

52nd Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

Third Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Tuesday 20 September 2022

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Prayers

Prayers were read by Archdeacon Simon Flinders.

Bishop Gary Koo led the Synod in prayer for Bishop Jay Behan.

3. Motions

3.1 Leadership of Bible studies

Having been granted leave, Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'Synod records its appreciation for the encouraging Bible Studies of Bishop Jay Behan during this session.'

Seconded and carried by acclamation

4. Bible study

Bishop Jay Behan led the Bible study.

5. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Monday 19 September 2022.

6. Calling of motions

The President called the motions in the order in which they appeared on the business paper, except those motions about a proposed ordinance or those motions to be considered at a time determined by the President.

6.1 Arrangements for consideration of business from the Order of Business Committee

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod agrees –

- (a) to adopt the changes to the scheduling of matters shown in tracked form on the timetable,
- (b) to allow M44 (Congratulations to The Rev Darrell Parker on election as the Bishop of North West Australia) to be put on the callover, and if it is passed, invites the Rev Tim Mildenhall to pray,
- (c) to consider the motion at M28 (Ministry Wellbeing and Development), and only that motion, at an additional calling of motions at a suitable time after 5:00 pm, noting

that Synod has agreed previously not to consider M28 prior to 5:00 pm and as a consequence the motion has never been put on the callover.'

Seconded and carried

6.2 Notice of motion regarding Synod in the Greenfields

Bishop Peter Lin moved –

'Synod agrees to accept the notice of motion at item M64 (Synod in the Greenfields) and consider the matter as if sufficient notice had been provided to allow the motion to be considered today (including to be put on the callover), and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent this.'

Seconded and carried

6.3 Arrangements for continuing debate on motion regarding review of the *Nomination Ordinance 2006*

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod invites the mover of the motion at M12 (Review of the *Nomination Ordinance 2006*), Canon Craig Roberts, and the mover of the amendment, Professor Bernard Stewart AM, to speak for up to 2 minutes each before resuming debate on this matter, and suspends so many Standing Orders as would prevent this.'

Seconded and carried

6.4 National School Chaplaincy Program

Mr Matthew Robson moved –

'Synod notes –

- (a) its thankfulness to successive Australian Governments for the National School Chaplaincy Program over the last 15 years,
- (b) that school chaplains are qualified to support the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of both public and independent school communities across Australia and that for many schools, having Christian pastoral care has proven invaluable over this season of droughts, floods, bushfires and COVID,
- (c) that over 322 public schools take part in the program in NSW, including the Rev Neil Scott, rector of Park Rail Anglican Church, who serves as a chaplain at his local school, and
- (d) that the program is currently being evaluated by the Australian Government.

Synod continues to pray for our school communities, our chaplains who serve in them, and all those in their care.'

Seconded and carried

6.5 Congratulations to the Rev Darrell Parker on election as the Bishop of North West Australia

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

'Synod congratulates the Rev Darrell Parker on his election as the next Bishop of the Diocese of North West Australia. Mr Parker is a graduate of Moore Theological College and is currently Senior Minister at St Paul's, West Tamworth. Darrell and his wife Elizabeth have spent 25 years serving God in the Armidale Diocese. Synod notes that Darrell will be consecrated in St Andrew's Cathedral on Friday 3 February 2023 and commits to pray for Darrell and Elizabeth as they embark on this strategic gospel ministry.'

Seconded and carried

The Rev Tim Mildenhall led the Synod in prayer for the Rev Darrell Parker.

6.6 Mr Martin Thearle

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

'Synod, noting that Mr Martin Thearle plans to retire as Manager, Diocesan Finance with SDS in 2023, acknowledges with thanks his committed service over the past 21 years supporting Synod – faithfully overseeing voting, elections and screen presentations, among other responsibilities; and also his support for parishes, particularly in his advice to parish treasurers and wardens, his financial circulars and explanations of complex financial matters – not least the circulars advising parishes regarding access to government financial support packages associated with COVID-19 during 2020 and 2021. Synod congratulates Martin on his retirement, and assures him and his wife Janet of its prayers.'

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Mr Glynn led the Synod in prayer for Mr Martin Thearle.

6.7 Mrs Catherine Rich, Registrar of the Diocese of Sydney

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

'Synod notes with great thanks that Mrs Catherine Rich has been appointed by Archbishop Kanishka Raffel to the Office of Registrar and Keeper of the Acts and Records in and for the Diocese of Sydney, with effect from 21 September 2022. Synod congratulates Catherine upon this appointment and expresses its appreciation for her willingness to take up this responsibility and for her dedicated service as Deputy Registrar, having served in that capacity for over twenty-five years; and assures her and her husband James of its prayers.'

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Bishop Stead led the Synod in prayer for Mrs Catherine Rich.

6.8 Synod in the Greenfields

Bishop Peter Lin moved –

'Synod gives thanks for the partnership in ministry expressed by Oran Park Anglican College, NewLife Anglican Church, Hope Anglican Church, Grace Anglican Churches, Cobbitty Anglican Church, their staff teams and all the volunteers who served so eagerly to make the Synod in the Greenfields such a wonderful and helpful occasion.'

Seconded and carried

7. Answers to questions

7.1 Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity

The President made a personal statement.

The Rev Michael Turner asked the following question –

Noting the Synod resolutions of 2017, 2018 and 2019, and the Archbishop's Advice to Anglican Schools regarding matters concerning Gender Identity:

- (a) How many Anglican schools have not affirmed the Doctrine Statement AND developed publicly accessible policies consistent with the Doctrine Statement?
- (b) Where schools have not affirmed the Doctrine Statement AND not developed policies consistent with the Doctrine Statement, what is being done, and why is Synod uninformed on this matter?
- (c) Where a school or schools have developed policies and acted on those policies in direct contravention of the Synod resolutions and/or the Archbishop's Advice, what is being done, and why is Synod uninformed on this matter?

- (d) Has consideration been given to disbanding Boards where they have made policies in contravention of the Synod resolutions and Archbishop's advice? If not, why not?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

We have not been able to survey all Anglican Schools, but we do know that a number have affirmed the Doctrine Statement and developed publicly accessible policies that are consistent with the Statement.

8. Motions

8.1 Review of the *Nomination Ordinance 2006*

Debate on Canon Craig Roberts' motion and Professor Bernard Stewart's amendment, which had commenced on Monday 19 September 2022, resumed.

Professor Stewart's amendment was not carried.

Canon Roberts' motion was carried without amendment as follows –

'Synod, noting the report "Review of the *Nomination Ordinance 2006*", requests that the Standing Committee implement the changes to the *Nomination Ordinance 2006* and nomination process generally suggested in the report.'

8.2 Approach to meetings of, and financial contributions to, the General Synod

Dr Laurie Scandrett moved –

'The Synod of the Diocese of Sydney notes with godly grief the deep breach of fellowship in the Anglican Church of Australia exposed at the eighteenth session of General Synod on matters of doctrine and human sexuality, and –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the clear majority of General Synod members who voted for Biblical marriage at the eighteenth session of the General Synod,
- (b) notes with thankfulness our Archbishop's leadership in publicly expressing our ongoing commitment as a diocese to contending for the Reformed Evangelical Faith from within the Anglican Church of Australia; while also extending the hand of fellowship to the Diocese of the Southern Cross,
- (c) commits to praying for the repentance of those Bishops who did not vote for Biblical marriage at the eighteenth session of the General Synod,
- (d) commits to prayerfully support orthodox Anglicans both within the Anglican Church of Australia and within the new Diocese of the Southern Cross,
- (e) requests the Standing Committee to consider our future approach as a Diocese to meetings of the General Synod, and report on the outcomes of this consideration prior to the nineteenth session of General Synod, and
- (f) requests the Standing Committee to consider how our financial contributions to the national church may be directed more effectively towards faithful and orthodox gospel ministry, and report on the outcomes of these considerations to the Synod prior to the nineteenth session of General Synod.'

Seconded

The Rev David Morgan moved as an amendment –

'Omit paragraph (f).'

Seconded and carried

Dr Scandrett's motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

'The Synod of the Diocese of Sydney notes with godly grief the deep breach of fellowship in the Anglican Church of Australia exposed at the eighteenth session of General Synod on matters of doctrine and human sexuality, and –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the clear majority of General Synod members who voted for Biblical marriage at the eighteenth session of the General Synod,
- (b) notes with thankfulness our Archbishop's leadership in publicly expressing our ongoing commitment as a diocese to contending for the Reformed Evangelical Faith from within the Anglican Church of Australia; while also extending the hand of fellowship to the Diocese of the Southern Cross,
- (c) commits to praying for the repentance of those Bishops who did not vote for Biblical marriage at the eighteenth session of the General Synod,
- (d) commits to prayerfully support orthodox Anglicans both within the Anglican Church of Australia and within the new Diocese of the Southern Cross, and
- (e) requests the Standing Committee to consider our future approach as a Diocese to meetings of the General Synod, and report on the outcomes of this consideration prior to the nineteenth session of General Synod.'

8.3 Obedience to Jesus' Great Commission

Bishop Rick Lewers moved –

'The Synod of the Diocese of Sydney notes the broken state of our national church and, humbly acknowledging and repenting of our own sins, resolves to invest wisely, in faithful obedience to Jesus' Great Commission, all across the country, in –

- (a) the raising up of Christian leaders who can proclaim the gospel clearly and are prepared to go out in mission, and
- (b) establishing and supporting churches that faithfully proclaim the gospel and defend the truth of God's word.'

Seconded

The Rev Michael Armstrong moved as an amendment –

'In the opening paragraph after the words "invest wisely" insert the words "and lawfully within the scope of the ordinances and resolutions of this Synod".'

Seconded

Mr Armstrong's amendment was not carried.

The motion was carried without amendment.

Bishop Lewers led the Synod in prayer.

9. Additional calling of motions

The President called the motions in the order in which they appeared on the business paper, in accordance with the procedural motion shown at item 6.1(c).

9.1 Ministry Wellbeing and Development

Mr Garth Blake AM SC moved –

'Synod –

- (a) notes –
 - (i) recommendations 16.5, 16.44 and 16.45 for national mandatory standards for professional development, professional/pastoral supervision and performance appraisals of bishops, clergy, and lay personnel of the Anglican Church of

- Australia in any form of ministry of pastoral care or service in the final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse,
- (ii) the resolution of the General Synod on 9 May 2022 encouraging dioceses to fully implement the Ministry Wellbeing and Development policy, guidelines and resources document to enhance the wellbeing and professional development of clergy and some paid church workers,
 - (iii) the Pastoral Consultation (Professional Supervision) Recommendation dated 27 July 2022 tabled at this session of the Synod (the Recommendation), and
 - (iv) the lifelong ministry resources developed by Ministry Training & Development,
- (b) affirms the importance of implementing a mandatory system for the professional development, professional/pastoral supervision and performance appraisals of clergy and lay church workers providing pastoral care or service to enhance their ministry wellbeing and development,
- (c) notes the subcommittees of the Standing Committee referred to in paragraphs 8 and 139 of the Recommendation are developing proposals for a system of mandatory professional/pastoral supervision and performance appraisals for licensed and stipendiary or paid clergy, and stipendiary or paid lay church workers providing pastoral care or service including any proposed legislation and policies, and requests a report be provided to the 1st ordinary session of the 53rd Synod, and, and
- (d) requests the Standing Committee to establish a committee with a gender balance and appropriate expertise –
- (i) to develop proposals for a system of mandatory professional development for licensed and stipendiary or paid clergy, and stipendiary or paid lay church workers providing pastoral care or service including any proposed legislation and policies, and
 - (ii) to report to the 1st ordinary session of the 53rd Synod.’

Seconded and carried

10. Motions

10.1 Gospel Foundation Fund of the Diocese of North West Australia

Dr Laurie Scandrett moved –

‘Synod commends to the attention of members the Gospel Foundation Fund of the Diocese of North West Australia (<https://www.anglicandnwa.org/>) and requests that Standing Committee consider making budgetary provision for support of this fund in the Synod budget for the next funding triennium. Synod further requests that, if funds are provided, then a report be provided identifying the projects and organisations funded under the Gospel Foundation Fund by the Diocese of North West Australia, how much each project/organisation received, and for what specific purpose(s).’

Seconded and carried

Dr Robert Tong AM led the Synod in prayer for the Diocese of North West Australia.

Adjournment

At 5.45 pm, Archdeacon Simon Flinders moved –

‘That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.00 pm tonight.’

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.00 pm.

11. Motions

11.1 The practice and understanding of baptism

Dr Barry Newman moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) sincerely thanks the Doctrine Commission for its very thoughtful and detailed report, received by the Synod at its 1st ordinary session in May 2021, “A Theology of Baptism”,
- (b) recognises that “baptising in the name of Jesus Christ” or “baptising in the name of the Lord Jesus”, rather than “baptising in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” better reflects the practice revealed in the Acts of the Apostles, and
- (c) recognises, though this is not a conclusion of the report, that it is possible, upon a careful exegesis of Matthew 28:19, 20b, that, “baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” could be understood metaphorically to refer to something like, “immersing them in that which pertains to the person of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”.’

Seconded

Prior to the speech of the Seconder, Bishop Michael Stead moved as a procedural motion –

‘That the motion not be voted on.’

Seconded

Mr Daniel Glynn moved as a procedural motion –

‘Synod agrees to hear the speech of the Seconder of the principal motion, and thereafter consider the procedural motion of Bishop Stead, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders that may prevent this.’

Seconded and carried

Following the speech of the Seconder, Bishop Stead’s procedural motion was carried.

Dr Newman’s motion lapsed.

11.2 Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Professor Bernard Stewart AM moved –

‘Synod gives thanks to God for the life and work of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, acknowledging in particular his declaration of the Gospel basis for his repudiation of apartheid and his commitment to the welfare of the poor in South Africa.’

Seconded

Professor Stewart moved as a procedural motion –

‘Synod allow the motion to be withdrawn.’

Seconded

Professor Stewart's procedural motion was not carried.

The Rev Christopher Braga moved as an amendment to Professor Stewart's motion –

'Following the words "Archbishop Desmond Tutu", omit the matter " , acknowledging in particular" and insert instead the matter ". While noting that Archbishop Tutu's theology significantly differs from the theology espoused by this Diocese, we acknowledge".'

Seconded

The Rev David Morgan moved as an amendment to Professor Stewart's motion –

'Omit the words "his declaration of the Gospel basis for".'

Seconded

Mr Morgan's amendment was carried.

Mr Braga's amendment therefore lapsed.

Professor Stewart's motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

'Synod gives thanks to God for the life and work of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, acknowledging in particular his repudiation of apartheid and his commitment to the welfare of the poor in South Africa.'

The Rev John Stanley moved as a procedural motion –

'That the Synod agree to recommit the motion just passed.'

Mr Stanley's procedural motion was not carried.

The Archbishop led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

11.3 **Support and encouragement for Principals of Anglican Schools**

Having been granted leave, Mrs Nicola Fortescue moved –

'In light of the weighty responsibility of the Principals of our Anglican Schools to honour Christ and His mission while –

- (i) providing an excellent education in a place that is safe and dedicated to the well-being of students, and
- (ii) ensuring excellence and development of all teachers and staff who work in our schools,

and because we honour them and long for their well-being – spiritually, emotionally and physically, this Synod –

- (a) expresses its thanks to all Principals of our Anglican Schools,
- (b) acknowledges the enormity and complexity of their role, the personal sacrifices made in the arenas of family and church life,
- (c) recognises the pressure from many stakeholders – students, parents, teachers, communities, governors, the Synod, NESAs and media outlets,
- (d) encourages all Principals to have a spiritual mentor or coach, outside their spheres of influence (primarily school and family), who is committed to their well-being and growth in the Christian faith, and
- (e) requests the Diocesan Secretary to convey the content of this motion to all Principals of Anglican Schools in Sydney.'

Seconded and carried

The Rev David Mears led the Synod in prayer for Principals of Anglican Schools.

11.4 Online determination of motions

Professor Bernard Stewart AM moved –

'Synod requests Standing Committee to draft a bill for an Amending Ordinance to the *Standing Orders Ordinance 2019* to provide for online voting by Synod members of any motion so notified by (a) ten members of Standing Committee or (b) one hundred members of Synod, at any time out of session but with reasonable caveats concerning time before the next scheduled session of Synod and with all other provisions concerning the determination of motions remaining operable where relevant.'

Seconded

The motion was not carried.

11.5 Livestream of meetings of the Synod

Having been granted leave, the Rev Richard Blight moved –

'Synod requests that arrangements be made to livestream meetings of Synod for the benefit of members who are unable to attend.'

Seconded

The motion was not carried.

12. Closure

12.1 Preaching at the Synod Service

Having been granted leave, Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'Synod records its appreciation for the preaching of the Rev Stuart Starr at the Synod Service.'

Seconded and carried by acclamation

12.2 Committees and Officers of the Synod

Archdeacon Kara Hartley moved –

'Synod records its appreciation for –

- (a) the President and his chairmanship,
- (b) the Chair and Deputy Chairs of Committee and their work in the consideration of the text of ordinances,
- (c) members who helped during the session by giving advice and serving the Synod, especially the Chancellor and Deputy Chancellors, Deputy Registrar, Archdeacon to the Archbishop, Acting Registrar, and Chair of Committee, the Synod Secretary and Secretary-designate, as well as the Order of Business and Minute Reading Committees, and
- (d) the services given by the staff of SDS and the Archbishop's Office, Anglican Media, the music team, Bible readers, Wesley staff, and all those who have helped facilitate this session of Synod.'

Seconded and carried by acclamation

12.3 **Minutes of 20 September 2022**

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

‘Synod authorises the President to sign the minutes of 20 September 2022 upon the production to the Standing Committee of the certificate of any 2 members of the Minute Reading Committee.’

Seconded and carried

12.4 **Hymn**

Members joined in the singing of the hymn ‘How Great Thou Art’.

Adjournment

At 9.05 pm, Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

‘Synod adjourns without appointing another day of meeting.’

Seconded and carried

We certify that, to the best of our recollection, these minutes are a correct record of the Synod’s proceedings.

Two Members of the Minute Reading Committee)
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Signed by the President

17 October 2022

