

# Early release of motions for which notice was given on 16 September 2024

as at 7.00 pm, 16 September 2024

Please note – the motions below may be subject to minor editorial amendments on the Business Paper for 17 September 2024.

(i) **Bishop Michael Stead gave notice of the following motion -**

Synod –

- (a) notes the increasing number of laws in NSW that inhibit religious freedom, including –
  - (i) the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019, which forces doctors with a conscientious objection to abortion to refer their patients to another doctor to perform those practices,
  - (ii) the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022, which requires faith-based providers to facilitate euthanasia on their premises,
  - (iii) the Conversion Practices Ban Act 2024 (NSW),
  - (iv) the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQ+) Bill 2023, which if passed will significantly erode the rights of religious institutions to act and employ consist with their religious ethos,
- (b) notes that it continues to be lawful in NSW to discriminate against people on the basis of their religious belief, and that the NSW Government has deferred addressing this until it received a report from the New South Wales Law Reform Commission,
- (c) commends the recommendations of the bipartisan NSW Parliament Joint Select Committee in support of the *Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020* which proposed protections against for religious discrimination within NSW,
- (d) asks all churches to inform their members of these issues and to encourage them to write to their local State Member of Parliament commending the recommendations of the bipartisan NSW Parliament Joint Select Committee on the *Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020*.

(ii) **Bishop Michael Stead gave notice of the following motion -**

Synod –

- (a) expresses its disappointment that the Albanese Government has indicated that it does not intend to honour its election commitments to pass a Religious Discrimination Act and to maintain the ability of faith-based schools to preference people of their faith in the selection of staff under the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth),
- (b) calls on the Government and the Opposition to recommit to passing a Religious Discrimination Act to protect individuals against discrimination, and also to commit to introducing a positive right for religious individuals and organisations to conduct their affairs in accordance with their religious beliefs,
- (c) asks all churches to inform their members of these issues and to encourage them to write to their Federal Member of Parliament to seek these commitments for a Religious Discrimination Act and positive protections to conduct one's affairs in accordance with religious beliefs.

(iii) **Mr Tristian Anlezark gave notice of the following motion -**

This Synod notes that there will be a dinner for its younger members on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 for the purposes of encouragement and nourishment. The dinner group will meet

at the Pitt St entrance of the Wesley Theatre at the conclusion of the evening session, with the intention of dining in Centrepont Westfield food court.

All Synod members feeling their youth places them in a minority, or otherwise feeling the weight of their inexperience, are warmly invited to attend.

(iv) **Mr Samuel Doherty gave notice of the following motion -**

Synod, noting that –

- (a) Rule 6.5 of the *Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019 (the Ordinance)* could be used to override rule 5.2 of the Ordinance,
- (b) it is not desirable for rule 5.2 to be overridden by rule 6.5,

requests Standing Committee to consider whether the Ordinance should be amended, and if so, to bring any amendment to a forthcoming Synod.

(v) **Mr Samuel Doherty gave notice of the following motion -**

Synod –

- (a) noting the “Declaration” in clause 6 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* in which the declarant affirms, *inter alia*, that they have not been convicted of a disqualifying offence listed in Schedule 2 of the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*, and
- (b) noting the equivalent declarations made by persons nominated or appointed as a parish councillor or warden in the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*,
- (c) further notes that the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 (the Act)* states in section 18 that Working With Children Check clearances must not be granted to “disqualified persons”, defined (in part) as a person convicted of an offence specified in Schedule 2, “if the offence was committed as an adult”, and therefore

requests the Standing Committee to examine (or ask a suitable body to examine) the wording of these declarations in the light of the qualification contained in the Act, to consider whether the ordinance declarations should be amended to bring them in line with the Act, and report and, if necessary, bring a suitable bill, to the next session of the Synod.

(vi) **Mr Peter Hicks gave notice of the following motion -**

Synod agrees to allow the presentation of a 5 minute video regarding the work of Sydney Anglican Property on Tuesday 17 September at a time to be determined at the discretion of the President.

(vii) **The Rev Richard Blight gave notice of the following motion -**

Synod –

- (a) notes the defunding of the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (TEMOC) in the 2025-2027 Diocesan budget, cutting TEMOC funding from \$107k in 2024 to zero,
- (b) gives thanks for the work of TEMOC since 2010 in supporting and encouraging ministry among Tertiary students, including the distribution \$1.5 million of Synod funding used to leverage growth of a wide range of tertiary ministries and the training of Ministry Apprentices,
- (c) gives thanks for the way TEMOC has helped fund 32 theologically trained gospel workers and 185 Ministry Apprentices over this time, focusing on providing seed funding for new trained worker positions with a special emphasis on Western Sydney University, cross-cultural workers and female workers,
- (d) asks TEMOC to continue its work to encourage Tertiary Education Ministries in whatever way possible despite the current lack of funding, and
- (e) asks the Diocesan Resources Committee to restore the allocation of funding to TEMOC as soon as possible.

(viii) **Dr Laurie Scandrett gave notice of the following motion -**

Synod gives thanks to God for the work and ministry of Canon Daniel Willis, formerly the Rector of Frenchs Forest, an Assistant Minister of St Andrew’s Cathedral and the State Secretary of the

Bush Church Aid Society, who will soon retire as the Gafcon Global Operations Manager. Daniel previously served as the Conference Director of GAFCON III, which was held in Jerusalem in 2018, before taking on the role of Gafcon Global Operations Manager in 2020. Daniel brought very strong administrative, organisational and strategic planning skills to this role, and in particular led the Gafcon Global Secretariat with composure through the COVID years when travel was difficult and, as a result, relationships strained. Yet in all he has done Daniel has sought to honour God and the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in and beyond this Diocese. In all this Daniel was, and is still, supported by his loving wife, Karen. This Synod recognises that Daniel and Karen will continue to contribute fruitfully to gospel ministry and prays for God's ongoing blessings on them.

(ix) **Dr Laurie Scandrett gave notice of the following motion -**

Synod congratulates the Rev Jodie McNeill, currently the Rector of Jamberoo, on his appointment as the new Gafcon Global Operations Manager, commencing part-time from 1 September and then full-time on 1 January 2025. Jodie has extensive executive-level ministry experience, as well as gifts in preaching and pastoral ministry, and is a passionate supporter of Gafcon. He served on the organizing committee for the Gafcon III Conference in Jerusalem in 2018 and the Gafcon IV conference held in Kigali in 2023. He has also chaired the organising committees for the Gafcon Australasia conferences held in Canberra in 2022 and Brisbane in 2024. Jodie will bring significant administrative and strategic planning skills to the role, while his generosity of spirit will serve the Gafcon Secretariat well. Through all this Jodie has been, and will continue to be, supported by his wife Mandy, who has enthusiastically served alongside him in Gafcon ministries and who continues to share with him a deep passion for this movement that they love. This Synod prays for God's blessings on Jodie and Mandy as Jodie takes up this new international role.

(x) **The Rev Andrew Lim gave notice of the following motion -**

It is with a mixture of sadness and gratitude that Synod acknowledges this as Rev Jodie McNeill's final session with us for the foreseeable future. We extend our heartfelt thanks to God for Jodie's dedicated service to Synod over many years, particularly for his enthusiastic and capable leadership in our worship through song.

We recognise with profound gratitude the evident blessings God has bestowed upon the parish of Jamberoo under Jodie's guidance. The flourishing of this community stands as a testament to his pastoral care and joyful leadership. Jodie's impact on the spiritual life of this church has been significant, and his ministry there will be remembered fondly.

As Jodie and his wife Mandy prepare to bid farewell to their beloved church family, we lift them up in prayer. We ask for God's grace to smooth their transition in both work and family life as they embark on this new chapter together.

May God's wisdom guide Jodie in his new role, and may His presence comfort the Jamberoo parish as they navigate this change. May God uphold unity within the congregation, binding them together in love, purpose, and vision.

And may He grant wisdom and discernment to the parish council and all those involved as they seek a new under-shepherd, someone with a pastor's heart, sound doctrine, and a passion for Your Word and Your people.

(xi) **Mr Peter Mayrick gave notice of the following motion -**

Synod encourages –

- (a) churches to engage in ministry planning on a regular basis, noting that a planning horizon of 2-3 years is a commendable common practice,
- (b) churches to utilise an additional NCLS survey at the beginning of such planning cycles to gather information to be used as part of this process, even with this may be out of sync with the 5 yearly census and historical NCLS rhythm.

(xii) **Canon Tim Swan gave notice of the following motion -**

Synod celebrates with thanks the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid, founded originally as the Archbishop of Sydney's Winter Appeal in 1934 by

Archbishop Howard Mowll, and notes the addition in 1971 of the Archbishop's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund by Archbishop Marcus Loane, the addition in 2001 of the Archbishop's Overseas Ministry Fund by Archbishop Harry Goodhew, and the amalgamation of the three funds under the umbrella name of The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid by Archbishop Peter Jensen in 2010. Synod rejoices at the tens of thousands of needy people helped, and is grateful for the widespread ongoing support for Anglican Aid from across the Diocese.

(xiii) **Canon Brian Tung gave notice of the following motion -**

This Synod of the Anglican Church –

- (a) Gives thanks to God for the Evangelism and New Churches (ENC) church plant in partnership with St George's Hurstville, St Luke's Liverpool and the Georges River and George's River West Mission Areas, under the leadership of Bijaya and Kate Shrestha, who have faithfully responded to the growing spiritual need among the Nepali community in Sydney.
- (b) Recognises the increasing number of Nepalis moving into Australia, particularly in the Liverpool and Georges River area. The Nepali community remains largely unreached by the Gospel, with the vast majority identifying as Hindu (84%) or Buddhist (8.5%). As the Nepali population continues to grow, so does the opportunity to reach them with the hope of Christ.
- (c) Commends the vision of this church plant to establish a vibrant Nepali-speaking congregation where none currently exist. This effort seeks to mobilise existing Nepali believers and foster partnerships with other local churches to make Christ known in their community. The goal is to plant a sustainable church within two years and lay the foundation for further church plants in other areas.
- (d) Encourages the churches in the Diocese to commit this work to prayer and support, asking God to bring about lasting Gospel transformation within the Nepali community.
- (e) Invites churches to partner in prayer and financially with this strategic church planting effort, recognising the immense opportunity to reach an unreached people group here in Australia.

(xiv) **Mrs Greta Morris gave notice of the following motion -**

Synod acknowledges the new ministry to sex workers involving team members from four churches who are part of Together for Canterbury Bankstown: St Paul's Canterbury, Embassy Church, Marrickville Road Church and St Alban's Belmore.

Synod is reminded of God's love for the poor and oppressed and gives glory to Him for opening the door for this ministry.

Synod will join together in prayer for the team and for the women they seek to reach.