

11/93 Use of Churches by Other Denominations

1. Synod resolution 11/93 was -

“Synod requests Standing Committee to bring to the first possible session of Synod such measures as would allow ministers of our Church, with the agreement of their parish councils and regional bishops, to extend occasional or regular hospitality to clergy or leaders of other churches which profess the Apostolic Faith, allowing them to conduct services according to their forms of worship in our church buildings.”

2. On 25 October 1993 the Standing Committee referred the resolution to the Legal Committee for advice. The Legal Committee has reported to the Standing Committee and prepared a bill for the Use of Church Property Ordinance 1994.

3. Under the bill the churchwardens of a church will be able to permit a church of an other denomination which professes the apostolic faith or a unit or congregation of such a church to use that church building if-

- (a) the Assistant Bishop of the region or area in which the church is situated has given his approval (which he will only be able to give upon the satisfaction of certain conditions including the approval of the minister and the majority of the parish council); and
- (b) an agreement approved by the Property Trust and certified by the area Archdeacon as appropriate has been executed.

4. Section 32B of the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917 gives the Synod wide powers, by ordinance, to provide for the use of an Anglican Church by a church of another denomination. The power to make ordinances under section 32B has been delegated by the Synod to the Standing Committee.

5. On 19 September 1994 the bill was introduced to the Standing Committee but was deferred at the Committee stage until the next meeting on 24 October.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARK PAYNE
Legal Officer

30 September 1994