



Anglican Church of Australia

General Synod

SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD 3 – 8 SEPTEMBER 2017

BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE FOURTH BUSINESS DAY THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2017

The business of the Synod will commence at 8.30 am on Thursday 7 September 2017 in the Wandiny Room (Synod Hall), Novotel Twin Waters Resort, Maroochydore.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1 SYNOD ASSEMBLES

2 PRAYERS

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous business day will be read and confirmed on the resumption of business after the afternoon tea adjournment. [see motion 8.12]

4 QUESTIONS

Question 4

Mr Tim McGhie

In relation to the exemption orders promulgated by APRA and ASIC for religious development funds:

- a) What contact was made with APRA?
- b) What feedback was received from APRA?
- c) What contact was made with ASIC?
- d) What feedback was received from ASIC?
- e) Is the task force aware of the complexity and costs imposed on various development funds as a consequence of the exemption order promulgated by ASIC?
- f) Why did the task force not consult with all development funds in the context of contact with ASIC?

Question 5

Mr Tim McGhie

The Committee's report, at page 2-046 refers to disallowing a regulation made by the Long Service Leave Fund:

- a) What was the nature of this regulation?
- b) What was the basis for disallowing this regulation?
- c) What are the implications resulting from the disallowance of this regulation?

Question 6

Mr Malcolm Purvis

Were all of the electronic voting devices collected at the end of the Tuesday and Wednesday Sessions of Synod?

5 PETITIONS

6 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

7 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

8 CALL OVER OF THE MOTIONS

9 ORDERS OF THE DAY

**When the business of Synod allows
Mission and Ministry**

8.10.7 Consideration of Motions 16.12 and 16.13.

9.30am

Finance Motions

8.10.1 Final consideration of Motions 16.3.4 and 16.3.5.

11.00am

Condemnation and Apology for Domestic Violence

Consideration of Motion 21.2.

To be followed by consideration of Motion 21.3, **Domestic Violence Longitudinal Study**.

10 REPORTS

11 MOTIONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Consideration of motion 16.3.4 and 16.3.5 is an Order of the Day at 9.30am on Thursday 7 September 2017

16.3 Motions relating to Financial Matters (Book Ref 3) Criterion (a)

Mr Allan Perryman moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding

16.3.4 That the General Synod budget for the year ended 31 December 2018, be approved.

16.3.5 That Synod receives the General Synod forecast budget for years ended 31 December 2019 and 2020.

[See Motion 8.10 (Suspension of Standing Orders) and 8.10.1 to 8.10.2 (Orders of the Day)]

16.5 Liturgy Resources (*Book Ref 4-048*)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Garry Weatherill moving, the Rev'd Elizabeth Smith seconding

The General Synod, noting the changing contexts of mission for the Anglican Church of Australia, requests the Liturgy Commission to continue to develop texts in areas including –

- a) Supplementary seasonal, thematic and other material for use with APBA Holy Communion orders;
 - b) Supplementary services of the Word;
 - c) Supplementary orders for baptism, confirmation, marriage, funerals, commissionings and other pastoral occasions
 - d) Supplementary prayers for various occasions;
 - e) A new liturgical psalter.
-

16.8 500th Anniversary of the Reformation (*Book Ref 4-046*)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Tim Harris moving, The Rev'd Canon Dr Matthew Anstey seconding

Noting the five-hundredth anniversary in 2017 of Martin Luther's nailing 95 Theses of protest to the University of Wittenberg's chapel door on October 31, 1517, regarded by many as a significant catalyst in inaugurating protestant reformations in Europe, and recognising Lutherans as partners with Anglicans in ongoing reforming traditions that encompass a variety of denominations and expressions of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ;

and further noting the resolution of ACC 16:16 that:

"The Anglican Consultative Council

1. recognizes the significance of the five-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation, which will be marked in 2017; and
2. encourages Anglicans across the Communion to be a part of the commemorations by joining in shared services, undertaking study with Lutherans and other ecumenical partners, and engaging with them in mission activities; and

3. recommends that Anglicans engage with the Lutheran World Federation's focus: *Liberated by God's Grace*,";

The General Synod:

- a) gives thanks to Almighty God that in the grace and mercy of God, the Church continues to be reformed, and seeks ever to be so,
 - b) encourages members of the Anglican Church of Australia to join with our ecumenical partners; and especially the Lutheran Church of Australia, in commemorating this occasion, through shared worship, bible study and partnership in mission and ministry projects;
 - c) affirms the importance of hearing God's Word in the common tongue, and the practice of regular public reading of the Holy Scriptures through authorised lectionaries; and
 - d) recommends for study and discussion the biblical and spiritual reflections contained in *Liberated by God's Grace: Anglican-Lutheran Reflections* (LWF 2017), produced by the Anglican-Lutheran International Coordinating Committee (ALICC4).
-

16.10 The Global Goals for Sustainable Development (*Book Ref 4-152*)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Sarah Macneil moving, Bishop Chris Jones seconding

That, celebrating the success of the Millennium Development Goals and noting that the number of people living in extreme poverty has more than halved since 1990, the General Synod:

- a) welcomes the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development which aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and pursue the common good;
- b) encourages theological engagement with the goals, and missional commitment to their achievement;
- c) commends the work of Anglicare Australia, the Anglican Board of Mission, Anglican Overseas Aid, Anglican Aid and other Anglican organisations in striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
- d) renews our call for a fair share of Australia's national budget (0.7% of Gross National Income) to be dedicated to Overseas Development Assistance that aims to reduce poverty; and
- e) encourages each diocese, through its synod, to consider 0.7% of gross diocesan income, or some other meaningful proportion, to projects supporting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Note: Synod resolved to recommit Motion 16.10 and granted leave for it to be moved in an amended form.

Consideration of motions 16.12 and 16.13 is an Order of the Day when the Synod business allows.

16.12 Models of Ordained Local Ministry (Book Ref 4-054)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Stephen Pickard moving, Ms Sue Williams seconding

The General Synod –

- a) receives the report of the Ministry Commission on Ordained Local Ministry (2 May 2017) and refer it to all Dioceses;
 - b) encourages all Dioceses to consider the recommendations of the Ordained Local Ministry report as it relates to their local context, and
 - c) requests the Ministry Commission to explore ways to facilitate further initiatives in Ordained Local Ministry.
-

16.13 Clergy Professional Supervision (Book Ref 4-054)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Stephen Pickard moving, The Rev'd Dr Richard Trist seconding

That in the light of the increasing challenges facing clergy and lay ministers, and the heightened demand for the accountability of church workers, the General Synod –

- a) recommends that every Australian diocese takes seriously the benefits of professional supervision for its clergy and paid lay workers;
 - b) supports the development of pilot projects in supervision of clergy and lay ministers particularly in rural and regional areas; and
 - c) requests the Ministry Commission to undertake an audit of the extent and types of supervision already occurring across the Australian church, and develop national supervision guidelines.
-

16.18 Refugees on Manus Island and Nauru (Book Ref 4-146)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Philip Huggins moving, The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt seconding

That this General Synod, in the divine compassion and as a matter of human decency, recognizing the exceptional circumstances, urges the Federal Government to resettle in Australia, by Christmas 2017, any refugees still detained on Manus Island and Nauru as at 1 November 2017.

That this General Synod urges the Federal Government to partner with the Churches as regards the healing and resettling of these refugees.

16.19 Refugees from Syria and Iraq (*Book Ref 4-146*)

Criterion (b)

Note: Mover to seek leave to move the motion in this amended form.

Bishop Philip Huggins moving, The Very Rev'd Peter Catt seconding

The That this General Synod, recognising the exceptional circumstances, urges our Federal Government, as soon as possible, to make another allocation of 12,000 additional refugee places for people, especially Christians and other minorities, displaced by the ongoing conflict in Syria and Iraq.

That, relatedly, this General Synod urges the Federal Government to increase funding to assist their integration into Australian society, and especially as regards their employment assistance.

That this General Synod, from the experience of its members, affirms the life-saving consequences of the earlier extra 12000 places, particular for Christians and other minorities who had been targeted by ISIS.

16.20 Action to contribute to the Paris Climate Accord (*Book Ref 4-115*)

Criterion (b)

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moving, Dr Beth Heyde seconding

Noting –

- the global groundswell of community and industry support for effective and rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the very challenging goal expressed in the 2015 Paris Climate Accord (to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels);
- the critical importance of community action, both in achieving that goal and in leading governments to act;
- the Anglican Communion's fifth mark of mission: 'to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth', and
- General Synod's Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 which required meaningful action and reporting by participating Dioceses on steps taken to reduce their environmental impact;

The General Synod:

1. Encourages Federal and State governments in Australia to act quickly to resolve perceived conflicts of interest between the wider community and commercial beneficiaries of fossil fuels, and show leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through effective market mechanisms based on consistent expert recommendations.
2. Requests each Diocese that has adopted the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 to report to the Standing Committee of General Synod in 2018, and to the next meeting of General Synod, on progress in reducing their environmental impact (as required by s.3(1)), with particular emphasis on energy efficiency in order to minimise contributions to global warming.
3. Encourages Dioceses to make use of standardised instruments such as the Parish Quick Carbon Self-Report instrument (available through the Public Affairs Commission) in order to develop an internal reporting mechanism.

4. Requests all Dioceses to report to the Standing Committee of General Synod in 2018, and to the next meeting of General Synod, on progress made towards divestment from fossil fuels, as encouraged by motion 61/14 of General Synod.
 5. Encourages Dioceses to incorporate studies in ecotheology within priestly formation and lay education programs.
 6. Encourages Dioceses to give publicity to the work of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) towards spiritually-inspired stewardship in reducing greenhouse gas emissions: and to encourage participation in the work of this multi-faith network and consideration also of secular networks with similar aims to reduce global greenhouse emissions, such as 350.org.
-

16.21 Marriage, same-sex marriage and the blessing of same-sex relationships (*Book Ref 4-007*)

Criterion (a)

Bishop Michael Stead moving, The Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee seconding

The General Synod –

- (i) recognises that the doctrine of our church, in line with traditional Christian teaching, is that marriage is an exclusive and lifelong union of a man and a woman, and further,
 - (ii) recognises that this has been the subject of several General Synod resolutions over the past fifteen years, and also
 - (iii) recognises that the nature of marriage is the subject of ongoing conversation within the church and wider community and that we need to listen to each other with care and respect, and
 - (iv) acknowledges the experiences and genuine concerns of LGBTIQ+ people within the church and the community, and therefore
 - (v) asks the Doctrine Commission to facilitate a respectful conversation in our church by means of a collection of essays on marriage and same-sex relationships that explores Scriptural and theological issues relating to:
 - a. The doctrine of marriage expressed in the formularies of the Anglican Church of Australia
 - b. Our current Australian context, exploring the relationship between the State's definition of marriage and the church's doctrine of marriage
 - c. Key Old Testament and New Testament texts on sex, marriage and friendship
 - d. Scripture and hermeneutics
 - e. A theology of blessing
 - f. A theology of desire
 - g. Godly disagreement on this issue
 - h. The case for and against same-sex marriage and/or the blessing of same-sex unions.
-

12 MOTIONS FOR BILLS FOR CANONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE

17.9 Bill 09 – A Bill for the Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017 *(Book Ref 1-038)*

Ms Audrey Mills moving, The Hon Peter Young AO QC seconding

That the Bill for the Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

17.10 Bill 10A – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017 *(Book Ref 5-003)*

Bishop Michael Stead moving, Mr Garth Blake SC seconding

That the Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

Bill 10B – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Persons) Canon 2017 *(Book Ref 5-003)*

Bishop Michael Stead moving, Mr Garth Blake SC seconding

That the Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Persons) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

17.11 Bill 11 – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017 *(Book Ref 1-078)*

Bishop Garry Weatherill moving, The Rev'd Canon Dr Colleen O'Reilly seconding

That the Bill for the Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

17.12 Bill 12 – A Bill for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council Amendment Canon 2017 *(Book Ref 1-081)*

Bishop Chris McLeod moving, the Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase seconding

That the Bill for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

17.13 Bill 13 – A Bill for Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2017 *(Book Ref 1-083)*

Ms Audrey Mills moving, Justice Debra Mullins seconding

That the Bill for Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

17.14 Bill 14 – A Bill for the Missionary Dioceses (Amendment) Canon 2017
(Book Ref 1-088)

Bishop Sarah Macneil moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding

That the Bill for the Missionary Dioceses (Amendment) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

13 MOTIONS FOR RULES BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE

18.3 Bill R03 - A Rule to Amend Rule II – Rules for the Appointment of a Standing Committee of General Synod and Defining its Powers and Duties (Book Ref 1–103)

The Ven David Bassett moving, The Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee seconding

That the Bill for a Rule to Amend Rule II – Rules for the Appointment of a Standing Committee of General Synod and Defining its Powers and Duties be approved in principle.

14 NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED BY STANDING COMMITTEE FROM MEMBERS OF SYNOD AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE THE SESSION OF SYNOD

Consideration of motion 21.2 is an Order of the Day at 11.00am on Thursday 7 September 2017.

21.2 Condemnation and Apology for Domestic Violence

Bishop Stephen Hale moving, The Ven Kara Hartley seconding

The General Synod affirms that –

1. All human beings, male and female, are created in the image of God, and are precious to him. So their value and dignity should be upheld by all, and rightly commands respect and protection.
2. Healthy Christian relationships are characterised by servanthood and sacrifice, supremely modeled by Jesus Christ. So we encourage healthy marriages and families based on mutual love and respect. No one should feel unsafe in their own home.
3. The Bible always condemns the misuse of power to control or exploit others, and rejects all abuse, whether physical, verbal, or otherwise expressed from one person towards others. Therefore domestic violence is sin, and Scripture should never be twisted to justify or excuse any abuse.
4. No victim of domestic abuse should ever be pressured to forgive, submit to, or restore a relationship with an offender.

Our churches are committed to being safe places for all people, especially children and vulnerable adults, and we will therefore work to protect those experiencing domestic abuse as a first priority.

We grieve with victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and pray for their healing and recovery. We give thanks for those women and men, clergy and lay people, who have faithfully supported, cared for and protected such victims in our churches and communities.

However, we also confess with deep shame that domestic abuse has occurred among those who attend our churches, and even among some in leadership. We apologise for those times our teaching and pastoral care has failed adequately to support victims and call perpetrators to account.

We urge Anglican dioceses around Australia to ensure they have policies and good practice guidelines in place, along with education and training, for responding well to situations involving domestic violence within our parishes and organisations.

We also acknowledge our responsibility to work with the police, statutory child protection authorities and specialist agencies in responding to domestic abuse, including our legal obligations in reporting abuse.

Finally, this Synod again upholds *Faithfulness in Service* as our national code of conduct for clergy and church workers, specifically its affirmations that –

- Abuse of power is at the heart of many relationship problems in the Church and the community. In essence, abuse is one person's misuse of power over another. Sometimes abuse will be a one off event and at other times it will be a pattern of behaviour. (§6.2)
- It is important for clergy and church workers to be good citizens and obey the laws of the community, except where those laws conflict with Christian convictions. (§6.4)
- You are not to abuse your spouse, children or other members of your family. (§6.6)

By leave of Synod, Motion 21.3 to be considered immediately after consideration of Motion 21.2.

21.3 Domestic Violence Longitudinal Study

The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen moving, Bishop Genieve Blackwell seconding

The General Synod requests the General Synod Standing Committee to investigate and if appropriate commission (using contingencies or other available sources of funding) a professionally designed and independent, longitudinal research study into domestic violence prevalence within the Australian Anglican Church population.

21.4 Euthanasia/Assisted Dying

Note: Mover to seek leave to move the motion in this amended form.

Dr Denise Cooper-Clarke moving, Dr Karin Sowada seconding

The General Synod, noting the push for 'assisted dying' in a number of Australian States –

- a) Opposes the legalisation of assisted dying~~doctor-assisted suicide and/or euthanasia~~;
 - b) Urges all Australian State and Territory governments to better resource palliative care services, to improve palliative care in the community, including regional and remote communities, Aboriginal communities and nursing homes, and to provide better training in palliative care for all health professionals; and
 - c) Urges Australian Anglicans to contact their MP's to express their views.
-

21.5 **Apology to the LGBTQI Community**

Note: The mover intends to seek leave to move the motion in the revised form below (the original text is reproduced after the revised text).

Revised Motion

Bishop John Parkes AM moving, Bishop Ian Palmer seconding

This General Synod:

1. Affirms that all people are made in the image of God regardless of their race, sex, economic background, political affiliation and the particular temptations that they face as human beings on this side of the Fall.
2. Offers a heartfelt apology to those who have been hurt by our failure to treat all people as precious in the sight of God.
3. In particular we apologise to, and seek forgiveness from, people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer whom we have hurt by words and behaviour that have not displayed the love of God. We are deeply sorry for any harm we have done and repent of such ungodly behaviour.
4. We affirm that as image bearers all people have a deep and natural hunger for mutual love, a search for identity and a longing for completeness. Scripture teaches the proper expression of human sexuality is between a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage. We pledge ourselves to treat with compassion and care those who struggle in the area of their sexual orientation. We commit to walking with them and to encouraging them and each other in a life of discipleship characterised by humility, repentance, faith and the confidence that comes from knowing God's grace and forgiveness.

5. Commits the Anglican Church of Australia to teaching its members to respect difference and to understand the struggles that others endure as we walk together in humble, faithful discipleship in obedience to the word of God.
6. Commits to fostering churches and fellowships where compassion and grace abound and where the love of God is expressed to all, no matter their background or struggles. In particular we desire to be places where LGBTIQ+ people will feel safe.
7. Asks and encourages local churches to speak the truth in love and to demonstrate our repentance in changed attitudes and conduct.

Original Motion Text

The General Synod –

1. Offers a heartfelt apology to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer and commits to treating with compassion and care those who struggle in the area of their sexual identity and orientation.
2. Affirms that all people are made in the image of God regardless of sexual identity, and no one is without sin, for all fall short of the glory of God. Yet because God's love knows no bounds and extends to all without distinction and without prejudice, if those who bear the image of God are mocked, excluded or abused on account of their sexuality, God grieves.
3. Seeks forgiveness from God and from our sisters and brothers.
4. Apologises to lesbian, gay and transgender people for the hurt and pain inflicted upon you by words and deeds, including thoughtless words, and actions from people in the church.
5. Repents of and is sorry for words of derision, mockery and exclusion when directed against persons who are different.
6. Is ashamed that Anglican churches sometimes fail to be safe environments where people can speak openly and honestly about their struggles.
7. Asks forgiveness for the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual violence inflicted upon God's children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer, by what the church has done and failed to do.
8. Commits the Anglican Church of Australia to listening to you and to learning more about our human sexuality and gender and the way this influences our Christian discipleship.
9. Commits the Anglican Church to teaching church members to respect difference and understand the struggles that others endure as we follow Jesus together.
10. Commits to creating churches and fellowships where compassion and grace abound; where LGBTIQ+ people will feel safe.
11. Asks and encourages churches to make this apology and live as Jesus's disciples with changed attitudes and conduct.

15 NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM THE FLOOR OF SYNOD

22.8 Scottish Episcopal Church

The Very Rev'd Kanishka Raffel moving, The Venerable David Bassett seconding

General Synod –

- a) notes with regret that the Scottish Episcopal Church has amended their Canon on Marriage to change the definition that marriage is between a man and a woman by adding a new section that allows clergy to solemnise marriage between same-sex couples as well as couples of the opposite sex;
 - b) declares that this step is contrary to the doctrine of Christ and the doctrine of our Church, and therefore inconsistent with the Fundamental Declarations of our Church; and
 - c) further declares, by virtue of Section 6 of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia, that the Scottish Episcopal Church has put itself out of communion with the Anglican Church of Australia; and
 - d) prays that the Scottish Episcopal Church will return to the doctrine of Christ in this matter and be restored to communion with the Anglican Church of Australia.
-

22.10 Faithfulness in Service and National Consistency regarding professional standards

Note: Mover to seek leave to move the motion in this amended form.

Canon Sandy Grant moving, The Very Rev'd Kanishka Raffel seconding

Synod notes repeated concern expressed for children and vulnerable persons other than children in our churches and organisations, and the need to protect both children and adults from abuse. Synod also notes the desirability of a nationally consistent approach to professional standards wherever possible.

Therefore Synod requests the General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC) ~~to consult with the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) and~~ to report to the next session of General Synod on the status of *Faithfulness in Service* (in the current form approved by GSSC) as our national code of conduct in the various dioceses, specifically:

1. Which dioceses have adopted the *Faithfulness in Service* without amendment as their code of conduct?
2. Which dioceses have adopted *Faithfulness in Service* with amendment as their code of conduct?
3. Which dioceses have used *Faithfulness in Service*, with or without amendment, in some manner other than as a code of conduct?
4. Which dioceses have a code of conduct other than *Faithfulness in Service* (with or without amendments)?

Synod also requests GSSC, in consultation with the [PSC Professional Standards Commission](#), to report to the next session of General Synod on preferred options for effectively ensuring that professional standards regarding the care and protection of adults, especially the vulnerable in our midst, are nationally consistent to the greatest extent possible.

22.13 Acknowledgement of Work on Child Safety Framework

The Hon Richard Refshauge moving, Bishop John Parkes seconding

Noting that the suite of bills to give effect to a national Anglican framework for child protection has passed with overwhelming support and endorsement. Gives thanks for the work of the Professional Standards Commission, the Royal Commission Working Group and the Episcopal Standards Working Group, notes the extraordinary commitment of all of the members of the commission and those groups, and gives thanks to God especially for the 20 years of commitment of Garth Blake to ensure as far as possible that we are a child-safe church.
