

# THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA



## The Eighteenth Session of General Synod

### Message from the General Secretary (Circular 09)

### Eighteenth Session of General Synod

5 May 2022

To all General Synod Members

#### Electronic Voting and Online Elections at GS18

##### ***Electronic Voting on motions – Vero Voting***

It has now been confirmed that a number of GS18 members will be required to participate by videoconference.

It has been necessary to put in place arrangements for electronic voting on motions at this session to ensure the same voting arrangements are in place for all members – whether they are in the Synod Hall or connected by videoconference.

Given that there is likely a small group connecting by videoconference the Synod President and Chair of Committees may choose to rely on votes by voices and raised hands to resolve motions, questions and amendments before the Synod. If there is a clear majority in the Synod Hall, there will be no need to implement an electronic vote. However, if the majority is not clear, or a vote by Houses is required, the President will call for an electronic vote.

We will be using the **Vero Voting** system which provides an independent, secure voting system on a web browser.

Each voter is provided with a unique identifier and is allocated to one of the Houses of Bishops, Clergy or Laity. Only one vote can be registered from each unique link.

The voting system requires you to have access to a smartphone, tablet or laptop at all times during the business sessions. Wi-Fi connection to the internet will be available to all members in the Synod Hall.

On Thursday 5 May 2022, each GS18 member will receive an email with a link and SMS link providing direct access to the voting portal. The email and SMS will be sent by **Vero Voting**. Look out for this sender in your inbox after 4.00pm AEST.

If you do not receive an email and/or SMS from **Vero Voting** by 9.00am tomorrow can you please contact Jofrey Valendez, our Vero Voting Coordinator, on [Jofrey.valendez@anglican.org.au](mailto:Jofrey.valendez@anglican.org.au) on Friday 6 May so that any access issues can be resolved.

Attached to the email from **Vero Voting** will be a user guide. Please review the guide and open the link to trial the system.

When you open the link and follow the instructions to the VOTE page you will find a test question - *Are you looking forward to GS18?* Voting on this question will be open until 5.00pm AEST on Sunday 8 May 2022. I look forward to reviewing your response!!

On Monday morning I will make a presentation to all members on Synod arrangements. This will include a live test run of the voting system. Should any member have issues we will have the opportunity to resolve these during the morning tea break and before any implementation of the electronic voting system. Similarly, we will be able to assist those members who are connecting by videoconference.

During business sessions, you will need to access the Voting portal through the links provided by Vero. Each morning at 8.00am AEST Vero Voting will resend the link by email and SMS so it is at the top your inbox each day and easy for you to locate.

### ***Online Elections – Election Runner***

The General Synod Elections usually conducted by ballot paper will also be conducted online through **Election Runner**. Again, members will receive log in details and be able to vote for their preferred candidates online when the election is open.

When nominations close you will receive an email from [gs18elections@anglican.org.au](mailto:gs18elections@anglican.org.au) providing you log in details and links to the **Election Runner** system. You should not share your log in details or link. Please look for this email in your inbox after 6.00pm on Tuesday 10 May 2022.

You will receive link that gives you access to the ballots relevant to you. i.e. When you are required to vote as a member of your House and when you are required to vote as a member of Synod as a whole.

The elections for the Appellate Tribunal and Panel for the Special Tribunal will be open online between 8.00am and 1.30pm on Thursday 12 May 2022. All other elections will be open online between 10.30am and 6.30pm on Wednesday 11 May 2022. Voting is not possible outside of these timeframes.

We will appreciate member's patience and cooperation as we implement these new online systems. NOTE: this circular has not been sent to any person other than a voting member of General Synod.

## Updates on GS18 Portal

### ***Worship, Prayer and Reflection on Scripture***

Information on the worship program and the Reflections on Scripture which will follow Morning Prayer each day is now available on the [GS18 Portal](#).

Please review the [Worship Prayer and Reflection on Scripture](#) page.

On this page you will also find information on the Chaplaincy team who are volunteering to support us all at GS18.

We are grateful to Br Christopher John SSF, Sr Juliana SI, Rev'd Mandy Wheatley TSSF and Joy Freier for their willingness to provide prayer and pastoral support.

Links to daily prayers provided by the Chaplains will be published on this page each day.

### **Travel and Arrival Confirmation**

If you have any last-minute questions about your travel and accommodation arrangements, please contact Lisa at the GS18 Registration Team at [gs18@fcmtravel.com.au](mailto:gs18@fcmtravel.com.au) or by phone 03 9192 7395.

### **Final Instructions**

You will receive a further circular from this office tomorrow containing further details on airport transfers, arrival arrangements for hotel check in and Synod registration.

Please contact the GSO at [GS18@anglican.org.au](mailto:GS18@anglican.org.au) or by telephone on 02 8267 2700 if you require any assistance in preparation for GS18.

I look forward to seeing you on the Gold Coast this weekend. Safe travels to all.

**Anne Hywood**  
**General Secretary**

