

Matters before the Synod

10 October 2019

3rd ordinary session of the 51st Synod

Following is a list of the reports with substantive recommendations included in the Synod Books, along with a summary of the key points for each. The Synod Books also contain other reports with significant content that should not be overlooked, to be received by the Synod but without further recommendations. This list is provided as a trial, intended to guide the reading of Synod members regarding matters before the Synod at the forthcoming session.

Book 1: Annual Report of the Standing Committee and Other Reports and Papers

Page 94 **Enhancing engagement of Synod members / 40/18 Synod business rules**

Bus. paper: M18

This report records a number of actions taken by the Standing Committee to enhance engagement of Synod members, including –

- (a) the ordinary session of Synod in 2021 will commence in September rather than in October (Synod is asked to endorse this change going forward),
- (b) printed Synod materials are to be posted to Synod members on an opt-in basis, following the August Standing Committee meeting,
- (c) a short report (this report) is to be prepared, listing each matter that is included in Synod materials that contains a substantive recommendation, and
- (d) the format of Synod reports has been modified slightly following the advice of a communications consultant, to aid ease of readership and use at Synod.

Page 116 **27/17 Gender representation on Diocesan boards and committees**

Bus. paper: M19

This report provides the Synod with a revised report regarding Gender representation on Diocesan boards, committees and councils. Among other things, the report notes –

- (a) the participation of women on Diocesan boards has increased in recent years, however there is potential and benefit in further increasing the participation of women,
- (b) gender quotas are not recommended for the Diocese of Sydney as this may stifle the ability of those with gifts to serve,
- (c) the levers of change are on the nomination side of the process, rather than goals and targets in the electing side, and
- (d) increasing the participation of women on Diocesan boards needs to address issues of opportunity and supply, and demand.

The report makes several recommendations for Synod's consideration in an effort to encourage the nomination of women to Diocesan boards, councils and committees, as well as efforts to better accommodate and support women in serving in these capacities.

Page 129 **Human Sexuality Pastoral Guidelines**

Bus. paper: M17

This report responds to Synod resolution 34/15 in respect to pastoral guidelines for pastors as they minister to Christians (and their family and friends) experiencing same-sex attraction. Guidelines developed in response to Synod's request are attached to the report, and Synod will be asked to encourage Rectors to share the guidelines with people involved in pastoral care in their parishes.

Page 133 **43/18 Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse**

Bus. paper: M22

This report responds to Synod Resolution 43/18, regarding implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. An independent review and gap-analysis found that the Diocese meets 14, and does not meet 18 of the recommendations of the Royal Commission that apply to the Diocese of Sydney. The report sets out a series of actions required in order to meet the remaining 18 recommendations.

Page 151 **11/18 Steps to encourage ordination**

Bus. paper: M21 The report interacts with factors contributing to an increased need for ordained ministers in the Diocese, and recommends a number of actions to be made by the congregations of the Diocese, Ministry Training & Development, Moore Theological College, and Youthworks College.

Page 159 **Proposals to change parish status**

Bus. paper: M11-M16 Proposals that each of the following Provisional Parishes become a parish from 1 January 2020: Bayside, Berala, Cobbitty, Fairfield with Bossley Park, Oran Park and Pitt Town.

Book 2: Bills for Ordinances, Accompanying Reports and Principal Legislation

Page 203 **Archbishop Election Amendment Ordinance 2019 (14/18)**

Bus. paper: B1 This report accompanies the Bill for the Archbishop Election Amendment Ordinance 2019 which if passed would, among other things –

Bill: p.211

Principal legis. p.219, p.225

- (a) incorporate the characteristics of the Archbishop of Sydney as expressed in the Doctrine Commission report, 'An Evangelical Episcopate' into the *Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982*,
- (b) require the administration of a Safe Ministry Check to nominees for Archbishop,
- (c) thoroughly revise the timetable and process leading up to an election Synod,
- (d) provide additional extension up to six months in the retirement date for an Archbishop.

Page 239 **Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019 (45/18 & 46/18)**

Bus. paper: B2 This report accompanies the Bill for the *Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019*, which responds to requests of resolutions 45/18 and 46/18 regarding appropriate measures for dealing with failures to comply with due process under the *Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 (AMO)* or proper practices in respect of staff management more generally. It is proposed that a Review Panel is established to consider instances of alleged non-compliance with the processes under the AMO. The Panel will produce a report issued to the applicant, the rector and wardens, the regional bishop and the Archbishop, and may make non-binding recommendations.

Bill: p.248

Principal legis. p.251

Synod is encouraged to consider various other recommendations to be made to rectors, Safe Ministry and Ministry Training & Development and others.

Page 254 **Synod Standing Orders (40/18)**

Bus. paper: B6 This report accompanies the Bill for the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 Amendment Ordinance 2019, which proposes a number of substantial changes to the Synod business rules, including –

Bill: p.284

Principal legis. p.264

- (a) allowing procedural motions to be taken on the callover,
- (b) requiring questions on day 1 to be submitted 7 days prior to Synod,
- (c) providing rules for presentations,
- (d) introducing standard expedited timing and processes which Synod may adopt to speed up consideration of matters,
- (e) alternative approaches to the procedural motion "that the motion not be put", and
- (f) clarity on the matter of a member speaking twice in a debate.

A procedural motion will be moved on the first day to adopt the rules as a trial for this session of Synod (this will not affect the asking of questions at this session).

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Bus. paper: **B4**

Bill: p.293

Principal legis.
p.295, p.296

General Synod – Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973 Repeal and Exclusion Ordinance 2019

The Bill for the General Synod – Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973 Repeal and Exclusion Ordinance 2019, if passed by the Synod, will incorporate the provisions for the authorisation of a lay person to assist the presbyter in the distribution of the elements of the Holy Communion into the *Lay Ministry Ordinance 2015*, so that the regulation of lay ministry is contained within the one ordinance. Currently this authority is derived pursuant to a Canon of the General Synod.

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Bus. paper: **B3**

Bill: p.304

Principal legis.
p.307

Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019

The Bill for the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2019 proposes amending the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017* to, among other things –

- (a) make provision for conciliation on the recommendation of the Director of Professional Standards if the Director considers it will assist the parties, and
- (b) implement recommendations of the Royal Commission.

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Bus. paper: **B5**

Bill: p.343

Provincial Synod – Provincial Tribunal Ordinance 2018 Accepting Ordinance 2019

The Provincial Synod held in November 2018 passed the Provincial Tribunal (Provincial) Ordinance 2018 which repeals and replaces the Tribunal (Provincial) Ordinance 1892. The Bill for the Provincial Synod – Provincial Tribunal Ordinance 2018 Accepting Ordinance 2019, if passed, would accept the Provincial Tribunal Ordinance 2018 in this Diocese. The Provincial Tribunal will have no jurisdiction in the Diocese of Sydney, except in accordance with an ordinance of our Diocese.

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Bus. paper: **B7**

Bill: p.347

Principal legis.
p.349

Standing Committee Ordinance 1897 Amendment Ordinance 2019

The Bill for the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897 Amendment Ordinance 2019, if passed would amend the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897* to, among other things –

- (a) clarify that the Archbishop is President, but not a member, of Standing Committee, and
- (b) establish with regard to subcommittees of Standing Committee, that at least one third of its members must be Standing Committee members, and a quorum for a meeting must include at least one member who is a member of Standing Committee.

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Bus. paper: **B10**

Bill: p.357

Principal legis.
p.359

Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019

The Bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2019, being promoted by the Northern Regional Council, if passed, would amend the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* to –

- (a) expand the Declaration made by all sitting members of Synod to incorporate a Statement of Faith,
- (b) require that a small number of heads of Diocesan Schools be included as members of Synod.

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Bus. paper: **M25**

Bill: p.383

Gov. Policy
p.387

47/18 Property Use Policy

~~The report recommends that the Statement of Personal Faith set out in Appendix 3 of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations be amended so that a person also affirms that they will endeavour to fulfil their duties in accordance with the “other applicable ordinances and policies of the Synod”. A corresponding change is proposed to the Statement of Support for Christian Ethos. The report also recommends certain amendments to the Property Use Policy to make clear that the Policy does not require disengagement and distancing from the community around us.~~

Update (October 2019): At its meeting on 23 September, the Standing Committee modified its recommendations in this matter, resulting in the motion at M25 on the [business paper for day 1](#) rather than the recommendations shown in the report. Synod will be asked to insert a statement in its Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations regarding the expectation that diocesan organisations comply with all applicable ordinances and policies of the Synod.

Book 3: Supplementary Report of the Standing Committee and Other Reports

Page 407 **Freedom of Religion: Submission on the Exposure Draft of the Religious Discrimination Bill**

Bus. paper: **M31**

The Standing Committee's Religious Freedom Reference Group (**RFRG**), provided a submission to the Federal Attorney-General's Department on the Religious Discrimination Bill – Exposure Draft. The RFRG's submission is provided to Synod members along with a recommended motion regarding freedom of religion in Australia.

Page 433 **47/18 Property Use Policy / 8/17 Statement of Anglican Doctrine of Marriage**

Bus. paper: **M46**

This report is provided by Canon Sandy Grant in support of his motion (M46), recommending that Synod amend the Diocesan Governance Policy Statement of Personal Faith by adding a statement regarding complementary sexes, faithful sexuality and the value of human life.

cf. the Standing Committee's report on this matter in Book 2, p.376.

Book 4: Further Reports of the Standing Committee

Page 443 **Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity**

Bus. paper:
B8 & B9

This report recommends that Synod affirm and adopt a Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity (**Statement**) and agree that the accompanying Pastoral Guidelines for Churches, Schools and Organisations (**Guidelines**) should inform pastoral care throughout the Diocese.

The report also recommends that Synod –

- (a) recommend the relevant governing body of each Diocesan school and organisation formally adopt the Statement and Guidelines, as well as implementing a policy which reflects that Statement and the Guidelines;
- (b) adopt the Gender Identity – Practical Guidelines for Churches, and commend these guidelines to parishes.

Page 452 **Governance arrangements for Diocesan Organisations**

This report brings two matters related to the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations for Synod's consideration. First, Synod will be asked to encourage certain diocesan organisations to pursue amendments to their constituting ordinances, to require that any person who wishes to serve as a board member must sign an acknowledgment of duties and responsibilities, including a confirmation that they are able and willing to devote the time required to be spent by a board member to properly fulfil those duties and responsibilities.

Second, Synod will also be asked to amend the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations, by including in the Policy Guidelines a requirement that membership include at least two members of the clergy *and* at least two members with three-year theological degrees from Moore Theological College (noting that these requirements may be met by the same two people). Currently the Policy Guidelines require 'at least two clergy or other members with formal theological training'.

Notice of motions for these matters will be given on the first day of Synod.