

Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

3rd Session of the 46th Synod Business Paper: Tuesday 26 October 2004

(Page references are to the Standing Committee's Report - see Part 5 of the Synod Business Rules for ordinance procedures.)

Members of Synod are asked to identify themselves each time they speak.

1. **Devotions will be led by the Rev Dr Peter O'Brien: see attached**
2. **Minutes of 25 October 2004**
3. **Answers to questions**

3.1 The Rev Gwilym Henry-Edwards to ask -

With reference to item 9.5 Child Protection and for the need to ensure that appropriate people are appointed to leadership positions in the church, I have a question to ask about the Confidential Questionnaire for Ordination Candidacy or Licensing.

- (a) What constructs is the instrument intended to measure?
- (b) Has this instrument been scientifically tested to ensure its reliability and validity, (particularly discriminant and predictive validity)?
- (c) If so, what are the results?
- (d) If not, what steps are in place to ensure that appropriate testing is carried out?

3.2 The Rev Dr Gavin Wilcox to ask -

- (a) How many students are currently enrolled in Bachelor of Divinity or Bachelor of Theology degrees at Moore College?
- (b) How many of these are full time students?
- (c) How many are part time?
- (d) What percentage of married full time students enrolled in these degrees live in accommodation provided by the College?
- (e) What special provisions, if any, exist to facilitate students from distant regions of the Diocese obtain in a Bachelor of Divinity or Bachelor of Theology through Moore College?

3.3 Mr Ross Mitchell to ask -

I seek information relating to the growth in church attendance in the Diocese. I have reviewed the table of Diocesan Statistics for 2002 that is found on page 122 of the recently distributed 2004 Year Book. This records a total increase in Average Sunday Attendances of 15% from the previous year.

I ask that the following information be provided -

- (a) The tabular information as was presented in the Year Book for average Sunday attendance, recalculated to only include churches that submitted a return in both years.
- (b) The basis for the change in the statistics that are reported in the Year Book, in the particular the omission of previously published parish information.

- (c) The measures being used, or planned to be used, in the diocese to determine changes in church attendance in terms that would indicate absolute and relative growth, as well as our performance against the initial goal of the mission, which as a Synod we accepted in 2002.
- (d) The date adopted as the Mission start date, and the plans to insert a date into the mission initial goal.

3.4 The Rev Peter Kurti to ask -

In light of the publication of *The Windsor Report 2004*, what priority will the Archbishop give, both at home and abroad, to encouraging acceptance of the recommendations to the Lambeth Commission on Communion, especially the recommendation that the adoption of so-called "Anglican Covenants", the churches of the Anglican Communion might most effectively promote a spirit of reconciliation?

3.5 The Rev Robert Happer to ask -

- (a) How many vacant parishes including provisional parishes are there within the Diocese?
- (b) How long have these respective parishes and provisional parishes been vacant for?
- (c) Is it possible to "continually" list both parishes and provisional parishes when they become vacant, thus allowing other parishes to take up their responsibility to pray for their brothers and sisters in a more informed way?

3.6 The Rev Peter Ellem to ask -

- (a) Are there any plans to increase the number of chaplains working in the Professional Standards Unit?
- (b) Has anyone been appointed to facilitate the Care & Assistance Scheme, if not, when might an appointment be expected?
- (c) Are there any plans to train and appoint specialist consultants to assist in parishes where above has occurred?

4. Petitions

5. Procedural motions from members

6. Calling of motions on the business paper

7. Motions

To be taken today after items 1 to 6 (about 3:45 pm)

7.1 Narellan: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Narellan as a parish with effect from 1 January 2005.

(Additional Papers, page AP10) (Mr David Nockles/The Rev Michael Blake)

7.2 Petersham: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Petersham as a parish with effect from 1 January 2005.

(Supp Report, page 9) (The Rev Antony Barraclough/Archdeacon Deryck Howell)

7.3 **Ashbury: Creation of a provisional parish**

Synod assents to the creation of the provisional parish of Ashbury effect from 1 January 2005.
(*Supp Report, page 5*) (Archdeacon Deryck Howell/The Rev Trevor Oakley)

To be taken today after the New Capital Presentation (about 8:00 pm)

7.4 **Synod Appropriations and Allocations for 2006-2008**

Synod, noting the report "Synod Appropriations and Allocations for 2006-2008" -

- (a) notes the intention to appropriate the funds shown in the schedule to the report (from the Diocesan Endowment Ordinance, the other specific trust ordinances and the general provision for distribution held by the Glebe Administration Board) in each of the years 2006-2008, and
- (b) notes the intention to make a special allocation of funds to the capital of the Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Fund in each of the years 2006-2008, and
- (c) notes the intention to allocate the percentage of Total Funds Available shown in the schedule to the report to each of the policy areas for the years 2006-2008.

(*Additional Papers, page AP19*) (Bishop Peter Tasker/Mr Peter Kell)

Motions for which no particular time has been specified for consideration

7.5 **Parishes (Special Administration) Ordinance 2004: continuation of committee stage**

That Synod resolves itself into the Synod in Committee to further consider the text of the Parishes (Special Administration) Ordinance 2004.
(*Special Mailing*) (Bishop Robert Forsyth/Mr Michael Orpwood QC)

7.6 **Recognised Churches Amendment Ordinance 2004**

Synod permits the introduction of the Recognised Churches Amendment Ordinance 2004.
(*Page 95*) (Bishop Robert Forsyth)

7.7 **Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Amending Ordinance 2004**

Synod permits the introduction of the Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Amending Ordinance 2004.
(*Page 121*) (Bishop Ivan Lee)

7.8 **Synod Membership (Election of Parochial Representatives) Amendment Ordinance 2004**

Synod permits the introduction of the Synod Membership (Election of Parochial Representatives) Amendment Ordinance 2004.
(*Page 124*) (Mr Michael Orpwood QC)

7.9 **Associated Churches**

Synod requests that the Standing Committee –

- (a) consider the means by which non-Anglican churches might be recognised as associated churches of the Diocese and the benefits which may arise for both the Diocese and those churches by reason of such association, and
- (b) prepare and, if thought appropriate, pass such ordinances as it thinks necessary to provide for such association.

(Dr Philip Selden)

7.10 Abortion

Synod grieves the loss of up to 100,000 Australian lives each year through abortion, and calls upon this church, the federal government, state governments and the Australian community to -

- (a) identify and reduce the stresses causing so many women to terminate pregnancies, and
- (b) discern how more children might be welcomed into loving adoptive families rather than aborted,

and requests that the Diocesan Secretary, on behalf of the Synod, communicate a copy of the call in this resolution to all federal and state members of parliament, asking them to defend the lives of the unborn.

Synod also calls on all Bible preachers to sensitively provide a biblical perspective on abortion, from time to time, so that God's people can be more fully equipped to make godly decisions on this issue.

(Mrs Lesley Ramsay/Mrs Claire Smith)

(Matters in italics are amendments accepted by the mover.)

7.11 Use of the word "Priest"

Synod -

- (a) reaffirms the decision of motion 20/97,

Synod considers -

- (a) *that the good reason for our reformers retaining the word "priest" in the Book of Common Prayer is its derivation from the Greek "presbuteros", (which means a senior person, and "elder", or a mature leader); and*
- (b) *that much of this meaning has been lost, because modern English has come to use "priest" to mean a person who mediates between man and God,*

and therefore encourages all involved in liturgical revision, in place of the word "priest", to use words like "elder", "president", "presbyter" or "minister".

- (b) considers that our continued use of the word "Priest" in legislation and formularies describing New Testament ministers, is unhelpful, confusing and dangerous, and
- (c) asks that the Standing Committee bring to the next session a report, on the action needed to replace the word "priest" with words such as "presbyter" or "senior minister" in all our legislation and formularies and, if necessary, legislation to effect this.

(The Rev Chris Clerke)

7.12 Canon Donald Anderson

Synod records its appreciation for the many years of service to the Diocese of Canon Donald Anderson both in the many parishes he has served and also in his contribution to the advancement of Christian education especially through the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation and wishes him and Mrs Anderson well in their retirement.

(Canon Bruce Ballantine-Jones/Bishop Reg Piper)

7.13 Windsor Report

Synod requests that the Standing Committee examine the Windsor Report and advise members of its views.

(Canon Bruce Ballantine-Jones)

7.14 The Rev John Reed

Synod -

- (a) notes the presence in the visitors' gallery of the Rev John Reed, rector of the parish of the Church of England in Norfolk Island, and
- (b) notes with gratitude Mr Reed's ministry in that parish and that he is now returning to a new ministry at The Illawarra Grammar School in 2005, and
- (c) notes that Bishop Robert Forsyth would be happy to talk with any appropriate clergy about the possibility of serving in this important ministry on Norfolk Island from next year.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth)

7.15 The Rev Peter Taylor

Synod gives thanks to God for the ministry of the Rev Peter Taylor who will be retiring before Synod meets next year, and in particular for -

- (a) his ministry at St Matthew's West Pennant Hills since 1988 which has borne much fruit in people coming to know Christ and being established in the fellowship, and in growing a strong leadership team and wide range of ministries, and
- (b) his former ministry at Mowbray and Macquarie University, and
- (c) his service to the Diocese as an ACT advisor, and
- (d) his gifts of preaching and ability to allow the ministry of others to flourish, and
- (e) his support in establishing Chinese ministry and in the formation of the Cherrybrook church, and
- (f) especially his great love and commitment to youth work, evidenced by his continued participation in playing tip football on Monday nights.

Synod expresses its gratitude to Peter and wishes him and his wife, Judy, God's blessing upon their future life and ministry.

(Bishop Ivan Lee/Mr James Lane)

7.16 Canon John Livingstone

Synod notes that this will be the last Synod of Canon John Livingstone prior to his retirement and gives thanks to God for the faithful ministry he and his wife Jan have exercised in the Diocese over the past 40 years. Canon Livingstone's ministry has been marked by a pastor's heart and a deep concern to preach the Gospel. This has been evident in his innovative ministry in the developing areas of Western Sydney in the 1960s and 1970s; as Director of the New Areas Committee, in his role as Director of Careforce; and in his incumbencies in Normanhurst and Bowral.

Synod further notes the significant ministry that Mrs Jan Livingstone has exercised through her leadership of the Mothers' Union both within the Diocese of Sydney and more recently as President of MU Australia. In this latter role she has been a positive influence in women's ministry within the wider Anglican Church of Australia and given encouragement and support to the development of programs designed to strengthen family life within our nation.

Synod wishes both Canon John and Mrs Jan Livingstone every blessing as they embark upon the next phase of their life in the service of our Lord Jesus.

(Dr Allan Beavis/Bishop Reg Piper)

7.17 Death of Canon M C Newth

[Text to be provided.]

(Dr Allan Beavis)

7.18 Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy

Synod -

- (a) gives thanks to God for the many opportunities that members of the Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy have had to minister to people in the thoroughbred horse racing industry over the last 12 months, especially through baptism, weddings, funerals and pastoral visits, and
- (b) gives thanks to God for the appointment of the Rev Paul Bayliss as Honorary Anglican Chaplain to the tracks administered by the Sydney Turf Club, and
- (c) prays that God would raise up a chaplain who would have a great heart to see those in the racing industry brought to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus, and
- (d) looks to God's providence and the generosity of those in the industry for the provision of funding for this position.

(The Rev Jeremy Tonks/Dr Karin Sowada)

7.19 Amendment of the Church Administration Ordinance 1990

Synod -

- (a) notes that the Synod Elections Ordinance 2000 effectively allows Synod electors to vote for up to "the number of offices to be filled", but that the Church Administration Ordinance 1990 states that vestry meeting electors "must not vote for more nor less than the number of candidates to be elected", and
- (b) requests that the Standing Committee consider amending the Church Administration Ordinance 1990 so that electors at vestry meetings and parish meetings may validly vote for less than the number of candidates to be elected, and
- (c) suggests that an effective way of achieving the request in (b) would be to delete the words "nor less" from clause 14(c) of the Church Administration Ordinance 1990.

(Mr Brian Gaetjens)

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Indicative Timetable for Synod Business

References to items and motions are references to items and motions in the business paper for Tuesday 26 October 2004.

Tuesday 26 October 2004	
3:15 - 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters 7.1 Narellan: Reclassification as a Parish 7.2 Petersham: Reclassification as a Parish 7.3 Ashbury: Creation of a Provisional Parish Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4:30 - 5:45 pm	Ordinances which remain to be considered Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 pm +	Presentation on the New Capital Project 7.4 Synod Appropriations and Allocations for 2006-2008 Thereafter, other business as per the business paper

Wednesday 27 October 2004	
3:15 - 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4:30 - 5:45 pm	Ordinances Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 pm +	Business as per the business paper

3rd Session of the 46th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney

Bible Reading, Hymn & Prayers: 26 October 2004

Bible Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Bible Reader: Catriona Wood

Bible Study Leader: The Rev Dr Peter O'Brien

Comfort for God's People

¹Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice of one calling:
"In the desert prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the wilderness
a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all mankind together will see it.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All men are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God stands forever."

⁹You who bring good tidings to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up; do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and his arm rules for him.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version

Hymn: There is a Redeemer

1. There is a Redeemer,
Jesus God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Holy one.

Chorus

Thank you, O our Father for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit till your work on earth is done.

2. Jesus, my Redeemer
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Holy one.

Chorus

Thank you, O our Father for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit till your work on earth is done.

3. When I stand in glory
I will see this face
And there I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place.

Chorus

Thank you, O our Father for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit till your work on earth is done.

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Pianist: Matthew Williams

Prayer: Dr Philip Selden

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.