

## MINISTRY COMMISSION

The current Ministry Commission of General Synod was established following recommendations to the Primate from Standing Committee of February 2009. The term of the Commission was set at 5 years. The Commission met in February 2010 in Melbourne and will meet a second time in 2010 in November in Sydney.

The legal framework for the Commission is outlined in section 10 of the *Strategic Issues, Commissions, Taskforces and Networks Canon 1998*. That Canon states that the Commission's brief is to examine questions of mission in this church on all matters dealing with the competency of ordained and authorised lay ministry, referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod and to make recommendations on matters of mission and ministry which are of importance to the Anglican Church.

At the 2010 February meeting the Commission noted the referrals of work to the Commission since the 14<sup>th</sup> General Synod of 2007. These referrals included: ageing profile of Anglican Clergy; domestic violence support; drought and climate change. A report to Standing Committee in February 2009 listed a wide range of issues as potential areas of work for a newly constituted Ministry Commission including: minimum standards required for ordination to the three orders of ministry; development and recognition of selection criteria for pioneer ministers; encouraging new vocations (lay and ordained); gathering information with respect to formation practices and processes in the Anglican Church of Australia, ministry developments in other provinces of the Communion, and the Ordained Local Minister stream of ordained ministry in the Church of England; improving theological education for ordained and laity at community level; range of issues to do with ministry in rural Australia (lay ministry, drought, ecumenical opportunities in remote regions); monitoring ageing profile of clergy; interchangeability and recognition of ordained ministries across Australian dioceses.

The Commission discussed the above referrals and potential areas of work. The fundamental focus for the Commission's work is ***the nature of ministry (lay and ordained) in twenty-first century Australia***. This focus has three areas:

- (a) ***growing the kingdom*** (skills development, training for team ministry, leadership training, lay vocation, missional formation);
- (b) ***sustaining vocations*** (supervision, review, support – this includes consideration of ageing profile, ministry in rural Australia);
- (c) ***guidelines*** for minimum standards for ordination.

This brief will constitute the work of the Commission. For the period 2010-2011 the Commission resolved to focus its work on pioneer ministry in collaboration with the Fresh Expressions Australia Task Force. This will involve reconsideration of the minimum standards for ordination, missional formation and lay vocation.

The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Stephen Pickard  
Chair  
Ministry Commission