

## 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- (b) agreed that the report not be published on the SDS website until after it has been received by the Synod as the requesting body.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 –

<b>Ordinance</b>	<b>Status</b>
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 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 –

<b>Ordinance</b>	<b>Status</b>
<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 53<sup>rd</sup> 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.