

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD DAY OF THE SEVENTEENTH GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
HELD IN SYNOD HALL, WANDINY ROOM,
NOVOTEL TWIN WATERS RESORT, MAROOCHYDORE
ON WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2017**

1 SYNOD ASSEMBLED

The Synod reconvened at 8.30 am with the Primate, Archbishop Philip Freier, presiding.

2 PRAYERS

The Synod opened with a service of morning prayer led by the Rev'd Dane Courtney.

The President's Chaplain, the Rev'D Julie Worrall, led the prayer for the General Synod prior to the commencement of business.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous day will be read and confirmed on the resumption of business after the afternoon tea adjournment.

4 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The President gave answers to the following questions:

QUESTION 1

General Synod Bodies Chaired by Women

Dr Leanne Beagley asked:

Whilst I welcome the report on the representation of women across the total 27 General Synod bodies, and note with disappointment that only 3 such committees have equal representation of women I ask:
How many of these committees are chaired by women?

The President gave the following response:

Of the 27 General Synod bodies referred to in the report on the representation of women in Standing Committee's Report to the General Synod, only one body is chaired by a woman.

Justice Debra Mullins is Chair of the Church Law Commission.

QUESTION 2

Appellate Tribunal Referrals

The Rev'd James Warren asked:

Have there been any references to the Appellate Tribunal since their report which appears in Synod papers?

If there have been references what questions have been referred and who requested the Primate to make the referrals?

The President gave the following response:

Three references have been made to the Appellate Tribunal since the publication of the Appellate Tribunal report in Book 2 of the General Synod business papers.

The first was requested by Justice Peter Young, Chancellor of the Diocese of Newcastle, concerning the membership or not of bishop administrators in the House of Bishops. This has been answered and published on the General Synod website.

The second was requested from the Diocese of Newcastle Standing Committee concerning the Affiliated Churches Ordinance of the Diocese of Sydney. This reference had the status of a reference from a Diocesan Synod under section 63 (1) of the Constitution.

The third was requested by the bishops of Bendigo, Bunbury, Gippsland, North Queensland and Willochra in response to the participation of members of the House of Bishops in an episcopal ordination in a church that is not a member of the Anglican Communion.

The text of the questions raised in the second and third matters has been circulated to all Diocesan Bishops, Chancellors and Registrars.

QUESTION 3

Doctrine

Mr Richard Turnbull asked.

Given the reference to doctrine in the business of this General Synod, does the Constitution recognise that at any point in the life of this Church it is possible that the members of the Appellate Tribunal and similarly the members of the House of Bishops may not have a unanimous view about the teaching of this Church on any question of faith.

The President gave the following response:

The Constitution provides that the Appellate Tribunal may make a determination by the majority of its members and bishops, at their consecration or installation as the bishop of a diocese, make the following oath:

"I..... firmly and sincerely believe the Catholic Faith and I give my assent to the doctrine of The Anglican Church of Australia as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons and the Articles of Religion, as acknowledged in section 4 of the Constitution, and I believe that doctrine to be agreeable to the word of God.

I declare my assent to the Fundamental Declarations of The Anglican Church of Australia as set out in sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

In public prayer and administration of the sacraments I will use the form prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer or a form authorised by lawful authority and none other."

[Section 5, Oaths Affirmations Declarations and Assents Canon 1992]

5 PETITIONS

The President called for Petitions.
None were received.

6 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Note: Questions 4 and 5 were asked on Day 2, but not recorded in the Minutes of Day 2.

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?

7 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None received.

8 CALL OVER OF THE MOTIONS

Leave was sought to bring Motions **16.10 The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 16.18 Refugees on Manus Island and Nauru and 16.21 Marriage, same-sex marriage and the blessing of same-sex relationships** in an amended form.

Leave was granted.

The following motions were passed formally

R42/17

22.5 Australian Freedom Network

Bishop Matt Brain moving, Bishop Stephen Pickard seconding

That this General Synod –

1. Notes the establishment of the Australian Freedom Network (AFN) signed by the Primate on our behalf;
2. Commends those involved in the establishment of the Global Freedom Network of which the AFN is part;
3. Acknowledges the continuing reality of human trafficking and slavery, and laments the damage that this does to all involved as a distortion of what it means to be created in God's image;
4. Commits to personal and organisational behaviour that utilises tools such as the "Ethical Fashion Guide" and information regarding corporate supply chains to inform decisions surrounding consumption so that ethical choices can be made; and
5. Requests that the General Synod network, Anglican Schools Australia, consider how it may collaborate with the AFN to explore how Anglican Schools in Australia may be supported as they educate students to be ethical leaders in the Australian community.

Carried

R43/17

22.9 Safe Ministry Implementation

Bishop Stephen Hale moving, Bishop Genieve Blackwell seconding

1. That this Synod gives thanks for the unity of intent expressed by the unanimous resolution of this Canon.
2. That each Diocesan Bishop with the support of their Synod team commits to strive for the adoption of this Canon at the first Diocesan Synod after this General Synod with the hope that all 23 Dioceses will adopt the Canon.
3. That the General Synod embraces a Networking approach to the free exchange of resources and the drawing upon centres of excellence in safe ministry practice to enable the full implementation of the Canon by large and small

Dioceses working together.

Carried

R44/17

22.11 Proclamation of the Gospel

Dr Barry Newman moving, The Rev'd Gavin Parsons seconding

The General Synod –

while abhorring oppression, abuse, cruelty, victimisation and all forms of violence and injustice, and while strongly supporting efforts to deal with such violence and injustice, and

while affirming its deep concern for the poor, the homeless, the lonely, the ill and all who suffer, and while strongly supporting efforts to alleviate such suffering, also

asserts its belief that God loved the world, that his righteous judgement will prevail, that he gave his Son, the Christ to suffer and die for our sins, that he raised him from the dead, that he pours out his Holy Spirit upon his people, that his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ will return in majesty and that he calls all to repent and believe in his son, and strongly supports efforts to proclaim this glorious gospel to the world.

Carried

R45/17

22.12 Working with Children Check Systems

Mr Doug Marr moving, Mr Lachlan Bryant seconding

General Synod calls upon the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to develop an age appropriate Working with Children Check system or suitable alternative for those persons aged under 18 who work with children.

Carried

9 ORDERS OF THE DAY

[The Rev'd Julie Worrall was absent from the Synod Hall for this item.]

Redress for Survivors of Abuse (9.30am Wednesday 6 September 2017)

16.22 Bill for the Redress for Survivors of Abuse Canon 2017

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Archbishop Geoff Smith seconding

This Synod declares that a Bill for the Redress for Survivors of Abuse Canon 2017 is a matter of urgency and permits it to be included in the agenda without previous notice.

Carried

The President declared that the motion had achieved the required 75% majority in each House.

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Archbishop Geoff Smith seconding

That the Bill for the Redress for Survivors of Abuse Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

Carried

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Archbishop Geoff Smith seconding
That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

The President appointed Wednesday 6 September 2017 as the date the Bill came into effect.

Safe Ministry to Children (Bills 16 to 19)

[The Rev'd Julie Worrall re-entered the room for this item and stayed for the remainder of the day.]

17.6 Bill 16 – A Bill for a Disclosure of Information Canon 2017

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding

That the Bill for a Disclosure of Information Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

Carried

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding
That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

The President appointed Wednesday 6 September 2017 as the date the Canon will take effect.

17.17 Bill 17 – A Bill for the National Register Amendment Canon 2017

Mr Garth Blake sought leave to bring the Bill in an amended form. Leave was granted.

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding

That the Bill for the National Register Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

Carried

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding
That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

The President appointed Wednesday 6 September 2017 as the date the Canon will take effect.

17.18 Bill 18 – A Bill for the National Register (Access to and Disclosure of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding

That the Bill for the National Register (Access to and Disclosure of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017 be approved in principle.

Carried

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding
That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

The President appointed Wednesday 6 September 2017 as the date the Canon will take effect.

17.19 Bill 19 – A Bill for the National Register (Inclusion of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding

That the Bill for the National Register (Inclusion of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017 be approved in principle.

Carried

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding
That Bill do now pass.

Carried

The President appointed Wednesday 6 September 2017 as the date the Canon will take effect.

10 REPORTS

No reports were required to be considered.

11 MOTIONS FOR CANONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE

17.4 Bill 04 – A Bill for the Special Tribunal Amendment Canon 2017

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Dr Robert Tong AM seconding

That the Bill for the Special Tribunal Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

Carried

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Dr Robert Tong AM seconding
That the Bill do now pass.

The President appointed Wednesday 6 September 2017 as the date the Canon will take effect.

Carried

17.5 Bill 05 – A Bill for the Special Tribunal (Limitation Period) Canon 2017

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Dr Robert Tong AM seconding

That the Bill for the Special Tribunal (Limitation Period) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

Carried

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Dr Robert Tong AM seconding,
That the Bill not proceed as a Special Bill.

Carried

The President declared that the motion had achieved the required 75% majority in each House.

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Dr Robert Tong AM seconding

That the Bill do now pass.

The President appointed Wednesday 6 September 2017 as the date the Canon will take effect.

Carried

17.6 Bill 06 – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Revision of Entitlement) Canon 2017

Bishop Allan Ewing moving, Mr Doug Marr seconding

That the Bill for the Long Service Leave (Revision of Entitlement) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

Carried

Bishop Allan Ewing moving, Mr Doug Marr seconding
That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

The President appointed 2 October 2017 as the date the Canon will take effect.

17.7 Bill 07 – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Notification Of Participating Organisation) Canon 2017

Archbishop Geoffrey Smith moving, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall seconding

That the Bill for the Long Service Leave (Notification Of Participating Organisation) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

Debate was adjourned.

Synod adjourned at 12.30pm.

Synod resumed at 2.30pm.

12 ORDER OF THE DAY (2.30pm Wednesday 6 September)

Viability and Structures Steering Group Report to General Synod - Consideration of Motion 16.4.

Bishop Andrew Curnow AM moving, Bishop John Stead seconding

The General Synod –

- 1) Receives the report of the Viability and Structures Steering Group and endorses the recommendations contained in the report as follows:
 - to help ensure we develop the visionary church leaders required by the future, Bishops (and, ideally, next generation Bishops) should be intentionally equipped and enabled through the establishment of a holistic continuing leadership development program.
 - to improve the quality and consistency of knowledge and best practices across the Church, the apparatus should be established to facilitate collaboration, including the sharing and communication of ideas, resources and information.
 - to enhance the missional effectiveness of the Church, each Diocese is requested to develop a Mission Action Plan, including timelines and resource requirements for implementation, and report back to the Standing Committee.
 - because it is essential that necessary future change is constructively considered on a timely basis, the Bishops are asked to implement a process – to be endorsed at the first national Bishops’ meeting following General Synod – through which, on a regular basis, they would collectively assess any need for significant change and seek to agree how to effect the necessary change.
 - to help ensure the implementation of the recommendations above, the Standing Committee should seek, receive, review and approve sensible resource and funding applications for each of these recommendations.
- 2) Asks the Standing Committee and the House of Bishops to

review and facilitate the progress of implementation of these recommendations and present proposals, with actionable plans, to a meeting of Standing Committee in 2018.

The Rev'd Nigel Fortescue moving, the Rev'd Gavin Poole seconding

That General Synod, following questions on the Motion, adjourns consideration of Motion 16.4 until it has considered Motion 16.11.

Carried

13 MINUTES

The Rev'd Dane Courtney reported to the President that the Minutes Reading Committee had received copies of the Minutes of Days One and Two, and certified them as correct.

The Rev'd Dane Courtney moving, Mr Clive Ellis seconding
That the report be received.

Carried

The Ven Arthur Copeman moving, The Rev'd Canon Katherine Bowyer seconding

That Motion 21.2 on Domestic Violence be made an Order of the Day for 11am on Thursday 7 September.

Carried

14 FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS FOR CANONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE

17.7 Bill 07 – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Notification Of Participating Organisation) Canon 2017

Resumption of consideration of the general principles of the Bill.

The Rev'd Nigel Fortescue called for a vote by Houses. Nine members of the House of Clergy supported this request.

Archbishop Geoffrey Smith moving, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall seconding

That the Bill for the Long Service Leave (Notification Of Participating Organisation) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

The President reported that the Bill passed with a majority in each of the Three Houses.

Voting occurred by electronic means.

Carried

House of Laity: 64 Yes; 46 No.
House of Clergy: 58 Yes; 48 No.
House of Bishops: 16 Yes; 4 No.

Archbishop Geoffrey Smith moving, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall seconding
That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

The President appointed Wednesday 6 September 2017 as the date the Canon will take effect.

17.8 Bill 08 – A Bill for a Canon to Ratify the Amended New South Wales Provincial Synod Constitution

Dr Robert Tong AM moving, Ms Sue West seconding

That the Bill for a Canon to Ratify the Amended New South Wales Provincial Synod Constitution be approved in principle.

Carried

Dr Robert Tong AM moving, Ms Sue West seconding
That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

The President appointed Wednesday 6 September 2017 as the date the Canon will take effect.

17.10 Bill 10A – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017

Bill 10B – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Persons) Canon 2017

Bishop Michael Stead sought leave to bring Bill 10A and Bill 10B in amended forms. Leave was granted.

Bishop Michael Stead moving, Mr Garth Blake SC seconding

That Bill 10A - A Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017 be approved in principle, and

That Bill 10B – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Persons) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

The debate was adjourned

Synod adjourned for Evening Prayer and dinner at 5.00pm.

Synod resumed at 7.30pm.

The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen sought leave for Motion 21.3 to be considered immediately following Motion 21.2, which is an Order of the Day for Thursday morning.
Leave was granted

ORDER OF THE DAY (7.30pm Wednesday 6 September)

Mission and Ministry

16.11 Pioneer Ministry

R46/17

Bishop Stephen Pickard moving, Bishop Tim Harris seconding

The General Synod:

- a) acknowledges that patterns of faith and belief in Australia are changing and that the Anglican Church of Australia's capacity to participate in God's mission is diminishing when too many congregations struggle with vitality and outreach;
- b) notes the ten-year anniversary of "Building the Mission-shaped Church" report in October 2006 and its call to build capacity for church planting and developing fresh expressions of church as strategies for mission and evangelism;
- c) commends dioceses for undertaking a diverse range of initiatives at revitalising parishes, planting new churches and pioneering different forms of church for people who live in a changing culture;
- d) recognises that the development of pioneer leaders capable of planting new churches or developing different forms of church remains problematic when little consensus about expectations for ordination and lay ministry exists nationally;
- e) requests that the Mission and Ministry Commission:
 - i. convene a national network of pioneer leaders engaged in revitalisation, planting and fresh expressions to meet annually;
 - ii. convene a national research network to foster the theology and practice of evangelism;
 - iii. examine how community-based chaplaincy and pioneer ministry intersect to create fresh opportunities for mission in a changing society;
 - iv. explore ways to provide for coaching and training support for lay and women pioneer leaders; and
 - v. seek to engage the annual Bishops' Conference in discussion about mission and evangelism in a changing Australia.

Carried

The Rev'd David Ould moving, The Most Rev'd Glenn Davies seconding

That following the words "The General Synod" in the opening line, the words "captivated by the declaration of Christ that

repentance for the forgiveness of sins be preached in his name to all nations” be inserted.

Electronic voting results: Simple Majority
114 Yes
124 No.

Lost

The Motion was then put.

Carried

16.4 Viability and Structures Steering Group Report to General Synod

Resumption of debate.

Bishop Matt Brain moving, Nigel Fortescue seconding

That following the words “The General Synod” the words

- “1) Recognises that all growth will come through faithful, action trusting in God’s enlivening work;
- 2) Notes that the precise structural changes needed to fit the Anglican Church in Australia for the future are not yet known;
- 3) Notes the importance of children in the ministry of the Lord Jesus and requests each Diocese to construct a holistic ministry and mission plan for children and young people in conjunction with other Dioceses in their Province.
- 4) Requests Standing Committee to report to General Synod possible concrete structural changes that will aid the provision of ministry and the extension of mission across Australia noting particularly the role and requirements of Pioneer Ministry and theological formation for lay and ordained ministry;”

be inserted.

Carried

Mr Baden Teague moving, Bishop Cameron Venables seconding,

That a new paragraph be inserted following Section 2, to read:

Further, the General Synod accepts the five “Postscript” recommendations set out on page 2-108, and refers them to the Standing Committee for referral, consideration and, if adopted, implementation by the Dioceses concerned

Lost

Bishop Andrew Curnow AM moving, Bishop John Stead seconding

The General Synod

- 1) Recognises that all growth will come through faithful, action trusting in God's enlivening work;
- 2) Notes that the precise structural changes needed to fit the Anglican Church in Australia for the future are not yet known;
- 3) Notes the importance of children in the ministry of the Lord Jesus and requests each Diocese to construct a holistic ministry and mission plan for children and young people in conjunction with other Dioceses in their Province.
- 4) Requests Standing Committee to report to General Synod possible concrete structural changes that will aid the provision of ministry and the extension of mission across Australia noting particularly the role and requirements of Pioneer Ministry and theological formation for lay and ordained ministry;
- 5) Receives the report of the Viability and Structures Steering Group and endorses the recommendations contained in the report as follows:
 - to help ensure we develop the visionary church leaders required by the future, Bishops (and, ideally, next generation Bishops) should be intentionally equipped and enabled through the establishment of a holistic continuing leadership development program.
 - to improve the quality and consistency of knowledge and best practices across the Church, the apparatus should be established to facilitate collaboration, including the sharing and communication of ideas, resources and information.
 - to enhance the missional effectiveness of the Church, each Diocese is requested to develop a Mission Action Plan, including timelines and resource requirements for implementation, and report back to the Standing Committee.
 - because it is essential that necessary future change is constructively considered on a timely basis, the Bishops are asked to implement a process – to be endorsed at the first national Bishops' meeting following General Synod – through which, on a regular basis, they would collectively assess any need for significant change and seek to agree how to effect the necessary change.
 - to help ensure the implementation of the recommendations above, the Standing Committee should seek, receive, review and approve sensible resource and funding applications for each of these

recommendations.

- 6) Asks the Standing Committee and the House of Bishops to review and facilitate the progress of implementation of these recommendations and present proposals, with actionable plans, to a meeting of Standing Committee in 2018.

Carried

Mr Michael Shand sought leave of Synod to withdraw Motion 14 Bill for an Alternative Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017.
Leave was granted.

The Ven Arthur Copeman moving, The Rev'd Canon Katherine Bowyer seconding

That the lunch break on Thursday 7 September be one hour duration only.

Electronic voting results: Simple Majority
137 Yes
99 No

Carried

Bishop Gary Weatherill expressed thanks for the work and ministry of Mr Michael Shand, given in the service of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Received with acclamation.

ADJOURNMENT

Synod adjourned at 9.00pm

President

Date