



EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD 8 - 13 MAY 2022

BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE FIFTH BUSINESS DAY FRIDAY 13 MAY 2022

The business of the Synod will commence at 9.15 am on Friday 13 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

Mr Howard Benson asked

Can the Primate advise if the Worship Committee considered gender equality in determining the celebrants of the Daily Eucharist?

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

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.

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.
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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

Mr Greg Hammond OAM 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.
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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 – Friday 13 May 2022 at 11.00am

24.24 Exemptions Clauses for Religious Bodies

The motion is to be moved in the amended form presented below incorporating the mover's amendment as listed on the Amendment sheet for 5.

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 the 2020 Majority Opinions of the Appellate Tribunal distinguish between "doctrine" in the technical sense in which that word is used in our Constitution (where it is limited to those matters that which are required of necessity to be believed for salvation) and "doctrine" in the broader sense in which it is used in the Church.
4. Recognises that, for the avoidance of doubt, it is expedient to affirm that past statements of the General Synod about the church's "doctrine" of marriage use the word in this broader sense, and therefore that these statements continue to describe the "doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings" of our church.
5. 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.

24.26 Coal-fired Power Stations

Dr Laurie Scandrett moving, Dr David Phillips seconding

This General Synod:

- a) notes that currently Australia has 24 coal-fired power stations but is not planning to design, construct or commission any new ones;
- b) expresses great concern and its abject dismay that:
 - The Philippines currently has 19 coal-fired power stations and is building 60 more, a total of 79;
 - South Korea currently has 58 coal-fired power stations and is building 26 more, a total of 84;
 - South Africa currently has 79 coal-fired power stations and is building 24 more, a total of 103;
 - Japan currently has 90 coal-fired power stations and is building 45 more, a total of 135;
 - Turkey currently has 56 coal-fired power stations and is building 93 more, a total of 149;
 - the European Union currently has 468 coal-fired power stations and is building 27 more, making a total of 495;
 - India currently has 589 coal-fired power stations and is building 446 more, a total of 1,035; and
 - China currently has 2,363 plants and is building 1,171 more, a total of 3,534;
- c) calls upon each of the aforementioned countries or unions to immediately cease and desist the design, construction or commissioning any new coal-fired power stations; and
- d) requests the Standing Committee to consider how best to communicate in the strongest possible terms the above call to immediately cease and desist the design, construction or commissioning any new coal-fired power stations to the President (or equivalent) of each of the aforementioned countries or unions.

24.27 Dr Barry Newman BSc

The Rev'd Nigel Fortescue moving, Dr Robert Tong AM seconding

That this Synod notes that this will most likely be the last General Synod that Dr Barry Newman BSc (Hons 1) BA (Hons 1) MSc PhD will be a representative for the Diocese of Sydney.

This Synod gives great thanks for Barry's acute knowledge of the Scriptures, his great love for the atoning work of Christ, its centrality in his life, and his incredible enthusiasm for evangelistic ministry. In particular we give thanks that God's amazing grace in saving him has led to his overriding concern to share the good news of the gospel.

We also give thanks for Barry's passionate approach to the business of the General Synod, particularly in pursuing faithfulness in mission, the sacraments and theological thinking. We also note his remarkable capacity to speak without notes in a structured and informative manner without becoming loquacious or verbose.

Finally this Synod wishes God's every blessing on Barry, and his wife Laurie, for the future.

24.28 The Hon. Peter Young AO QC

Dr Laurie Scandrett moving, Dr Peter Tong AM seconding

This Synod notes that at GS17 in 2017 the Synod resolved:

“That this Synod notes that this will most likely be the last General Synod that The Hon. Peter Young AO QC will be a representative for the Diocese of Sydney.

This Synod gives great thanks for Peter’s encyclopaedic knowledge of the law and a deep commitment to Christ and his Church, the Anglican Church of Australia. This has been exemplified by his continuous membership of this Synod from the Sixth General Synod in 1985 to the Seventeenth General Synod in 2017, and his other national Church involvements.

This Synod particularly notes his insightful time on the General Synod Standing Committee, his detailed work as the Chairman of Committees of General Synod, his perceptive work on the Church Law Commission, his Chairmanship of the National Church Constitution Commission, and of course his sacrificial service firstly as a member and then as the President of the Appellate Tribunal.”

This Synod:

- now notes that GS18 will be the last General Synod that The Hon. Peter Young AO QC will attend as a representative for the Diocese of Sydney;
- definitively reiterates the contents of the motion it passed in 2017 about Peter;
- notes with sadness the recent passing of Peter’s wife Pam and extends its condolences to him; and
- wishes God’s every blessing on Peter for the future.