



EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD 8 - 13 MAY 2022

BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE FOURTH BUSINESS DAY THURSDAY 12 MAY 2022

The business of the Synod will commence at 9.15 am on Thursday 12 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 8.9]

4 GENERAL SECRETARY UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS

5 QUESTIONS [SO 9(b)]

Question 1

The Very Rev'd Darryl Cotton asked:

Can the president you please inform Synod on daily basis, the numbers of those members of Synod who have contracted COVID-19 while attending General Synod 18 and are therefore isolating and now attending via video conference.

Question 2

The Rev'd Tim Mildenhall asked

With reference to the Long Service Leave Fund:

1. What is the current arrangement for servicing the Long Service Leave Fund, including a staff and costs breakdown?
2. What is the current procedure for member organisations to:
 - a. check ,and
 - b. request payment for clergy entitlements to long service leave?
3. Are clergy or member organisations able to view their long service leave entitlements in a secure "live" online environment?
4. What is the ordinary approval time to for a long service leave request from the Long Service Leave "Office" to its member organisations?
5. What are the plans to modernise and expedite the operations of the Long Service Leave Fund?
6. What performance benefits might be expected as a result of implementing any planned improvement?

6 PETITIONS [SO 9(c)]

7 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS [SO 9(d)]

8 NOTICES OF MOTIONS [SO 9(e)]

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 – Thursday 12 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

16.3.4 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.

16.20 Defence Chaplaincy (Book Ref 4-295)

Criterion (b)

Mr Alan 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)]

ORDER OF THE DAY – Thursday 12 May 2022 at 9.15am

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.

17.13 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 Ven Michael O'Brien 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.

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 honorable 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

The motion is to be moved in the amended form presented below incorporating the mover's amendment as listed on the Amendment sheet for Day 1 and 2.

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 and to bring a proposal to the next General Synod for implementation.

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.

24.14 Euthanasia

Karin Sowada moving, 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.

24.16 Palliative Care Funding

The Very Rev'd Katherine Bowyer moving, The Ven Canon Arthur Copeman seconding

That this Synod calls upon the State and Territory Governments, and the incoming Federal Government, to increase funding and support for palliative care services, enabling all Australians, irrespective of who they are or where they reside, to have access to high quality palliative care information, education, support and services, as a matter of equity and justice; and

That they General Secretary convey the text of this motion to the relevant State, Territory, and incoming Federal Health Ministers.

24.17 Ukraine

The Rev'd Patrick Cole moving, Acting Justice Richard Refshauge seconding

That General Synod

- (a) deplores the clear and flagrant breach of international law by the Russian government invading Ukraine and also the crimes against humanity and war crimes that have been and are being allegedly committed there;
 - (b) condemns the actions of President Vladimir Putin of Russia in initiating and continuing the war against the democratically elected government of Ukraine and the slaughter and dispossession of the people of Ukraine;
 - (c) expresses its support and prayers for the people of Ukraine and the extraordinary suffering that they are experiencing in so many ways and assures them of the love and sympathy of this Church for them in their plight;
 - (d) calls upon our Christian brothers and sisters of the Russian Orthodox Church to use their voices and influence to oppose the continued deaths, destruction, displacement and dispossession of the people, the homes and the country of their neighbour, Ukraine and their fellow Christians; and
 - (e) commends those priests and laity of the Russian Orthodox Church for their calls upon their Church leadership and the Russian state leadership to condemn and desist from this invasion and war.
-

24.18 Bill for the Episcopal Standards Investigations Amendment Canon 2022

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Dr Carolyn Tan seconding

That the General Synod refers the issues raised by the Bill for the Episcopal Standards Investigations Amendment Canon 2022 that were not enacted by the General Synod back to the Standing Committee to undertake wider consultation with the Bishops, Diocesan Registrars and the Episcopal Standards Commission on the circumstances that may result in the Episcopal Standards Commission deciding not to investigate information or refraining from further investigation of the information.

24.19 Religious Discrimination and Religious Freedom

The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Stead moving, Dr Renae Barker seconding

General Synod

1. Expresses its disappointment that there is still no federal legislation prohibiting religious discrimination, and that it continues to be lawful to discriminate against people on the basis of their religious belief or activity in some States in Australia.
2. Calls on the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to commit to their commitment to religious freedom as set out in international law including Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
3. Reaffirms General Synod Resolution 110/2010, and thereby calls on the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to take all practical steps necessary to ensure that the following six freedoms are protected in Australia within the constraints of the civil and criminal law generally applicable and consistent with Australia's obligations under international law:
 - a. freedom to manifest a religion through religious observance and practice;
 - b. freedom to appoint people of faith to organisations run by faith communities;
 - c. freedom to teach and uphold moral standards within faith communities;
 - d. freedom of conscience to differentiate between right and wrong;
 - e. freedom to teach and propagate religion; and
 - f. freedom of a person to change their religion.
4. Affirms that no Anglican school seeks, or intends to seek, the right to expel students or otherwise disadvantage members of their school communities on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, laments the harm caused both among our school communities and the wider community by the propagation of the suggestion to the contrary and confirms the ongoing commitment of Anglican Schools to the inclusion, pastoral care and support of all members of their school communities.
5. And therefore, calls upon the government formed after the next federal election to give priority to the passage of a national legislation

prohibiting religious discrimination, and to do this in such a way that does not harm other people, including LGBTQI+ members of their school communities, or to polarise the wider community on these issues.

6. Requests the General Secretary to communicate this resolution to Federal, State and Territory Attorneys-General.

24.20 Non Diocesan Members of Synod – Defence Force

Dr Robert Tong moving, the Rev'd Andrew Nixon

Synod requests Standing Committee to bring to the next session of the Synod a report on the feasibility and desirability of amending section 17 (8) (a) of the constitution so that the Defence Force Bishop and two persons nominated by the Defence Force Board, one clergy and one lay, be included as non-diocesan representative members of Synod.

ORDER OF THE DAY – Thursday 12 May at 11.00am (Motions 24.21 and 24.22)

24.21 Response to Statement 1

The Rt Rev'd Chris Edwards moving, The Rev'd Canon Phillip Colgan seconding

Synod, noting that, despite clear support in the Houses of laity and clergy, the House of Bishops voted not to affirm a Statement of biblical orthodoxy on marriage:

- a) Notes with tears that the breach in fellowship experienced across the Anglican Communion has now entered the life of the Anglican Church of Australia; and
- b) Expresses its dismay at the failure of the House of Bishops to uphold their duty to guard the faith of this church; and
- c) Calls on the House of Bishops to repent of their decision and reaffirm the teaching of Christ and the principles of doctrine of the Book of Common Prayer and the Thirty Nine articles.

24.22 Select Committee – Marriage, Human Sexuality and Same-sex Relationships

The Most Rev'd Philip Freier moving; The Rt Rev'd Dr Matt Brain

That this Synod requests the Standing Committee at its first meeting to

1. establish a Select Committee to prepare a statement on Marriage, Human Sexuality and Same -Sex Relationships
2. and, on receiving the first progress report of the Committee to establish the means of convening an online session of General Synod for the further consideration of the proposed statement.

24.23 Location of next General Synod

Dr Laurie Scandrett moving, Mr Kimberly Smith seconding

This General Synod requests the Standing Committee give serious consideration to holding the next General Synod at a suitable but economically priced location in a regional Diocese.

24.24 Exemptions Clauses for Religious Bodies

The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Stead Moving, The Rev'd Natalie Rosner seconding

General Synod—

1. Notes that Australia's obligations under Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to uphold freedom of religion is, in part, acquitted by means of legislative exemption clauses for religious bodies.
 2. Notes that these exemption clauses only apply where "an act or practice [conforms] to the doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings of that religion" or words to that effect.
 3. Notes that past statements of the General Synod have referred to the church's "doctrine" of marriage.
 4. Notes the Majority Opinion of the Appellate Tribunal is that "doctrine", as that word is used in our Constitution, only includes those matters that which are required of necessity to be believed for salvation, and that marriage is not part of the "doctrine" of this church.
 5. Recognises that, for the avoidance of doubt, it is expedient to affirm that the church's beliefs and teaching with respect to marriage remain as previously described as the "doctrine" of our church.
 6. Continues to affirm that marriage according to the rites and ceremonies of the Anglican Church of Australia is the voluntary union of one man and one woman arising from mutual promises of lifelong faithfulness, and that it would not conform to the beliefs and teachings of our Church for clergy to solemnise a marriage between a same-sex couple
-

24.25 Accessible Online Synod

Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moving, Mr Steve Lucas seconding

That this Synod requests the Standing Committee to develop legislation to enable online, accessible participation in meetings of the General Synod to be presented to a special session of General Synod, held by video conference, at least one year before the next ordinary session of General Synod.