

**In the Appellate Tribunal
of the Anglican Church of Australia:**

Reference in the matter of lay and diaconal presidency

Supplementary Submission of the 28 Signatories

1. The Signatories now enclose two documents that have come to their attention since filing their Submissions. The documents, copies of which are attached in the Schedule, are:
 - (a) *Full-time Paid Ministry in the Diocese of Sydney*, The Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney Department of Ministry Training and Development, Sydney, Second Edition January 2009, and
 - (b) “16 prepare to be presbyters”, by Judy Adamson, 19 November, 2009, web site news story http://www.sydneyanglicans.net/news/stories/16_prepare_to_be_presbyters/, as accessed on 19 November 2009.
2. Each of these documents further supports the contention in paragraph 104 of the Signatories’ submission of 18 November 2009, filed on 19 November 2009. Paragraph 104 submits that resolution No. 27.08 of the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney (**the Sydney 2008 resolution**) “has a persuasive force within the Diocese of Sydney and perhaps beyond – an ‘important statement of moral force’ according to Bishop Robert Forsyth; it is no less significant because the resolution lacks the force of a binding Synod ordinance”. Paragraphs 105 and 106 provide examples of diaconal presidency and lay presidency that have occurred within the Diocese of Sydney on the purported authority of the Sydney 2008 resolution.
3. The two documents referred to in this supplementary submission are evidence that diaconal presidency is occurring in the Diocese of Sydney openly, on the basis of the purported authority of the Sydney 2008 resolution.

Full-time Paid Ministry in the Diocese of Sydney

4. This document, published by the Department of Ministry Training and Development of the Diocese of Sydney, and bearing the address of The Registrar of the Diocese of Sydney, has a foreword written by the Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Revd Dr Peter Jensen. It is clear that this document is an official document of the Diocese of Sydney, and bears the express authority of the Archbishop of Sydney.

5. On p. 13 of the document, the following statement is made:

Practically speaking, a Deacon is a minister of the gospel who assists the presbyter (or rector) in a range of different ministry roles, teaching God's word in personal, group and public contexts.

A footnote to this statement says:

Deacons may also assist in public ministries such as weddings, baptisms, funerals and the administration of the Lord's Supper. For the purposes of clarification, on October 20, 2008, the synod of the Diocese of Sydney passed the following motion: "Synod – (a) accepts the report concerning legal barriers to lay and diaconal administration of the Lord's Supper which was submitted to the 3rd session of the 47th Synod, and (b) affirms again its conviction that lay and diaconal administration of the Lord's Supper is consistent with the teaching of Scripture, and (c) affirms that the Lord's Supper in this diocese may be administered by persons other than presbyters..." [The Sydney 2008 resolution]

6. The Signatories submit that this statement and its accompanying footnote clarification provide indisputable evidence that, on the basis of the Sydney 2008 resolution, the Diocese of Sydney has officially endorsed the practice of diaconal presidency within the Diocese.
7. Further, the footnote clarification implies that the administration of the Lord's Supper has been authorised by the Sydney 2008 resolution for lay persons as well as deacons.

Website news story: "16 prepare to be presbyters"

8. The news story states in part:

As 16 deacons in the Sydney Diocese prepare to be ordained as presbyters before the end of the month, two of the men — including the curate-in-residence at St Paul's Riverstone, Simon Elliott — already head up the parishes they will officially take charge of after November 28.

"The difference between me and some of my mates who are being ordained is that they're thinking about work they will be doing, or wondering where they will go, and I'm thinking about how I will continue onwards where I already am," Mr Elliott says. "I'm really grateful the Synod vote last year made it possible for deacons to [preside at] communion, as that was

*probably the only thing I wouldn't have been able to do.*¹ ...
[emphasis added]

9. The Signatories submit that this news story, published on the official Sydney Diocesan website, is further evidence that the Sydney 2008 resolution has been relied on as authorization for diaconal presidency.
10. The Signatories submit that if the Sydney resolution 2008 has received official endorsement as authorization for diaconal presidency in an official handbook of the Diocese, in the letter of Bishop Robert Forsyth referred to in paragraphs 9 and 104 of the Signatories' Submissions, and in the publicly affirmed practice of deacons in at least two parishes (St Thomas', North Sydney and St Paul's Riverstone), then in relation to lay presidency, it cannot be dismissed as no more than the majority opinion of the Synod at the time the resolution was passed, as it has been described by Bishop Glenn Davies (paragraph 90 of the Signatories' Submissions).

Dr Muriel Porter OAM

on behalf of the
Signatories

16 December 2009

¹ The story was published on the Sydney Diocesan website on 19 November 2009; the copy of the document attached in the schedule and the extract above are taken from the news story as published online on 19 November 2009. Subsequently, the sentence concerning diaconal presidency (to which emphasis has been added above) was removed from the web story, which remains on the website (as at 28 November 2009) minus the sentence identified above.