



EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD 8 - 13 MAY 2022

BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE THIRD BUSINESS DAY WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2022

The business of the Synod will commence at 9.15 am on Wednesday 11 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 Laurie Scandrett asked

What is the total expected cost (not including accommodation paid for by Dioceses or the time of the General Synod staff) of the 2022 General Synod being held here at the RACV Royal Pines Resort?

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.

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

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

Bishop Chris McLeod moving, the Dr Rose Elu seconding

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

ORDER OF DAY Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 1.30pm

16.11 Climate Change – Call on Australian Governments (Book Ref 4-060) Criterion (b)

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

The motion is to be moved in the amended form presented below following consultation with members who had proposed amendments listed on the Amendment sheet for Day 1 and 2.

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 Labour 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) recognises the long-term activism of both Pacific national and Christian leaders on addressing climate change globally;
 - (ii) requests the largest emitters and contributors, including Australia, act immediately to meet the Paris global warming target; and
 - (iii) providing financial support to assist affected Pacific and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to adapt and protect their lands, islands, lives and futures.
 - (iv) encourages 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).

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.

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

Justice Debra Mullins AO moving, Dr Carolyn Tan seconding

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moving, Mr Steve Lucas seconding

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

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

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

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

The General Synod

- a) supports raising the age of Criminal Responsibility from 10 to 14 years;
 - b) asks the President to write conveying the resolution and support for it to the Federal Attorney-General and the Meeting of Attorneys-General.
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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.
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**ORDER OF THE DAY – Wednesday 11 May at 11.00am
Marriage, Human Sexuality and Same-sex relationships
(Motions 20.3 to 20.7 and 24.3 to 24.5)**

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Bishop Michael Stead moving, Ms Seak-King Huang seconding

Statement 2 - Definition of Unchastity

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

20.5 Safe Churches (*Diocese of Sydney*)

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

General Synod—

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

20.6 Affirming Singleness (*Diocese of Sydney*)

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

General Synod—

1. Notes that *Faithfulness in Service* was adopted by the General Synod in 2004 “as the national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and lay church workers” (Resolution 33/04).
2. Notes that in *Faithfulness in Service* clergy and church workers are called to take “responsibility for their sexual conduct by maintaining

chastity in singleness and faithfulness in marriage” (FIS 7.2).

3. Affirms that singleness is, like marriage, an honourable state for God’s people, in which the fullness of God’s blessings may be enjoyed. Singleness is highly commended in Scripture (1 Cor 7:8, 32-38; Matt 19:10-12).

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

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

General Synod—

1. notes that Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference declared that it “cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions”, and
2. notes that the blessing of same-sex marriages in Anglican jurisdictions overseas was a key catalyst for the “tear in the fabric of the Anglican Communion” that has widened over the past two decades, and is likely to have the same dire and potentially irreversible consequences for the Anglican Church of Australia, and
3. notes the Majority Opinion of the Appellate Tribunal in the Wangaratta Reference that the form of service proposed by the Wangaratta Regulation which permits the blessing of a same-sex marriage is not contrary to our Constitution or Canons, and notwithstanding this
4. continues to affirm GS Resolution 62/04, that “this General Synod does not condone the liturgical blessing of same sex relationships”, on the basis that this is contrary to the teaching of Christ (e.g., Matt 19:4-5) and the faith, ritual, ceremonial and/or discipline of this Church, and
5. calls on Diocesan Bishops and Synods to take the necessary steps to prevent the blessing of same-sex marriages and/or unions in their diocese, so as to uphold the teaching of Christ and preserve and protect the unity of the Anglican Church of Australia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Ven Dane Courtney moving, Mrs Briony Bounds seconding

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

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

23.1 Being the Body of Christ

Bishop Matt Brain moving, the Rev Prof Dorothy Lee seconding

That this General Synod

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

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

- d) respect one another's cultures,
- e) build on what we hold in common,
- f) affirm that the separation of any one of us diminishes us all, and
- g) where we differ seek, 'in the spirit of Philippians 3:13, "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead", to discover each other's faith as it is today and to appeal to history only for enlightenment, not as a way of perpetuating past controversy'*

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

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

23.2 30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

Bishop Keith Joseph moving, Justice Debra Mullins AO seconding

That Synod notes that:

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

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

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

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

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

23.3 Kriol Preya Buk 2021

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

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

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

23.7 National Aboriginal Bishop and the National Torres Strait Islander Bishop

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.

ORDER OF THE DAY – Wednesday 11 May 2022 immediately following consideration of 16.11.

23.8 Viability of Regional Dioceses

Bishop Keith Joseph moving, Bishop Greg Anderson seconding

This General Synod

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

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

24.1 Statutory Assessment

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

This General Synod

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

Furthermore synod notes that:-

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

Synod therefore requests Standing Committee to:-

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

24.11 Anglican Super

Mr Allan Thomson moving, Mr Malcolm Purvis seconding

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

24.12 Anglican Schools Australia

Bishop Jeremy Greaves moving, Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy seconding

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

24.13 Thanks for Preparation of Bills for General Synod

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

The General Synod –

- a) recognises the significant amount of work involved in the preparation of bills for this General Synod session, and gives thanks for all those involved in this process,
 - b) notes that a number of bills promoted to this session provide for amendments to be made to principal canons and, in some cases, the proposed amendments are complex, and
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- 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.
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24.14 Euthanasia

Dr Karin Sowada moving, Dr Denise Cooper-Clarke seconding

General Synod

1. Reaffirms its principled opposition to euthanasia or physician assisted suicide as
 - a. a threat to the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable in our society;
 - b. it overturns the ethics of medicine and healthcare;
 - c. it undermines the need to provide adequate and appropriate palliative care to all Australians, irrespective of who they are or where they reside; and
 - d. it is opposed by all faiths that share the belief that life is sacred.
2. Strongly opposes all existing or proposed legislation that imposes on faith-based organisations opposing euthanasia or physician assisted suicide, a legal obligation to facilitate, support or permit euthanasia or physician assisted suicide, as an assault on religious freedom.
3. Commends Victoria and Western Australia for recognising institutional conscientious objection grounds, and permitting faith-based organisations to choose to neither facilitate nor support euthanasia or physician assisted suicide.
4. Calls on the NSW Parliament to oppose the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 and if that is not possible, to amend Part 5, Division 2 of the Bill, to permit faith-based organisations, including residential aged care providers, who oppose euthanasia or physician assisted suicide, to refuse, on the grounds of institutional conscientious objection, to participate in, facilitate or permit euthanasia or assisted suicide in or at their premises or facilities or services in any way.

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

Bishop Keith Dalby moving, Bishop Keith Joseph seconding

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

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

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

Therefore General Synod calls on all diocese to commit to making churches and welfare agencies more accessible and relevant to veterans and families, and to raise up chaplains for this work;
and requests the Primate to affirm and facilitate this work by appointing an additional non-stipended archdeacon under the Bishop to the Defence Force as the point of contact between the ADF, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Church.

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) (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 Act

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.