



EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD 8 - 13 MAY 2022

BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE SECOND BUSINESS DAY TUESDAY 10 MAY 2022

The business of the Synod will commence at 9.15 am on Tuesday 10 May 2022 in the Benowa Ballroom (Synod Hall), at the RACV Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1 SYNOD ASSEMBLES

2 PRAYERS

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous business day will be read and confirmed on the resumption of business after the afternoon tea adjournment. [see motion 8.12]

4 GENERAL SECRETARY UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS

5 QUESTIONS

Question 1

The Rev'd Caitlin Orr asked

1. What are the terms of the General Synod Standing Committee's "Protocol for Making Public Statements"?

2. Is it correct that when the Public Affairs Commission (PAC) makes public submissions to government or parliamentary inquiries, or other statement to the public, it must state that "the views expressed in this submission are only the views of the PAC and should not be taken to reflect the opinion of the Anglican Church of Australia, the Primate, the Standing Committee or any of the Dioceses"?

6 Question 2

Bishop Peter Stuart asked

This question is really in the course of the Bill but I wanted to ensure mover had it early.

If a church worker is permitted to function under a delegation from the Bishop but not directly by the Bishop does that constitute the exercise of the function defined as “permitted to function”?

If a church worker is permitted to function under a system in operation of which the Bishop is aware but not directly by the Bishop does that constitute the exercise of the function defined as “permitted to function”.

Question 3

Dr Laurence Scandrett asked

- (a) How many full-time staff and how many part-time staff were employed by the General Synod at the time of GS17 in 2017? What was the staffing FTE at that time.

How many full-time staff and how many part-time staff are currently employed by the General Synod, ie at this time of GS18 in 2022? What is the current staffing FTE?

Question 4

Dr Laurence Scandrett asked

What is the detailed breakdown of the line item “Cost of General Synod”, which totals \$182,971 across 2020 and 2021, in the Expenses section of the “Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2021” found on page 3-081 in Book 3 and also on page 3-101 (Note) in Book 3?

Question 5

Carolyn Tan asked

Is the President of the opinion that Bill 11 - A Bill for the Canon Concerning Services (Amendment) Canon:

- (a) a bill that deals with or concerns ritual ceremonial or discipline of this Church;
- (b) required to follow the procedure for a special bill under section 28 of the Constitution?

Question 6

Rev'd James Warren asked

What are some helpful ways to substantially cut the cost of the diocesan payments for General Synod and its associated work?

Question 7

Doug Marr asked

Which, if any, of the persons listed in item 8.3.3 of the Business Paper for Monday 9 May, are having their travel or accommodation costs paid for by the General Synod?

Question 8

Doug Marr asked

Equal Representation of Women

With reference to various resolutions of General Synods including 85/07 and 25/17 calling for equal representation of women:

- a) How many members of each of the three houses of General Synod 18 are male and how many are female?
- b) Which dioceses have reported to this session of General Synod, as requested by resolution 25/17, that they have adopted the target of 50% equal representation of women?

Question 9

Doug Marr asked

Audits required by Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017

- a) In how many dioceses is the Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 operative?
- b) How many audits have been completed in accordance with this Canon?
- c) How many audits have been commenced but not yet completed in accordance with this Canon?
- d) Noting section 12 of the Canon provides for the appointment of an independent person to undertake an audit of each diocese at intervals of three years or such lesser period as determined by the Standing Committee and that the General Synod website only provides reports on two audits, how many audits are expected to be commenced in the remainder of 2022?
- e) Noting that there are also internal costs in the General Synod Office, what payments to external parties have been incurred in conducting audits since the passing of the Canon?

Question 10

Dr Leanne Beagley asked

Given the modern governance best practice for Boards of identifying and registering a conflict of interest, with a process for managing voting to ensure there is no perceived or actual conflict. I ask the following question.

Has the Primate considered introducing a process for integrity in decision making through the introduction of a conflict of interest policy, process and register at Standing Committee?

Question 11

The Rev'd Canon Peter Sandeman

Has the Primate been able to attend any Primates' Meetings?

Do and have all Primates attended the meeting?

Can you please provide us, the Australian General Synod gathered here with a sense of how at an international level the Primates are addressing the challenges faced by the modern church?

6 PETITIONS [SO 7(e)]

7 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS [SO 7(f)]

8 NOTICES OF MOTIONS [SO 7(g)]

9 CALL OVER OF THE MOTIONS

16 MOTIONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE [SO 7(j)(i)]

Note: *By resolution 2010/1/09, the Standing Committee adopted the following guidelines for deciding which motions should be brought before General Synod by the request of the Standing Committee:*

A bill or a resolution which –

- (a) Is recommended by the Standing Committee to be passed by General Synod;*
- (b) Is recommended by a Commission, by a Task Force appointed by the Standing Committee or by a body constituted under a Canon of General Synod;*
- (c) In the opinion of the Standing Committee is a matter of substantial importance to the Anglican Church of Australia or its relationships with other Churches;*
- (d) In the opinion of the Standing Committee is necessary to be considered at the next session for the order and good government of the Anglican Church of Australia and to administer the affairs thereof;*

and that matters be listed on the Business Paper under the relevant criteria above and identifying the signatory(ies) of the proposals.

The criterion or criteria by which the Standing Committee determined that a motion should be brought before General Synod by request of the Standing Committee are set out after the heading for that motion.

The signatory or signatories of the relevant proposal are set out at the head of the motion as mover and seconder.

ORDER OF THE DAY – Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 1.30pm

16.3 Motions relating to Financial Matters (*Book Ref 3*)

Criterion (a)

Mr Keith Stephens moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding

- 16.3.1 That the Treasurer's report on the financial position of the General Synod at 31 December 2021 be received.
- 16.3.2 That the audited financial statements of the General Synod for the year ended 31 December 2021, as adopted by Standing Committee, be received.
- 16.3.3 That the General Synod budget for the year ended 31 December 2022, as approved by Standing Committee, be received.
- 16.3.4 That the General Synod budget for the year ended 31 December 2023 be approved.
- 16.3.5 That Synod receives the General Synod forecast budget for years ended 31 December 2024 and 2025.

ORDER OF DAY Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 11.00am

Motions 16.4 to 16.8

16.4 National Anglican Family Violence Project (*Book Ref 4-105*)

Criterion (b)

The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen moving, the Very Rev'd Sandy Grant seconding

The General Synod receives the reports of the National Anglican Family Violence Project commissioned by the Anglican Church of Australia Standing Committee:

- I. National Anglican Family Violence Research Report: for the Anglican Church of Australia
 - II. NAFVP Prevalence Study Report,
 - III. NAFVP Clergy and Lay Leaders Study Report, and
 - IV. NAFVP Experience Study Report, and
- a) notes the 28 findings of the Research Project
 - b) laments the violence which has been suffered by some of our members and repents of the part we have played in allowing an environment where violence went unaddressed
 - c) requests dioceses to respond to the findings of the National Family Violence Project and to introduce and develop primary prevention strategies and pastoral responses relating to family violence.

16.5 Ten Commitments for Prevention and Response to Domestic and Family Violence in the Anglican Church of Australia (*Book Ref 4-105*)

Criterion (b)

Dr Karin Sowada moving, the Rev'd Tracy Lauersen seconding

The General Synod

- a) notes the development of the Ten Commitments for Prevention and Response to Domestic and Family Violence in the Anglican Church of Australia as a best practice guide for the Anglican Church of Australia to prevent and respond to violence.
 - b) notes the endorsement of the Ten Commitments for prevention and response to domestic and family violence in the Anglican Church of Australia by the Standing Committee
 - c) thanks those dioceses who have adopted the Ten Commitment's in their recent diocesan Synods
 - d) encourages remaining dioceses to adopt the Ten Commitment's at their coming synods.
-

16.6 Families and Culture Commission (*Book Ref 4-105*)

Criterion (b)

Dr Karin Sowada moving, the Rev'd Tracy Lauersen seconding

The General Synod, noting the results of the National Anglican Family Violence Research Project, the scope of prevention work outlined in the Ten Commitments made by the Church and the long-term nature of culture change

- a) ratifies the new Families and Culture Commission established by the General Synod Standing Committee
 - b) confirms the functions of the Families and Culture Commission to be
 - I. to examine questions that relate to family violence affecting members of the Church, the drivers of violence and the well-being of families and women referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and to the Standing Committee, and
 - II. to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters relating to family violence affecting members of the Church, violence prevention and the well-being of families and women.
 - c) confirms that any resolutions at this Synod which referred tasks to the Family Violence Working Group will now be referred to the Families and Culture Commission.
-

16.7 Resourcing the Families and Culture Commission (*Book Ref 4-106*)

Criterion (b)

The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen moving, Dr Karin Sowada seconding

The General Synod, noting the results of the National Anglican Family Violence Research Project, the scope of prevention work outlined in the Ten Commitments made by the Church and the long-term nature of culture change, supports the allocation of General Synod resources to meet the objectives of the Family and Culture Commission, and

- a. requests the Treasurer to recast the General Synod budget to allocate \$52,000 to the Family and Culture Commission in the 2022 General Synod Statutory Assessment budget and \$186,000 in the 2023 budget and 2024-25 forecasts; and
 - b. requests Standing Committee to apply this funding to staffing and resourcing the Anglican Church of Australia's prevention and response to family violence affecting its members.
-

16.8 Family Violence and First Nations Communities (*Book Ref 4-106*)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Chris McLeod moving, the Dr Rose Elu seconding

The General Synod, noting the new Federal Government draft national plan to end violence against women and children that prioritises two five-year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander action plans, requests the Families and Culture Commission to continue to monitor this development, to work with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC), the Church's First Nations leaders and relevant diocesan teams to assist them to develop family violence prevention resources appropriate for their context and to report back to the next General Synod.

ORDER OF DAY Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 1.30pm**16.11 Climate Change – Call on Australian Governments** (*Book Ref 4-060*)

Criterion (b)

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moving, Bishop Murray Harvey seconding

Noting:

- A. Australia's endorsement of the 2015 UN Paris Climate Change Agreement (COP21) and in particular the global framework to avoid dangerous climate change caused by emissions of greenhouse gases by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.
- B. Australia's pledge to the 2021 UN Glasgow Conference (COP26) to achieve nett zero emissions by 2050, and the endorsement of this pledge by both the Coalition government at the time of the Conference and the Australian Labour Party then in Opposition.
- C. That all Australian sub-national governments have also endorsed the goal of nett zero emissions by 2050 or earlier.
- D. That all levels of Australian government apart from WA and NT have committed to interim reductions by 2030.
- E. That urgent action to keep the 1.5C goal alive was called for at COP26 with 190 countries pledging to rapidly phase down their use of coal – a pledge that was not adopted by Australia.
- F. That while Australian greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity generation sector are declining, in all other sectors including transport, agriculture and resource extraction emissions continue to increase consistent with a 3C warming scenario if other countries followed similar policies and emissions trajectories.

This Synod

1. understands the theological value of the natural world as a divine blessing intended by God to flourish and to be shared in harmony by human communities, and recognises that this blessing has been spoiled and abused by human greed and carelessness;
2. laments the suffering already being endured across the world by communities facing drought, water insufficiency, loss of arable lands, destructive fire events, cyclones, floods and rising sea levels, and the

- increasing threat to life caused by rising global temperatures, air pollution and loss of biodiversity which will be borne disproportionately by the poorest of the world's poor;
3. is appalled at the lack of action by governments and powerful corporations who pay lip-service to the need for climate action but do not take the urgent and far-reaching actions consistent with avoiding climate catastrophe and immense suffering;
 4. is ashamed of the low ambition for climate action shown by government, major institutions and businesses in Australia, and resolves to hold major stakeholders to account;
 5. calls upon the Federal government to explain how its stated support for the 1.5C warming goal can be consistent with its refusal to adopt the COP26 pledge to phase down the use of coal;
 6. calls on all levels of Australian government to significantly lift interim 2030 emissions targets in recognition that action must be taken this decade to avoid breaching the 1.5C warming target;
 7. calls upon the Federal and each of the sub-national governments to advise what policies it has implemented or plans to implement in order to achieve both the net zero by 2050 goal and the keeping of global warming below 1.5C;
 8. demands that Australian governments enact legislation to ensure businesses profiting from our shared environment are made accountable and financially responsible for the true cost of environmental degradation including climate change mitigation and adaptation;
 9. encourages all levels of Australian government to think beyond the next budget cycle, to commit the level of resources consistent with the scale of the problem, to equip and encourage Australian institutions, media organisations, businesses and places of learning in order that we can work together to develop imaginative and creative responses to climate catastrophe.

16.20 Defence Chaplaincy (*Book Ref 4-295*)

Criterion (b)

Mr Allan Gallimore moving, The Rev'd Catherine Wynn Jones seconding

The General Synod

- thanks God for the wonderful ministry of Anglican Defence Chaplains undertaken in the increasingly difficult climate of growing secularism and pluralism
- thanks God for the privileged position and blessed opportunity to still have Christian chaplains living among and ministering to our Defence Force personnel
- notes the significant reduction in support for the Bishop provided by Australian Government Department of Defence and encourages each diocese to financially support Defence Chaplaincy by collecting a congregational donation each year on Defence Sunday (the Sunday before Remembrance Day)

- affirms the importance of Anglican Defence Chaplaincy as a critical element of the Church's ministry, notes the benefits to the Church of partnering with Defence Chaplaincy in gospel ministry, notes the strategic importance of having high calibre younger women and men serve as chaplains, and therefore encourages each diocese to work with the Bishop to the Defence Force in recruiting them.
-

17 MOTIONS FOR BILLS FOR CANONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE [SO 7(j)(i)]

17.1 Bill 01 – A Bill for the Safe Ministry Legislation Amendments Canon 2022 *(Book Ref 1-02)*

Mr Garth Blake AM SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding

That a Bill for the Safe Ministry Legislation Amendments Canon 2022 be approved in principle.

17.8 Bill 08 – A Bill for the Special Tribunal (Removal from Office) Canon 2022 *(Book Ref 1-52)*

Dr Robert Tong AM moving, Justice Debra Mullins AO seconding

That a Bill for the Special Tribunal (Removal from Office) Canon 2022 be approved in principle.

17.9 Bill 09 – A Bill for the Episcopal Standards Investigations Amendment Canon 2022 *(Book Ref 1-54)*

Justice Debra Mullins AO moving, Dr Carolyn Tan seconding

That a Bill for the Episcopal Standards Investigations Amendment Canon 2022 be approved in principle.

17.10 Bill 10 – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Sabbatical Allowance Amendment) Canon 2022 *(Book Ref 1-56)*

The Rev'd Andrew Ford moving, Mr Allan Thompson seconding

That a Bill for the Long Service Leave (Sabbatical Allowance Amendment) Canon 2022 be approved in principle.

17.11 Bill 12 – A Bill for the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2022 *(Book Ref 1-59)*

Justice Debra Mullins AO moving, The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen seconding

That a Bill for the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2022 be approved in principle.

17.13 Bill 14 – A Bill for the General Synod Presence Canon 2022 (*Book Ref 1-65*)

Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moving, Mr Steve Lucas seconding

That a Bill for the General Synod Presence Canon 2022 be approved in principle.

20 MOTIONS BY REQUEST OF A DIOCESAN SYNOD OR DIOCESAN COUNCIL [SO 7(j)(iii)]

20.1 Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility (*Diocese of Adelaide*)

Bishop Chris McLeod moving, The Rev'd Professor Peter Sandeman seconding

The General Synod

- a) supports raising the age of Criminal Responsibility from 10 to 14 years;
 - b) asks the President to write conveying the resolution and support for it to the Federal Attorney-General and the Meeting of Attorneys-General.
-

20.2 The Appellate Tribunal (*Diocese of Ballarat*)

Mr Peter Jarvis moving, The Rev'd Glen Wesley seconding

At the invitation of the Bishop-in-Council of the Diocese of Ballarat, the General Synod

1. Commends the integrity, hard work and considerable investment of time and energy by members of the Appellate Tribunal in dealing with liturgical innovations arising from the change to The Marriage Act 1961 as amended in 2019 concerning civil marriages.
 2. Affirms our unity with Anglicans across Australia which is based on Christ's call and not our righteousness. We reject any sectarianism which claims doctrinal uniformity other than that expressed in the Creeds and in the Book of Common Prayer.
-

ORDER OF THE DAY – Tuesday 10 May at 3.30pm
Marriage, Human Sexuality and Same-sex relationships
(Motions 20.3 to 20.7 and 24.3 to 24.5)

20.3 Statements as to the Faith, Ritual, Ceremonial or Discipline of this Church made under Section 4 of the Constitution (*Diocese of Sydney*)

In accordance with Rule V, the text of this statement, together with an Explanatory Memorandum, was sent to all members of the General Synod prior to the Synod. The Statement and Explanatory Memorandum are available at <https://anglican.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/GS18-Statements-as-to-the-faith-ritual-ceremonial-or-discipline-of-this-Church.pdf>

Rule V outlines the procedures for submitting, circulating and considering Statements

Statement 1 - Marriage as the union of a man and a woman

Archbishop Kanishka Raffel moving, The Rev'd Natalie Rosner seconding

Pursuant to the authority recognised in s.4 and s.26 of the Constitution to make statements as to the faith, ritual, ceremonial or discipline of this Church, and in accordance with the procedures set out in Rule V, the General Synod hereby states:

1. The faith, ritual, ceremonial and discipline of this Church reflect and uphold marriage as it was ordained from the beginning, being the exclusive union of one man and one woman arising from mutual promises of lifelong faithfulness, which is in accordance with the teaching of Christ that, "from the beginning the Creator made them male and female", and in marriage, "a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh" (Matt 19:4-5).
2. The solemnisation of a marriage between a same-sex couple is contrary to the teaching of Christ and the faith, ritual, ceremonial and/or discipline of this Church.
3. Any rite or ceremony that purports to bless a same-sex marriage is not in accordance with the teaching of Christ and the faith, ritual, ceremonial and/or discipline of this Church.

20.4 Statements as to the Faith, Ritual, Ceremonial or Discipline of this Church made under Section 4 of the Constitution (Diocese of Sydney)

In accordance with Rule V, the text of this Statement, together with an Explanatory Memorandum, was sent to all members of the General Synod prior to the Synod. The Statement and Explanatory Memorandum are available at <https://anglican.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/GS18-Statements-as-to-the-faith-ritual-ceremonial-or-discipline-of-this-Church.pdf>

Rule V outlines the procedures for submitting, circulating and considering Statements

Bishop Michael Stead moving, Ms Seak-King Huang seconding

Statement 2 - Definition of Unchastity

Pursuant to the authority recognised in s.4 and s.26 of the Constitution, to "make statements as to the... discipline of this Church", and in accordance with the procedures set out in Rule V, the General Synod states that it continues to hold the historic view that unchastity means sexual activity outside a marriage relationship, defined in the *Book of Common Prayer* as the union of one man and one woman, in accordance with Jesus' teaching about marriage in Matt 19:4-5.

20.5 Safe Churches (*Diocese of Sydney*)

Bishop Peter Lin moving, The Rev'd Kate Beer seconding

General Synod—

1. Deplores and condemns any behaviour that is disrespectful, hurtful, intentionally insensitive, bullying or abusive, and recognises and rejoices in the image of God as reflected in every human being, regardless of race, social circumstances, creed or sexual identity, and apologises to and seeks forgiveness from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) persons whom we have treated in this way.
 2. Commits itself to fostering churches and fellowships where compassion and grace abound and where the love of God is expressed to all, so that our churches and ministries are welcoming, safe and respectful of all people.
-

20.6 Affirming Singleness (*Diocese of Sydney*)

The Rev'd Dr Danielle Treweek moving, The Rev'd Dr Rhys Bezzant seconding

General Synod—

1. Notes that *Faithfulness in Service* was adopted by the General Synod in 2004 "as the national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and lay church workers" (Resolution 33/04).
 2. Notes that in *Faithfulness in Service* clergy and church workers are called to take "responsibility for their sexual conduct by maintaining chastity in singleness and faithfulness in marriage" (FIS 7.2).
 3. Affirms that singleness is, like marriage, an honourable state for God's people, in which the fullness of God's blessings may be enjoyed. Singleness is highly commended in Scripture (1 Cor 7:8, 32-38; Matt 19:10-12).
-

20.7 Blessing Civil Same-sex marriages (*Diocese of Sydney*)

The Rev'd Dr Mark Thompson moving, The Rev'd Jennifer Hercott seconding

General Synod—

1. notes that Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference declared that it "cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions", and
2. notes that the blessing of same-sex marriages in Anglican jurisdictions overseas was a key catalyst for the "tear in the fabric of the Anglican Communion" that has widened over the past two decades, and is likely to have the same dire and potentially irreversible consequences for the Anglican Church of Australia, and
3. notes the Majority Opinion of the Appellate Tribunal in the Wangaratta Reference that the form of service proposed by the

- Wangaratta Regulation which permits the blessing of a same-sex marriage is not contrary to our Constitution or Canons, and notwithstanding this
4. continues to affirm GS Resolution 62/04, that “this General Synod does not condone the liturgical blessing of same sex relationships”, on the basis that this is contrary to the teaching of Christ (e.g., Matt 19:4-5) and the faith, ritual, ceremonial and/or discipline of this Church, and
 5. calls on Diocesan Bishops and Synods to take the necessary steps to prevent the blessing of same-sex marriages and/or unions in their diocese, so as to uphold the teaching of Christ and preserve and protect the unity of the Anglican Church of Australia.

21 MOTIONS FOR BILLS FOR CANONS BY REQUEST OF A DIOCESAN SYNOD OR DIOCESAN COUNCIL [SO 7(j)(iii)]

21.1 Bill 11 – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Services (Amendment) Canon 2022 (Book Ref 1-78) (Diocese of Sydney)

Bishop Michael Stead moving, The Rev'd Lynda Johnston seconding

That a Bill for the Canon Concerning Services (Amendment) Canon 2022 be approved in principle.

22 MOTIONS FOR RULES BY REQUEST OF A DIOCESAN SYNOD OR A DIOCESAN COUNCIL [SO 7(j)(iii)]

22.1 Bill R03 – A Bill for a Rule to Amend Rule II – Standing Committee (Membership) 2022 (Book Ref 1-81) (Diocese of Sydney)

The Ven Dane Courtney moving, Mrs Briony Bounds seconding

That a Bill for a Rule to Amend Rule II – Standing Committee (Membership) 2022 be approved in principle.

23 NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED BY STANDING COMMITTEE FROM MEMBERS OF SYNOD [SO 7(l)]

23.1 Being the Body of Christ

Bishop Matt Brain moving, the Rev Prof Dorothy Lee seconding

That this General Synod

- a) acknowledging that there are several theological and spiritual cultures within The Anglican Church of Australia,
- b) recognising that the persons within each culture adhere to it for reasons of belief conscientiously held in adherence to holy scripture as well as social identity, and
- c) welcoming the strengths that our diverse unity brings,

therefore calls on all Anglicans regardless of their cultural identity to:

- d) respect one another's cultures,
- e) build on what we hold in common,
- f) affirm that the separation of any one of us diminishes us all, and

- g) where we differ seek, 'in the spirit of Philippians 3:13, "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead", to discover each other's faith as it is today and to appeal to history only for enlightenment, not as a way of perpetuating past controversy'*

so that the gospel we proclaim may be attractive to the widest range of Australians to whom we seek to minister.

**From the aims of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC I) accessed 6 March 2022 at www.anglicancentreinrome.org/arcic-i-ii-and-iii.*

23.2 30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

Bishop Keith Joseph moving, Justice Debra Mullins AO seconding

That Synod notes that:

this year marks the 30th anniversary of the ordination of the first women priests in the Anglican Church of Australia and that by the end of 1992 92 women had been ordained priests Australia wide – '92 in 92';

currently, according to the Anglican Church Directory 2020/21 there are 3831 clergy of whom 888 (23%) are women. Of this number there are 7 bishops, 397 active priests, 171 active deacons, 66 whose position is not specified and 247 who are retired;

and acknowledges the important contribution ordained women have made and continue to make to worship, ministry and leadership in the Anglican church.

and notes further that this year will be a time for observance of this anniversary across the nation;

and that 2 of the original 92 in 92: the Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO, the Archbishop of Perth and the Right Reverend Kate Prowd, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Melbourne are members of this Synod.

23.3 Kriol Preya Buk 2021

The Rev'd Kate Beer moving, Bishop Greg Anderson seconding

The General Synod gives thanks to God for the publication of the Kriol Preya Buk 2021 in the Diocese of the Northern Territory.

Recognising the Anglican value of worshipping God in a language understood by the people, Synod celebrates with joy the work of Kriol speakers involved in this translation project and commends the work of further liturgy translation.

23.7 National Aboriginal Bishop and the National Torres Strait Islander Bishop

Bishop Keith Joseph moving, Bishop Chris McLeod seconding

That this General Synod requests the Standing Committee to consider provision for a full stipend and travel allowance for the National Aboriginal Bishop and the National Torres Strait Islander Bishop.

23.8 Viability of Regional Dioceses

Bishop Keith Joseph moving, Bishop Greg Anderson seconding

This General Synod

Recognising the financial stress and administrative strain placed on regional and rural dioceses due to the legacy of historic sexual abuse claims, the rising cost of insuring property and ministry operations, and the increased workload from centrally-mandated ministry programs: requests that the Standing Committee, with the support of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force determine how the Metropolitan Dioceses could take on greater responsibility for supporting ministry in all the dioceses of their respective Provinces including but not limited to policies, processes, administration, registries, insurance, redress and continued presence in regional and rural ministries.

24 NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED AFTER CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR FIRST DAY [SO 37]

24.1 Statutory Assessment

The Rev'd Gavin Poole moving, The Rev'd Simon Roberts seconding

This General Synod

thanks the treasurer and staff for the clear and comprehensive financial reports in Book 3 and is grateful for the transparent and well managed accounts of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Furthermore synod notes that:-

- from 2016 to 2021 Statutory Assessments increased by 12.6% (p139) compared to a CPI increase of less than 10% over the same time period;
- the General Synod representation dropped from 232 in 2017 (p136) to 222 in 2022 (p150), suggesting that the burden of the statutory assessment, on a shrinking church, will become greater;
- commissions, workshops and task forces are budgeted at \$151,800 in 2022 (p145); and
- as of December 2021 the reserve fund is in a healthy net financial position of \$3,925,555 (p123) yet still accumulating capital from the business account (p5).

Synod therefore requests Standing Committee to:-

- explore ways of reducing costs and funding from other sources to significantly reduce the Statutory Assessment in the near future; and
 - return to the practice of sending the budget to dioceses months prior to each General Synod, giving opportunity for comment and to include such feedback in the report to General Synod.
-

24.2 Funding of Commissions, Task Forces or Projects

The Rev'd Simon Roberts moving, The Rev'd Gavin Poole seconding

Synod resolves that:

- a) before any new commission, taskforce, or project is established the cost to the General Synod budget be presented to the Synod for consideration and that no funds be allocated to the commission or taskforce in excess of the amount approved upon establishment;
- b) at each future session of General Synod the ongoing need for each commission, taskforce or project established by resolution of Synod (excluding those formed by Canon) be ratified along with the cost to the General Synod budget of each commission or taskforce;
- c) the ongoing need for each commission established by Canon be reviewed at least every second session of General Synod.

24.3 Affirmation of Same-sex Marriage

The Rev'd Assoc Prof Matthew Anstey moving, Professor Peter Sherlock seconding

The General Synod

- a) welcomes the introduction of civil same-sex marriages in Australia as providing a state-based way of recognising faithfulness, love and commitment;
- b) gives thanks for the public witness of Christian same-sex couples;
- c) notes the diversity of theological and legal viewpoints published by the Doctrine Commission, *Marriage, Same-Sex Marriage and the Anglican Church of Australia*, and that this diversity of viewpoints is found among faithful, committed Anglicans who worship in all dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia;
- d) affirms that marriage is not considered a matter pertaining to salvation in this Church, as noted by the Appellate Tribunal Wangaratta Reference [140]: "at many points in time between 1662 and the present day, that doctrine [of marriage] was changed in response to different understandings of Scripture, changing perceptions about the respective roles of men and women, and the need to accommodate the law of the land These changes never signalled that the Church of England's teachings expounded during the solemnisation rite were being proclaimed as matters going to salvation or part of the 'faith' of the Church"; and recognising that in heaven we shall neither marry nor be given in marriage (Mk 12:25);
- e) notes that at no point in the process of the General Synod's passing of canons relating to holy matrimony (Solemnization of Matrimony Canon 1981, Marriage of Divorced Persons Canon 1981, Matrimony (Prohibited Relationships) Canon 1981) was reference made to constitutional impediments to such, as noted by the Appellate Tribunal Wangaratta Reference [141];

- f) acknowledges the continual evolution within the church, including the Anglican Church of Australia, of its position on moral issues – such as slavery, capital punishment, interracial marriage, contraception, the equality of men and women – and the concomitant absence of any such moral injunctions in the historic Creeds;
 - g) considers same-sex marriage as a moral good and a gift to be celebrated, providing an enrichment of the Christian understanding of marriage and a witness to God’s grace and love, consistent with the testimony of Scripture and Anglican tradition as expressed in the historic Creeds.
-

24.4 Sydney Anglican Schools

The Rev’d Assoc Prof Matthew Anstey moving, Ms Ann Nadge seconding

The General Synod

- a) acknowledges with sadness the negative publicity in the SMH article, “‘I am livid’: Anglican principals’ fury at edict against gay marriage” (6 May 2022) regarding the imposition of heteronormativity as a required belief for Principals and Board Members of Anglican Schools in the Diocese of Sydney and the deleterious impact such publicity has on the mission of, and goodwill towards, the whole of the Anglican Church of Australia and the Anglican Schools Association;
 - b) acknowledges with sadness that the said SMH news reported that “[t]he extra clause...took schools by surprise” and that several School Principals chose to speak “on the condition of anonymity”, indicating not insignificant concerns regarding freedom of speech, dialogue, and transparency, values central and intrinsic to the very notion of education and religious affiliation;
 - c) notes that such a requirement for Principals and Board Members of Sydney Anglican Schools to adhere to a specific moral position on marriage is unprecedented in the history of the ACA and is a marked departure from the practice of the ACA of individual freedom of conscience on moral matters;
 - d) notes that the moral code required by the Diocese of Sydney is a minority view, held by few Australians, and opposed by the majority of Anglican teenagers (60% support same-sex marriage, “Freedoms, Faiths and Futures: Teenage Australians on Religion, Sexuality and Diversity”, 2017), and moreover, pertains to a matter of ongoing debate in this church, such that imposition of an obligatory adherence to such thwarts open dialogue, conversation, and listening to alternative viewpoints;
 - e) is distressed that this action exacerbates the lived experience of many LGBTIQ+ teachers, staff, board members, parents and students in many faith-based schools, in which the church is seen as judgmental, unsafe, discriminatory, and a source of harm and exclusion;
 - f) acknowledges that mandating such a requirement for a voluntary organisation in receipt of public funding jeopardises the public goodwill and governmental commitment towards educational providers, but also other public services of this church offered in aged care, disability services, social housing, domestic violence support and the like.
-

24.5 Unity of the Church

Bishop Ian Coutts mover, Bishop Greg Anderson seconder

That this Synod notes that the significant differences and division over the issue of blessing of same sex marriage has served to exacerbate and consolidate pre-existing and some still unresolved divisions within our Anglican Church of Australia.

Recommends this General Synod, for the sake of the gospel and the Commission of the Church, and for the fulfillment of Jesus Christ's commandment in John 13.34-35 and John 15.12 and Jesus' prayer in John 17.2–23, earnestly desires that respectful dialogue continue to address the broad as well as specific differences between us, including concerns about salvation, biblical exegesis, culture and pastoral concern. Such dialogue should also address past hurts and concerns and consider how best the Anglican Church of Australia and its constituent dioceses might use their combined resources to most faithfully and effectively be the Church God is calling us to be.

Commits all of us through and between our dioceses and parishes to engage with one another on these significant matters with respect, listening and love for one another.

24.6 Doctrine Commission

The Rev'd James Harricks moving, The Ven Kara Hartley seconding

We thank the Doctrine Commission for their report on the gospel and its consequences and commend it to the General Synod as we continue to reflect on the glorious gospel of grace that indeed 'impacts the whole of life personally, corporately, and socially.'

24.7 Aged Care and Disability Care

Moved by Bishop Peter Stuart; seconded by The Very Rev'd Katherine Bowyer

This General Synod in response to the findings of the Aged Care Royal Commission and in response to community concerns about the National Disability Insurance Scheme and in response to issues being raised in the Disability Royal Commission calls on the incoming Commonwealth Government to develop and communicate a strategic roadmap for improvement to Aged Care and Disability Care which implements the findings of the Aged Care and Disability Royal Commissions, enables providers of Aged Care and Disability Care to have long-term confidence about sufficient funding for the provision of services, and assures people receiving support of the integrity of these systems.

24.8 Federal Gambling Reform

The Rev'd Dr Michael Bird moving, The Very Rev'd Sandy Grant seconding

The General Synod notes that the Bible says "Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God" (Proverbs 14.31). Therefore it joins the Alliance for Gambling Reform in calling on the next federal Parliament:

- to ban all sports gambling advertising on TV, radio and online, (or at least before 10.00pm at night);
- to complete legislative changes to ban the use of credit cards for gambling, including online, directory or through third party payment systems like digital wallets;
- to expand the national consumer protection framework to regulate casinos and online gambling at a national level, for example by creating a national casino regulator and an online gambling ombudsman;
- to ban donations from any gambling license holder, including Board or committee members of gambling license holders, or their peak bodies to political parties and candidates.

The General Synod requests the General Secretary to communicate the terms of the resolution to the national Leaders of all political parties represented in the federal Parliament before the imminent federal election, and to ensure that all members and senators of the newly convened Parliament are advised of the terms of this resolutions as soon as possible after the election is declared.

24.9 Great Commission

The Very Rev'd Sandy Grant moving, Bishop Rick Lewers seconding

General Synod submits to the universal authority in heaven and earth given by God to the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore we recommit to the 'Great Commission' he has given to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus has commanded us.

Synod also recalls that the first and key mark of the Anglican Consultative Council's Five Marks of Mission is "To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom", and that the second Mark is to "To teach, baptise and nurture new believers".

Therefore Synod laments the lack of attention we have given in the ordering of our business towards encouraging evangelism and disciple-making.

However, Synod commends Anglican organisations such as ABM (the Australian Board of Mission), the Defence Force Board with its Anglican Chaplains, the Mission to Seafarers, BCA (the Bush Church Aid Society) and NATSIAC (the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council) for how central or important "preaching" or "proclaiming" the gospel of Christ is to their stated missions.

We also affirm the observation made (Book 4, p 4-175) by the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force (DFATF), in the context of addressing the serious lack of financial sustainability of many dioceses and so encouraging the possibility of combining of 'back office' functions, that "... with a growing church, many of the financial concerns that DFATF and others have been attempting to address would be ameliorated or disappear. Hence the strategic priority of the Church should be on most effectively sharing the gospel and nurturing the faithful with a view to increasing Church membership."

We urge the Standing Committee and its Commissions to keep obedience to the first and primary mark of mission firmly in view, even when the particular matters in front of them are not directly related to gospel proclamation.

Lastly, Synod acknowledges that the primary carriage of obedience to Christ's Great Commission lies not with Commissions, Agencies or Synods but with local churches. So as members of the same, we rededicate ourselves in personal faith and obedience to the Lord Jesus for the varied parts we can play in evangelism and disciple-making.

24.10 State and Territory Gambling Reform

The Very Rev'd Sandy Grant moving, The Rev'd Dr Michael Bird seconding

The General Synod notes that Australia has the world's worst rate of gambling losses per capita, with poker machines causing the significant majority of those losses, being home to less than half a percent of the world's population but with 20 percent of its pokies.

The General Synod also notes that the Bible reminds rulers to "Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy" (Proverbs 31:9).

Therefore in light of the enormous losses on poker machines, General Synod urges all State and Territory parliaments, to consider urgently:

- implementation of \$1 bet limits on all poker machines (recommended by Productivity Commission);
- implementation of a cashless gaming smart card system (commended by the Bergin Inquiry);
- more extensive compulsory shut down periods for all poker machines, for example between midnight and 10am, and;
- as an immediate initial step, mandating that all future electronic gaming device technology (including the gaming devices themselves and any gambling card technology) be capable of implementing such measures.

The General Synod requests the General Secretary to communicate the terms of this resolution to the Premiers and Opposition Leaders of each State and Territory Parliament.

24.11 Anglican Super

Mr Allan Thomson moving, Mr Malcolm Purvis seconding

General Synod congratulates Anglican Super on its 60th Anniversary and thanks it for reflecting our Anglican understanding in its ethical investment practices, notably against gambling, slavery and human trafficking.

24.12 Anglican Schools Australia

Bishop Jeremy Greaves moving, Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy seconding

That this Synod gives thanks for the ministry of Anglican Schools Australia as a vibrant Network of General Synod; and affirms the place of Anglican Schools in the life of our Church as agencies of education and mission.

24.13 Thanks for Preparation of Bills for General Synod

Mr Robert Wicks moving, the Rev'd Nigel Fortescue seconding

The General Synod –

(a) recognises the significant amount of work involved in the preparation of bills for this General Synod session, and gives thanks for all those involved in this process,

(b) notes that a number of bills promoted to this session provide for amendments to be made to principal canons and, in some cases, the proposed amendments are complex, and

(c) requests, in relation to bills promoted to future sessions which provide for complex amendments to a principal canon, the Standing Committee prepare a version of the principal canon with the proposed amendments shown in marked form to assist General Synod members understand the effect of the amendments and more fully engage in the process of considering them.

24.14 Euthanasia

Dr Karin Sowada moving, Dr Denise Cooper-Clarke seconding

General Synod

1. Reaffirms its principled opposition to euthanasia or physician assisted suicide as

- a. a threat to the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable in our society;
 - b. it overturns the ethics of medicine and healthcare;
 - c. it undermines the need to provide adequate and appropriate palliative care to all Australians, irrespective of who they are or where they reside; and
 - d. it is opposed by all faiths that share the belief that life is sacred.
-

2. Strongly opposes all existing or proposed legislation that imposes on faith-based organisations opposing euthanasia or physician assisted suicide, a legal obligation to facilitate, support or permit euthanasia or physician assisted suicide, as an assault on religious freedom.

3. Commends Victoria and Western Australia for recognising institutional conscientious objection grounds, and permitting faith-based organisations to choose to neither facilitate nor support euthanasia or physician assisted suicide.

4. Calls on the NSW Parliament to oppose the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021* and if that is not possible, to amend Part 5, Division 2 of the Bill, to permit faith-based organisations, including residential aged care providers, who oppose euthanasia or physician assisted suicide, to refuse, on the grounds of institutional conscientious objection, to participate in, facilitate or permit euthanasia or assisted suicide in or at their premises or facilities or services in any way.

24.15 Rates of Suicide of Australian Defence Force (ADF) Veterans

Bishop Keith Dalby moving, Bishop Keith Joseph seconding

General Synod notes with concern the rates of suicide for Australian Defence Force (ADF) Veterans and accordingly commends the work of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and the Interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention, and observes that these highlight the effectiveness of ADF Chaplains in suicide prevention for current serving members and families and affirms the work of ADF Chaplains particularly in the areas of suicide prevention, moral injury and spiritual wounds.

General Synod also notes with appreciation the recent Federal Budget funding for a new chaplaincy support program for veterans but also views with concern the shortage of Anglican ministers available to be Australian Defence Force chaplains and veterans chaplains. In turn it is noted that this impacts adversely on the growing demand for programs to help veterans suffering moral injury and spiritual wounds which are the result of military service in peace or conflict.

This Synod expresses its heartfelt thanks to the women and men of our Defence Force and their immediate and extended families for their commitment to the service of our country. We further recognise that this service often comes with deep personal, physical emotional and psychological costs that are not always visible to those around them but never the less are real and impactful on their lives and the lives of those around them. As a Synod we express our sorrow for this impact on their lives but would like to express our thanks for their service, and assurance of our prayers and support for them both at this time, and into the future.

Therefore General Synod calls on all diocese to commit to making churches and welfare agencies more accessible and relevant to veterans and families, and to raise up chaplains for this work;

and requests the Primate to affirm and facilitate this work by appointing an additional non-stipended archdeacon under the Bishop to the Defence Force as the point of contact between the ADF, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Church.