydon, Burwood and Concord Variation of Trusts and Amendment Ordinance No 15, 2024</i>	Assented

Sydney Anglican (National Redress Scheme) Corporation Ordinance 2018 Amendment Ordinance 2024

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the *Sydney Anglican (National Redress Scheme) Corporation Ordinance 2018*.

Anglican Media Council Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2024

The purpose of this Ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain funds are held.

Anglican Church Growth Corporation (Pilot Program Enabling No 4) Ordinance 2024

The purpose of this Ordinance is to vary the trusts on which certain property is held for the purposes of enabling the development of such property pursuant to a program being managed by the Anglican Church Growth Corporation.

Blacktown Trust Ordinance 2021 Amendment Ordinance 2024

This purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the *Blacktown Trust Ordinance 2021*.

Elections

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

Standing Committee noted a Schedule which sets out the vacancies that will arise at the first meeting of the Standing Committee following the second ordinary session of the Synod.

Sydney Diocesan Services

Vacancy for a person as declared 14 August 2023.

**Anglican Media Council
Diocesan Ordinance Review Panel
Endowment of the See Corporation
Living Faith Council
Ordinance Reviewers
Social Issues Committee
Stipends and Allowances Committee**

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) Anglican National Superannuation Board – Mr James Flavin had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a representative of Fund Members.
- (b) Robert Menzies College Board – Dr Daniel Gibson had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.
- (c) Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council – Mrs Lorraine Thomas 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 noted a report concerning the Glebe Administration Board and the Diocesan Endowment.

SDS Website refresh and Diocesan Gateway

Standing Committee noted a report from the Head of Parish and Technology Services.

AICD Governance training for members of diocesan organisations

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.

Diocesan organisations' annual reports

Standing Committee noted a report from the Finance Committee.

Synod venue hire costs

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Synod venue options for future years

Standing Committee, on the recommendation of the Diocesan Resources Committee agreed that the Wesley Theatre be confirmed as the venue for the Synod for 2025 – 27.

57/23 Training opportunities for Anglican educators

Standing Committee noted a report.

Synod

Second ordinary session of the 53rd Synod

Standing Committee noted a report.

Synod business paper for Saturday 14 and Monday 16 September 2024

Standing Committee approved a suitable form of business paper for the meeting of the Synod on Saturday 14 and Monday 16 September 2024, subject to the decisions made at this meeting, noting –

- (a) editorial changes may be made to the text of the motions on the business paper and their order on the paper, and changes may be made to the persons shown as moving and seconding the motions, and
- (b) the proposed Timetable for Synod Business is to be settled by the Archbishop and the Diocesan Secretary,

and requested the Order of Business Committee to consider scheduling M16 (Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese) in the evening of either Wednesday 18 September or Monday 23 September 2024.

3/23 Newmarch House 2020 COVID-19 Outbreak

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Motion for Synod

Standing Committee approved a suitable form of the following procedural motion being moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod, 'by request of the Standing Committee' –

'Synod, noting that –

- (a) the Report of the coronial inquest into the Newmarch House 2020 COVID-19 outbreak has not yet been released,
- (b) a class action has been commenced and continues against Anglican Community Services (Anglicare Sydney) and others in relation to the Newmarch House 2020 COVID-19 outbreak, and
- (c) by resolution 3/23, the Synod requested a report be provided to the Standing Committee on this matter when all inquiries and legal matters are resolved,

agrees not to consider any motion on the topic of the Newmarch House 2020 COVID-19 outbreak and Anglicare Sydney's response at this session and suspends all Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

24/23 South Western Region buildings and property strategy

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report.

Approval of the Strategy

Standing Committee approved the South Western Region Ministry-led Buildings and Property Strategy.

Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019 Amendment Ordinance 2024

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Stipends & Allowances Committee – status report 2/05 Stipends, Allowances and Benefits for 2025

Standing Committee noted a report '2/05 Stipends, Allowances and Benefits for 2025', and approved of the printing of a suitable form of the report for the forthcoming session of the Synod.

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 approved a suitable form of the following motion being moved at the forthcoming session of the Synod, 'by request of the Standing Committee' –

'Synod, noting the report "The Relationship of Church and State and Religious Freedom" –

- (a) endorses the report, and
- (b) approves its publication on the Commission's website.'

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

Printing of report for Synod

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

Motion for Synod

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

'Synod, noting the report "12/23 Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to 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 noted 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 Annual Report to Synod

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

42/18 Reporting on the National Redress Scheme

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

Synod in the Greenfields

Standing Committee noted an oral report from Bishop Gary Koo regarding the Synod in the Greenfields on Saturday 14 September 2024.

Retirement motions

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Archdeacon to the Archbishop.

Motion for Synod

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

'Synod gives thanks for the ministry of Eric and Christine Percival. After nineteen years of ministry to the Parish of Greenwich, Eric will retire from full-time ministry later this year. The Parish have expressed their thanks for Eric's emphasis on small groups as a means of helping spiritual growth and providing pastoral support. They have valued his wise and insightful preaching and are

especially thankful for how he brought the congregation through Covid and we all pray God's blessings on them as they retire.'

Other Matters

Amalgamation of Berala and Regents Park

Standing Committee noted a report from the Registrar and nominated the South Western Regional Council under clause 1(4) of the *Parishes Ordinance 1979* to amalgamate Berala and Regents Park.

Finance Committee Terms of Reference

Standing Committee noted a report from the Finance Committee and agreed to amend the Finance Committee's Terms of Reference as shown in an attachment.

Date of next meeting

Monday 21 October 2024.

Report of the Standing Committee meeting held on 21 October 2024

Bible Reading and prayer

Following a reading by the Archbishop of Philippians 2:1-30, Dr Claire Smith and the Rev Dr Mark Thompson opened the meeting in prayer.

Ms Michelle England sc

Standing Committee noted with acclamation the appointment of Ms Michelle England sc as Senior Counsel and congratulated her on this appointment.

Minutes of previous meeting

Standing Committee approved the minutes of 19 August 2024.

Strategic and Other Significant Matters

Diocesan Governance Policy

35/24 Diocesan Governance Policy – implementation

Noting of Synod resolution

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 35/24 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting the *Accounts Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995* includes an obligation for diocesan organisations to report to the Synod every three years on their conformity to the Diocesan Governance Policy and explain any areas of non-conformance –

- (a) repeals the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations made by the Synod on 20 October 2014, as amended from time to time,
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to amend the *Interpretation Ordinance 1985* to provide that –
 - (i) any reference in an ordinance to the “Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations made by the Synod on 20 October 2014, as amended from time to time”, be taken to be a reference to the Diocesan Governance Policy, as adopted by the Synod at this session,
 - (ii) any reference in an ordinance to the “Statement of Personal Faith set out in the Synod Governance Policy” or a similar expression, be taken to be a reference to Appendix 3 of the Diocesan Governance Policy as adopted by the Synod at this session, and
 - (iii) prior to July 2026 a person may sign a statement in the form of Appendix 3 to the Diocesan Governance Policy rather than a “Statement of Personal Faith” annexed to an ordinance constituting an organisation to which the person is to be elected or appointed as a member of the governing body,
- (c) requests the Standing Committee make arrangements for an outline of, and references to, the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Sydney to be made available on the Sydney Anglicans website,
- (d) requests each Diocesan organisation to promote amendments to its constituting ordinance by July 2026 to achieve conformity with the Diocesan Governance Policy noting that where appropriate, provisions of the Diocesan Governance Policy may be included in a charter (or similar document),
- (e) requests the Standing Committee to –
 - (i) review the *Accounts, Audits, and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*, the *Synod Elections Ordinance 2000*, and other relevant ordinances with a view to amending them to ensure conformity with the Diocesan Governance Policy, noting that it may not be appropriate for a particular ordinance to conform to the Diocesan Governance Policy in all respects,
 - (ii) consult with each Diocesan organisation before any amendments are made to the ordinance by which the Diocesan organisation is constituted, and
 - (iii) report progress to the next session of the Synod,

- (f) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the Diocesan Governance Policy, including the form but not the substance or content of Appendix 3, unless before such amendment is made, any 3 members of the Standing Committee request in writing that the amendment be referred to the Synod, and provided any amendment made by the Standing Committee is reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod.'

Request to the Doctrine Commission

Standing Committee requested –

- (a) the Diocesan Doctrine Commission, by 13 June 2025, to prepare “an outline of, and references to, the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Sydney” suitable for the Sydney Anglicans Website, including a review of the outline by the Archbishop and the Chancellor, for approval by the Standing Committee, and
- (b) the Diocesan Secretary to arrange for the outline to be published on the Sydney Anglicans Website once approved.

Request for model ordinance clauses

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that the Diocesan Secretary has written to each Diocesan organisation, encouraging them to promote amendments to their constituting ordinance by July 2026 to achieve conformity with the Diocesan Governance Policy, noting that where appropriate, provisions of the Diocesan Governance Policy may be included in a charter (or similar document),
- (b) noted that some organisations have already started this process, and
- (c) requested SDS Legal to prepare model ordinance clauses for the Standing Committee’s approval by December 2024, which can be provided to Diocesan organisations seeking guidance on how the provisions of the Diocesan Governance Policy may be reflected in their constituting ordinance.

Request for review of ordinances

Standing Committee requested –

- (a) the Finance Committee to review the *Accounts, Audits, and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995* and provide a report to the Standing Committee by July 2025 with recommendations about proposed amendments to that ordinance to ensure conformity with the Diocesan Governance Policy, and
- (b) the Diocesan Secretary to review the *Synod Elections Ordinance 2000* and any other relevant administrative ordinances (excluding constituting ordinances and the *Accounts, Audits, and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*), and provide a report to the Standing Committee by July 2025 with recommendations about proposed amendments to those ordinances to ensure conformity with the Diocesan Governance Policy.

Appreciation for the Governance Policy Review Committee

Standing Committee noted with thanks that –

- (a) the final remaining task of the Governance Policy Review Committee (GPRC) was to develop a revised Standing Committee Policy on Conflicts of Interest, a draft of which was deferred by the Standing Committee at its July 2024 meeting,
- (b) a revised version of the Policy is at agenda item 9.4 for this meeting, and
- (c) the GPRC, which was appointed in September 2021 and met 23 times over those three years, has now completed its work.

Ordinances

Ordinances passed at the last meeting

Standing Committee noted from the Diocesan Secretary, the following summary of the status of ordinances passed at the Standing Committee meeting held on 19 August 2024 –

Ordinance	Status
<i>Sydney Anglican (National Redress Scheme) Corporation Ordinance 2018 Amendment Ordinance No 16, 2024</i>	Assented

Ordinance	Status
<i>Anglican Media Council Variation of Trusts Ordinance No 17, 2024</i>	Assented
<i>Anglican Church Growth Corporation (Pilot Program Enabling No 4) Ordinance No 18, 2024</i>	Assented
<i>Blacktown Trust Ordinance 2021 Amendment Ordinance No 19, 2024</i>	Assented

Interpretation Ordinance 1985 Further Amendment Ordinance 2024

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

Malabar Leasing and Amendment Ordinance 2024

The purpose of this ordinance is to authorise the leasing of certain land at Phillip Bay and the amendment to the *Malabar Trust Ordinance 2001*.

Denham Court Trust Ordinance 2024

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

Denham Court Variation of Trusts and Repayment Ordinance 2024

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for payments from the provisional parish of Denham Court to the Wollongong Regional Council in respect to a demountable on certain land at Denham Court, and to vary the trusts of that demountable.

Dural District Subdivision Ordinance 2024

The purpose of this ordinance is to authorise a subdivision of certain land at Dural.

Sydney Diocesan Services Ordinance (Interim Membership Arrangements) Ordinance 2023

Standing Committee, pursuant to clause 2 of the *Sydney Diocesan Services Ordinance (Interim Membership Arrangements) Ordinance 2023* (the “2023 Ordinance”), determined that with effect from 21 October 2024, each provision of the *Sydney Diocesan Services Ordinance 2017* referenced in column 1 of the table in the Schedule to the 2023 Ordinance shall cease to be deemed to be amended or modified in the manner described in the corresponding row in column 2 of the table.

Elections

Accredited training requirements for members of certain Diocesan bodies

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

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

Glebe Administration Board

The following persons –

Mr Michael Clancy

Ms Evelyn Horton

Bishop Michael Stead

were elected.

The Archbishop's Committee for Portraits, Plaques and Photographs

The following persons –

Mrs Amanda Garlato
Dr Robert Tong AM

were elected.

Safe Ministry Board

The following persons –

The Rev Gary O'Brien
Mrs Beth Teuben

were elected.

Sydney Diocesan Services

Bishop Michael Stead was elected.

Panel for the Ministry Standards Board

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

Mr Michael Easton (President)
Dr Robert Tong AM (Deputy President)
The Rev Mark Charleston
The Rev Stephen Gibson
Dr Cassandra Sharp

be appointed.

Membership of the Standing Committee

Lay persons elected by the Regional Electors of the Western Sydney Region

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

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

Standing Committee noted that the Archbishop had appointed the Rev Emma Little to be a Nominated Minister for the 53rd Synod, in place of the Rev Ruth Schroeter, who retired as a Nominated Minister on 17 December 2023 in accordance with clause 35(c) of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*.

Stipends and Allowances Committee

Mr Edward Johnson was elected.

The remaining vacancy for a lay person was deferred.

Sydney Diocesan Services

The Rev Roger Cunningham and Mr Greg Hammond OAM were elected.

The remaining vacancies were deferred.

Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Deferral of vacancies

Standing Committee agreed to defer consideration of the four vacancies on the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee not filled by the Synod session in September 2024 until the report requested in March 2024 has been received.

The Illawarra Grammar School, Council of

Ms Paige Crosweller was elected.

**Anglican Media Council
Anglican National Superannuation Board
Blue Mountains Grammar School
Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council
Diocesan Ordinance Review Panel
Endowment of the See Corporation
Living Faith Council
Ministry Training and Development, Council of
Ordinance Reviewers
Robert Menzies College Board
Social Issues Committee**

These matters were deferred.

Casual Vacancies

- (a) New College Limited – the Rev Andrew Bruce had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a person.
- (b) Synod Membership, Part 8 – Dr Sylvia Steel had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a nominated lay person.

Standing Committee agreed to consider filling the vacancy for a nominated lay person under Part 8 as a matter of urgency at this meeting.

Mr Malcolm Purvis was elected, effective from 1 November 2024.

- (c) Sydney Church of England Grammar School Council (Shore) – the Rev Matthew Heazlewood had resigned effective from 31 October 2024 and a vacancy was declared for a licensed member of the clergy in presbyters' orders.
- (d) Ministry in Marginalised Areas Committee – the Rev Joseph Wiltshire had resigned and a vacancy was declared for a member of the Standing Committee.
- (e) Diocesan Representatives on Provincial Synod – Mr Daniel Glynn has resigned and a vacancy must be 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

Standing Committee noted a report concerning the Sydney Diocesan Services.

Financial Matters

Actions by the Finance Committee under delegated authority

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

Stipend Continuance Insurance renewal for 2025 - 2027

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Finance Committee on the Stipend Insurance renewal for 2025 – 2027.

Renewal of Stipend Continuance Insurance

Standing Committee resolved to renew the SCI cover for 3 years from 1 January 2025 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Synod

Synod minutes of 24 September 2024

Standing Committee –

- (a) noted that the Synod authorised the President to sign the minutes of 24 September 2024 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 24 September 2024, and
- (c) recommended that the Archbishop also sign them.

Proceedings of the 2024 Synod

Standing Committee noted the Synod Proceedings will be published on the Synod's webpage on the SDS website (www.sds.asn.au) by the end of October 2024.

Synod attendances

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

Review of Synod session

Noting of report and request for feedback

Standing Committee noted 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 by 31 October 2024.

Noting of correspondence

Standing Committee noted a letter from the Rev Jason Ramsay.

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 4 October 2024 to parishes on matters arising from the Synod session, including a copy of the resolutions passed and highlighting the matters of particular interest.

1/24 Professional Development for Ministry Workers

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 1/24 in the following terms –

‘Synod, noting the report “Professional Development for Ministry Workers” –

- (a) invites members of the Synod to provide feedback to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2024 on the proposed arrangements for all ministry workers in the Diocese to undertake mandatory, regular professional development as contemplated in the report, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to implement arrangements for professional development for all ministry workers having given regard to any feedback received.’

and requested the Professional Practices Committee to –

- (a) assess the feedback received once the submission period has closed, and
- (b) bring a report with recommendations by the July 2025 meeting of the Standing Committee for promotion to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

3/24 Partnership with Anglican Schools

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 3/24 in the following terms –

‘Synod, noting the report “56/23 Partnership with Anglican Schools” –

- (a) noted that the draft statement on Reformed Anglican Education has been presented to heads and chaplains as requested by the Synod, and thanks heads and chaplains for their thoughtful engagement with the statement and for their detailed feedback,
- (b) reaffirms Synod’s acknowledgement of, and thanks for, Anglican Schools, as partners in the mission and ministry of the Diocese,
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to form a suitably qualified committee to review the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education, to report back to the next ordinary session of the Synod in 2025, and provide the committee with all the feedback received on the draft statement on Reformed Anglican Education,
- (d) requests that the revision of the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education address (among other things) the specific areas raised in the report,
- (e) requests that the revised Diocesan Policy Statement on Education incorporate key insights and principles contained in the draft statement on Reformed Anglican Education, and
- (f) requests the Diocesan Secretary communicate the substance of this resolution to heads and chaplains of Diocesan schools, including a copy of the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education, and expressing Synod’s commitment to continuing dialogue with schools regarding these matters.’

and agreed to consider appointing a committee to address the request of resolution 3/24 at its meeting on 18 November 2024.

4/24 Shaping Parish Structures for Mission

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 4/24 in the following terms –

‘Synod, noting the report “Shaping Parish Structures for Mission” –

- (a) invites members of the Synod to provide feedback to the Diocesan Secretary by 30 November 2024 on the proposed changes as contemplated in the report, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to implement the proposed changes in light of feedback received.’

and requested the Recognised Churches Ordinance Review Committee to –

- (a) assess the feedback received once the submission period has closed, and
- (b) bring a report with recommendations by the July 2025 meeting of the Standing Committee for promotion to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

6/24 Implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 6/24 in the following terms –

‘Synod, noting the report “12/23 Implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to 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 and the Professional Practices Committee,
- (b) requested the Senior Legal Counsel to bring a further update by the July 2025 meeting of the Standing Committee for promotion to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

17/24 Sydney Anglican Property

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 17/24 in the following terms –

‘Synod, noting –

- (i) the initial steps taken by the Standing Committee outlined in the report “Review of the central organisational structures of the Diocese” to form Sydney Anglican Property (SAP) with effect from 1 January 2024 through the appointment of a common transitional board membership for –
 - (A) Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney,
 - (B) Anglican Church Growth Corporation,
 - (C) New Church for New Communities, and
 - (D) St Andrew’s House Corporation, and
- (ii) the metrics approved by the Standing Committee outlined in the report by which progress in consolidating the central property undertaking of the Diocese will be measured,
 - (a) endorses the initial steps taken by the Standing Committee in forming SAP,
 - (b) approves in principle the reduction in the number of bodies corporate operating in the SAP structure,
 - (c) encourages the Standing Committee to consider and, as appropriate, to take this and such further steps it considers necessary or desirable to realise the full benefit of the consolidation, and
 - (d) requests the Standing Committee to report progress to the next ordinary session of the Synod in 2025.’

and –

- (a) referred the request of the resolution, to be implemented in consultation with SAP, to the Central Diocesan Structures Review Committee (Committee) until such time as SAS is formed, and
- (b) requested the Committee (or SAS) to bring a report by the July 2025 meeting of the Standing Committee for promotion to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

18/24 Sydney Anglican Services

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 18/24 in the following terms –

‘Synod, noting the proposal to form Sydney Anglican Services (SAS) outlined in the report “Review of the central organisational structures of the Diocese” approves –

- (a) the formation of SAS from 1 January 2025 with the purpose, functions, structure and membership in or to the effect of those outlined in the report,
- (b) the Glebe Administration Board continuing as a separate specialist board but as part of the broader SAS structure with its membership appointed by SAS, and
- (c) the loans function currently administered by the Sydney Anglican Loans Board being administered by SAS with appropriate input from clergy at board level,

and requests the Standing Committee to –

- (i) implement these outcomes and take such other associated action it considers necessary or desirable to realise, as far as possible, the full benefit of SAS’s formation as the corporate body through which the Synod supports and regulates the central governance and administration of the affairs of the Diocese under the oversight of the Standing Committee, and
- (ii) report progress, with any further recommendations, to the next ordinary session of the Synod in 2025.’

and –

- (a) referred the request of the resolution to the Central Diocesan Structures Review Committee (Committee) until such time as SAS is formed on 1 January 2025, and
- (b) requested the Committee (or SAS) to bring a report by the July 2025 meeting of the Standing Committee for promotion to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

19/24 Evangelism and Ministry Partnerships

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 19/24 in the following terms –

‘Synod, noting the proposal to form Evangelism and Ministry Partnerships (EMP) outlined in the report “Review of the central organisational structures of the Diocese” –

- (a) approves in principle a restructuring of the central media, evangelism, and ministry training organisations of the Diocese into an entity with the purpose, functions and membership as or to the effect of those outlined in the report,
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to continue to consult with the boards of Evangelism and New Churches (ENC), Ministry Training & Development (MT&D), the Anglican Media Council (AMC) and the other bodies involved in this proposal to determine the optimal structure to achieve the purposes and priorities for the Diocesan Fellowship and to consult with specialists in organisational design and change management as necessary, and
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to take such other steps it considers necessary or desirable to achieve this outcome and report progress to the next ordinary session of the Synod in 2025.’

and referred the request of the resolution to the Central Diocesan Structures Review Committee.

22/24 Declarations regarding disqualifying offences

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 22/24 in the following terms –

‘Synod, noting –

- (i) the “Declaration” in clause 6 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* in which the declarant affirms, inter alia, that they have not been convicted of a disqualifying offence listed in Schedule 2 of the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*,
- (ii) the equivalent declarations made by persons nominated or appointed as a parish councillor or warden in the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*, and
- (iii) that the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012* (the Act) states in section 18 that Working With Children Check clearances must not be granted to “disqualified persons”, defined (in part) as a person convicted of an offence specified in Schedule 2, “if the offence was committed as an adult” (emphasis added),

requests the Standing Committee to –

- (a) examine (or ask a suitable body to examine) the wording of these declarations in the light of the qualification contained in the Act,
- (b) consider whether the ordinance declarations should be amended to bring them in line with the Act, and
- (c) report and, if necessary, bring a suitable bill, to the next session of the Synod.’

and requested the Diocesan Secretary to arrange for a report to be provided to the Standing Committee, via the Safe Ministry Board, by the July 2025 meeting of the Standing Committee for promotion to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

29/24 Confidential Lifestyle Questionnaire

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 29/24 in the following terms –

‘Synod requests a review of the Confidential Lifestyle Questionnaire (CLQ) by the ODSM to –

- (a) consider the purpose and necessity of every question for individuals who have experienced significant trauma in their past,
- (b) consider extending the offer of professional support to people who fear the experience of completing the CLQ in case it is experienced as a re-traumatising event, and
- (c) consider including a space to testify to the work of Christ in their life.’

and noted that the request of the resolution has been referred to the ODSM.

33/24 Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 33/24 in the following terms –

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

- (a) agrees to the creation of a position known as the Director of Indigenous Ministry, to be appointed by the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples’ Ministry Committee with the concurrence of the Archbishop,
- (b) agrees that the role of the Director of Indigenous Ministry should be funded through an increase from 1% to 1.5% in the amount of the total available income for Synod that is applied to the Indigenous Peoples’ Ministry Trust Fund,
- (c) agrees that the Director of Indigenous Ministry should be an ex officio member of the Synod as an additional Nominated Indigenous Representative, and an ex officio member of the Standing Committee, and
- (d) requests the Standing Committee amend the *Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples’ Ministry Ordinance 2002* as required to give effect to the creation of the Director of Indigenous Ministry.’

and requested the Diocesan Secretary to arrange for an ordinance to amend the *Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples’ Ministry Ordinance 2002*, in accordance with the request of the Synod, to be prepared in consultation with SAIPMC, and brought to a future meeting.

36/24 Parish Governance Policy – implementation

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 36/24 in the following terms –

‘Synod –

- (a) requests the Standing Committee to review the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*, other ordinances relating to the financial and property affairs of parishes, and other ordinances (as applicable) with a view to amending them to achieve conformity with the Parish Governance Policy by or at the next session of the Synod,
- (b) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the Parish Governance Policy, unless before such amendment is made, any 3 members of the Standing Committee request in writing that the amendment be referred to the Synod, and provided any amendment made by the Standing Committee is reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod,
- (c) acknowledges and gives thanks for the persons responsible for the financial and property affairs of parishes who give generously of their time, energy and skills to exercise the responsibilities with which they have been entrusted.’

and agreed to consider appointing a committee to address the request of resolution 36/24 at its meeting on 18 November 2024.

40/24 Funding for research

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 40/24 in the following terms –

‘Synod, noting the discussions at this session of Synod regarding increasing Diocesan attention on the collection of, and research into, church attendance data and related statistical analysis, requests the Standing Committee to work with Anglicare to determine appropriate ways to support and fund such work over the 2025-27 funding triennium.’

and –

- (a) referred the request of the resolution to the Diocesan Resources Committee (DRC), and
- (b) requested the DRC to bring a report with recommendations by the June 2025 meeting of the Standing Committee, noting that Anglicare’s subsidisation of the NCLS will expire on 30 June 2025.

41/24 Variable Parochial Cost Recoveries percentage

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 41/24 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting that the variable Parochial Cost Recoveries (PCR) percentage payable by parishes with property has increased from 5.2% to 8.3% over the last 10 years, requests the Standing Committee to bring to the 2025 Synod –

- (a) a report on the feasibility of putting a maximum cap on the variable PCR percentage payable by parishes with property, after seeking feedback from parishes about the effect on them of the seemingly ever-increasing variable PCR percentage,
- (b) a recommendation of what the long-term maximum cap on the variable PCR percentage payable by parishes with property might be, and
- (c) any other relevant recommendations.'

and –

- (a) referred the request of the resolution to the Diocesan Resources Committee (DRC), and
- (b) requested the DRC to bring a report with recommendations by the July 2025 meeting of the Standing Committee for promotion to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

42/24 Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 42/24 in the following terms –

'Synod, noting the defunding of the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (TEMOC) in the 2025-2027 Diocesan budget, cutting TEMOC funding from \$112k in 2024 to zero –

- (a) gives thanks for the work of TEMOC since 2010 in supporting and encouraging ministry among Tertiary students, including the distribution \$1.5 million of Synod funding used to leverage growth of a wide range of tertiary ministries and the training of Ministry Apprentices,
- (b) gives thanks for the way TEMOC has helped fund 32 theologically trained gospel workers and 185 Ministry Apprentices over this time, focusing on providing seed funding for new trained worker positions with a special emphasis on Western Sydney University, cross-cultural workers and female workers,
- (c) asks TEMOC to continue its work to encourage Tertiary Education Ministries in whatever way possible despite the current lack of funding, and
- (d) requests the Standing Committee to continue to consider how funding for TEMOC might be possible in the production of future Synod funding Ordinances.'

and referred the request of paragraph (d) the resolution to the Diocesan Resources Committee.

47/24 Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese

48/24 Prioritisation of ministry to youth and children

Noting of Synod resolution 47/24

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 47/24 in the following terms –

"Synod, noting the report '64/23 Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese' –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the recent "partial post-Covid recovery" and calls for confession and humble repentance, where we have fallen short in not giving sufficient priority, attention, reflection and resources to seeing the lost throughout the Diocese of Sydney saved by Jesus,
- (b) recommits to support our Archbishop's purpose and priorities for the Diocesan fellowship to multiply Christians, churches and leaders, and invites our Archbishop, Bishops, Regional Councils, Mission Area Leaders, Senior Ministers, other ministers and lay ministers, training colleges and other diocesan organisations, to give a special five year focus to respond to our attendance decline, making prayer, evangelism, church health and leadership development our chief priorities,
- (c) asks the parishes and mission areas of the Diocese to prayerfully consider the data and recommendations of the report, to decide on appropriate steps to take in light of the report,
- (d) asks the Standing Committee to consider the data and recommendations of the report, to decide on appropriate steps to take in light of the report, and to bring a report to the next session of the Synod with an update on progress, and

- (e) asks the Standing Committee to review how we collect our attendance and mission data (based on appropriate age cohorts) and to schedule a detailed attendance report (by region and mission area) for the first session of each subsequent synod (including where possible alignment with NCLS church health and leadership statistics)."

Noting of Synod resolution 48/24

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 48/24 in the following terms –

“Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to the Lord for the faithful ministry efforts of both laity and clergy in the Diocese of Sydney since 1788, the crucial work of Moore Theological College, Anglicare, Youthworks, Anglican schools and other ministry organisations in supporting the ministry of the Diocese’s churches, the visionary and theological leadership of Archbishops and other leaders, and the property and financial resources which facilitate the ministry of the Word,
- (b) laments the decline in attendance throughout the Diocese as a whole over the last decade,
- (c) therefore requests the Standing Committee, as it considers the ‘Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese’ report, to also consider–
 - (i) what might be the possible operational, clergy recruitment and training, property and financial consequences for the whole diocesan fellowship, if the rate of church attendance decline continues for another decade, and
 - (ii) what measures could be taken by parishes and other diocesan organisations and leaders to address the possible operational consequences identified in paragraph (c)(i), and
- (d) requests both parishes and the Standing Committee to consider how parishes might be encouraged to strategically allocate financial, property and human resources so that ministry to children and youth is prioritised, even over other important ministries, for the future health of our churches.’

Appointment of committee

Standing Committee agreed to consider appointing a committee to address the request of paragraph (d) of resolution 47/24 and paragraphs (c) and (d) of resolution 48/24 at its meeting on 18 November 2024.

Review of the collection of data

Standing Committee requested the former members of the Attendance Patterns Committee, subject to their agreement, in consultation with the Registrar, to –

- (a) review the collection of attendance and mission data, as per paragraph (e) of resolution 47/24, and
- (b) bring a report with recommendations by the July 2025 meeting of the Standing Committee for promotion to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

Request for report

Standing Committee requested SDS to consider how a “detailed attendance report (by region and mission area) for the first session of each subsequent synod (including where possible alignment with NCLS church health and leadership statistics)” may be prepared, as per paragraph (e) of resolution 47/24, and report to a future meeting of the Standing Committee.

49/24 Use of Non-Disclosure Agreements in the Diocese

Noting of Synod resolution

Standing Committee noted that Synod passed resolution 49/24 in the following terms –

‘Synod, noting the report “Use of Non-Disclosure Agreements in the Diocese” –

- (a) endorses the principles articulated by the Report,
- (b) endorses the recommendations made at paragraphs 36, 37, and 38 of the Report, and the following additional uses of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) deemed not to contravene any of the Report’s principles –

- (i) where an NDA is employed to ensure confidentiality with respect to other financial settlement terms in an employment separation, namely the nature of the financial settlement itself, and other benefits in addition to a financial sum,
 - (ii) where an NDA is employed to ensure appropriate confidentiality of personal information (e.g., for the purposes of compliance with privacy legislation),
 - (iii) where an obligation is included in a contract which requires an employee or contractor to maintain confidentiality in respect to information they become aware of in the course of their employment/engagement, except insofar as disclosure is necessary for the proper performance of their duties, to disclose allegations of misconduct to a relevant authority, or to comply with the law, and
 - (iv) where a confidentiality agreement is, for any reason, required by law,
- (c) laments and condemns non-disclosure agreements where they are, or have been used to cover up sin, silence victims, or avoid accountability,
- (d) calls to repentance anyone who has knowingly and intentionally used non-disclosure agreements for the purpose of covering up sin, silencing victims or avoiding accountability,
- (e) encourages all parishes, diocesan organisations, and schools to –
- (i) adopt a policy in relation to the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) which reflects the principles of the Report and the recommendations made at paragraphs 36, 37, and 38, or
 - (ii) make a public “pledge” in relation to the use of NDAs which reflects the principles of the Report and the recommendations made at paragraphs 36, 37, and 38,
- (f) requests the Standing Committee to develop and publish a model policy and a model pledge in relation to the use of NDAs which reflects the principles of the Report and the recommendations made at paragraphs 36, 37, and 38 and to circulate this policy and pledge to all parishes, diocesan organisations and schools with an encouragement to consider adopting one or the other,
- (g) encourages all parishes, diocesan organisations, and schools to consider whether they have used NDAs in the past which contravene the principles and recommendations of the Report, and, if they have done so, to welcome approaches from those who may have been subject to such NDAs (or their representative) with a view to considering the offer of an apology for the use of such NDAs, and, the offer of a formal (written) release from the terms of the NDA, and
- (h) agrees to consider a motion at the next session of Synod by which the Synod will apologise to all those who have, historically, been subject to NDAs which contravene the principles and recommendations of the Report.’

and requested the former NDA Committee to reconvene to –

- (a) consider the requests of paragraphs (f) and (h) of the resolution, and
- (b) to bring a report with recommendations by the July 2025 meeting of the Standing Committee for promotion to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

32/22 Financial support for the Diocese of Bathurst

Standing Committee –

- (a) agreed that the Synod should be provided an annual report from the Diocese of Bathurst, for the duration of the period in which financial support is supplied by our Synod, which describes the way our financial support is being used and bearing fruit, and
- (b) requested the Diocesan Secretary to make arrangements with the Diocese of Bathurst for the provision of a report to the Standing Committee each year in time to be published in Synod Book 1.

Other Matters

Authorisation for use of the Church Name

Standing Committee noted a report from the Diocesan Secretary.

Finance Committee's terms of reference

Noting of report

Standing Committee noted a report from the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Adoption of terms of reference

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

Royal Visit to Australia by His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla

Standing Committee –

- (a) thanked God for the leadership of the Archbishop, the Bishop of North Sydney, and the rectors of North Sydney and Church Hill in ensuring His Majesty King Charles and Her Majesty Queen Camilla were so warmly welcomed to the Diocese on Sunday 20 October 2024 at the 10.00am service of morning prayer at St Thomas' North Sydney,
- (b) thanked the parishioners of St Thomas' North Sydney for their generous hospitality in accommodating the Royal visit, and
- (c) expressed its gratitude to the Archbishop for using the occasion of his sermon to point all worshippers to the King of Kings, the Lord Jesus Christ in whom all are welcomed and in whom all can find great eternal joy.

Date of next meeting

Monday 18 November 2024.