

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

The Eighteenth Session of General Synod

Message from the General Secretary

Eighteenth Session of General Synod - GS18 Update

14 December 2021 – Circular 01

To all General Synod Members and guests

The General Synod Office has received confirmation that you will attend the Eighteenth Session of General Synod (GS18) and we are looking forward to welcoming you.

Some of you may have been scheduled to attend the session initially planned for May 2021 but deferred due to COVID-19 pandemic. We are progressing on the basis that there will be no impediment to meeting in May 2022 but we will continue to monitor the situation.

This initial communication will provide you with information on:

- GS18 meeting arrangements
- GS18 member registration – travel and accommodation arrangements
- GS18 member portal – access to General Synod business papers and information.

More information on General Synod business processes will be provided after registration.

GS18 Meeting Arrangements

Date: Sunday 8 May to Friday 13 May 2022

Venue: RACV Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland)

<https://www.racv.com.au/travel-leisure/racv-resorts/our-destinations/royal-pines-gold-coast-resort/conferences-and-events.html>

All events will be conducted at the meeting venue and most GS18 members will stay onsite.

General Synod will commence with an opening Eucharist at 6.00 pm on Sunday 8 May 2022 and the session will end at 12.30 pm on Friday 13 May 2022.

Each business day starts at 8.30 am with Morning Prayer and bible study. The business day will conclude with evening prayer at 5.30 pm. Two evening business sessions, from 7.30pm to 9.00pm, are scheduled for Monday 9 May and Wednesday 11 June.

Health directives

GS18 will be conducted in accordance with the health directives of the Government of Queensland and within any COVID-19 restrictions imposed by airlines and the host venue that may be in place at the time.

Should you be unable or unwilling to attend GS18 as a result of any health directives or restrictions in place you should advise your diocesan Registrar or the NATSIAC Executive and they will arrange an alternate to take your place.

GS18 Registration – Travel and Accommodation

Later this week you will receive an email from the GS18 Registration Team at *FCM Travel* (GS18@fcmtravel.com.au) with a link to the GS18 online registration site. You will be asked to provide your personal details and to confirm your accommodation and travel requirements to attend GS18.

You are asked to complete online registration by Monday 31 January 2022.

Please meet this deadline to ensure that you do not miss key communications about GS18.

Travel for GS18 Members

The General Synod Office is responsible for the cost of General Synod members travelling to attend General Synod.

Flight bookings are coordinated by General Synod's contracted travel agent *FCM Travel* and seats have been reserved on a group fare basis on suitable flights from departure destinations across the 23 dioceses.

Some GS18 members living within reasonable proximity to the Gold Coast may choose to drive rather than fly. Vehicle expense claims may be submitted to the General Synod Office and will be processed within General Synod travel policy guidelines.

If you require a flight booking you will be asked to select your departing airport and to request allocation on pre-selected flights.

Depending on the airport of departure, flights will arrive at the Gold Coast Airport or Brisbane Airport with coach transfers to the meeting venue.

In pre-selecting the flights, consideration has been given to cost, direct routes and convenient departure and arrival times.

Most flights arrive during the day on Sunday 8 May and depart in the afternoon/evening of Friday 13 May. Due to flight schedule restrictions, some GS18 travellers will need to arrive earlier on Saturday 7 May or overnight at a transit destination on the way home. These additional costs are covered by General Synod.

If you have unavoidable commitments and cannot travel on the pre-selected flights you can indicate this in the '*Flight change request*' section of the registration form. *FCM Travel* will contact you to make other arrangements. Depending on the circumstances, you may be responsible for any additional cost associated with the change.

Requests to travel on an alternative airlines solely for airline preference or loyalty membership reasons cannot be accommodated.

Accommodation for GS18 Members

Dioceses and NATSIAC are responsible for accommodation costs for their representatives at the RACV Royal Pines.

When registering, you will select accommodation (room and breakfast) at the resort. Your accommodation will be confirmed to coincide with your dates of arrival and departure.

If your diocese has advised that you will be staying elsewhere, or you have chosen to make your own arrangements, please select '*No accommodation required*' when registering.

Spouse, family member or accompanying persons

You are welcome to have an accompanying person share your hotel room.

The cost for an accompanying person sharing a hotel room, breakfast and dinners included in the program is \$400. Details are provided in the registration link.

FCM Travel will contact you to arrange payment and can assist with booking flights for accompanying persons on request.

Accompanying persons will be issued with a name badge providing access to the dining room for breakfast and dinner.

Extended stay

Should you wish to extend your stay before or after GS18, *FCM Travel* can assist with bookings. Additional charges associated with extended stays and changes to pre-selected flights will be your responsibility.

Credit Card Authorisation – Personal Expenditure

If you confirm a room at the RACV Royal Pines in the registration form you will be asked to provide credit card details. Your credit card details will be provided to the hotel to take a holding bond and for any incidental expenses during your stay. It is also required to expedite an express check-in process. The hotel will require your authority before processing any charges.

GS18 Member Portal – Access to General Synod Business Papers and Information

Full details of the General Synod program, business papers, elections and resources will be available at the **GS18 Member Portal**, accessible through the General Synod website.

You will be provided with a User ID and password to access the portal by separate email when registrations have closed.

The GS18 Member Portal will provide you with easy access to information on Synod processes and access to resources such as the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia, the Standing Orders and the Rules for the Conduct of elections. In addition you will receive regular updates on arrangements.

Business papers for GS18 will be available electronically on the GS18 Member Portal.

You will be alerted when business papers have been posted online and can download documents.

Business papers dealing with legislation and financial reports will also be available in hard copy to those who request them as part of the registration process.

Information on General Synod elections including nomination forms and access to candidate profiles will also be available on the GS18 Member Portal.

Key Dates

31 January 2022	Deadline for online registration
8 February 2022	Legislation will be available on the GS18 Member Portal
8 April 2022	Late legislation and financial reports will be available on the GS18 Member portal
w/c 11 April 2022	Distribution of GS18 business papers in hard copy if requested
18 April 2022	Last day for receipt of motions at General Synod Office for inclusion in the Business Paper for the first day.
25 April 2022	Circulation of the Business paper for the first day – GS18 Member Portal

8 May – 13 May 2022 Eighteenth Session of General Synod

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact:

Travel and Accommodation Enquiries – FCM Travel

Email: GS18@fcmtravel.com.au

General Synod Enquiries – General Synod Office

Email: GS18@anglican.org.au

Phone: 02 8267 2700

We look forward to seeing you on the Gold Coast and working together to ensure a successful Eighteenth Session of General Synod.

Anne Hywood
General Secretary



Anglican Church of Australia
General Synod Office

