

LITURGY COMMISSION

1. THE ROLE OF THE LITURGY COMMISSION

According to Canon 19, 1998 section 11, the Liturgy Commission's role is

- (a) to examine questions of liturgy referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and Standing Committee, and
- (b) to advise the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, on matters relating to the creative nurture and renewal of the liturgical life of this church.

2. MEMBERSHIP 2010 - PRESENT

Bishop Godfrey Fryar chaired the Commission from 2008 to 2013. From the 2013 meeting, Bishop Garry Weatherill became the Commission's Chair. Membership of the Commission has changed in the following ways since General Synod 2010:

The Rev'd Dr Charles Sherlock, Executive Secretary of the Commission, retired in 2010

The Rev'd Gill Varcoe, member, resigned in 2011

The Rev'd Dr Richard Treloar was appointed to the Commission in 2012

The Rev'd Boak Jobbins, member, died in 2012

The Rev'd Dr Ron Dowling, member, died in 2013

Present members are:

The Rt Rev'd Garry Weatherill, Chair

The Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith, Executive Secretary

The Rev'd Dr Rhys Bezzant

The Very Rev'd Chris Chataway

The Rev'd Dane Courtney

The Rev'd Dr Colleen O'Reilly

The Rev'd Dr Richard Treloar

The Rev'd Dr Charles Sherlock

The Commission acknowledged with gratitude the contribution of the Rev'd Dr Charles Sherlock to the liturgical life of the ACA through his membership of the Liturgy Commission from 1988 to 2010. Charles served as Minutes Secretary from 1989 to 2003 and Executive Secretary from 2003 to 2010. He brought particular expertise and passion to the way the Church reads scripture using the Lectionaries for Holy Communion and the Daily Office, and was very much involved in preparing *A Prayer Book for Australia* ahead of its authorisation at General Synod in 1995. He was instrumental in the development of the *epray* resource for APBA. Charles' deep scholarship and his love of teaching meant that all who enquired about the liturgical provisions of the Church received careful, thoughtful responses. Charles retired as Executive Secretary of the Commission in 2010.

The Rev'd Boak Jobbins

The Commission acknowledged with gratitude the Rev'd Boak Jobbins' contribution to the liturgical work of the ACA. Boak was a respected and treasured colleague whose liturgical legacy in the Australian Church was considerable, and included his seconding of the canon for the adoption of APBA at the 1995 General Synod, as well as his ministry as Dean of St Andrew's Cathedral. Boak died on 1 September 2012.

The Rev'd Dr Ron Dowling

The Commission acknowledged with gratitude the Rev'd Dr Ron Dowling's contribution to the liturgical life of the ACA over almost 30 years. As well as being an outstanding parish priest, Ron was an acknowledged expert on the renewed rites of Christian initiation, the admission of baptised children to Holy Communion, and the liturgical education of the laity. His national and international contributions included chairmanship of the IALC, as well as long-term membership of ELLC, Societas Liturgica and the AAL. The ACA owes an enormous debt to Ron's unbounded dedication to the long-term, hard-fought, often thankless collaborative work of shaping the Church's common prayer. Ron died on 21 June 2013.

The Rt Rev'd Godfrey Fryar

The Commission acknowledged with gratitude the Rt Rev'd Godfrey Fryar's chairmanship of the Commission from 2006 to 2013. He gave generously of his humility and practical wisdom, and his enthusiasm for the liturgical life of the Church. He represented Australia at the Canterbury meeting of the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation in 2011 and helped to develop Australia's connections across the Communion. Godfrey retired as Chair of the Commission in 2013.

3. MEETINGS

Since the last General Synod, the Commission has met four times over 15 meeting days.

4. ANGLICAN COMMUNION AND ECUMENICAL LITURGICAL CONSULTATIONS

While the Book of Common Prayer of 1662 remains an important historical document in most Provinces of the Anglican Communion, all Provinces now have locally-developed Prayer Books and renewed liturgical resources for new contexts of mission and worship. A great deal of theological and textual sharing and collaboration around the Communion lies behind each Province's new resources. Ecumenical liturgical sharing also plays an important role in the renewal of Anglican liturgy. The Anglican Church of Australia has gained much from this collaborative and comparative liturgical work, which is carried out through three key networks internationally and one national ecumenical consultation.

IALC

Commission members Godfrey Fryar, Ron Dowling, Elizabeth Smith and Dane Courtney have attended meetings of the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation (IALC) in Canterbury in 2011 and Dublin in 2013. Australia's contribution to this Anglican Communion network is important both for the ACA and for other provinces with whom we are able to share our experience and resources. The Canterbury meeting produced a document on marriage liturgies,

and the Dublin meeting did preliminary work on liturgies of healing and reconciliation.

Societas Liturgica

Commission members Ron Dowling, Dane Courtney and Elizabeth Smith attended meetings of Societas Liturgica in Rheims in 2011 on baptism and Würzburg in 2013 on liturgical reform. These meetings help Australian Anglicans to stay abreast of the most important academic and ecumenical scholarship in liturgical studies.

ELLC

Commission member Ron Dowling was one of two Australian representatives at the 2011 meeting of the English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC) in held in Rheims. ELLC develops and oversees liturgical texts in English held in common across the denominations, including translations of the creeds, canticles and acclamations as used in many Anglican prayer books including APBA.

ACOL

Commission members Colleen O'Reilly, Ron Dowling and Chris Chataway have represented the ACA at the annual meetings of the Australian Consultation on Liturgy (ACOL). ACOL is the ecumenical clearing house on liturgical matters where the churches can share resources and work on common issues. ACOL membership is a small recurring line item in the Commission's budget. ACOL helps fund Australian attendance at ELLC meetings. Commission members are also active in the Australian Academy of Liturgy. AAL has local chapters in most states, publishes the *Australian Journal of Liturgy*, and runs a major biennial conference.

Most Australian attendance at international and ecumenical consultations is funded by the individuals attending. The Commission was grateful for an extraordinary budget allocation of \$5000 to the Commission towards enabling Dane Courtney and Elizabeth Smith to attend the 2013 IALC meeting.

5. LITURGICAL TEXTS, RESOURCES AND GUIDELINES PRODUCED

Environment Resources

The following texts were developed in response to a resolution of General Synod 2010. They have been disseminated nationally and through Anglican Communion Environment networks, where they have been warmly welcomed.

Occasional Prayers and Intercessions

1. Solar Energy Prayer
2. Salinity Prayer
3. Sustainable Cities Prayer
4. Environmental Degradation and Pollution Prayer
5. Farming Communities: Thanksgiving for the Seed
6. Farming Communities: Prayers of Intercession
7. Prayers of the People: Food theme
8. Stewardship of Creation Prayer
9. Litany: Food theme
10. Lament for Drought, Deforestation or Flood
11. Thanksgiving for all creatures great and small
12. Canticle: Bless the Lord, all created things (dry country example)

Gathering in God's Name (Service of the Word or Holy Communion)

13. Gathering text Creator God theme
14. Gathering text Food theme

Confession and Absolution

15. Confession and Absolution Food theme

Eucharistic material

16. Great Thanksgiving (Third Order APBA form) prophet Joel theme
17. Prayer after Communion (Third order APBA form) prophet Joel theme
18. Great Thanksgiving (Second Order APBA form) Wisdom in Creation theme
19. Prayer after Communion (Second order APBA form) Food theme
20. Great Thanksgiving (Second Order APBA form) for use when children are present: Creation theme

Blessings

21. Blessing Food theme

Dismissals

22. Dismissal Stewardship of Creation theme

General Texts

23. A Preface for Great Thanksgiving 1 (APBA Second Order) for use at the celebration of the anniversary of a marriage, or at Mothers' Union celebrations.
24. A paragraph to be inserted into Great Thanksgiving 5 (APBA Second Order) for use at the commemoration of the Coming of the Light to the Torres Strait Islands.
25. Opening and Closing Prayers for Professional Standards, ChurchSafe or similar training events.
26. A Collect for the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation.
27. A revised form (following feedback received) of previously offered Prayers for Anglican Caring Agencies.
28. A Preface for social justice for use with Thanksgiving 1 (APBA Second Order).

Resources for the prevention of violence against women

29. A litany of lament for violence against women
30. A litany for transforming relationships
31. A litany for an end to violence – women and girls
32. A Confession and Absolution – violence against women
33. A Blessing for an end to violence against women
34. A list of suggested Bible readings
35. Short notes with suggestions on how these resources might be used for acts of common prayer.

Baptismal resources

36. Adaptations of APBA Holy Baptism in Holy Communion and Holy Baptism in Morning or Evening Prayer, where all candidates are unable to answer for themselves.
37. Suggestions for making the beginning of a service of Baptism approachable and engaging.
38. A Rationale for not undertaking, at this stage, a full revision of the APBA Baptism order.

Seasonal resources for Gathering in God's Name

39. Advent
40. Christmas at Midnight / Christmas Day
41. Christmas Season to Epiphany,
42. Lent
43. Easter season
44. Pentecost
45. Saints' Days

Parish Anniversaries

46. Guideline and suggested texts for celebrations of church and parish anniversaries

Commemorations

47. Guidelines concerning the calendar (of saints / holy people), for dioceses or provinces considering whether to support the local commemoration of a local saint or hero

Occasional Services and Resources

48. A Midday Prayer
49. Praying for Rain
50. Blessing for Emergency Services Personnel (suicide prevention)
51. Memorial Service World Suicide Prevention Day

6. PUBLICATION OF LITURGICAL RESOURCES

The Commission welcomed the publication by Broughton Books of a pocket-sized edition of *A Prayer Book for Australia* and understands that it has sold well.

The Commission notes that *epray*, a product of Broughton Books, has been migrated from a CD-based product to an online product.

The Commission makes its new and trial-use resources available via the General Synod website at <http://www.anglican.org.au/content/governance/commissions/Liturgy.aspx>, and by courtesy of the Diocese of Perth at <http://www.perth.anglican.org/liturgy>.

7. AUSTRALIAN LITURGICAL CONTEXTS

The Commission monitors developments in all areas of the liturgical life of the ACA, including:

- Calendar and Lectionary
- Liturgical Education and Formation
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander liturgical contexts
- Locally produced resources such as Sydney's *Common Prayer*

8. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Commission considers that there should be a thorough examination of the big theoretical and theological issues involved in providing liturgical resources for Australian Anglicans, above and beyond the practical and pastoral issues faced by worship leaders from week to week. It proposes to begin background work with papers written by members to examine the current and emerging missional and theological contexts for the Church's liturgical life in the 21st century.

9. MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL SYNOD

The following motions will be moved and seconded by members of the Commission who are also members of General Synod, including the Rev'd Dane Courtney, the Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith, the Rev'd Dr Colleen O'Reilly, the Very Rev'd Chris Chataway and the Rt Rev'd Garry Weatherill.

- a) That the report of the Liturgy Commission be received (ES / GW).
- b) That this Synod welcomes the resources produced by the Liturgy Commission in 2010 – 2013, and commends them to the Anglican Church of Australia for use and response:
 - Environment liturgical resources
 - Liturgical resources for the prevention of violence against women
 - Seasonal liturgical resources
 - Resources for anniversaries and commemorations
 - Supplementary resources for Baptism
 - Occasional services and prayers (CC / ES)
- c) Affirms the role of the Commission in providing resources and advice on liturgical matters for the ACA through the House of Bishops and the Standing Committee of General Synod. (DC / CO'R).
- d) Recognises that the liturgical and missional context of the ACA has changed significantly in the 18 years since the adoption of APBA as 'liturgical resources;' and requests the Commission to explore what kinds of liturgical resources may be needed, and in what forms they might be provided, to serve the ACA in the future; and to report back to the next session of General Synod. (GW / ES).