

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH 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 FRIDAY 13 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 Ven Dane Courtney.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous business day will be read and confirmed on the resumption of business after the morning tea adjournment.

4 GENERAL SECRETARY UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS

The General Secretary announced some arrangements for Synod.

5 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Question 6 – Monday 9 May

The 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?

Response by the Primate

The level of assessments paid by dioceses is determined by the Statutory Assessment budget approved by the General Synod to support the operations of the General Synod.

Reduction in the level of assessment paid could only be achieved by

- the identification of new sources of income and/or
- savings in expenses

It is the responsibility of the General Secretary and the Standing Committee to monitor operational expenditure and to identify efficiencies and cost savings and report to the General Synod.

Monday Question 10 - Monday 9 May 2022

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?

Response by the Primate

I thank Dr Beagley for raising this important governance issue and will include the issue of a conflict of interest policy on the agenda at the first full meeting of the Standing Committee after this General Synod.

Question 11 – Monday 9 May 2022

The Rev'd Canon Peter Sandeman asked:

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?

Response by the Primate

The Primate attended the Primates meeting held in March 2022 at Lambeth Palace, London. There were 31 Primates in attendance.

There are many issues facing the church across the world, notwithstanding the disruption of Covid-19. The national Churches continue to seek God in how best to share in His ministry.

It was a positive, constructive meeting and the Primates are looking forward to Lambeth Conference.

Question 1 – Wednesday 11 May 2022

The Very Rev'd Darryl Cotton asked:

Can the president please inform Synod on a 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.

Response by the Primate

There has only been one person attending this session of Synod, a guest, who through the course of the session has needed to isolate and participate in the session by videoconference. They are not staying at the RACV Royal Pines Resort.

Question 2 – Wednesday 11 May 2022

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 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?

Response by the Primate

1. The current arrangements for servicing the Long Service Leave Fund are outlined in a Service Agreement and provides for the provision of 1.4 staff.
2. The current procedure for member organisations to check and request payments is that they need to email the Fund Manager who will supply the information to the member organisations.
3. Clergy and member organisations are currently not able to view their long service leave entitlements on a secure “live” online environment.
4. The LSLF does not approve the leave. This is done by the member organization. The LSLF pays the entitlement one month before LSL period.
5. The LSLF Board has recently signed an agreement for the provision of an online, web based system. It is anticipated that this system will be operational by the first half of 2023.
6. The performance benefits will include a decrease in administration for the member organisations; members will be able to apply on line and check their leave balance. There will also be efficiencies at the GSO Office.

Question 1 – Thursday 11 May

Howard Benson asked:

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

The Primate responded:

The principles guiding the selection of presiders at daily Eucharist were

1. The Archbishops first
2. Local bishops next

When one Archbishop declined to preside, the next local bishop was invited.

6

PETITIONS

The President called for Petitions.

None were received.

7 **NOTICES OF QUESTIONS**

None were received.

8 **NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

NOTICE WAS GIVEN OF THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS:

1. Dr Laurie Scandrett – appreciation for Dr Barry Newman
2. Dr Laurie Scandrett – appreciation for the Hon Peter Young AO QC

9 **CALL OVER MOTIONS**

The following motions were passed formally:

R98/18 23.7 **National Aboriginal Bishop and the National Torres Strait Islander Bishop**

Leave was granted to move the motion in an amended form in the call over:

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.

Carried

R99/18 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.

Carried

R100/18 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.

Carried

101/18 24.28 **The Hon Peter Young AO QC**

Dr Laurie Scandrett moving, Dr Robert 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.

***Carried by
acclamation***

R102/18 24.1 **Statutory Assessment**

Leave was granted to move the motion in an amended form in the call over

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; and
- requests Standing Committee to 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.

Carried

R103/18 24.17 **Ukraine**

Leave was granted to move the motion in an amended form in the call over

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 and Russian Protestant Churches 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 and Russian Protestant Churches who have called upon their Church leadership and the Russian state leadership to condemn and desist from this invasion and war.

Carried

MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN

R104/18 20.1 **Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility**

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.

Carried

R105/18 20.2 **The Appellate Tribunal**

Leave was granted to move the motion in an amended form.

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, and also the House of Bishops and the Board of Assessors, in dealing with liturgical innovations arising from the change to The Marriage Act 1961 as amended in 2017 concerning civil marriages.
2. Affirms our unity with Anglicans across Australia which is based on Christ's call and not our righteousness. We look for doctrinal uniformity on the basis expressed in the Holy Scriptures, the Nicene and Apostles Creeds and in the Book of Common Prayer and the Thirty-Nine Articles.

Carried

Synod adjourned at 10.27am for morning tea.
Synod resumed at 11.00amm

R106/18 3

MINUTES

The Ven Dane Courtney reported to the President that the Minutes Reading Committee had received copies of the Minutes of Day Four and certified them as correct.

The Ven Dane Courtney moving, the Ms Sue Williams seconding,
That the Minutes for Day Four be confirmed.

Carried

R107/18 24.14

Euthanasia

Leave was granted to move the motion formally in an amended form
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;
 - d. it is opposed by all faiths that share the belief that life is sacred; and
 - e. it undervalues the positive contribution vulnerable or terminally ill people may make in the lives of others.
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 nor permit 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 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.

Carried

R108/18 24.24 **Exemptions Clauses for Religious Bodies**

Leave was granted to move the motion in an amended form forthwith.

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 (Wangaratta and Newcastle references) 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. The doctrines, tenets, beliefs and teachings of our Church are expressed in the authorised liturgies of our church and there is currently no liturgy for the solemnisation of a same-sex marriage.

Carried

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.*

Amendment

The Rev'd Canon Dr Mark Thompson moving, the Rev'd Canon Phillip Colgan seconding

Following the words "That this General Synod" insert with consequential renumbering:

- “a) rejoices in the Christian Faith professed by the Church of Christ from the time of the New Testament, and in particular set forth in the Creeds;
- b) joyfully recommits to respectful and reverent reading, teaching and preaching of the canonical Scriptures as our ultimate rule and standard of faith, inspired by God and containing all things necessary for salvation;
- c) and humbly re-expresses its determination to obey the commands of Christ and teach his doctrine as these are given to us in Scripture.

It also”

Electronic voting results
 119 Yes
 113 No

Carried

Amendment

The Rev’d Canon Dr Mark Thompson moving, the Rev’d Canon Phillip Colgan seconding

That in the original clause (a) (now (d)), delete the words “theological and”.

Lost

Amendment

The Rev’d Tim Mildenhall moving, Mr Daniel Glynn seconding

Deleting all of the words following “That this General Synod” except accepting and incorporating the proposed amendments by Dr Mark Thompson to paragraphs a) to c) and following the words of that amendment “It also”, add the words:

- d) acknowledges that within these boundaries there is diversity of culture, tradition, and experience, which we can appreciate and from which we can often learn.
- e) accepts that people within our church try to act according to their conscience in good faith,
- f) welcomes the strengths that our diverse membership brings to our unity in Christ.
- g) Therefore it calls on all Anglicans regardless of their cultural identity to:
 1. respect one another’s cultures,
 2. build on what we hold in common,
 3. affirm that separation from fellow believers diminishes the body of Christ, and
 4. where we differ to faithfully speak the gospel truth in love and to offer and receive correction in gentleness, humility and patience,

Lost

5. while adorning the gospel with godly conduct and good deeds.

Bishop Matt Brain moving, the Rev Prof Dorothy Lee seconding

That this General Synod

- a) rejoices in the Christian Faith professed by the Church of Christ from the time of the New Testament, and in particular set forth in the Creeds;
- b) joyfully re-commits to respectful and reverent reading, teaching and preaching of the canonical Scriptures as our ultimate rule and standard of faith, inspired by God and containing all things necessary for salvation;
- c) and humbly re-expresses its determination to obey the commands of Christ and teach his doctrine as these are given to us in Scripture.

It also

- d) acknowledges that there are several theological and spiritual cultures within The Anglican Church of Australia,
- e) recognises 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
- f) welcomes the strengths that our diverse unity brings,

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

- h) respect one another's cultures,
- i) build on what we hold in common,
- j) affirm that the separation of any one of us diminishes us all, and
- k) 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.

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

T

hat the motion not be put.

Carried

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.

Amendment

The Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith moving, the Ven Dane Courtney seconding

[after the final paragraph, whose final full stop is changed to a semicolon]

and affirms that the women who are priests or bishops properly exercise full spiritual authority as teachers and leaders of congregations and dioceses in the Anglican Church of Australia.

Electronic voting results
111 Yes
117 No

Lost

R109/18 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.

Carried

R110/18 **Archbishop Geoff Smith**
The Rt Rev'd Dr Paul Barker moving, The Rt Rev'd Gary Koo
seconding,

That this Synod gives thanks for the Presidency of Archbishop Geoff Smith in General Synod 18, 2022

***Carried by
acclamation***

R111/18 **General Synod Arrangements**
Justice Debra Mullins OA moving, Rt Rev'd Cameron
Venables seconding,

The General Synod gratefully thanks –
The President, Archbishop Geoff Smith,
The Chair of Committees and the Deputy Chairs of Committees,
for their careful carriage of the business of the General Synod;
The Clerical Secretary and the Lay Secretary;
The President's Chaplain;
The Diocese of Brisbane for their generous assistance with local
arrangements;
The members of the Minutes Reading Committee;
The members of the Election and Qualifications Committee;
The Liturgy Committee, worship leaders and chaplains;

Our Bible Reflection leaders;
The Media Team;
Those who have supported this General Synod through travel arrangements, event management, The RACV Resort;
The General Secretary, Ms Anne Hywood, and the General Synod Office team for their work which has provided for such a smooth and successful meeting;
The Primate's Executive Assistant;
And all members of the General Synod.

***Carried by
acclamation***

The Primate declared General Synod closed with a blessing.

Synod adjourned at 12.25pm

President

Date