

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD DAY OF THE EIGHTEENTH GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
HELD IN SYNOD HALL, BENOWA BALLROOM,
RACV ROYAL PINES RESORT, GOLD COAST, QUEENSLAND,
ON WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2022**

1 SYNOD ASSEMBLED

The Synod assembled at 8.45am, with the Primate, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith, presiding.

2 PRAYERS

The Synod opened with a service of morning prayer led by the the Rev'd Elizabeth Smith.

R70/18

3 MINUTES

Mr Clive Ellis reported to the President that the Minutes Reading Committee had received copies of the Minutes of Day One and certified them as correct.

Mr Clive Ellis moving, the Mrs Sue Williams seconding
That the Minutes for Day One be confirmed.

Carried

4 GENERAL SECRETARY UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS

The General Secretary announced some arrangements for Synod.

5 QUESTIONS

None were answered

6 PETITIONS

The President called for Petitions.
None were received.

7 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Notice was given of the following questions:

1. Numbers of Synod members who contracted COVID - The Very Rev'd Darryl Cotton
2. Long Service Leave Fund – The Rev'd Tim Mildenhall

8 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

NOTICE WAS GIVEN OF THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS:

1. The Very Rev'd Katherine Bowyer – Palliative Care Funding
2. The Rev's Andrew Nixon – Report re amending section 17(8)(a) of the Constitution
3. Hon Justice Debra Mullins – Bill for Episcopal Standards Investigations Amendment Canon consultation

9 CALL OVER MOTIONS

The following motions were passed formally:

- R71/18 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. **Carried**
- R72/18 24.12 **Anglican Schools Australia**
- The Rt Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moving, the Most Rev'd 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. **Carried**
- R73/18 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. **Carried**
- R74/18 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 dioceses 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.

Carried

17 **MOTIONS FOR BILLS FOR CANONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Synod returned to Legislation from Day 2

R75/18 17.1 **Bill 01 – A Bill for the Safe Ministry Legislation Amendments Canon 2022**

Leave was given by Synod to amend the mover and seconder:
Ms Audrey Mills moving, Ms Dianne Shay seconding

That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

17.9 **Bill 09 – A Bill for the Episcopal Standards Investigations Amendment Canon 2022**

Synod moved into Committee to continue consideration of the Bill.

The Chair of Committees reported the Bill with amendments.

The President moved that the report be adopted.

Carried

Justice Debra Mullins AO moving, Dr Carolyn Tan seconding

That the Bill proceed not as a Special Bill

Carried

Further consideration of the Bill was deferred until a certified copy is available.

R76/18 17.10 **Bill 10 – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Sabbatical Allowance Amendment) Canon 2022**

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

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

Synod adjourned at 10.30am for morning tea
Synod resumed at 11.00am

**ORDER OF THE DAY – Wednesday 11 May at 11.00am
Marriage, Human Sexuality and Same-sex relationships**

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

The motion is presented below in its amended form at the end of the business session Tuesday 10 May 2022.

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. In 2004 (Resolutions 62/04, 63/04) General Synod did ‘not condone the liturgical blessing of same sex relationships’ nor ‘the ordination of people in committed same sex relationships’ recognising that both

matters were subject to 'ongoing debate in this church and that we all have an obligation to listen to each other with respect.

3. In 2017 the Commonwealth Parliament amended the definition of 'marriage' in the Marriage Act (1961) to mean 'the union of 2 people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life', thereby making lawful the marriage of two persons of the same sex and presenting this church with a profoundly altered missional and pastoral context.
4. 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.
5. 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.

The Rev'd Nigel Fortescue moved, Mr Robert Wicks seconding that the motion be put.

Carried

The Ven Angela Webb requested a Vote by Houses and was supported by at least 10 clergy members.

That the motion be agreed to:
Electronic voting:

Laity	63 Yes	47 No
Clergy	70 Yes	39 No
Bishops	10 Yes	12 No

Lost

The Most Rev'd Kanishka Raffel sought leave to make a personal response. Leave was granted.

The Most Rev'd Kanishka Raffel moved, the Rt Rev'd Richard Condie seconding that Synod adjourn until 1.30pm (lunchtime).

Carried

Synod adjourned at 12.22pm
Synod resumed at 1.30pm

R77/18

Motion without notice

Dr Ian Gibson sought leave to move a motion without notice regarding the remainder of the day's business. Leave was granted.

Business for the remainder of Wednesday 11 May 2022

Dr Ian Gibson moving, Ms Anne Hywood seconding

That Standing Orders be suspended to the extent necessary to allow the following arrangements for the remainder of today's business:

1. Order of Day – Motion 16.11
2. Order of the Day - Motion 23.8
3. Resumption of the consideration of motions covered by decision 8.7.6 (Marriage, Human Sexuality and Same Sex Relationships)

being 20.4 to 20.7 and 24.3 to 24.5 until concluded or until 5.30pm whichever comes first

4. Order of Day – Motion 16.8
5. Resumption of consideration of Bills in the order listed in the notice paper.

Carried

Motion without notice

The Rt Rev'd Chris Edwards sought leave to move a motion without notice.

The President requested that the mover give the notice of motion to the secretaries for inclusion on the next day's Business Paper.

ORDER OF DAY Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 1.30pm

R78/18 16.11 **Climate Change – Call on Australian Governments**

The Very Rev'd Peter Catt sought leave to move the motion in an amended form. Leave was granted.

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 net zero emissions by 2050, and the endorsement of this pledge by both the Coalition government at the time of the Conference and the Australian Labor Party then in Opposition.
- C. That all Australian sub-national governments have also endorsed the goal of net 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.
- G. That climate change is the most pressing security issue for the Pacific Island countries, communities and peoples, and the latest

IPCC report confirms the urgency for global, national and local climate actions; and

- H. The Pacific Island countries are among the least responsible for global warming and biodiversity loss, and are amongst the world's most vulnerable, facing the severest consequences that will continue to worsen in years to come. The impacts of disasters such as cyclones and contaminated groundwater due to flood risk and sea level rise inundation, are already taking a toll on the Blue Pacific, coral reefs, and fish stocks and in the households of families who lack the means to move to safer ground.

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. recognises God's sovereign and good superintendence of his creation and acknowledges human responsibility for our stewardship of it;
3. trusts Jesus Christ as the ultimate reconciler of all things in creation, through his blood shed on the cross and looks with hope to his promised renewed creation;
4. nevertheless, 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 challenges caused by rising global temperatures, air pollution and loss of biodiversity which will be borne disproportionately by the poorest of the world's poor;
5. calls on the Australian Government, the community and all people of faith, to support Pacific and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in their call for urgent reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases by
 - (i) accepting that climate change is a pressing human security challenge;
 - (ii) recognising the long-term activism of both Pacific national and Christian leaders on addressing climate change globally;
 - (iii) requesting the largest emitters and contributors, including Australia, act immediately to meet the Paris global warming target; and
 - (iv) providing financial support to assist affected Pacific and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to adapt and protect their lands, islands, lives and futures.
 - (v) encouraging Australian research into, and generous foreign aid for, mitigation, adaptability and resilience measures, especially in developing nations, because many of the impacts resulting from the changing climate are locked in for centuries (as the IPCC notes).

The Rev'd Prof Peter Sandeman moved, The Ven Canon Scott Lowrey seconding that the motion be put.

Carried

That the motion be agreed to.

Carried

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.

Amendment

Mr Doug Marr moved, the Rev'd Nigel Fortescue seconding

Delete:

'...requests that the Standing Committee, with the support of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force determine how the Metropolitan Diocese could...'

Substitute:

': encourages the Metropolitan and other better resourced dioceses, where possible, to...'

After "insurance", add 'safe ministry training and audit'.

Synod adjourned at 3.01pm for afternoon tea

Synod resumed at 3.30pm

R79/18

3 MINUTES

Dr Ruth Kerr reported to the President that the Minutes Reading Committee had received copies of the Minutes of Day Two and certified them as correct.

Dr Ruth Kerr moving, the Ven Dane Courtney seconding

That the Minutes for Day Two be confirmed.

Carried

23.8 Viability of Regional Dioceses

Mr Doug Marr sought leave to withdraw the following amendment:

Delete:

'...requests that the Standing Committee, with the support of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force determine how the Metropolitan Diocese could...'

Substitute:

'; encourages the Metropolitan and other better resourced dioceses, where possible, to...'

Leave was granted.

Mr Doug Marr moved, The Rev'd Nigel Fortescue seconding

After "insurance", add 'safe ministry training and audit'.

Carried

R80/18 **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: encourages the Metropolitan and other better resourced dioceses, where possible, to 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, safe ministry training and audit, redress and continued presence in regional and rural ministries.

Carried

Motion without notice

The Most Rev'd Phillip Freier sought leave to move a motion without notice.

Leave was not granted.

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.

Amendment

Ms Fiona McLean moved, The Rev’d Nigel Fortescue seconding

Delete the word ‘activity...’
Add the word ‘intimacy’

Carried

R81/18 20.4 **Statements as to the Faith, Ritual, Ceremonial or Discipline of this Church made under Section 4 of the Constitution (Diocese of Sydney)**

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 intimacy 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.

The Rev’d Nigel Fortescue moved, the Very Rev’d Sandy Grant seconding that the motion be put.

Carried

Mr Phillip Goldsworthy requested a call of Vote by Houses and was supported by at least 10 lay members.

That the motion be agreed to:
Electronic voting:

Laity	62 Yes	48 No
Clergy	69 Yes	39 No
Bishops	12 Yes	11 No

Carried

20.5 Safe Churches

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.

Carried

20.6 Affirming Singleness

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).

Amendment

Dr William Leadbetter moving, Dr Caroline Tan seconding

Deleting the words:

"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 and 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)

The lines of the motion affected will then read:

Affirms that singleness is, like marriage, an honourable estate 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).

Synod adjourned at 5.30pm for Evening Prayer and Dinner
Synod resumed at 7.30pm

ORDER OF THE DAY – Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 7.30pm

R83/18 16.8 **Family Violence and First Nations Communities**

Bishop Chris McLeod moving, 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.

Carried

Synod resumed consideration of Bills in the order listed in the notice paper

R84/18 17.9 **Bill 09 – A Bill for the Episcopal Standards Investigations Amendment Canon 2022**

Justice Debra Mullins AO moving, Dr Carolyn Tan seconding

That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

R85/18 17.10 **Bill 10 – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Sabbatical Allowance Amendment) Canon 2022**

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

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

Carried

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

That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

R86/18 17.11 **Bill 12 – A Bill for the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2022**

Leave was given for the Bill to be moved in an amended form.

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.

Carried

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

That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

R87/18 17.13 **Bill 14 – A Bill for the General Synod Presence Canon 2022**

Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moving, Mr Steve Lucas seconding

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

Carried

Synod moved into Committee to consider the Bill

The Chair of Committees reported the Bill with amendments.

The President moved that the report be adopted.

Carried

The Ven Arthur Copeman moved, Mr Steve Lucas seconding that further consideration of the Bill be adjourned.

Carried

Synod adjourned at 8.50pm

President

Date

Minutes of the Third Day of the Eighteenth General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia on Wednesday 11 May 2022

Confirmed by Minutes Reading Committee:

Mr Clive Ellis (Convenor) _____

The Ven Canon Scott Lowrey _____