

Synod 2018

2nd Ordinary Session of the 51st Synod

DATE: 2 November 2018
ATTENTION: Rectors, Synod representatives, wardens and parish councillors.
FROM: Daniel Glynn, Diocesan Secretary | diocesansecretary@sydney.anglican.asn.au

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Synod at a glance

The 2nd Session of the 51st Synod met in the Wesley Theatre, 220 Pitt Street Sydney, on 15, 16, 17, 22 and 23 October 2018. The Synod passed 50 resolutions (46 in 2017), 8 ordinances (10 in 2017) and 3 policies (1 in 2017); and filled 96 positions on boards and committees (289 in 2017).

This circular outlines the key features of the Synod’s proceedings. The [full proceedings](#) of the Synod can be found on the SDS website.

Presidential Address

The [text of Archbishop Davies’ Presidential Address](#) is available from the [Sydney Anglicans](#) website.

Mission Hour

During Mission Hour this year, the Rev Alan Lukabyo coordinated a series of presentations regarding Gafcon 2018. A video giving an overview of Gafcon was followed by a video interview with Archbishop James Wong (Primate, Indian Ocean), and verbal reports were provided by Sydney representatives who are members of the nine Networks, as follows –

Youth and Children’s Ministry	The Rev Craig Roberts
Church Planting	The Rev Philip Wheeler
Theological Education	The Rev Dr Andrew Shead / The Rev Dr Ed Loane
Bishops Training Institute	Bishop Peter Hayward
Mothers Union and Senior Women	Mrs Christine Jensen
Intercessors Fellowship	Archdeacon Geoff Huard
Lawyers Task Force	Dr Robert Tong
Sustainable Development	Mr Aiden McCorkindale
Global Mission Partnerships	Canon Malcolm Richards

Archbishop Glenn Davies and Archbishop Peter Jensen concluded the session.

Synod's key decisions

Financial support for the Diocese of Bathurst – Synod agreed to provide financial support of \$250,000 per year towards the costs of a Bishop and his registrar for the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst for a period of six years, subject to the Bishop of Bathurst during that time having the written support of the Archbishop of Sydney. (See *resolution 8/18*)

Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese – Synod requested a report for Synod in 2020 detailing an appropriate outworking of the Bible's teaching on reconciliation, and providing recommendations as to how the Diocese (organisations, parishes and individuals) might acknowledge past failures in relationships with this nation's First Peoples, and find ways to become more intentionally involved with the ministry of the gospel to and with Indigenous peoples. (See *resolution 22/18*)

Parochial Cost Recoveries and Church Land Acquisition – By the *Parochial Cost Recoveries and Church Land Acquisition Levy Ordinance 2018*, Synod specified cost recoveries charges for parishes, and continued a 2% levy to fund the acquisition of new church sites. (See p.6)

Property Receipts Levy Ordinance 2018 – By the *Property Receipts Levy Ordinance 2018*, Synod implemented a levy on net property

income in parishes, with effect from income received in 2019. (See p.6)

Responding to Domestic Abuse – Synod adopted the Sydney Anglican Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse, intended to inform, direct and equip Christians to offer the most appropriate care in circumstances of domestic abuse. (See p.7)

Synod Appropriations and Allocations – By the *Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2018*, Synod allocated funding of \$6.18 million for 2019 and expressed Synod's intentions for the allocation of funding in 2020 and 2021. (See p.7)

Use of Church Property – By the *Sydney Anglican Use of Church Property Ordinance 2018* and Property Use Policy, the Synod brought together in one document various existing ordinances and resolutions of the Synod regarding the purposes for which church property may be used. (See p.7)

Voluntary Relinquishment of Incumbency – Synod adopted the Policy for Voluntary Relinquishment of Incumbency, intended to facilitate a dignified pathway for rectors to relinquish their incumbency. (See p.7)

Actions for parishes and Synod members

The policies and guidelines adopted by the Synod are available on [Policies and Guidelines](#) page on the [SDS website](#). Direct links to the relevant documents are also provided in the text below.

Healthy Parish Relationships Guidelines – Synod approved [Healthy Parish Relationships Guidelines](#), which is a document designed to assist churches and ministers to work together. The document sets out the relevant documents (laws, ordinances and other related guidelines) that govern the way we relate in the church, before describing the

relationships of the rector to the church, and the rector to staff members. The guidelines also provide suggestions for rectors, wardens, nominators and parish councils in handling appointments, entitlements, professional development, disagreements, and ministry outside of the parish, among others.

Child Sexual Abuse Laws in NSW – Synod welcomed changes made by the NSW Parliament in June 2018 to strengthen laws in relation to child sexual abuse and noted that the changes include two new offences: failure to report child sexual abuse, and failure to protect a child, when having authority to reduce the risk of child abuse by another person. (See resolution 3/18)

Lifelong Ministry Development (LMD) – Synod noted that LMD is available to be used by both lay and ordained ministers; thanked God that 268 people had taken advantage of the subscription in 2018; noted that subscriptions are now open for 2019; and encouraged all other clergy and lay ministers to use the LMD pathway for their professional development in 2019. (Visit www.mtd.org.au/lmd and see resolution 16/18)

Anglicare Family and Domestic Violence Advisor – Synod acknowledged the work of Ms Lynda Dunstan, the Anglicare Family and Domestic Violence Advisor, noting 13 training programs delivered to churches; support provided to ministry wives who have been victims of domestic abuse; the possibility of establishing a support group for ministry wives; and training provided for those involved in ESL ministry. Synod encouraged churches to make contact with Ms Dunstan (0438 826 556, during business hours) as part of their ongoing training and development in understanding of Domestic Abuse and implementation of the Domestic Abuse policy in their churches. (See resolution 6/18)

Responding to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Good Practice Guidelines – Synod passed the [Sydney Anglican Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse](#) as a policy of the Synod, and encouraged all parishes to consider adopting the suggested parish policy statement (within the resource section) as their own parish policy on domestic abuse, or to revise their existing policy. (See also the description of the policy on p.7 of this circular, and resolution 23/18.)

Remarriage of divorced persons – Synod, noting that it is the prerogative of the Archbishop or a Regional Bishop, in accordance with the laws of this Church, whether or not to approve the remarriage of a divorced person, requested the Archbishop and Regional Bishops to consider approving the remarriage of a divorced person, where that person has been abused physically or emotionally by their former spouse. (See resolution 50/18)

Working With Children Check clearances – Synod noted that the Working With Children Check (WWCC) clearances introduced by the NSW Government in 2013 have a 5 year currency, and all those who are involved with ministry to children as well as those who hold a licence or authority from the Archbishop are required to hold a current WWCC clearance and therefore original clearances need to be renewed as they fall due. Synod also noted that the Archbishop has an obligation to suspend or revoke licences or authorities for anyone who does not have a current WWCC clearance. (See resolution 30/18)

Pastoral care in our churches – Synod affirmed that all people, regardless of gender and sexual orientation, are made in the image of God and deeply loved by him, and recognised that Christ's teaching in Matthew 19, which requires either faithfulness in marriage or abstinence in singleness, is a particular struggle for those with desires that cannot be faithfully expressed. Synod therefore called upon our churches to be safe places for all people, and to provide appropriate pastoral care for all. (See resolution 31/18)

Synod business rules – Synod encouraged Members to provide comments regarding the trial arrangements concerning moving amendments to motions, and any other matters concerning the conduct of Synod business, to the [Diocesan Secretary](#) by 30 November 2018. (See resolution 40/18)

Appointment of assistant ministers and employment of stipendiary lay workers – Synod, among other things, encouraged Rectors to undertake training in staff management; and requested wardens and rectors to use the standard-form letters issued by SDS for the employment of Lay Ministers and appointment of Assistant Ministers. (See resolution 45/18)

Property Use Policy – Synod adopted the [Property Use Policy](#) as a Policy of the Synod, and requested Synod members to provide feedback on the policy to the [Diocesan Secretary](#) by 28 February 2019. (The policy is described in the Ordinances and Polices section on p.7 of this circular. See also resolution 47/18.)

Matters for prayer and consideration in parishes

The centenary of Bush Church Aid – Synod noted that the Bush Church Aid Society was founded at St Andrew's Cathedral in May 1919, and gave thanks to God for 100 years of BCA seeking to "reach Australia for Christ" in remote, rural, and regional Australia, and in particular with Indigenous Australians. Synod encouraged parishes to join with BCA in their Centenary celebrations on Sunday 26 May 2019, and encouraged church members to continue to pray for and financially support gospel ministry in "the bush". (See resolution 13/18)

Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia blessing of same sex marriages – Synod noted with deep regret the recent decision by Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia to allow the blessing of same-sex civil marriages. The Synod, among other things –

- gave thanks for the courageous leadership of biblically faithful Anglicans in New Zealand and Polynesia remaining true to the teaching of Christ irrespective of the relational and material cost, and called upon parishes in this Diocese to pray for these faithful Anglicans, and
- noted that Gafcon Australia has launched an appeal (through Anglican Aid) to provide emergency financial support for these ministers and their families, and encouraged the parishes and people of this Diocese to consider making a contribution as a practical expression of fellowship with New Zealand brothers and sisters. (See resolution 17/18)

Missional support for the Diocese of Bathurst – Synod gave thanks for our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Bathurst who are committed to proclaiming the crucified and risen Lord Jesus to the people of Central and Western NSW, and called on the parishes of the Sydney Diocese to pray for the salvation of many souls in Central and Western NSW through this gospel proclamation. (See resolutions 8/18 and 20/18)

Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese – Synod commended to the prayers and interest of Synod members the parishes, Diocesan schools, organisations, committees and individuals involved in ministry with Indigenous people, and in particular the prioritisation to raise up the next generations of Indigenous Christian leadership. (See resolution 22/18)

Religious Freedom – Synod gave thanks to God for the remarkable freedoms which we have enjoyed to live out the Christian faith, and noted the terrible contrast with the persecution faced by so many of our brothers and sisters around the world and within the Anglican communion. Synod also recognised the importance of religious freedom to the good work done by our churches, schools and Anglicare, and to the ability of people in our nation with very different beliefs to live together well,

and called on churches in the Diocese to keep praying for federal parliamentarians to be wise in the laws that are made so that 'we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness' (1 Timothy 2.2). (See resolution 41/18)

GAFCON 2018 – Synod gave thanks for the gathering of 1950 Anglicans from 50 countries at the Global Anglican Future Conference held in Jerusalem 17-22 June 2018, and welcomed the conference statement, 'Letter to the Churches', commending it to the clergy and people of the Diocese for study, encouragement and prayers.

Synod also gave thanks for the prayers and financial contributions of parishes, clergy and people providing bursaries for delegates to the conference, and commended Sydney delegates to the conference for their generous contribution in numerous and varied ways including as volunteers, presenters, and Networks facilitators, and especially on the Conference Organising Committee.

Finally, Synod expressed its fellowship with Anglicans within the GAFCON movement independent of their 'recognition' by the Archbishop of Canterbury. (See resolution 48/18)

Further resolutions of interest to parishes

The attachment to this circular sets out all the resolutions passed by the Synod. The following resolutions may be of particular interest to rectors, wardens and parish councillors –

- 4/18 People affected by disability
- 5/18 Evangelism and New Churches' support for evangelism in parishes
- 7/18 "Jesus Is _____"
- 12/18 Approval and consultation process of parish property developments
- 18/18 The nature of marriage
- 25/18 Administration of the Anglican National Super Fund
- 29/18 St Andrew's Cathedral Anniversaries
- 49/18 Gender Identity Guidelines

Ordinances and policies

The Synod passed 8 ordinances and 3 policies. Following are brief notes on each of them.

General Synod – Canon Concerning Special Tribunal (Limitation Period) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2018 – By this ordinance, the Synod adopted the *General Synod – Canon Concerning Special Tribunal (Limitation Period) Canon 2017* (the 2017 Canon). Under the *Special Tribunal Canon 2007* the Episcopal Standards Commission (ESC) is permitted to take action in respect to certain complaints only if the offence is alleged to have occurred within the prior 12 months. The 2017 Canon removes unnecessary complexity, with the effect being that the only

offences subject to the limitation period of 12 months are: breach of faith, ritual or ceremonial; drunkenness; and wilful failure to pay just debts.

General Synod – Constitution (Appellate Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017 Assenting Ordinance 2018 – By this ordinance, the Synod adopted the *General Synod – Constitution (Appellate Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017* (the Canon). The Canon allows General Synod to legislate in regards to part-heard matters and removes the power that members

of the Appellate Tribunal previously had to appoint replacements for members unable to sit, instead allowing the appointment of reserve members of the Tribunal to take the place of a member.

General Synod – Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2018 – This ordinance deferred indefinitely the commencement of the *General Synod – Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017*, since the *Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2018* (passed by Standing Committee in September 2018) mirrored the provisions of the Canon, except those provisions that were deemed unsuitable or unworkable in this Diocese.

Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2018 – This ordinance amended the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* by, among other things –

- modifying the definition of ‘misconduct’ to include failing to comply with mandatory reporting obligations and failing to satisfactorily complete safe ministry training,
- inserting a new part to provide an expedited process for issuing prohibition orders in relation to church workers who have been convicted of serious criminal offences,
- giving Adjudicators some discretion with regard to whom they provide their proposed recommendations for a response prior to finalisation,
- allowing the Archbishop to release information in relation to complaints when he is not the relevant Church authority, and
- requiring Church authorities to consult with the Director of Professional Standards before releasing information.

Parochial Cost Recoveries and Church Land Acquisition Levy Ordinance 2018 – This Ordinance specified the cost recoveries charge to be paid by each parochial unit in 2019, 2020 and 2021, and continues a 2% levy

on the net operating receipts of parishes to fund the acquisition of new church sites.

Parochial network costs are expected to rise sharply in coming years, from approximately 5% in 2018, to 6.1% in 2019, then 6.6% and 7.0% in 2020 and 2021 respectively. These increases are due principally to a large increase in the expected cost of the parish property and liability insurance program, additional costs associated with the running of the Professional Standards Unit, the new management fee structure for the Anglican Church Property Trust, and funding for both the Ministry Spouse Support Fund and the Voluntary Relinquishment of Incumbency program.

Property Receipts Levy Ordinance 2018 – This ordinance implemented a levy on parish property income (net of certain expenses) greater than \$50,000; unless the property income is already subject to contribution under ordinance. The levy amount is 15% of net property income greater than \$50k pa, with higher percentages progressively applying if the net property income exceeds \$100k pa.

The levy utilises a *Property Income Worksheet* (PIW), to be completed by each parish annually from end-2019 in conjunction with annual financial returns, detailing property income and relevant expenses in order to calculate the net property income to which the levy is applied. The PIW will be made available to parishes alongside the Prescribed Financial Statements for end-2019, to be submitted for the first time with annual financial returns in early 2020, and charged in 2021.

The ordinance provides a staged introduction to the levy, whereby only 33% of the levy is payable in the first year (income received in 2019, payable in 2021) and 67% is payable in the second year (income received in 2020, payable in 2022). Accordingly, the first year that the levy applies in full, will be on property income received in 2021, payable in 2023.

Sydney Anglican Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse – The *Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse* and *Good Practice Guidelines* together aim to inform, direct and equip Christians to offer the most appropriate care in circumstances of domestic abuse. This includes not only those in pastoral ministries, but also those who may be called upon by victims or alleged or known perpetrators to hear their story. Having adopted the policy, the Synod requested that the Policy and Guidelines be professionally laid out and distributed to all parishes, which is anticipated to be undertaken early in 2019.

Sydney Anglican Use of Church Property Ordinance 2018 and **Property Use Policy** – The *Property Use Policy* brings together in one document various existing ordinances and resolutions of the Synod regarding the use of church property. The Policy is grounded in theological principles (doctrines, tenets and beliefs), grouped according to doctrines of salvation, the human person, marriage and human sexuality, and Christian freedom. The Policy requires that church property must not be used for purposes which contravene these principles, and offers guidance to wardens, ministers, members of governing boards and others involved in decisions involving the use of church property by giving examples of uses that would be inconsistent with these doctrines.

The *Sydney Anglican Use of Property Ordinance 2018* provides an ordinance framework for the Policy and requires diocesan bodies to only use or allow the use of Church property for acts or practices which

conform to the doctrines, tenets and beliefs of the Diocese. The ordinance includes transitional arrangements for any acts or practices on Church property which are permitted or authorised under a lease or licence that is already in effect.

Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2018 – This ordinance allocated Synod funding of \$6.18 million for 2019 (an increase of 11% from 2018) and expressed Synod's intentions for the allocation of funding in 2020 and 2021. The funding allocations reflect the *Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities* received by the Synod in 2017, and included notable increases to support the work of Ministry Training and Development, the Anglican Education Commission, and Work Outside the Diocese. The allocations also included \$250,000 to provide funding for the Diocese of Bathurst.

Voluntary Relinquishment of Incumbency Policy – This policy is intended to facilitate a dignified pathway for a rector, in consultation with his parish and the regional bishop, to relinquish his incumbency; and sets out the expectations upon parishes and clergy in such a situation. The policy establishes the general expectation that a negotiated voluntary relinquishment of incumbency would typically result in the individual receiving payment and benefits approximating the equivalent of 6 months of an incumbent's normal remuneration and benefits, funded jointly by the parish and the Diocese.

Kind regards



Daniel Glynn
Diocesan Secretary

Resolutions of the 2nd Session of the 51st Synod

1/18 The Archbishop of Sydney's Bishop for International Relations

Synod –

- (a) notes that 7 June 2019 will mark the 10th anniversary of the appointment of Bishop Peter Tasker as the Archbishop of Sydney's Bishop for International Relations,
- (b) thanks Peter for his industrious ministry in this role as he has travelled extensively to develop and maintain close personal relationships with Diocesan Bishops and others in various provinces, especially in Asia and Africa,
- (c) thanks Peter's wife, Joan, for the support she has given to Peter as he has undertaken these tasks, often involving extensive travel in difficult circumstances and considerable absences from home,
- (d) encourages Peter to remain in this role for as long as he and the Archbishop consider it appropriate,
- (e) expresses its appreciation to the then Archbishop, Dr Peter Jensen for creating this role and making this appointment,
- (f) encourages the Archbishop, together with the Standing Committee as appropriate, to consider how the ministry of the Diocese of Sydney can be enhanced by appointment of skilled persons to innovative ministry roles.

(Dr Robert Tong AM 15/10/2018)

2/18 Healthy Parish Relationships Guidelines

Synod, noting the report 33/17 Licensing of Incumbents – Final report –

- (a) approves Healthy Parish Relationships Guidelines included as Attachment 1 to the report, and asks that these Guidelines be made available on a suitable website and promoted through –
 - (i) the Developing Rectors course,
 - (ii) a post-AGM circular to wardens (utilising the contact details in Salesforce), and
 - (iii) online training delivered by agencies such as the Centre for Ministry Development and Ministry Training & Development, and
- (b) asks the Registrar to include in the Guidelines for Nominators provided to parish nominators in accordance with Clause 41 of the *Nominations Ordinance 2006* some possible questions about the matters raised in the report.

(The Rev Phil Wheeler 15/10/2018)

3/18 Strengthening Child Sexual Abuse Laws in NSW

Synod welcomes the changes made by the NSW Parliament in June 2018 to strengthen laws in relation to child sexual abuse and thanks the Attorney General for introducing these changes.

Synod notes the changes include two new offences being –

- (a) a person's failure to report child sexual abuse, and
- (b) a person's failure to protect a child, when having authority to reduce the risk of child abuse by another person does not appropriately or adequately exercise that authority.

(Mr Lachlan Bryant 15/10/2018)

4/18 People affected by disability

Synod, noting Resolution 34/09 which, among other things –

- (a) recognised "that for people with disabilities, their families and carers, daily life can be practically, financially, socially and emotionally more difficult than it is for most people", and
- (b) called on parishes to "develop and implement a plan to remove those obstacles that currently prevent people affected by disability from hearing the gospel and sharing in Christian fellowship",

requests the Standing Committee in consultation with Dr Louise Gosbell (who was involved in Resolution 34/09 through a survey in 2010) to survey parishes regarding the implementation of the request of resolution 34/09, and provide a report to the next ordinary session of Synod.

Further, Synod notes that a number of parishes have established the Jesus Club for adults with intellectual disabilities and commends the Jesus Club as one model of ministry to people with disabilities, able to provide opportunities to share the gospel and provide fellowship.

(The Rev Phil Wheeler 15/10/2018)

5/18 Evangelism and New Churches' support for evangelism in parishes

Synod –

- (i) praises God for the wonderful news of the Gospel; rejoicing in the message that Christ Jesus died for our sins and rose for our justification, that all people who trust in Him might be saved,
- (ii) praises God for the privilege of sharing in the spread of that Gospel to our city and the world,
- (iii) gives thanks to God for the evangelical character of our Diocese and especially the way that Gospel proclamation and evangelism has always been at the very centre of our mission, and
- (iv) gives thanks to God for the ministry of Evangelism and New Churches (formerly the Department of Evangelism) and the work it has done over many years to encourage churches in evangelism, equip church members for the task of evangelism, raise up and deploy evangelists to preach the Good News in many and various settings and more recently support and foster church planting.

Accordingly, Synod strongly supports ENC's policy 4: regrow mission and the evangelistic edge of existing churches and requests –

- (a) ENC to prioritise development and execution of concrete strategies to encourage, support and equip parishes in their evangelism, and
- (b) Standing Committee –
 - (i) to identify ways that ENC might be better equipped and funded to increase that area of its work that focuses on policy 4 and encouraging, supporting and equipping parishes in their evangelism, and
 - (ii) to prioritise funding of that work when additional funds become available over this triennium and in determining future funding principles and priorities.

(The Rev Craig Schafer 15/10/2018)

6/18 Appreciation for the Anglicare Family and Domestic Violence Advisor

Synod acknowledges the work being done by Ms Lynda Dunstan, the Anglicare Family and Domestic Violence Advisor, and –

- (a) gives thanks to God for –
 - (i) the 13 training programs that Ms Dunstan has delivered to churches,
 - (ii) the support that Ms Dunstan has provided, in conjunction with the Rev Cath Wynn Jones of the PSU, to ministry wives who have been victims of domestic abuse,
 - (iii) Ms Dunstan's exploration of the possibility of establishing a support group for ministry wives addressing areas specifically associated with spiritual abuse,
 - (iv) the training Ms Dunstan has provided for those involved in ESL ministry, and
- (b) encourages churches to make contact with Ms Dunstan as part of their ongoing training and development in understanding of Domestic Abuse and implementation of the Domestic Abuse policy in their churches.

(The Rev Mark Tough 15/10/2018)

7/18 “Jesus Is _____”

This Synod gives thanks for the gospel cooperation evident in “Jesus Is _____.” mission held throughout the entire Wollongong Region of the Diocese during March 2018. This was an answer to many people’s prayers.

Specifically, the Synod is grateful to God for the initiative of the Bishop of Wollongong, Peter Hayward, and the hard work in planning and coordination of the Mission Area Leaders of Shoalhaven, Southern Highlands, Lake Illawarra, Wollongong, Macarthur and Sutherland Shire areas. We are glad for the way this was followed up by local initiative and cooperation from Anglican parishes, schools and organisations like Anglicare, and for the exceptional mission “boost” received from the visit of the entire body of Moore College mission teams across the region. We rejoice in the diversity of events and initiatives in training and outreach taken with a view to get people talking about Jesus, noting a helpful combination of centralised theme and local variety. And we especially give thanks for many local church members who took additional steps in ‘going public’ for Jesus.

Although numbers do not by any means capture the total effect of the mission, we note –

- that over 11,500 people in the Wollongong region attended outreach events, including 2,000 at various performances of The Mark Drama, including 700 visitors;
- that almost 10,000 students heard the gospel in schools across the region, approximately 50/50 in public and Anglican school;
- that over 6,500 handouts were delivered to commuters at train stations across our region;
- that over 90,000 flyers were delivered to letterboxes or otherwise distributed;
- that 8,500 “Jesus Is _____.” items of merchandise were sold and distributed;
- that an estimated 8,000 extra conversations about Jesus were reported over the month;
- that 450 decisions for Christ, including new commitments and recommitments, were expressed through the mission;
- and that an estimated 2,500 new contacts were made by our churches and organisations, including 350 or so people newly (or newly back) in church.

Synod gives thanks to God for the immeasurable work of the Holy Spirit in individual people’s lives, bringing people to faith in Jesus for the first time and increasing courage in faith for existing disciples of Jesus.

Synod also gives thanks to God for the fine qualities and hard work displayed by the students, faculty and chaplains of Moore Theological College on mission in the Wollongong Region.

And Synod commends consideration of similar regional evangelistic campaigns in other regions of the Diocese, building upon insights and lessons learned from the “Jesus Is _____.” mission.

(Canon Sandy Grant 15/10/2018)

8/18 Financial support for the Diocese of Bathurst

Synod, noting the report Proposal to financially support the Diocese of Bathurst, agrees in principle to provide financial support of \$250,000 per year towards the costs of a Bishop and his registrar for the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst for a period of six years, subject to the Bishop of Bathurst during that time having the written support of the Archbishop of Sydney.

(Dr Karin Sowada 15/10/2018)

9/18 Responsible persons for Diocesan Organisations

Synod, noting that under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) –

- (a) a “registered entity” means “an entity that is registered under this [ACNC] Act”, and
- (b) a “responsible entity” has “the meaning given by section 205-30” of the ACNC Act,

requests the Diocesan Secretary to remind all Diocesan organisations registered under the ACNC Act that the list of Responsible Persons for the organisation shown on the ACNC website needs to be accurate and kept up-to-date with all current responsible entities listed.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett 16/10/2018)

10/18 The contribution of churches and other Christian organisations to the Australian economy

Synod, noting –

- (a) the increasing opposition from certain sections of Australian society to the Christian faith and, in particular, its public expression through the activities of churches and Christian organisations, and
- (b) that a recent study in the USA found that the total economic contribution of religious activity (predominantly Christian) amounts to nearly \$1.2 trillion per annum – a significant proportion of that nation's GDP of about \$20 trillion,

considers that such a study for Australia could be a salutary reminder to our secular society of the substantial economic value of Christianity and therefore requests that Standing Committee investigate how the contributions of churches and other Christian organisations to the Australian economy could best be determined, and report back to the next ordinary session of Synod.

(Dr David Oakenfull 16/10/2018)

11/18 Steps taken to encourage ordination

Synod –

- (i) praises God that Moore College trains and equips men and women for a variety of ministries, including but not limited to: ordination as deacons, ordination in other denominations, university ministry, involvement in independent church plants, overseas mission and serving as lay people in their home churches,
- (ii) recognises the important role, under God, that those ordained as Presbyters and who serve as Senior Ministers play in the growth of the Gospel in our Diocese, and
- (iii) praises God for the work of Moore College in training and equipping the ministers who fulfil this role in our Diocese.

In that light, Synod requests Standing Committee to investigate what steps are being taken and what steps could be taken –

- (a) to encourage godly and gifted men and women who are in the process of studying at Moore College to consider ordination as the way that God might desire that they best use the gifts He has given them in his service;
- (b) to prioritise the recruitment of godly and gifted men to study at Moore College with the aim of ordination to the presbyterate.

(The Rev Andrew Bruce 16/10/2018)

12/18 Approval and consultation process of parish property developments

Synod, noting that the Anglican Church Property Trust (ACPT) has prepared guidelines regarding the approval and consultation process of parish property developments, encourages the ACPT in this endeavour, and asks that the Standing Committee define the role of the Mission Property Committee, the Anglican Church Growth Corporation, the ACPT and Standing Committee, and give particular clarity to the timing of consultation of the parish with bodies such as these.

(The Rev Dr Raj Gupta 16/10/18)

13/18 Support of BCA on their centenary

Synod, noting that the Bush Church Aid Society was founded at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney in May 1919 –

- (a) gives thanks to God for 100 years of BCA seeking to "reach Australia for Christ" in remote, rural, and regional Australia, and in particular with Indigenous Australians,
- (b) encourages parishes to join with BCA in their Centenary celebrations on Sunday 26 May 2019, and
- (c) encourages our church members to continue to pray for and financially support gospel ministry in "the bush".

(The Rev Tom Melbourne 16/10/2018)

14/18 The role of the Archbishop of Sydney

Synod expresses its sincere thanks to the Doctrine Commission for preparing the report entitled 'An Evangelical Episcopate' in response to the request made by Synod Resolution 6/15. Synod further agrees to adopt paragraphs 44-50 of the report as the Diocese's definitive statement on the role of the Archbishop of Sydney, as a key reference point for archiepiscopal elections, and requests the Standing Committee to prepare, for consideration at the next session of Synod, a Bill to amend the *Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982* which incorporates the characteristics of the Archbishop of Sydney as expressed in paragraphs 44-50 of the report.

(The Rev Simon Flinders 16/10/2018)

15/18 Sheila Spencer

Synod gives thanks for the life and service of Sheila Spencer, evangelist, servant, trainer, and disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank God for her faithful service in her professional life of nursing but more significantly her ministry life in the Diocese of Sydney, serving for many years at St Stephen's Willoughby, and appointed as the first evangelist for women by John Chapman at the Department of Evangelism in 1992. We are thankful for her evangelistic zeal modelled in her everyday life, and her participation in the training of women to talk about Jesus.

We rejoice that Sheila is liberated from her latter suffering, and now enjoys the joy of eternal life in the presence of her Saviour whom she served and proclaimed throughout her ministry life.

(The Rev Gavin Parsons 16/10/2018)

16/18 Lifelong Ministry Development

Synod, noting last year's resolution 41/17 on Lifelong Ministry Development (LMD), which "encourages all clergy to participate in LMD being operated by MT&D" and "urges parish councillors and lay Synod representatives to support their minister's commitment of time and resources to professional development and reflect this in their parish budget" and noting the Royal Commission's recommendations to Anglican Churches that professional development and professional supervision be mandatory for clergy –

- (a) thanks Ministry Training and Development (MT&D) for launching Lifelong Ministry Development (LMD) as a pathway for intentional, reflective and accountable professional development for clergy and lay ministers in our churches,
- (b) notes that LMD is available to be used by both lay and ordained ministers,
- (c) thanks God that 268 people have taken advantage of the promotional subscription for 2018 and that 101 of those people are actively using this pathway,
- (d) notes that LMD subscriptions are now open for 2019,
- (e) encourages all our other clergy and lay ministers to use the LMD pathway for their professional development in 2019.

(The Rev Gary O'Brien 16/10/2018)

17/18 Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia General Synod decision to bless same sex civil marriages

Synod notes with deep regret the recent decision by Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia General Synod to amend its Canons to allow bishops to authorise clergy to bless same-sex civil marriages, and so in response we –

- (a) call on the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia to return to the clear teaching of Scripture on marriage and the agreed historic position of the Anglican Communion, and affirmed in Lambeth Resolution 1:10 in 1998,
- (b) acknowledge that these actions have impaired the fellowship of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia with all Anglicans who have remained biblically faithful on the teaching of marriage and the agreed historic position of the Anglican Church,

- (c) give thanks to God for the courageous leadership of biblically faithful Anglicans in New Zealand and Polynesia who have chosen to remain true to the teaching of Christ irrespective of the relational and material cost it has brought, and calls upon parishes in this Diocese to pray for these faithful Anglicans,
- (d) note that Gafcon Australia has launched an appeal to provide short term emergency financial support for these ministers and their families and that the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid has offered to accept non-tax deductible donations for that purpose, to be administered by the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans – New Zealand,
- (e) encourage the members of Synod to contribute as they are able to this fund using the response slips provided at Synod, and encourages the parishes and people of the Diocese to consider making a contribution as a practical expression of fellowship with New Zealand brothers and sisters who are making this stand on the truth and trustworthiness of God's Word at considerable personal risk,
- (f) encourage our Archbishop to support those faithful Anglicans as they seek to establish new structures which will enable them to continue to serve the cause of Christ in New Zealand and Polynesia, and
- (g) request the Work Outside the Diocese Committee of the Sydney Standing Committee to investigate means to financially and materially support our faithful brothers and sisters, with whom we continue to share full communion, so as to further the cause of the Gospel throughout the nations of New Zealand and Polynesia.

(The Rev Andrew Bruce 16/10/2018)

18/18 The nature of marriage

Synod, noting that it has been sadly aware for some years of the misuse by some husbands of the biblical teaching on marriage to justify abuse of their wives, requests the Diocesan Doctrine Commission –

- (a) to acknowledge the extreme urgency of addressing prevention of domestic abuse of women within our Diocesan churches; and therefore
- (b) to bring to Synod in 2019, and no later, its conclusions on the referral to it, by Standing Committee, concerning how "the Biblical material on..... the nature of marriage, including the relevance of submission and headship, intersects with domestic abuse, its prevention, and the care of victims in our minds".

(Mrs Susan Hooke 17/10/2018)

19/18 Resignation of Mr Tony Willis as Anglican Schools Corporation Chairman

Synod gives thanks to God for the committed and faithful service of Mr Tony Willis as the Corporation Chairman of Anglican Schools Corporation from 2008 until June 2018. Prior to his election as Corporation Chairman, Mr Willis served as a director of the Board of the Corporation, as well as serving on several of the Board's committees.

Synod acknowledges the continuing growth in the number of students enrolled in the Corporation's schools and directly exposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ – currently with more than 14,000 students across 17 schools with 19 campuses.

Synod prays that God's continued blessings might rest on Tony, and his wife, Judy, as they continue to serve the Lord through Tony's support of the Bishop of Wollongong, as well as through involvement in their local parish.

(Bishop Chris Edwards 17/10/2018)

20/18 Missional support for the Diocese of Bathurst

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Bathurst, who are committed to proclaiming the crucified and risen Lord Jesus to the people of Central and Western NSW,
- (b) commits to pray, and calls on the parishes of the Sydney Diocese to join Synod in praying for the salvation of many souls in Central and Western NSW through this gospel proclamation,

- (c) requests Moore Theological College to offer one mission team annually, over the next 6 years, to serve with the Diocese of Bathurst during Moore College Mission week, in order to learn alongside and assist that diocese in this proclamation of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus.

(The Rev David Morgan 17/10/2018)

21/18 Residence and ministry space for the next Archbishop of Sydney

Synod –

- (a) thanks the Endowment of the See (EOS) committee for its work in progressing the development of a new residence and ministry space for the Archbishop of Sydney,
- (b) thanks Allen Jack + Cottier for their work and presentation today,
- (c) notes that the proposed plan is broadly to do the preliminary work in 2018 (Design, DA's etc...), construction in 2019 and, depending on the time involved in obtaining the necessary approvals, open the building in time for it to become the residence for the next Archbishop of Sydney,
- (d) asks the Standing Committee to provide all possible support to the EOS Committee to ensure the residence as built provides the best possible facilities for the long term purposes of the Archbishop and the Diocese as a whole, and
- (e) asks the EOS Committee to provide an update to Synod in 2019.

(The Rev Dr Antony Barraclough 17/10/2018)

22/18 Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese

Synod commends to the prayers and interest of Synod members the parishes, Diocesan schools, organisations, committees and individuals involved in ministry with Indigenous people, and in particular the prioritisation to raise up the next generations of Indigenous Christian leadership.

Synod –

- (a) requests the Diocesan Doctrine Commission, in consultation with Indigenous Christian leaders nominated by the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee (SAIPMC), to bring a report to the next session of Synod on a theological framework for reconciliation, with special reference to the Indigenous peoples of Australia (providing progress reports to the task force established by the Synod in paragraph (b)),
- (b) hereby establishes a task force consisting of three Indigenous Christians appointed by the SAIPMC, and Dean Kanishka Raffel, the Rev Stuart Crawshaw and the mover (Mr Tony Willis), with power to co-opt, and
- (c) requests the task force to work with the Social Issues Committee to report to the 1st ordinary session of the 52nd Synod detailing an appropriate out-working of the Bible's teaching on reconciliation, and providing recommendations as to how the Diocese as a whole, including organisations, parishes and individuals, might –
 - (i) acknowledge past failures in relationships with this nation's First Peoples, and
 - (ii) find ways to become more intentionally involved with the ministry of the gospel to and with Indigenous peoples.

(Mr Tony Willis 17/10/2018)

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

Synod, having passed the Sydney Anglican Policy on Responding to Domestic Abuse as a policy of the Synod –

- (a) requests Standing Committee to ensure that the "Responding to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Good Practice Guidelines" be professionally laid out and prepared for publication and distribution to all ministers and parish councils for their attention, along with assistant ministers and lay ministers, with a request that parishioners be made aware of the policy,
- (b) requests that all parishes be encouraged to consider adopting the suggested parish policy statement (from the Resource section) as their own parish policy on domestic abuse, or to revise their existing policy in light of revisions to the Synod's "Responding to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Good Practice Guidelines",

- (c) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the 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 –
 - (i) made in consultation with the Professional Standards Unit and the Anglicare Domestic Violence Adviser, and
 - (ii) reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod, and
- (d) requests the Standing Committee to review the “Responding to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Good Practice Guidelines” after four years’ operation following the passing of the Policy by the Synod and provide a report on the outcome of the review to the 1st ordinary session of the 53rd Synod in 2023.

(Canon Sandy Grant 17/10/2018)

24/18 Recruitment of Christians as teachers

Synod –

- (a) endorses the recruitment of Christians as teachers as an essential priority of the Anglican Education Commission (Anglican EdComm),
- (b) requests Anglican schools to partner with Anglican EdComm and support their work in recruiting Christians as teachers,
- (c) encourages the continuing dialogue between Anglican EdComm, Moore Theological College, Youthworks College and other educational providers with a view to developing programs and qualifications that prepare pre-service or trained teachers for work in both public and independent schools,
- (d) draws the attention of the Archbishop and the Principal of Moore Theological College to the need to provide a stream of chaplains who have been trained and equipped to function effectively in a school context, and
- (e) notes the urgency of the need to resolve any ambiguity surrounding the interpretation of Section 83C of the NSW Education Act with respect to Anglican schools financial association with Anglican EdComm.

(Bishop Chris Edwards 17/10/2018)

25/18 Administration of the Anglican National Super Fund

Synod –

- (a) thanks AMP for its service in supporting the Anglican National Super Fund from 2004 to 2018, and
- (b) notes the unanimous decision by the Board of Anglican National Super to move the administration of the Fund to Mercer.

(Mr James Flavin 17/10/2018)

26/18 Dr Robert Mackay

Synod notes and endorses the following resolution of Standing Committee, made on 24 September 2018, concerning Dr Robert Mackay —

‘Standing Committee notes with sadness the death of Dr Robert Mackay, on Monday 3 September 2018.

Dr Mackay was elected to the Standing Committee on 29 May 2017, filling a casual vacancy for a lay person elected by the whole Synod. At his first meeting, Dr Mackay was appointed to a committee to review the governance policy and formal processes for appointing board members in the Diocese. He was subsequently appointed Chair of the group tasked to consider the merits of a Growth Trust, and then the Chair of the committee responding to Synod resolution 3/17 (Coordinating the Planting of Churches), which has gone on to propose the establishment of the Anglican Church Growth Corporation.

Dr Mackay had a long association with Crusaders ministries, served on the Council of The King’s School since 1995 (ultimately chairing the Council until the time of his death), served

since 1996 as a Nominated Lay member (Part 8) of Synod, chaired the Council of Robert Menzies College and was a member of the Northern Regional Council.

Standing Committee gives thanks to God for the life and loving service of Rob, and assures his wife Helen, and children Alex and Emma, of its prayers.'

(Dr Robert Tong AM 22/10/2018)

27/18 Voluntary Relinquishment of Incumbency

Synod, noting the report Voluntary Relinquishment of Incumbency –

- (a) gives thanks for the efforts of clergy serving in the diocese and for the efforts of the Voluntary Relinquishment of Incumbency proposal drafting team for producing a report and policy designed to create a honourable and dignified pathway out of an incumbency,
- (b) requests the Standing Committee –
 - (i) to notify all parishes of the policy, highlighting the financial expectations upon parishes in such circumstances,
 - (ii) to notify all Anglican Schools of the policy, indicating –
 - (A) appreciation for the generosity of schools which have willingly continued school fee discounts to the children of clergy whose fathers relinquished their orders, and
 - (B) that if there is a school family utilising this policy, the Regional Bishop or his delegate will be in contact to request that the school continue the provision of any existing discounts for the 'agreed period',
 - (iii) to vary the terms of the Clergy Assistance Program to continue to provide access for the Agreed period, and
 - (iv) to review the policy after 3 years or the 10th 'relinquishment payment', whichever comes sooner, and
- (c) requests the Archbishop to authorise the Diocesan share of funding to be provided initially from the Archbishop's Discretionary Trust, which may be reimbursed through a new element of the fixed ministry cost recovered through the PCR charge,
- (d) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the 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, and
- (e) requests the Standing Committee to review the operation of and need for the *Parish Relationships Ordinance 2001* in light of the Policy and, as appropriate, amend or repeal (or bring recommendations to the Synod to amend or repeal) the Ordinance.

(Dr Robert Tong AM 22/10/2018)

28/18 St Bartholomew's Pyrmont

Synod notes the upcoming fiftieth anniversary of the decision of the Diocese on 16 December 1968 to sell the land and buildings comprising a church, parsonage and hall at St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, 22 Point Street, Pyrmont, NSW 2009.

Synod also notes that by the *St Barnabas Sydney (St Bartholomew's Pyrmont) Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Ordinance 1968* the proceeds of eventual sale were directed for the benefit of the St Barnabas Sydney Building Fund.

Under the *St Barnabas Sydney Ordinance 1978* (20 November 1978) the sale proceeds were made available for the purchase of other property "providing accommodation for students and others". This other property consisted of houses on Glebe Point Road that were being used for the work of the St Barnabas Hostels but which was intended to be sold. The future of the St Barnabas Hostels was thus secured.

Synod thanks God for the fruitful evangelistic and pastoral ministry conducted through the hostels for several decades.

(Mr Peter M G Young 22/10/2018)

29/18 St Andrew's Cathedral Anniversaries

Synod notes that St Andrew's Day, 30 November, 2018 will mark 150 years since our cathedral was consecrated by Bishop Barker. Furthermore, Synod notes that 31 August, 2019 is 200 years since the original foundation stone for the cathedral was laid by Governor Macquarie. With these milestones in mind, Synod praises God that the ministry of St Andrew's Cathedral has –

- (a) remained a centre where the word of God has been faithfully preached,
- (b) used its civic responsibilities as opportunities to proclaim the gospel,
- (c) been a place where the fellowship between the various parishes of the Diocese has been expressed,
- (d) been used by God to bring many people into His Kingdom.

Synod encourages the Dean and all those involved in the ministry of the cathedral to faithfully continue this heritage and values the important contribution the cathedral makes to our Diocese and city.

(The Rev Dr Ed Loane 22/10/2018)

30/18 Working With Children Check clearances

Synod notes –

- (a) the Working With Children Check (WWCC) clearances introduced by the NSW Government in 2013 have a 5 year currency and the renewal process has commenced,
- (b) all those who are involved with ministry to children as well as those who hold a licence or authority from the Archbishop are required to hold a current WWCC clearance and therefore original clearances need to be renewed as they fall due,
- (c) it greatly assists parish Safe Ministry Representatives, the Diocesan Registry and others, if expiring clearances are renewed as soon as possible within the 90 day timeframe,
- (d) the Archbishop has an obligation to suspend or revoke licences or authorities for anyone who does not have a current WWCC clearance.

(Mr Doug Marr 22/10/2018)

31/18 Pastoral care in our churches

Synod –

- (a) affirms that all people, regardless of gender and sexual orientation, are made in the image of God and deeply loved by him,
- (b) recognises that all desire and sexuality in this world has been distorted by the Fall and awaits a re-ordering in the New Creation,
- (c) recognises that psychological practices such as 'reparative therapy' or 'gay conversion therapy', which seek to re-orient sexual attraction to heterosexuality, have been highly ineffective for those who experience exclusive same-sex attraction, and have caused distress to many who have participated in such therapy,
- (d) notes that the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney does not practise, recommend or endorse 'gay conversion therapy',
- (e) recognises that Christ's teaching in Matthew 19, which requires either faithfulness in marriage or abstinence in singleness, is a particular struggle for those with desires that cannot be faithfully expressed, and therefore
- (f) calls upon our churches to be safe places for all people, and to provide appropriate pastoral care for all, and
- (g) values prayer for same-sex attracted Christians who wish to live celibate lives, noting that prayer is not a form of "gay conversion therapy".

(Bishop Chris Edwards 22/10/2018)

32/18 Appreciation for SDS staff

Synod records its deep thanks to the Synod Secretary, Daniel Glynn and his support staff in SDS for working late into the night to prepare answers to Synod questions and also to prepare the Business Paper for the next day of sitting.

(Dr Robert Tong AM 22/10/2018)

33/18 Ministry of Anglican chaplains serving in the Australian Defence Force

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the ministry of Anglican chaplains serving in the Australian Defence Force as both full-time chaplains and reservists,
- (b) gives particular thanks and praise for –
 - (i) the appointment of Chaplain Rob Sutherland, CSC, Assistant Minister at St John's Gordon, as Principal Chaplain Army (Anglican) and Army Archdeacon,
 - (ii) the appointment of Chaplain Andrew Lewis, RAN, a minister from this diocese, as Navy Archdeacon, and
 - (iii) the continued ministry of Chaplain Kevin Russell, CSC, a minister from this diocese, as Air Force Archdeacon.

Synod notes that a service to collate Chaplain Sutherland and Chaplain Lewis as Archdeacons is to be held at 1700hrs on 6 December 2018 at the ANZAC Memorial Chapel of St Paul, Duntroon, ACT.

(The Rev Tim St Quintin 22/10/2018)

34/18 Safe Ministry Training in languages other than English

Synod requests that the Safe Ministry Board investigate and implement as soon as possible Safe Ministry Training in languages other than English.

(Mrs Lynette Ferguson 22/10/2018)

35/18 Donald William Bradley Robinson AO

This Synod gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Donald William Bradley Robinson AO, Lecturer and Vice Principal at Moore Theological College (1952–1972), Bishop in Parramatta (1973–1982) and Archbishop of Sydney (1982–1992), who was taken to be with Christ on 7 September 2018. Nurtured as a member of Sydney University Evangelical Union (President 1946), Donald participated as a representative of Inter-Varsity Fellowship Australia (now AFES) in the foundation of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students in August 1947 at Harvard University.

His biblical fidelity, personal integrity, strength and creativity of mind, scholarly depth, courage, godly humility and Christ-like leadership have all left a lasting mark on the Diocese of Sydney. His insight into the text and theology of the Bible, demonstrated most clearly in his approach to God's unfolding purpose from promise to fulfilment, and his understanding of the church as those gathered around Christ in heaven, and on earth in local congregations by his Spirit and through his word, continues to shape his students and the students of his students. His efforts in the production of An Australian Prayer Book (1978), and in the preservation of apostolic order in the churches, have put generations of Australian Anglicans in his debt. His courageous leadership on the international stage, offering the hand of fellowship to the faithful in the Church of England in South Africa and to those who were even then beginning to suffer at the hands of revisionists in The Episcopal Church of the USA (ECUSA), and taking a stand on biblical truth at the Lambeth Conference of 1988, is less well-known but long-lasting in its benefit to God's people. Donald Robinson was a remarkable and extraordinary gift of God to this Diocese and the church of God. He had a delightful sense of humour. He was kind and loving and a man for whom loyalties ran deeply. He was able soberly to reflect on his past and he loved the Lord Jesus because the Lord Jesus had loved him. We give thanks for him and pray for God's sustaining grace for his family in their loss.

(The Rev Dr Mark Thompson 22/10/2018)

36/18 Implementation of Property Receipts Levy

Synod, noting the report Property Receipts Levy: Form of calculation and mechanism for debate at Synod, requests the Standing Committee –

- (a) to include on the Property Income Worksheet for the calculation of the Property Receipts Levy, a deduction for the property insurance component of the PCR charge based on the formula proposed in the report,
- (b) to amend the Property Income Worksheet to reduce the levy on income \$10,000 - \$50,000 to zero, and
- (c) to amend the Property Income Worksheet so that in the calculation of the Property Receipts Levy, deductions from income-producing properties are applied against total property income instead of on a property-by-property basis.

(Bishop Michael Stead 22/10/2018)

37/18 General Synod – Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2018

That the General Synod - Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2018 pass as an ordinance of the Synod, and that Synod request the Standing Committee, after consulting with Youthworks ministry support team, among others, to report to the next ordinary session of Synod regarding the appropriateness of children between the ages of 12 & 15 serving in ministry leadership to other children.

(Ms Michelle England 22/10/2018)

38/18 Surry Hills: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Surry Hills as a parish with effect from 1 January 2019.

(Bishop Michael Stead 22/10/2018)

39/18 The Most Rev Dr Peter Jensen

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the faithful, generous and at times courageous service of the Most Rev Dr Peter Jensen as General Secretary of the Global Anglican Future Conference for more than a decade, and
- (b) notes his unwavering commitment to the priority of the gospel of Christ, the authority of Scripture and the fellowship of the Anglican Communion; and his personal, prayerful and gracious engagement with Anglican leaders across the globe which have fostered deeper fellowship in Christ and fruitful partnerships in gospel mission, for the glory of God.

(Bishop Chris Edwards 23/10/2018)

40/18 Synod business rules concerning moving amendments to motions

Synod –

- (a) encourages Members to provide comments regarding the trial arrangements concerning moving amendments to motions, and any other matters concerning the conduct of Synod business, to the Diocesan Secretary by 30 November 2018, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee, in light of comments received from Synod Members, to consider bringing a Bill to amend the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 to the next ordinary session of Synod,

and requests the Standing Committee to identify training needs and provide resources to further equip members in their understanding of, and engagement with, the business of Synod.

(Mr Michael Meek SC 23/10/2018)

41/18 Religious Freedom

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the remarkable freedoms which we have enjoyed to live out the Christian faith, and notes the terrible contrast with the persecution faced by so many of our brothers and sisters around the world and within the Anglican communion,
- (b) recognises the importance of religious freedom to the good work done by our churches, schools and Anglicare, and to the ability of people in our nation with very different beliefs to live together well,
- (c) thanks the Expert Panel chaired by the former attorney-general Philip Ruddock reviewing religious freedom in Australia for their hard work in considering the adequacy of legal protections for religious freedom,
- (d) calls on churches in the Diocese to keep praying for federal parliamentarians to be wise in the laws that are made so that 'we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness' (1 Timothy 2.2),
- (e) thanks the Religious Freedom Reference Group chaired by Bishop Stead and Freedom for Faith and its Executive Director Michael Kellahan for their advocacy, and
- (f) asks the Secretary of the Synod to convey this motion to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

(Dean Kanishka Raffel 23/10/2018)

42/18 Reporting on the National Redress Scheme

Synod requests that Sydney Anglican (National Redress Scheme) Corporation and other diocesan organisations that become a Participating Institution under the National Redress Scheme report all applications received to the Director of Professional Standards to enable an annual report, with appropriate protections of confidentiality, to be provided to each ordinary session of the Synod throughout the life of the National Redress Scheme that includes –

- (a) the number of applications for redress which have been received,
- (b) the number and total and average amount of redress offers made,
- (c) the number and total and average amount of redress offers accepted, and
- (d) the number of persons to whom a direct personal response has been provided.

(Mr Garth Blake AM SC 23/10/2018)

43/18 Implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission

Synod, noting that an independent review of the position of the Diocese of Sydney with respect to the final recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (available on the Synod this year page of the SDS website) is being considered by the Safe Ministry Board and the Standing Committee's Royal Commission Steering Committee, requests that a full report be provided to the next ordinary session of Synod in relation to the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission addressed to the Anglican Church, including –

- (a) any sources of funding which may enable their implementation, and
- (b) any draft ordinances or policies still required to facilitate their implementation.

(Mr Garth Blake AM SC 23/10/2018)

44/18 Rouse Hill: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Rouse Hill as a parish with effect from 1 January 2019.

(Bishop Ivan Lee 23/10/2018)

45/18 Appointment of assistant ministers and employment of stipendiary lay workers

Synod, noting the report 22/17 Appointment of Assistant Ministers and Stipendiary Lay Workers –

- (a) encourages Rectors to undertake training in staff management,

- (b) requests the Standing Committee to amend the Assistant Ministers *Ordinance 2017* by –
 - (i) omitting the words “where a genuine and recorded performance management program or similar has been unsuccessful in resolving the issue or issues” in clause 3(3)(b)(i),
 - (ii) inserting a new clause to state that if the Parish requires the Assistant Minister to live in a certain location, that the housing arrangements for the Assistant Minister must be approved as suitable by the Archbishop,
 - (iii) inserting a new clause to require Rectors to consult with the Regional Bishop before making a communication to the parish about the termination of the appointment of an Assistant Minister licensed to the Parish, and
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to give further consideration regarding options for mechanisms for appropriate consequences when there is a failure in the termination of an Assistant Minister to follow due process specified under the Assistant Ministers *Ordinance 2017*, to enact such changes by amending the ordinance if thought appropriate, and to report back to the next session of Synod,
- (d) requests the Archbishop-in-Council to consider approving under clause 7 of the Assistant Ministers *Ordinance 2017*, the attached guidelines with respect to terminating the appointment of Assistant Ministers,
- (e) requests wardens and rectors to use the standard-form letters issued by SDS for the employment of Lay Ministers and appointment of Assistant Ministers, and
- (f) requests the Standing Committee to consider providing appropriate human resources expertise to support bishops, rectors, wardens and church staff.

(Bishop Chris Edwards 23/10/2018)

46/18 Committee to review the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 and the Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017

Synod, in light of the recommendation at point 4 of the Explanatory Report on the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2018*, requests the Standing Committee to appoint a committee to consider if further mechanisms are required to deal with issues of failure to follow proper practices with regard to staff management, and make any appropriate recommendations.

(The Rev Michael Doyle 23/10/2018)

47/18 Property Use Policy

Synod passes the Property Use Policy as a Policy of the Synod, and requests –

- (a) Synod members to provide feedback on the policy to the Diocesan Secretary by 28 February 2019, and
- (b) Standing Committee to review the policy, including with reference to Resolution 8/17, and bring recommendations to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

(Bishop Michael Stead 23/10/2018)

48/18 GAFCON 2018: A Letter to the Churches from the GAFCON Assembly 2018

Synod, noting the Letter to the Churches from the GAFCON Assembly 2018 –

- (a) gives thanks for the gathering of 1950 Anglicans (316 Bishops, 669 other clergy and 965 laity) from 50 countries at the Global Anglican Future Conference held in Jerusalem 17-22 June 2018,
- (b) welcomes the conference statement, ‘Letter to the Churches’, and commends it to the clergy and people of the Diocese for their study, encouragement and prayers,
- (c) gives thanks for the establishment of nine strategic networks (Theological Education, Church Planting, Global Mission Partnerships, Youth and Children’s Ministry, Mothers’ Union, Sustainable Development, Bishops’ Training Institute, Lawyers Task Force, Intercessors Fellowship) to enhance fellowship and advance the work of the gospel across the Anglican Communion,
- (d) gives thanks for the formation of the Synodical Council, comprising the Primates and a Panel of Advisors of bishops, clergy and laity,
- (e) gives thanks for the prayers and financial contributions of parishes, clergy and people providing bursaries for delegates to the conference who would not otherwise have been able to attend,

- (f) commends Sydney delegates to the conference for their generous contribution in numerous and varied ways including as volunteers, presenters, and Networks facilitators, and especially on the Conference Organising Committee,
- (g) congratulates Canon Daniel Willis for his outstanding contribution as Conference Director, and
- (h) thanks the Archbishop of Sydney for his leadership at the conference including serving as Chair of the Statement Committee, and
- (i) stands in fellowship with Anglicans within the GAFCON movement independent of their 'recognition' by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

(Dean Kanishka Raffel 23/10/2018)

49/18 Gender Identity Guidelines

Synod, noting Synod resolutions 23/17 and 24/17, adopts the revised form of the Initial Principles of Engagement contained in the report *23/17 Gender Identity Initial Principles of Engagement / 24/17 Development of a final form of diocesan policy for gender identity issues* as the framework from which the Gender Identity guidelines will be developed.

(Bishop Peter Hayward 23/10/2018)

50/18 Remarriage of divorced persons

Synod, noting that it is the prerogative of the Archbishop or a Regional Bishop, in accordance with the laws of this Church, whether or not to approve the remarriage of a divorced person, requests the Archbishop and Regional Bishops to consider approving the remarriage of a divorced person, where that person has been abused physically or emotionally by their former spouse.

(Ms Lyn Bannerman 23/10/2018)