

53rd Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

First Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Monday 11 September 2023

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm after a service of Holy Communion at which the address was given by the Rev Andrew Rees.

2. Prayers

Prayers were read by Archdeacon Kara Hartley.

3. List of members of the Synod

The President tabled a copy of the list of members of the Synod.

4. Document appointing a Commissary

The President tabled a copy of a document appointing a commissary.

5. Procedural motions

5.1 Amendment to the business paper for Monday 11 September 2023

Having been granted leave, Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

'Synod permits the alteration of today's business paper in the manner set out on the paper circulated to Synod members headed "Amendments to the business paper for 11 September 2023", and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as may prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

6. Calling of motions related to certain elections

The President called the motions related to the elections in order in which they appeared on the business paper.

6.1 Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

'Under section 12 of the *Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917*, the Synod declares a vacancy in the offices of members of the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney for Canon Christopher Allan and the Rev Andrew Schmidt who have come to the end of their terms of office, noting that Canon Allan and Mr Schmidt have each been nominated in anticipation of this vacancy being declared.'

Seconded and carried

6.2 Secretary of the Synod

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

‘Synod hereby elects Mrs Briony Bounds to be Secretary of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

6.3 Chair of Committee

Dr Claire Smith moved –

‘Synod hereby elects Dr Robert Tong AM to be Chair of Committee.’

Seconded and carried

6.4 Deputy Chair or Deputy Chairs of Committee

Dr Claire Smith moved –

‘Synod hereby elects Canon Phillip Colgan, Mr Michael Easton and Dr Karin Sowada to be Deputy Chairs of Committee.’

Seconded and carried

6.5 Committee of Elections and Qualifications

Bishop Gary Koo moved –

‘Synod hereby elects a Committee of Elections and Qualifications consisting of the following persons –

Mr Michael Easton

Mrs Catherine Rich

Mr Ian Miller

Dr Karin Sowada’

Seconded and carried

6.6 Committee for the Order of Business

Dr Claire Smith moved –

‘Synod hereby elects a Committee for the Order of Business, consisting of the following persons –

The Secretary of Synod

Bishop Chris Edwards

Archdeacon Anthony Douglas

Dr Robert Tong AM’

Seconded and carried

6.7 Minute Reading Committee

Archdeacon Simon Flinders moved –

‘Synod hereby elects a Minute Reading Committee consisting of the following persons –

Mrs Stacey Chapman

Mrs Patricia Jackson

Mr Clive Ellis

Mr Malcolm Purvis

Miss Jenny Flower

Dr Claire Smith

Mrs Jeanette Habib

The Committee to operate on the basis that any 2 members may certify the minutes on behalf of the Committee.’

Seconded and carried

7. Uncontested elections

A list of the uncontested elections was tabled, the results of which –

- (a) in the case of the election for the Anglican Church Property Trust, was declared by the President,
- (b) in the case of all other elections, was declared by the President on 22 August 2023, effective from 11 September 2023,

pursuant to rule 4.1(b) of the Second Schedule to the *Synod Elections Ordinance 2000*.

8. Tabling of the minute book of the Standing Committee

The minute book of the Standing Committee was tabled.

9. Petitions

There were no petitions.

10. Questions

A list of questions asked by the following members in accordance with Standing Order 6.3(2)(a) was tabled –

- (1) The Rev Zac Veron
- (2) The Rev Zac Veron
- (3) The Rev David Clarke
- (4) The Rev John Chappell
- (5) The Rev Zac Veron
- (6) Mr David Barker
- (7) Mr Samuel Doherty
- (8) Mr Samuel Doherty
- (9) Mr Samuel Doherty
- (10) Mr Samuel Doherty
- (11) Mr Samuel Doherty
- (12) Mr Samuel Doherty
- (13) Mr Samuel Doherty
- (14) Mr Samuel Doherty
- (15) Mr Samuel Doherty
- (16) Mr David Lloyd
- (17) Mr David Lloyd
- (18) The Rev Hayden Smith
- (19) Mr Michael Doran

11. Notices of Motions

Notices of motions were given by the following members –

- (1) Bishop Michael Stead
- (2) Bishop Michael Stead
- (3) The Rev Dr Matthew Wilcoxon
- (4) The Rev Roger Cunningham
- (5) The Rev Dr Raj Gupta
- (6) The Rev Gavin Poole
- (1) The Rev Dr Andrew Ford
- (2) Mr Chris Hamam
- (3) Mr Chris Hamam
- (4) Mr Chris Hamam

12. Calling of motions on the business paper

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.

12.1 Arrangements concerning Daily Papers and amendments

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

'Synod –

- (a) notes that it is proposed to prepare and print Daily Papers (usually including the Business Paper and Schedule of motions with amendments) in a consolidated form and provide them to members in the foyer of the Wesley Theatre from 2.15 pm on each day,
- (b) notes that the Daily Papers will be posted on the SDS website, www.sds.asn.au as soon as they are finalised,
- (c) in order to facilitate this process, agrees that amendments for inclusion in the Daily Papers for any day of the session must be received by the Synod Secretary (either on paper or by email sent to synodbusiness@sydney.anglican.asn.au) in a substantially complete form by 10.30 am to be included Daily Papers for that day, and
- (d) notes that amendments received by the Synod Secretary after that time or which are not in a substantially complete form may, where feasible, be projected on the overhead screen in the Wesley Theatre (if required to be considered on that day) but will otherwise be included in the Daily Papers for the following day.'

Seconded and carried

12.2 Arrangements for the scheduling of business

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

'Synod notes that the Timetable for Synod Business sets out the anticipated order of business, including the following presentations that have been approved by the Standing Committee –

- (a) on Wednesday 13 September (afternoon session, from 5.20pm), a presentation from Anglican Community Services (Anglicare) of up to 20 minutes, to be delivered by Mr Simon Miller, Chief Executive Officer, and the Rev Dr Andrew Ford, Chief Executive Community and Mission,
- (b) on Monday 18 September (afternoon session, following the formal matters), a presentation, including visuals, for up to 10 minutes regarding Anglican Schools in the Diocese,

and notes that the Standing Committee has approved the following being presented at a time determined at the discretion of the President –

- (c) a presentation from the Endowment of the See Corporation, including visuals, of up to ten minutes,
- (d) a presentation from Sydney Diocesan Services, including visuals, of three minutes to be delivered by Mr Robert Wicks, Chief Executive Officer,
- (e) a presentation from Anglican Church Growth Corporation, including visuals and prayer, of up to five minutes,

and agrees –

- (f) to deal with its business in accordance with the Timetable for Synod Business,
- (g) that the mover and seconder of the motion at M11 (Grace City Church) may combine for a joint presentation with visuals for up to 10 minutes, including prayer,
- (h) to reserve the evening of Wednesday 13 September following consideration of matters related to the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations, to allow for the conclusion of debate on any matters commenced but not yet concluded earlier in the session, and

- (i) to a one-page flyer, in connection with the presentation mentioned in paragraph (d), being made available in the foyer of the Synod venue following the presentation for collection by members,
and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

12.3 Arrangements for consideration of M3 Response to Newmarch House 2020 COVID-19 Outbreak

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

'Synod, noting that –

- (i) the Report of the coronial inquest into the Newmarch House 2020 COVID-19 outbreak has not yet been released,
- (ii) a class action has commenced in relation to the Newmarch House 2020 COVID-19 outbreak, and
- (iii) a motion (M3) is on the Synod Agenda, which among other things seeks a report be provided to the Standing Committee on this matter when all inquiries and legal matters are resolved,

agrees not to consider any motion other than M3 on the topic of the Newmarch House 2020 COVID-19 outbreak and Anglicare Sydney's response at this session, and suspends all Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

12.4 Presentation regarding Indigenous reconciliation and the Voice Referendum

Archdeacon Simon Flinders moved –

'Synod –

- (a) notes that the President has invited the following persons to address the Synod, for up to twenty minutes each, on matters relating to Indigenous reconciliation and the Voice Referendum: Ms Larissa Minniecon, the Rev Michael Paduch Duckett, and the Rev Neville Naden,
- (b) notes that this presentation is scheduled for Monday 11 September (evening session), and
- (c) notes the encouragement of the Archbishop to all members of the Synod to listen generously to our Indigenous sister and brothers.'

Seconded and carried

12.5 Arrangements for the consideration of M20 SAIPMC Statement on the Voice Referendum

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

'Synod –

- (a) notes that notice has been given of a series of procedural motions, set out under the heading for motion M20 (SAIPMC Statement on the Voice Referendum) in the Schedule of motions attached to this business paper, which are to be moved immediately prior to consideration of the motion at M20,
 - (b) agrees to the following arrangements for consideration of the procedural motions –
 - (i) each procedural motion will be moved together without a seconder's speech, with the mover speaking for up to five minutes in total to all the procedural motions,
 - (ii) debate may proceed together on all the procedural motions,
 - (iii) each procedural motion will be put to the vote (unless it has lapsed),
- and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

12.6 Arrangements for the consideration of M22 Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy

Mr James Flavin moved –

'Synod agrees that the mover and seconder of motion M22 (Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy) may combine for a joint presentation with visuals for up to six minutes, including prayer, to be scheduled immediately prior to the dinner break on Wednesday 13 September.'

Seconded and carried

12.7 Arrangements for the consideration of motions regarding the Governance Policy (M24, M25, M26)

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'Synod agrees to –

- (a) consider the motions at M24 (Diocesan Governance Policy – tiered model of governance), M25 (Diocesan Governance Policy – Christian faith and character), and M26 (Diocesan Governance Policy – Statement of Personal Commitment to Organisational Faithfulness) immediately following consideration of the motion at M12 (Review of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations), currently scheduled for consideration during the evening session of Wednesday 13 September 2023, and
- (b) to the following arrangements for the consideration of M24, M25, and M26 –
 - (i) the mover of each motion may speak for up to five minutes, and up to three minutes in reply,
 - (ii) each motion will be moved without a seconder's speech, and
 - (iii) each speaker, other than the movers, may speak for up to 3 minutes,

and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded and carried

12.8 Arrangements for the consideration of B9 and M27 regarding Domestic Abuse

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

'Synod –

- (a) agrees to consider the proposed policy at B9 (Responding to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Good Practice Guidelines) on Wednesday 13 September, following formal matters,
- (b) agrees to consider the motion at M27 (Domestic Abuse Policy) immediately following consideration of the proposed policy at B9,
- (c) notes that the Safe Ministry Team Chaplain, Mrs Belinda Burn, will be available in the foyer of the Wesley Theatre from 3.30pm to 5.25pm on Wednesday 13 September for anyone who would like pastoral support.'

Seconded and carried

12.9 Publication of presentation material

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

'Synod agrees that any video presentation or presentation material may be published by the Secretary of the Synod, with the agreement of the presenter of the material, on the Synod webpage.'

Seconded and carried

12.10 Arrangements for consideration of B5 Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2023

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

‘Synod agrees, for the purposes of considering the Bill at B5 (Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2023), to substitute the form of Explanatory Report circulated along with today’s business paper for the form of the Explanatory Report shown at page 135 of Book 1, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.’

Seconded and carried

12.11 Arrangements for consideration of M35 Implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) receives notice of the following motion to be moved by request of the Standing Committee, which was inadvertently omitted from the Business Paper for Day 1 –

“Synod, noting the report 7/22 Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, requests the Standing Committee to provide a further update to the next session of the Synod in relation to implementation of the actions set out in the table to the report.”,

- (b) notes that this motion has been included in section III of the Schedule as M35,
 (c) agrees to consider the motion as the next unscheduled item of business following consideration of M19 (South Western Region buildings and property strategy), and
 (d) agrees that the motion may be called over from Tuesday 12 September,

and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.’

Seconded and carried

12.12 Arrangements for consideration of M19 South Western Region buildings and property strategy

Bishop Peter Lin moved –

‘Synod agrees that Mr Ross Jones, Chief Executive Officer of the Anglican Church Growth Corporation, may speak in debate during consideration of the motion at M19 (South Western Region buildings and property strategy), if not taken on the callover of motions, notwithstanding that Mr Jones is not a member of the Synod, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.’

Seconded and carried

12.13 Presentation regarding Mothers Union

Archdeacon Kara Hartley moved –

‘Synod agrees to allow a 2-minute video prepared by Mothers Union, to be shown at a time prior to the dinner break on any day, determined at the discretion of the President.’

Seconded and carried

12.14 Annual reports submitted under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

‘Synod notes that the following annual reports submitted under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995* for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2022, have been tabled and receives them –

- (1) Abbotsleigh (The Council of)
- (2) Anglican Church Growth Corporation
- (3) Anglican Church Growth Corporation as trustee for the Ministry Infrastructure Development Fund
- (4) Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney as trustee for the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney Grants Administration Fund *
- (5) Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney as trustee for the Long Term Pooling Fund
- (6) Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney
- (7) Anglican Media Council
- (8) Anglican Schools Corporation *
- (9) Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks) *
- (10) Archbishop of Sydney's Discretionary Trust
- (11) Arden Anglican School Council (The)
- (12) Arundel House Council
- (13) Barker College (The Council of)
- (14) Campbelltown Anglican Schools Council *
- (15) Endowment of the See Corporation as trustee of the Endowment of the See Property Fund
- (16) Evangelism and New Churches (The Board of)
- (17) Glebe Administration Board as trustee of the Diocesan Cash Investment Fund
- (18) Glebe Administration Board as trustee of the Diocesan Endowment
- (19) Illawarra Grammar School (The Council of The) *
- (20) King's School (The Council of The)
- (21) Living Faith Council
- (22) Macarthur Anglican Church School Council (The)
- (23) Ministry Training and Development (The Council of)
- (24) Moore Theological College Council *
- (25) Northern Regional Council
- (26) St Andrew's Cathedral School (The Council of)
- (27) St Andrew's House Corporation as trustee of the St Andrew's House Trust
- (28) St Catherine's School Waverley (The Council of)
- (29) South Sydney Regional Council
- (30) South Western Regional Council
- (31) Sydney Anglican Loans Board
- (32) Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee
- (33) Sydney Church of England Grammar School Council (Shore)
- (34) Sydney Diocesan Services
- (35) Tara Anglican School for Girls (The Council of)
- (36) Trinity Grammar School (The Council of)
- (37) Western Sydney Regional Council
- (38) William Clarke College Council *
- (39) Wollongong Regional Council'

Seconded and carried

12.15 Annual reports for organisations with a financial year ending 30 June

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

'Synod notes that the following annual reports, submitted under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995* for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2022, have been tabled and receives them –

Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid (The) *
 Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid (The), as trustee of the Archbishop of
 Sydney's Overseas Ministry Fund *
 Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid (The), as trustee of the Archbishop of
 Sydney's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund *
 Anglican Community Services**

Seconded and carried

12.16 Other annual reports

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

'Synod notes that the following annual report for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2022 has been tabled and receives it –

Mission to Seafarers (The), Sydney'

Seconded and carried

12.17 Amendments to Faithfulness in Service

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

'Synod, noting the report 'Amendments to Faithfulness in Service: A national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers', adopts the amendments to Faithfulness in Service as set out in the report.'

Seconded and carried

12.18 Consumption of alcohol in the parish context

Dean Sandy Grant moved –

'Synod, noting the report 'Consumption of alcohol in the parish context: update to the 2009 report' and the associated updated report on 'Consumption of Alcohol in the Context of Parishes, Churches, Congregations and Fellowships in the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney' (the updated Report) –

- (a) requests that a copy of the updated Report be sent to all parish ministers and wardens,
- (b) requests that all parish ministers and wardens be reminded of the 'Policy on Consumption of Alcohol in the Parish Context' adopted by Synod in 2009,
- (c) encourages all wardens to implement a parish policy on alcohol, or review their existing policy, in the light of the updated Report and existing Synod policy, and
- (d) requests the General Synod to consider the impact of social media on parishioners, especially the vulnerable, and educate clergy on faithful usage of these media. This may include instruction on any potential harm of posting photographs of leaders consuming alcohol.'

Seconded and carried

12.19 Response to Newmarch House 2020 COVID-19 Outbreak

Mr Simon Miller moved –

'Synod, noting that it resolved in 2022 that when all inquiries and legal matters are resolved, and the matter was no longer sub judice, Anglicare Sydney prepare a report on the steps and actions that have been taken to address the specific and broader issues and challenges revealed by the COVID-19 outbreak at Newmarch House in 2020 –

- (a) notes that the Newmarch House 2020 COVID-19 outbreak remains *sub judice* as –

- (i) the Report of the coronial inquest into the Newmarch House 2020 COVID-19 outbreak has not yet been released, and
 - (ii) a class action has been filed in relation to the outbreak, and
- (b) requests that, when all inquiries and legal matters are resolved, the Board and executive team of Anglicare Sydney prepare a report to the Standing Committee on the steps and actions that have been taken to address the specific and broader issues and challenges revealed by the COVID-19 outbreak at Newmarch House in 2020.'

Seconded and carried

12.20 Diocesan Doctrine Commission's terms of reference

Archdeacon Simon Flinders moved –

'Synod, noting the report "The Diocesan Doctrine Commission's terms of reference", requests that the Commission appointed by the Archbishop in consultation with the Standing Committee pursuant to resolution 19/81 –

- (a) be comprised of ten persons, to serve for a term of three years,
- (b) have a Chair, appointed by the Archbishop from among the members, and
- (c) consider and report on issues which may be referred to it from time to time only by the Synod, the Standing Committee, or by the Archbishop,

and encourages the Standing Committee to approve suitable Terms of Reference for the Commission that reflect the recommendations of this motion.'

Seconded and carried

12.21 Discontinuation of the Affiliated Churches Program

The Rev Philip Wheeler moved –

'Synod, noting the report "Discontinuation of the Affiliated Churches Program", notes that following discussion with and support from current Affiliated Churches, the Standing Committee intends to discontinue the Affiliated Churches Program in 2024.'

Seconded and carried

12.22 50th Anniversary of Robert Menzies College

Ms Nicola Warwick-Mayo moved –

'Synod notes that 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of Robert Menzies College and gives thanks to God for the caring community, and Christian teaching and equipping it has provided to thousands of university students for over half a century.

Synod values the important contribution the College makes to university life in our city and recognises the many faithful people who have been involved in the ministry of the College since its conception. Synod encourages the Master and all those involved today to faithfully continue this heritage for the glory of God.'

Seconded and carried

12.23 World Mental Health Day – 10 October 2023

Bishop Gary Koo moved –

'Synod, noting that over two in five Australians aged 16-85 years (43.7% or 8.6 million people) are estimated to have experienced a mental disorder at some time in their life, encourages our parishes to raise awareness of the prevalence of mental health issues in our churches and communities, and of available resources and support, by promoting, participating in and praying for World Mental Health Day (October 10), including by using

the resources from The Mental Health and Pastoral Care Institute (<https://mentalhealthinstitute.org.au/for-churches/world-mental-health-day/>).’

Seconded and carried

12.24 Youthworks’ ministries

The Rev Tom Hargreaves moved –

‘Synod, noting that almost 80% of church-goers say that they made decisions to follow Christ before their nineteenth birthday and 56% say they had a formative spiritual experience on a Christian camp, thanks God for the ministries of Youthworks, particularly –

- (a) the Port Hacking conference centres that are undergoing significant improvements to their accommodation units to enable more people from more churches to have more time in temporary Christian community, and
- (b) the creation of a secure Salesforce portal to assist local church SRE coordinators in more easily administering their SRE teachers thereby freeing up more volunteer ministry time for face to face gospel ministry,

and seeks God’s blessing on these endeavours that more young people in our city and beyond might question, explore and discover life-giving faith in Jesus Christ.

Seconded and carried

Mr Hargreaves led the Synod in prayer for the work of Youthworks.

12.25 Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017

The Rev Craig Schafer moved –

‘Synod, noting that the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 (MSO) has been in operation for five years, asks Standing Committee to investigate –

- (a) the impact of the complaints processes of the Office of the Director of Safe Ministry (**ODSM**) under the MSO on church workers, their families, and their parish ministry, including duration of complaints handling, impact of confidentiality requirements, perceptions of the investigation process, and general confidence in the process,
- (b) the adequacy of support arrangements for complainants and respondents involved in ODSM processes,
- (c) the cost of processing complaints that ultimately do not proceed, or return no finding of unfitness, and how those costs can be minimised,
- (d) what steps can be taken to minimise negative impacts on church workers and their families that result from false, trivial or vexatious complaints,
- (e) whether the shift to a fitness for office test has achieved the intended objectives, what costs it has involved, and whether it should be maintained,
- (f) whether complaints of child sexual abuse and bullying are best governed by a common process and/or ordinance, or whether these complaints require different approaches, processes and/or ordinances,
- (g) the extent to which the biblical necessity for church discipline and the practical requirements of such church discipline are properly considered in our approach to, and definitions of, bullying and harassment, and
- (h) how we can make better use of the *Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour* and other processes in resolving conflict apart from the MSO,

and report its findings and recommendations to the 2024 session of Synod.’

Seconded and carried

13. Procedural motions from members

13.1 Arrangements for the consideration of M13

Having been granted leave, the Rev Jason Ramsay moved as a procedural motion –

‘Synod requests the Committee for the Order of Business rearrange the Synod timetable so that M13 be considered before M12.’

Mr Ramsay’s procedural motion was put but was not carried.

13.2 Notice of procedural motion concerning motions relating to the Governance Policy (M24, M25, M26)

Dean Sandy Grant gave notice of his intention to move as a procedural motion –

‘Synod agrees that –

- (a) the motions at M24, M25 and M26 not be debated or voted on, and
- (b) Synod members may provide their initial feedback on the Exposure Draft of the revised Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations during the debate of the motion at M12,

and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.’

13.3 Arrangements for consideration of 14.3

Mrs Briony Bounds moved as a procedural motion –

‘Synod agrees to schedule consideration of the motion at item 14.3 to a time to be determined by the Committee for the Order of Business.’

Seconded and carried

14. Anglican Church Growth Corporation presentation

A video presentation was given regarding the work of the Anglican Church Growth Corporation.

The Rev Philip Wheeler led the Synod in prayer for the work of the Corporation.

15. Mothers Union presentation

A video presentation was given regarding the work of the Mothers Union.

16. Presidential Address

The President delivered his address to the Synod.

Adjournment

At 5.25 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.

17. Indigenous reconciliation and the Voice Referendum presentation

The President made a personal statement, and led the Synod in prayer for Indigenous Australians and for reconciliation.

Ms Larissa Minniecon, the Rev Neville Naden, and the Rev Michael Paduch Duckett addressed the Synod on matters relating to Indigenous reconciliation and the Voice Referendum, which was received with acclamation.

The Rev Dr Simon Gillham led the Synod in prayer for Indigenous reconciliation and the Voice Referendum.

18. Motions

18.1 General Synod – Safe Ministry Legislation Amendments Canon 2022 Adopting Ordinance 2023

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

‘That the General Synod – Safe Ministry Legislation Amendments Canon 2022 Adopting Ordinance 2023 be approved in principle.’

Seconded

Dr Tong spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The President asked –

‘Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?’

There were no questions.

The President asked –

‘Does any member wish to speak for or against the motion, or move an amendment to it?’

There was no member who wished to speak against the motion or move an amendment to it.

The motion that the ordinance be approved in principle was put and was carried.

The President asked –

‘Does any member wish to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance?’

There was no member who wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance.

Dr Tong moved –

‘That the General Synod – Safe Ministry Legislation Amendments Canon 2022 Adopting Ordinance 2023 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

18.2 General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Suspension) Canon 2022 Assenting Ordinance 2023

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

'That Synod agree to consider passing the General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Suspension) Canon 2022 Assenting Ordinance 2023 formally.'

Seconded and carried

Dr Tong spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The President asked –

'Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?'

There were no questions.

Dr Tong moved –

'That the proposed ordinance pass formally as an ordinance of the Synod.'

Seconded and carried

18.3 **General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Deposition) Canon 2022 Assenting Ordinance 2023**

Dr Robert Tong AM moved –

'That Synod agree to consider passing the General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Deposition) Canon 2022 Assenting Ordinance 2023 formally.'

Seconded and carried

Dr Tong spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The President asked –

'Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?'

There were no questions.

Dr Tong moved –

'That the proposed ordinance pass formally as an ordinance of the Synod.'

Seconded and carried

18.4 **Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019 Amendment Ordinance 2023**

Archdeacon Anthony Douglas moved –

'That Synod agree to consider passing the Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019 Amendment Ordinance 2023 formally.'

Seconded and carried

Archdeacon Douglas spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The President asked –

'Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?'

There were no questions.

Archdeacon Douglas moved –

'That the proposed ordinance pass formally as an ordinance of the Synod.'

Seconded and carried

18.5 **Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2023**

Mr Michael Easton moved –

'That Synod agree to consider passing the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2023 formally.'

Seconded and carried

Mr Easton spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The President asked –

'Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?'

There were no questions.

Mr Easton moved –

'That the proposed ordinance pass formally as an ordinance of the Synod.'

Seconded and carried

18.6 **Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese**

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

'Synod, noting the report "Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese" –

- (a) expresses its gratitude for the work of the volunteers who serve on the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee (**SAIPMC**),
- (b) notes the report from the SAIPMC that Indigenous ministry in the Diocese is hampered because a committee of volunteers is not able to lead and drive the vision for Indigenous ministry (and true gospel reconciliation) across our Diocese and beyond,
- (c) expresses in-principle support for the recommendation of SAIPMC for the recognition and appointment of an Indigenous person (or persons) to lead and represent Indigenous ministry in our Diocese,
- (d) requests the Standing Committee to appoint a committee to explore how best to implement the recommendation of SAIPMC. The committee should consider –
 - (i) the scope of the role,
 - (ii) whether this role should be full time or part time, and/or a possible staged implementation,
 - (iii) whether there should be Indigenous representation on the Standing Committee,
 - (iv) the appropriate form of appointment (e.g., Canon, Archdeacon or Bishop), and
 - (v) the funding of this role, and
- (e) requests, to the extent that the recommendations of the committee require ordinance changes, that such changes be brought to the next session of the Synod for consideration.'

Seconded

Having been granted leave, Canon Phillip Colgan withdrew the amendment of which he had given notice on the Business Paper.

Bishop Stead's motion was carried without amendment.

18.7 Commencement of voluntary assisted dying in NSW

Mr Greg Hammond OAM moved –

'Synod, noting the report "The commencement of voluntary assisted dying in NSW" –

- (a) gives praise and thanks to God for his continued goodness in the provision of care and support to older persons living in residential aged care homes by Anglican Community Services (**Anglicare Sydney**),
- (b) thanks the members of the Archbishop's Working Group on Voluntary Assisted Dying and recommends the Working Group's Report to all who consider the passage of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022 (NSW) (Act)* to be a tragedy for our society and a profound challenge for the church,
- (c) commends the decision by Anglicare Sydney to continue providing aged care services whilst adopting an approach that refuses to actively support euthanasia but complies with the Act, regulations and guidelines as far as a biblically informed Christian conscience will allow,
- (d) prays for the care and protection of all residents, their families and friends, and the staff, executives, and Board of Anglicare Sydney, as access to voluntary assisted dying becomes available on 28 November 2023 and beyond,
- (e) reaffirms its opposition to voluntary assisted dying and calls on the NSW Parliament to repeal the Act, and failing that to administer the Act in such a manner as to permit faith-based organisations, including residential aged care providers, who oppose euthanasia on the grounds of institutional conscientious objection, not to participate in, facilitate or permit voluntary assisted dying in or at their premises, facilities or services in any way,
- (f) affirms its commitment to supporting Anglicare Sydney as, confident in the goodness of God and the goodness of his word, it continues to work out the contours of faithfulness to Christ in humble obedience to the teaching of Scripture, even when faithfulness to this teaching is opposed by our governments, other institutions or prevailing popular opinions, and
- (g) resolves to stand with Anglicare if, like many faithful saints who have gone before us and many others around us, it is required to make costly decisions in order to maintain faithfulness to Christ.'

Seconded

The Rev Joseph Wiltshire moved as an amendment to Mr Hammond's motion –

'Insert as a new paragraph (h) –

- "(h) encourages Anglicare Sydney to respectfully, in compliance with the law, seek to dissuade residents from accessing VAD by 'deed and word'."

Seconded

Bishop Michael Stead moved as an amendment to Mr Wiltshire's amendment –

'Omit the matter after "seek to" and insert instead the matter "persuade residents by 'deed and word' that VAD is not consistent with the provision of life affirming care".'

Seconded

The Rev Jeremy Tonks moved as a further amendment to Mr Wiltshire's amendment –

'Omit the matter ", in compliance with the law,".'

Seconded

The Rev Chris Braga moved as a further amendment to Mr Hammond's motion –

'In paragraph (g) –

- (a) following the word "Anglicare" insert the words "and its staff", and
- (b) omit the words "it is" and insert instead the words "they are".'

Seconded

The Rev Dominic Steele moved as a further amendment to Mr Wiltshire's amendment –

'That the text of Mr Wiltshire's amendment, as amended by Bishop Stead, be inserted at the end of paragraph (g) rather than form a new paragraph (h).'

Having been granted leave, Mr Steele withdrew his amendment.

Mr Tonks' amendment to Mr Wiltshire's amendment was not carried.

Mr Wiltshire's amendment to Mr Hammond's motion, as amended by Bishop Stead, was not carried.

Mr Braga's amendment to Mr Hammond's motion was not carried.

Mr Hammond's motion was carried without amendment.

Bishop Stead led the Synod in prayer.

Adjournment

At 9.24pm, Archdeacon Simon Flinders moved –

'That the Synod adjourn and resume at 3.15 pm tomorrow.'

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)
Minute Reading Committee)

Signed by the President

12 September 2023