

# Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the 48th Synod

### Business Paper: Tuesday 19 October 2010

---

*(Page references are to the Standing Committee's Report - see Part 5 of the Synod Business Rules for ordinance procedures.)*

**Members of the Synod are asked to identify themselves each time they speak**

1. **Devotions will be led by the Rev Kanishka Raffel**
2. **Minutes of 18 October 2010**
3. **Petitions**
4. **Procedural motions from members**
5. **Calling of motions on the business paper**
6. **Motions**

***To be taken today immediately after the formal matters***

#### **6.1 Bishops court**

Synod, noting the report from the Standing Committee about Bishops court –

- (a) supports the sale of Bishops court and requests the Standing Committee to pass a suitable ordinance and take such further action as is necessary to facilitate the sale, once any implementation concerns of the Anglican Church Property Trust have been considered, and
- (b) requests the Endowment of the See Committee to make arrangements to provide suitable alternative accommodation for the Archbishop in consultation with the Archbishop and Mrs Jensen, having regard to the matters raised in the report,

and instructs the Standing Committee to ensure that the foreshadowed Bishops court sale ordinance is not passed unless there is a guarantee that at least \$15 million will be made available to the Endowment of the See after Bishops court is sold and alternative accommodation is provided for the Archbishop.

*(Supplementary Report page 7)*

*(Bishop Robert Forsyth/Mr Peter Kell)*

***If, following yesterday's vote on this motion conducted by ballot, the President declares that the motion is not carried, the motion at 6.12 is to be taken immediately***

#### **6.2 Euthanasia**

This Synod, in response to the Greens' notice of motion to introduce into the NSW Parliament a Bill to legalise voluntary euthanasia and the Greens' Bill in Federal Parliament to overturn Commonwealth prohibitions against euthanasia legislation in the Territories –

1. notes that when adequate palliative care, symptom control and psychosocial support is available and accessible, only a tiny minority of those accessing such support express a preference for euthanasia,
2. observes that the outcome of legalised voluntary euthanasia will include the insertion of mistrust into patient-carer and patient-relative relationships, a

- creeping expansion of candidates for euthanasia, and reduced funding for terminal care;
3. notes that recent reports of community support for euthanasia fail adequately to distinguish the deliberate killing of people from the morally acceptable practice of not prolonging life with burdensome treatment, and
  4. notes that most supporters for euthanasia are young and healthy, but that euthanasia legislation is not well supported among people with disability and by people who are old, infirm or vulnerable.

Accordingly, this Synod –

- (a) reaffirms that all human life is precious in God's sight, and that the Bible's clear prohibition of killing innocent humans has the positive effect of creating communities that love and care for others at their weakest and move vulnerable;
- (b) reiterates its opposition to voluntary euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide;
- (c) calls upon the Premier and the Prime Minister to oppose these initiatives;
- (d) calls on the NSW State and Federal parliamentarians to request referral of these bills to parliamentary committees, and to inform themselves of the alternatives to euthanasia and of its negative consequences in jurisdictions that have adopted it; and
- (e) calls on these governments to increase funding to pain management and palliative care services.

(Dr Karin Sowada/Dr Stephen Judd)

### 6.3 **Amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917**

Synod, noting the explanatory report about the proposed amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917 –

- (a) endorses the promotion to the New South Wales Parliament of the amendments proposed to be made by the insertion into the Act of new sections 6AA, 10A and 11A, and
- (b) requests that any proposal to seek further amendments to the Act to address the concerns which prompted the drafting of the new section 48 of the Act be brought to the Synod for approval before being promoted to the New South Wales Parliament.

(Additional materials page 1)

(Mr Robert Tong/The Rev Craig Roberts)

**To be taken today from 4.30 pm**

### 6.4 **Department of Evangelism (New Churches) Reconstitution Ordinance 2010**

That the Department of Evangelism (New Churches) Reconstitution Ordinance 2010 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.

(Page 232)

(Bishop Robert Forsyth/The Rev Archie Poulos)

### 6.5 **Grievance Policy and Procedure**

That Synod resolves itself into Committee to consider the text of the Grievance Policy and Procedure for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour by clergy and church workers in parishes.

(Page 110)

(Canon Sandy Grant/Mr Clive Ellis)

***To be taken only if a motion that the Grievance Policy and Procedure pass as a policy of the Synod is carried***

#### **6.6 Implementation of the Grievance Policy and Procedure**

Synod –

- (a) determines that the Grievance policy and procedure is to commence on 1 July 2011, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to approve up to 15 persons as the initial pool of regional conciliators for the purposes of the policy and procedure, being persons who have demonstrated competence in conflict resolution and conciliation or who have the capacity and willingness to acquire such competence, and
- (c) requests the Safe Ministry Board to oversee appropriate training and education in relation to the policy and procedure, and
- (d) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the procedure which are consistent with the terms of the policy, and
- (e) requests the Standing Committee to undertake a review of the policy and procedure after a period of 3 years from its commencement on 1 July 2011, and
- (f) requests that the parish risk management program address issues of abusive behaviour in the parish context, with a particular focus on responsibilities for providing a safe work place for parish staff.

*(Page 110)*

*(Canon Sandy Grant/Mr Clive Ellis)*

#### **6.7 Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2010**

Synod permits the introduction of the Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2010.

*(Page 287)*

*(Canon Sandy Grant/Mr Clive Ellis)*

#### **6.8 General Synod – Long Service Leave Canon 2010 Assenting Ordinance 2010**

Synod permits the introduction of the General Synod – Long Service Leave Canon 2010 Assenting Ordinance 2010.

*(Page 249 and Additional materials page 7)*

*(Mr Doug Marr/Mr Geoff Kyngdon)*

***To be taken today from 7.00 pm***

#### **6.9 Diocesan Corporate Governance**

Synod, noting the report on Diocesan Corporate Governance and the draft Diocesan Corporate Governance Policy attached to the report –

- (a) refers the draft policy to the Standing Committee to be revised in a manner which reflects the in-principle decisions made by the Synod in 2010 concerning the draft policy, and
- (b) requests that a copy of the revised form of draft policy together with any explanatory report be sent to each member of the Synod and to the board of each diocesan organisation for comments back to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 March 2011 (or such later time as the Diocesan Secretary permits), and
- (c) requests that a further revised form of the policy be brought back to the Synod in 2011 incorporating, as appropriate, comments made by Synod members and the boards of diocesan organisations, and the work of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission on Structure, Funding and Governance, and

- (d) requests that draft guidelines on the role and functioning of boards of diocesan organisations also be brought to the Synod in 2011.

(Page 60)

(Dr Laurie Scandrett/Mr Peter Kell)

***Motions for which no particular time has been specified for consideration***

**6.10 Equal representation of women**

That this Synod in responding to Anglican Consultative Council Resolution 13.31 requesting member churches to work towards the goal of equal representation of women in decision making at all levels –

- (a) recognises and celebrates the multitude of ministries in which women, as well as men, participate, and the gifts they bring to these ministries,
- (b) requests Standing Committee, Regional Councils, and other diocesan organisations to apply the principle of equal representation of women when making appointments or nominating candidates for election, wherever legislatively and practically possible and report progress to the Synod in 2012, and
- (c) encourages each parish to adopt this principle in elections and appointments to Parish Councils and other parochial committees.

(The Rev Philip Bradford/Ms Lyn Bannerman)

**6.11 Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee**

Synod –

- (a) notes the report of the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (TEMOC) (at pages 184 to 191 of the Standing Committee report to Synod) and thanks the committee for its initial work,
- (b) endorses the vision to grow Bible-based ministries on each University and VET (Vocational Education and Training) campus in the diocese that are –
  - (i) evangelistic
  - (ii) preparing students for a lifetime of Christian service, and
  - (iii) particularly concerned to raise up future generations of vocational Christian ministers,
- (c) commits to ongoing financial support of TEMOC within the constraints of the Diocesan budget,
- (d) notes the financial challenges in establishing and supporting such ministries and that the initial policy of the committee to focus on growing new ministries is likely to have a negative financial impact on established University chaplaincies,
- (e) urges parishes and individuals to generously support Tertiary ministries, and
- (f) encourages parishes and Mission Area Teams to initiate and support such ministries on local VET campuses in consultation with TEMOC.

(The Rev Richard Blight/Mr Andrew Frank)

**6.12 Parish assessment towards the funding needs of the Endowment of the See**

Synod –

- (a) asks the Endowment of the See and the Archbishop's Commission to look at ways of realizing part or all of the Endowment of the See's interest in SAHC as contemplated by the Property Trust's report.
- (b) and in the event that the actions contemplated under (a) are not by 1/1/11 reasonably expected to inject cash into the EOS when completed, then –
  - (i) approves an assessment on parishes at a rate of 1.14% for the purposes of contributing to the EOS funding needs, and

- (ii) requires Standing Committee to report to the Synod in 2011 about whether this assessment should be abolished for future years and what financially viable steps can be taken to ensure the EOS is placed on a sustainable footing.

(The Rev Craig Roberts)

#### 6.13 Access to annual reports and financial statements of diocesan organisations

That this Synod resolve with immediate effect that –

- (a) a copy of the annual report and annual audited financial statement of each diocesan organisation be made available for a reasonable fee to any member of Synod on request made to the Diocesan Secretary, after receipt in the Secretariat, on the condition that the member of Synod agrees to treat all such information in the strictest confidence until tabled in the Synod, and
- (b) a costed proposal for the placement of all these reports on the SDS website, including a password protected site if required, be brought to Synod in 2011.

(Ms Lyn Bannerman/Dr Laurie Scandrett)

#### 6.14 Authorized services

In its present session, when addressing the “Archbishop of Sydney (Election and Retirement) Amendment Ordinance 2010”, Synod has been made aware of the primacy of the “General Synod – Canon Concerning Services 1992 Adopting Ordinance 1998” (the Services Ordinance) as underpinning the solemn promise which an Archbishop of Sydney must make to only conduct services of public worship which are authorized or consistent with Anglican Church of Australia doctrine. Synod notes that, considered with reference to regular Sunday worship, a plain reading of the Services Ordinance including the Schedule thereto, suggests that the Ordinance provides for nothing apart from prayer book services or services involving non-substantial variations of prayer book services.

Synod, specifically in relation to the Mission, is aware of the necessity to provide opportunities for innovative and creative worship which is biblically-based and which may meet the needs of longstanding congregations but particularly those of, amongst others, communities which include young people and/or people not identified with an Anglo or longstanding Australian heritage, including heritages from various European, Asian or African countries or that of indigenous Australia, to the glory of God. Thus, non-traditional expressions of public worship merit consideration and may be adopted for public worship in some parish churches.

Accordingly, Synod requests Standing Committee to seek oversight from the Archbishop and to consult with as wide a cross section of rectors and other relevant persons as practicable concerning public worship practice within the Diocese as being authorized and as meeting congregational needs. Standing Committee to then provide a preliminary assessment of relevant matters which may include reference to (in no particular order) any or all of the following –

- (a) the provision of explanatory materials describing the scope of available or potentially available prayer book services and indications of the extent to which such services may be varied consistent with authority,
- (b) the need to place before the General and/or this Synod any matters arising from the assessment and the scope of work required to address such matters in formal terms,
- (c) the extent of lay leadership in public worship, and any corresponding requirement for Diocesan recognition or scrutiny of the qualifications of persons so involved comparable to that which applies under the “General Synod – Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973 Adopting Ordinance 1973”,

(d) such other matters thought relevant.

The preliminary assessment to be available for consideration at the 2011 session of this Synod.

(Professor Bernard Stewart)

**6.15 Mr Charles Metcalfe**

This Synod thanks Mr Charles Metcalfe, known affectionately to the mover and many others as Mr Med, for his nearly 60 years as a Synod representative, and wishes him the best as he tries to find another way to spend his evenings in future Octobers.

(The Rev Stephen Miller/The Rev Matthew Johnson)



# Indicative Timetable for Synod Business

*References to items and motions are references to items and motions in the business paper for Tuesday 19 October 2010.*

<b>Tuesday 19 October 2010</b>	
3.15 – 4.30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters 6.1 Bishops court 6.2 Euthanasia 6.3 Amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917 Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4.30 – 5.45 pm	6.4 Department of Evangelism (New Churches) Reconstitution Ordinance 2010 6.5 Grievance Policy and Procedure 6.6 Implementation of Grievance Policy and Procedure 6.7 Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2010 6.8 General Synod – Long Service Leave Canon 2010 Assenting Ordinance 2010 Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7.00 pm +	6.9 Diocesan Corporate Governance Policy Thereafter, other business as per the business paper