

2009 Report of the Standing Committee

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1. Introduction

1.1 Charter

The Standing Committee is constituted under the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897. Its duties arise under a number of ordinances and include the following –

- (a) making arrangements for the meetings of the Synod and preparing the Synod's business, and
- (b) acting as a council of advice to the Archbishop (the "Archbishop-in-Council"), and
- (c) considering and reporting upon matters referred to it by the Synod and carrying out the Synod's resolutions, and
- (d) deliberating and conferring upon all matters affecting the interests of the Church, and
- (e) making ordinances under delegated powers, and
- (f) preparing and administering parochial cost recoveries and Synod appropriations and allocations, and
- (g) appointing persons to fill casual vacancies among persons elected by the Synod to boards etc, and
- (h) monitoring the finances of diocesan organisations.

1.2 Access

Meetings are held in the Chapter House, St Andrew's Cathedral. Mail should be addressed to "The Diocesan Secretary, Standing Committee of Synod, PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230" (telephone (02) 9265 1555; fax (02) 9261 4485; e-mail rjw@sydney.anglican.asn.au). Office hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

A report on each meeting is published a few days after the meeting on the Secretariat's website at www.sds.asn.au.

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1.3 Meetings and members

Since October 2008 we have met 11 times. The names of the members will be listed in the 2009 Diocesan Year Book and on the Secretariat's website at www.sds.asn.au.

During the year, the following changes took place to the membership of the Standing Committee –

- Archdeacon Geoff Huard ceased being a member on his retirement as Archdeacon of Liverpool. Archdeacon Ian Cox became an *ex-officio* member upon being appointed as the new Archdeacon.
- Bishop Peter Tasker ceased being a member on his retirement as Bishop of Liverpool.
- Archdeacon Terry Dein ceased being a member on his retirement as Archdeacon of North Sydney.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a minister elected by the South Sydney Region upon the resignation of the Rev Dr Tim Foster. The South Sydney Region elected the Rev Dominic Steele to fill the vacancy.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a lay person elected by the Georges River Region upon the resignation of Mr Greg Nelson. The Georges River Region elected Mr James Jack to fill the vacancy.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a lay person elected by the Western Sydney Region upon the resignation of Mr Philip Gerber. The Western Sydney Region elected Dr Maryanne Golding to fill the vacancy.

1.4 Management and structure

Each meeting of the Standing Committee is like a small Synod meeting. The major committees are –

Audit Committee	Ordination Training Fund Committee
Mission Board	Social Issues Executive
Finance Committee	Stipends and Allowances Committee
General Synod Canons Committee	Work Outside the Diocese Committee
Ordinance Reviewers and Panels	

Other committees are appointed from time to time for special tasks. We thank God for the faithfulness and expertise of the people who serve on our committees.

1.5 Death of Sir Marcus Loane KBE

In April we noted with great sadness the death of the former Archbishop of Sydney, Sir Marcus Loane KBE and gave grateful thanks to God for Sir Marcus' long and fruitful ministry of the gospel in

Sydney, in Australia and beyond. We noted in particular his service as Principal of Moore Theological Collage and as Archbishop of this Diocese, and the fact that he was the first Australia-born Archbishop and Primate. We sent our sympathy to Lady Patricia Loane and to Sir Marcus' four children, 17 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren and prayed for God's blessing upon them.

1.6 Retirement of Bishop Peter Tasker

In May we noted Bishop Peter Tasker's retirement as Bishop of Liverpool. We gave thanks for his significant contribution to the life of the Diocese as Bishop of Liverpool and through the Synod and the Standing Committee. We noted with pleasure that he will continue to represent the Archbishop overseas and prayed for God's blessing on Peter and his wife, Joan, in their next stage of ministry.

1.7 Resignation of Mr Philip Gerber

In June we noted Mr Philip Gerber's resignation as a member and acknowledged with thanks to God his great contribution to the life our Synod and, for the last 16 years, the Standing Committee, in particular his role as the Director of Professional Standards and his chairmanship of the Stipends and Allowances Committee. We noted that he and his wife, Deanne, had been accepted for missionary service in the Northern Territory with the Church Missionary Society and prayed for God's blessing upon them in this new phase of ministry.

1.8 Appointment of Mr Robert Tong as Deputy Chancellor

In June we noted that the Archbishop had appointed Mr Robert Tong as Deputy Chancellor with the encouragement and goodwill of the Chancellor. We congratulated Mr Tong and assured him of our prayerful support.

1.9 Retirement of Mr Ken Barber as Chief Executive Officer of Anglican Retirement Villages

In June we noted the retirement of Mr Ken Barber as Chief Executive Officer of the Anglican Retirement Villages after 13 years of dedicated service with ARV. We thanked God for Ken's personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and his deep commitment to the ministry of ARV over many years.

1.10 Appointment of Mr Glenn Murray as the Director of Professional Standards

In July we noted that Mr Glenn Murray had accepted the Archbishop's invitation to become the new Director of Professional Standards and congratulated Mr Murray on his appointment.

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2. The Diocesan Mission

2.1 Diocesan Mission Strategy

In 2002, the Synod adopted the mission strategy for the Diocese including the following Mission Statement –

To glorify God by proclaiming our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit, so that everyone will hear his call to repent, trust and serve Christ in love, and be established in the fellowship of his disciples while they await his return.

The initial goal of the Mission adopted by the Synod is –

To see at least 10% of the population of the region of the Diocese in Bible-based churches in 10 years.

The fundamental aim of the strategy is –

To multiply Bible-based Christian fellowships, congregations and churches which equip and nurture their members and expand themselves, both in the Diocese and 'in all the world'.

The Mission Strategy continues to direct much of the work we have undertaken during the year. For this purpose, we have delegated to the Mission Board the following specific responsibilities –

- preparing Strategic Plans and ordinances under the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998 and the Cost Recoveries Framework Ordinance 2008,
- receiving strategic reports, prioritising projects and receiving progress reports under the Mission Property Ordinance 2002, and
- receiving strategic plans and progress reports and determining administration and resource costs under the Connect09 Ordinance 2007.

2.2 Strategic Plan for the Diocesan Mission

By resolution 15/08, the Synod –

- endorsed generally the matters raised in the report *The Diocesan Mission – Midpoint Report: Achievements and Challenges in Becoming a Missional Diocese*, and
- noted that, in accordance with the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998, a strategic plan will be prepared for Synod's consideration at its 2009 session which takes into account the comments of members and which reflects the challenges and objectives referred to in the report.

In response to resolution 15/08, we adopted a *Strategic Directions*

2010 – 2012 document as the Strategic Plan for the Mission for the purposes of the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998.

The *Strategic Directions 2010 – 2012* document is printed separately.

See item 4.10.

2.3 Connect09

During the year we received monthly progress reports about the work of the Connect09 Management Committee. This work included –

- Organising prayer days in November 2008, May 2009 and August 2009.
- Arranging for over 250 clergy to attend 2-day planning sessions with the Archbishop at Bishops court.
- Holding briefings for lay people in each region.
- Identifying, training and organising local coordinators.
- Designing, sourcing and developing a range of resources including 1.1 million copies of *The Essential Jesus*, Gospels of Luke and John in Chinese and Arabic, Gospel of Mark in magazine format and Colin Buchanan DVDs.
- Designing and promoting the “Remember the Essentials” campaign.
- Appointing and supporting a city coordinator program.

A full progress report about Connect09 is printed separately.

We congratulated all those involved in organising Connect09’s Big Day In on Sunday 8 February 2009 and, in particular, Mr Russell Powell and the Rev Andrew Nixon for their tireless work in contributing to the success of the broadcast. We encouraged the Connect09 Management Committee to continue building on the momentum generated in our parishes by the Big Day In.

See also item 4.14.

2.4 Mission Property Fund

During the year we received quarterly progress reports from the Mission Property Committee about “brownfields” and “greenfields” projects we prioritised under the Mission Property Ordinance 2002. As at 12 May 2009 the new Rouse Hill and Hoxton Park ministry centres had been completed. Of the \$8.6 million committed last year to further brownfields projects in the Diocese, \$2.74 million of funding had been released from the Mission Property Fund for projects in the parishes of Auburn, Annandale, Marrickville, Naremburn/Cammeray and Rooty Hill. We also added Stanhope Gardens to the list of areas identified in 2007 within which the Mission Property Committee is authorised to acquire “greenfields” sites.

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We received a strategic report from the Mission Property Committee under the Mission Property Ordinance 2002 which deals with the prioritised acquisition of land and the construction of ministry centres in areas in the Diocese which are experiencing rapid increases in population. We intend to consider this report in due course.

The Mission Property Committee has recently negotiated the acquisition of new sites for ministry centres at Leppington and Oran Park. Contracts for the purchase of these sites have been exchanged. Negotiations for the purchase of another site in the north west development area of Sydney are proceeding, and it is hoped they will be successfully concluded in the near future.

2.5 Resignation of Mr Les Gray as Diocesan Mission Executive

In February we noted that Mr Les Gray had resigned as the Diocesan Mission Executive. We gave thanks to God for Les' contribution to the Diocesan Mission over the last 3 years and extended our best wishes to Les for his future work in ministry.

3. Actions with the Archbishop

3.1 Estate of Late M.A. Grant (Sisters' Endowment)

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$40,000 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop to assist clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

3.2 Parish of Picton – right of nomination

The parish of Picton became vacant during the year but the Archbishop was unable to declare that the parish had complied with clause 5 of the Nomination Ordinance 2006. The matter was referred to the Archbishop-in-Council which determined that, in the circumstances, the parish should not have the benefits under the Ordinance.

3.3 Parramatta '54 Free Fund

The income of this fund is to be distributed among the objects of the Diocese of Sydney as determined by the Archbishop-in-Council. A distribution of \$14,447 was made to pay the costs of the Sydney bishops and 3 NSW Provincial bishops attending the 2009 Australian Bishops' Conference.

4. Financial and Property Administration

4.1 Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995

Organisations of the Synod which manage church trust property must report annually to the Synod. These reports include audited financial statements and must be lodged, together with a liquidity report, by 30

June each year. A different lodgement date has been approved for two organisations, Anglicare and Anglican Retirement Villages, whose financial year ends on 30 June.

During the year we successfully implemented enhanced reporting requirements under amendments made to the Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995 last year. These require organisations to provide us with certain internal management financial information during the financial year and a report on risk management as part of their annual report to the Synod.

The annual reports and audited accounts for about 40 organisations will be tabled in the Synod. Any major problems found by the Finance Committee from a review of these accounts and the additional internal management financial information will be reported.

4.2 Audited accounts for the Synod Fund

The audited accounts for the Synod Fund are printed separately.

4.3 Borrowing limits for organisations

We approved an increased borrowing limit for 1 organisation and reduced the borrowing limit for 1 organisation.

4.4 Ordination training fund

From this Fund, bursaries are available to –

- (a) candidates studying through Moore Theological College or Youthworks College for ordination in Sydney, and
- (b) candidates studying through Moore Theological College or Youthworks College for commissioning as Diocesan Lay Workers in Sydney.

Bursaries of \$257,990 were paid in 2008 (\$293,000 in 2007).

4.5 Ordinances

The following table shows the number of ordinances passed and assented to in 2003 to 2008 and in 2009 to 29 September.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Standing Committee	57	48	50	48	45	38	22
Synod	8	6	8	5	3	6	0
	65	54	58	53	48	44	22

A separate report lists the ordinances passed by us since the 2008 session of the Synod. There are 12 ordinances of particular interest.

The Pastoral Care and Assistance Further Appropriation Ordinance 2008 provided for the application of \$148,000 from the Diocesan Endowment for the purposes of making payments of financial assistance to claimants under the Pastoral Care and Assistance

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Scheme.

The Pastoral Care and Assistance Appropriation Ordinance 2009 provided for the application of \$25,000 from the Diocesan Endowment for the purpose of making payments of financial assistance to claimants under the Pastoral Care and Assistance Scheme.

The Pastoral Care and Assistance Further Appropriation Ordinance 2009 provided for the application of \$80,000 from the Diocesan Endowment for the purpose of making payments of financial assistance to claimants under the Pastoral Care and Assistance Scheme.

The Nomination Ordinance 2006 Amendment Ordinance 2009 enabled the Archbishop to suspend the nomination process after the first meeting of the Nomination Board is convened. Previously the Archbishop could only suspend the nomination process before the first meeting of the Nomination Board is convened.

The Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society Ordinance 1981 Amendment Ordinance 2009 substantially amended the Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society Ordinance 1981. This included altering the structure of the membership of the Council and bringing the principal ordinance more into conformity with the style of constituting ordinance currently in use in the Diocese.

The Moore Theological College Amendment Ordinance 2009 added a person appointed by the Anglican Deaconess Institution Sydney Ltd as an additional member of the Governing Board of the College.

The Annual Leave Ordinance 1983 Amendment Ordinance 2009 made provision for us to make guidelines from time to time as to the activities of a minister that should be undertaken during a period of annual leave or additional leave approved under the Annual Leave Ordinance 1983.

The Diocesan Endowment (Special Distribution) Ordinance 2009 and the Diocesan Endowment (Special Distribution) Amendment Ordinance 2009 reduced the amounts to be paid by the Glebe Administration Board from the property held under the Diocesan Endowment Ordinance 1984 to \$5.4 million during 2010 and a total of \$10.5 million during 2011 and 2012.

The Connect09 Amendment Ordinance 2009 enabled amounts allocated by the Synod in a year to meet the administration costs of Connect09 to be applied to meet the administration costs in that year or a future year during Connect09.

The Sydney Diocesan Secretariat Ordinance 1973 Amendment Ordinance 2009 reduced the number of members of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat and Glebe Administration Board from 12 to no less than 8 and no more than 10. The reduction takes effect from the first meeting of the Standing Committee after this year's session of

Synod.

The Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney Christian Education Building Fund Ordinance 2009 appointed the Property Trust as trustee of the Archbishop of Sydney's Vision Christian Education Building Fund. It also authorised the Property Trust to make rules for the operation of the Fund in accordance with any rulings or determination issued by the Australian Taxation Office for school building funds.

4.6 Parochial cost recoveries - arrears

The following table compares the arrears of cost recovery charges as at 30 June 2007, 2008 and 2009.

	2007	2008	2009
	\$	\$	\$
Berala	4,203	-	-
Campsie	11,645	-	-
Dulwich Hill	20,460	-	-
Glenmore Park	-	17,922	-
Picton	1,313	-	-
Richmond	1,967	-	-
Total	39,588	17,922	0

4.7 Annual financial statements from parishes

Under the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008, parochial units are required to lodge their audited financial statements within 7 days after their annual general meeting of parishioners.

As at 30 April 2009, 98 parochial units (37%) had not lodged a set of prescribed financial statements. By 31 July this had improved to 16 (6%).

The Finance Committee has processes in place to remind parishes of their obligations under the Ordinance, assist with any enquiries and review the statements lodged. The Finance Committee also works with the regional archdeacons to investigate and report to us on the status of the audited financial statements for parochial units that are late in lodging the required information.

4.8 Local revenues test for parish status

The parish of Brighton/Rockdale had local revenue below the requisite amount in 2008. As this was the situation in the previous 2 years, the parish has been advised that the Georges River Regional Council will shortly consider declaring the parish as provisional with effect from 1 January 2010.

The parishes of Canterbury with Hurlstone Park, Picton, Port Kembla, Lakemba and Greenacre each have had local revenues below the requisite amount in 2007 and 2008. These parishes have been

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advised of the importance of ensuring their 2009 and future revenues meet the relevant threshold figures.

4.9 Diocesan Endowment investment losses

We noted that pre-Synod briefings had been conducted at 5 regional locations across the Diocese to inform Synod members about investment losses in the Diocesan Endowment and matters relating to the Endowment of the See, Strategic Directions and Synod allocations.

We thanked the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Glebe Administration Board for these briefings.

We accepted our responsibility for oversight of the Diocesan Endowment investment strategies, expressed our regret at the losses stemming from the implementation of the gearing strategy and admitted, in particular, that mistakes were made in risk management procedures relating to gearing. We requested that a motion be moved at Synod to enable this matter to be considered.

4.10 Synod Appropriations and Allocations for 2010, 2011 and 2012

Under clause 3 of the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998 we are required to prepare for the second ordinary session of the 48th Synod a Strategic Plan for the Diocesan Mission and a proposed ordinance reflecting the Strategic Plan which contains estimates for 2010, 2011 and 2012 of –

- the amount required for meeting the cost of sittings of the Synod, the maintenance of the diocesan offices and the expenses of such other diocesan activities and commitments as, in our opinion, should be supported, and
- the amount which, in our opinion, should be granted to organisations under the control of Synod or to other organisations, and
- the amount of income available from endowments or other trusts for meeting the amounts referred to above in the relevant financial year.

A bill for the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2009 and an explanatory report are printed separately.

4.11 Work Outside the Diocese

We delegated to the Work Outside the Diocese Committee responsibility for determining the application of funds allocated by the Synod within Policy 1b under the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2008. In the 6 months to 30 June 2009, \$473,346 had been applied from a total Synod allocation in 2009 of \$575,000. It is expected that the balance of the 2009 allocation together with further

amounts from reserves will be applied during the 6 months to 31 December 2009.

4.12 Parochial cost recoveries for 2009

We approved a reduction in the parish cost recoveries charge for 2009 below the estimate provided to the Synod in 2008. The principal reasons for the reduction were a reduced cost of the parish insurance program and a saving in the fees charged by the Secretariat to administer the cost recoveries program.

4.13 Parochial cost recoveries for 2010, 2011 and 2012

Under clause 5 of the Cost Recoveries Framework Ordinance 2008, we are required to prepare for the second ordinary session of the 48th Synod an ordinance which specifies the cost recoveries charge in respect of ministry costs and property costs to be paid by each parochial unit in 2010, 2011 and 2012, or the method or methods by which such charge may be determined.

A bill for the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2009 and an accompanying explanatory report are printed separately.

See also item 8.10.

4.14 Connect09 Costs for 2010

Under the Connect09 Ordinance 2007 we are required to report to the Synod about –

- any increase we determine should be made to the “administration costs” for Connect09 in 2010, and
- the amounts necessary to calculate the “resource costs” payable by parishes in 2010.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

4.15 Asbestos inspection charge

By clause 3(3) of the Asbestos Inspection (Special Charge) Ordinance 2007 we are required to report to each session of the Synod about –

- an estimate of the costs of the program payable in the following year, and
- the asbestos inspection charge estimated to be payable by each relevant parochial unit in the following year and details of how that charge is calculated.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

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4.16 Summary of PCR variable charge, Asbestos inspection charge and Connect09 resource charge for 2010

The following table summarises the proposed rates for the variable portion of the parochial cost recoveries charge, the asbestos inspection charge and the Connect09 resource charge for 2010 and compares these with the actual rates for 2009 –

	Percentage of Net Operating Receipts			
	Parochial units with property		Parochial units without property	
	Proposed 2010 charge	Actual 2009 charge	Proposed 2010 charge	Actual 2009 charge
PCR variable charge	4.77%	4.36%	2.62%	4.36%
Asbestos inspection charge	0.44%	0.46%	n/a	n/a
Connect09 resource charge	0.13%	0.52%	0.13%	0.52%
Total	5.34%	5.34%	2.75%	4.88%

4.17 Endowment of the See (various approvals)

The stipends, allowances, superannuation, long service leave, housing and office costs of the Archbishop, Assistant Bishops, the Registrar and Archdeacons and the salaries of the registry staff (including the Archives) are met from the Endowment of the See ("EOS"). The stipend, allowances, superannuation, long service leave and housing costs of the Dean have also been met from the EOS although this arrangement is currently under review. These costs are not a charge on Synod funds except for \$65,000 in 2008 for the promotion of women's ministries.

We received a report about the financial issues confronting the EOS which have required restructuring of EOS staffing arrangements. The report also included information about what is being done to achieve a sustainable future for the real value of the EOS.

4.18 Stipends, allowances and benefits for 2010

A report on stipends, allowances and benefits for 2010 is printed separately.

4.19 Greenoaks Apartments

By clause 9 of the Bishopscourt Backblock Development and Land Sale Ordinance 2004, we are required to report to each ordinary

session of the Synod about –

- progress of the development authorised by the ordinance, now called “Greenoaks Apartments”, and
- application of the sale proceeds of the land the subject of the development, and
- action taken by us in response to the statement of intention under clause 8(3) of the ordinance.

The Greenoaks development comprised a 6-storey apartment building containing 10 apartments over basement parking for 25 motor vehicles. Construction commenced in September 2005 and practical completion occurred in September 2007.

Six of the apartments have been sold and a further apartment is now the residence of the Bishop of South Sydney. The remaining units are being leased until such time as market conditions improve.

The balance of the loan facility taken out to assist the Endowment of the See (EOS) in undertaking the development has been reduced to about \$1 million (the balance was \$8.85 million as at 31 December 2008).

Clause 8(3) of the ordinance provides that when the final balance of the sale of the land, or parts thereof, is known, the Standing Committee intends that an appropriate sum be applied for the repair and maintenance of Bishops court. Since the final balance of the sale of apartments is not yet known the Standing Committee has not considered an application from the sale proceeds for the repair and maintenance of Bishops court. However, a major roof repair and renovation project at Bishops court has recently been undertaken and it is expected that the Standing Committee will take this into account in considering the matters under clause 8(3).

4.20 Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre Sale Ordinance 2001

Under the Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre Sale Ordinance 2001, we are required to provide an annual report to the Synod on progress in acquiring, constructing, adapting and/or renovating a property or building to be used as a conference centre and retreat house for the Diocese.

Last year we were informed that Anglican Youthworks intended to actively pursue various camping and conference centre options in the Sydney region and beyond. We agreed to release the sale proceeds to Youthworks, noting that at the time Gilbulla was sold, it was managed by the camping and conferencing division of the organisation now known as Youthworks.

Youthworks is actively pursuing various options to acquire a northern camp site.

4.21 Diocesan gift deductible education building fund

We appointed the Property Trust as trustee of the Archbishop of Sydney's Vision Christian Education Building Fund and authorised the Property Trust to make rules for the operation of the Fund in accordance with any rulings or determination issued by the Australian Taxation Office for school building funds. The Property Trust will consider making rules for the Fund which will enable donations to school building projects in parishes to be treated as tax deductible without the need for parishes to establish their own deductible school building funds.

4.22 St Paul's Multicultural Filipino Anglican Ministry

We allocated an amount of up to \$15,000 from Synod Fund Contingencies, in addition to \$5,000 contributed by the Western Sydney Regional Council, towards the legal costs incurred in seeking a *cy pres* order from the Supreme Court in relation to a bequest to the Filipino-Australian Christian Fellowship (FACF).

The Supreme Court accepted our submission that the St Paul's Multicultural Filipino Anglican Ministry (SPMFAM) is the legal successor of FACF and gave orders that the bequest be paid to the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney to be applied to the SPMFAM for its general purposes.

The net amount received by the Property Trust, after payment of legal costs, was \$249,000.

4.23 Financial review of Anglican organisations

We appoint or recommend the appointment of members to a number of Anglican organisations which do not report to the Synod. These are Robert Menzies College, Blue Mountains Grammar, New College, SCEGGS Darlinghurst and SCEGGS Redlands. In light of the recent strengthening of reporting requirements under the Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995, the Finance Committee considered it appropriate to instigate a parallel process of reviewing the information provided in the annual reports of these organisations.

4.24 Changes to the Retirements Ordinance 1993

We requested that the Ordinance Reform Group prepare a report on proposed changes to pension and superannuation arrangements in Australia and make recommendations for changes, if any, to the Retirements Ordinance 1993 that may flow from them.

We have not yet received a report from the Ordinance Reform Group on this matter.

4.25 Harvest Living investment review

Last year the Glebe Administration Board (GAB) informed us about a series of investments made by itself and Glebe Asset Management

(GAM) in the period 2003 – 2007 in a number of companies that ultimately came to comprise the Harvest Living group of companies. In particular we were informed that –

- The value of these investments was progressively written down to nil prior to 31 December 2007.
- In May 2008 all the subsidiaries of Harvest Living Ltd were placed into administration and in November 2008 were put into liquidation. Harvest Living Ltd was itself placed into administration and entered into a deed of company arrangement.
- GAB does not stand to receive any return on its investment in the companies.

GAB advised us that its current investment policies and processes would preclude similar investments being made in future. However it undertook to review its investment processes and provide additional comfort in this regard once the Administrators had completed their investigations into the Harvest Living Group.

We subsequently noted the terms of reference approved by the GAB for the review of its investment processes to be undertaken by a subcommittee of GAB comprising Messrs Phil Shirriff, Richard Lambert, Stephen Judd, Ian Miller and Neil Lewis, joined by Mr James Flavin, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

This year we received a report from the subcommittee noting that it has resolved that –

- no problem investments similar to those in the Harvest Living Group remain in the balance sheet of the GAB, and
- current Investment policies and procedures do not allow similar investment to be made in the future.

4.26 Moore College property development

We were informed about the current status of Moore College's property development proposals for its Newtown campus. We were also informed that Moore College has hired space at the Synod venue to display its proposals to Synod members and answer their questions.

4.27 Car parking for St Andrew's Cathedral staff

We agreed that 4 "use and pay" vouchers should be issued to St Andrew's Cathedral staff to use the St Andrew's House carpark. We authorised the cost incurred by the use of the vouchers being reimbursed from Synod Fund Contingencies to a maximum of \$10,000 per year.

5. General Administration

5.1 Elections

The appointment of persons to serve on committees etc. continued to be a major part of our business. Some appointments are to fill casual vacancies among Synod appointees, and these appointments fall vacant at this coming Synod session. Other appointments are made by the Standing Committee in its own right.

From November 2008 to June 2009, 160 such positions were filled (41 for the period October 2007 to June 2008).

5.2 Reports from regional councils

Under clause 9 of the Regions Ordinance 1995 each regional council must give us an annual report for inclusion in our report to the Synod. The annual reports are printed separately, together with any reports for reclassification of provisional parishes under the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

5.3 Affiliated churches

During the year we affiliated with Crossroads Christian Church, Canberra under clause 4(1) of the Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 and entered into an affiliation agreement with Crossroads under clause 5(1) of that Ordinance.

We also received an application for affiliation from Central Coast Evangelical Church, Erina.

See item 8.13.

5.4 Glebe Board review

We considered the outcome of an external review conducted into the governance practices of the Glebe Administration Board. Although the review was prompted by the investment losses incurred by the Diocesan Endowment in 2008, the scope of the review was not intended to address or explain the causes of the losses.

We requested the Glebe Administration Board to provide a report to us early next year on its implementation of the recommendations arising from the review.

5.5 Long service leave

Last year we agreed in-principle that lay ministers who are ordained as deacons should be provided with continuity of service for long service leave purposes. We also agreed to a number of other changes to existing continuity of service arrangements for persons employed by parishes and diocesan organisations. In order to give effect to these matters, we requested the Diocesan Secretary to prepare an ordinance for consideration at a future meeting.

The Diocesan Secretary has not yet prepared an ordinance for this purpose.

5.6 Sydney Diocesan Education and Book Committee

In 2006 we agreed in-principle that the Sydney Diocesan Education Book Committee should be disbanded and its assets allocated equally between Anglican Youthworks and Moore Theological College. We also requested that an ordinance for this purpose be prepared for our consideration.

Since making this request, a number of matters have emerged which need to be resolved before an ordinance can be prepared. We will consider an ordinance once these matters have been resolved.

5.7 Membership of the Archbishop on the councils of diocesan schools and organisations

We undertook a policy discussion about –

- the Archbishop's role in relation to each diocesan school and organisation, and
- the role and responsibilities inherent in the positions of "President" and "Visitor", and
- the legal responsibilities of members of a body corporate constituted by or under the Anglican Church of Australia (Bodies Corporate) Act 1938.

We respectfully requested the Archbishop to provide his own views on this matter in light of the comments made during the discussion. We intend to consider this matter further once the Archbishop has provided his views.

5.8 Review of Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance 1982

It is customary to review the processes by which the Archbishop of Sydney is elected at an appropriate time after the election of an Archbishop (the last being in 2001). In 2007 we appointed a committee to review the Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance 1982.

The committee has provided its report. A bill for the Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Amendment Ordinance 2009 together with an explanatory report are printed separately.

5.9 Synod elections

Last year we considered the possibility of using electronic means of communication for appropriate aspects of the Synod elections process, including sending notice of elections, receiving nominations and précis of candidates and sending confirmation of nominations. We requested the Diocesan Secretary –

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- to prepare for our consideration an ordinance to amend the Synod Elections Ordinance 2000 to enable electronic communication to be used in the Synod elections process, and
- to investigate and report back to us on the options available for the conduct of online ballots in the case of pre-Synod elections and elections to fill regional vacancies on the Standing Committee.

The Diocesan Secretary has not yet reported to us on these matters.

5.10 NSW Council of Churches

Last year we requested that a brief paper on the NSW Council of Churches be prepared, including its membership structure.

Having received the report, we –

- commended the current President of the Council in her attempts to streamline the processes of the Council and encouraged her to continue with these efforts,
- directed our representatives on the Council to raise the question of amending the Council's constitution to significantly reduce its membership from 38 to 15 members, and
- requested the Property Trust to provide to the Diocesan Secretary all documentation in relation to the arrangements in place with the licence holder of 2CH and for the Diocesan Secretary to report back to us about what is in place and how the broadcasting rights might be protected.

We have not yet received a report about arrangements concerning 2CH from the Diocesan Secretary.

5.11 Pastoral care of respondents and complainants in disciplinary proceedings

We considered a report from the Safe Ministry Board about appropriate levels of support that should be provided to clergy and lay persons who are respondents to allegations and complaints under the Discipline Ordinance 2006.

In response to the report, we requested that –

- a respondent Support Panel for clergy and paid/licensed lay workers be appointed by the Archbishop, and
- a panel list of solicitors who are prepared to act for respondents be created by the Director of Professional Standards.

We also requested that –

- the Archdeacons and the Director of Professional Standards prepare a document setting out the principles of support of lay unpaid respondents, and
- the Safe Ministry Board develop for our consideration a model for a Diocesan Ministers' Assistance Scheme, including recommendations as to how it might be funded.

We have not yet been provided with a model for a Diocesan Ministers' Assistance Scheme.

5.12 Publication of Acts and ordinances

In previous years it has been customary to publish and distribute to Synod members a bound handbook of the principal Acts and ordinances that have force in this Diocese. It was decided this year that publication of such a volume should be discontinued due to the following factors –

- whether the cost/benefit of publishing such a handbook could continue to be justified,
- Synod resolution 22/08 which called for the electronic distribution of Synod materials to be considered.

There was a recognition, nonetheless, that many Synod members still need recourse to a hard-copy of some principal ordinances when at Synod. Accordingly a copy of those principal ordinances likely to be considered at each session of the Synod will be printed and distributed to Synod members. The current forms of all principal Acts and ordinances will also continue to be available on the Secretariat's website www.sds.asn.au.

5.13 Memorandum and Articles of Association of SCECGS Redlands Limited

We approved of the Secretariat agreeing to proposed amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of SCECGS Redlands Limited. The amendments were subsequently made at the SCECGS Redlands 2009 Annual General Meeting. The main change was to reduce the maximum number of directors from 15 to 12 while maintaining the same ratio of directors appointed by the Secretariat.

5.14 Disestablishment of School Council for Edmondson Park Anglican College

We were informed by the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation that it had resolved to disestablish the School Council for Edmondson Park Anglican College. We were informed that despite an intention to establish a new Anglican school in Edmondson Park, delays in the development of the surrounding residential areas with no firm date of any commencement, led the Corporation to decide not to continue

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working to establish a new school.

5.15 Meeting room for the Standing Committee

Last year we received costing information about possible alternative venues for our meeting room following the old Cowper Room in St Andrew's House becoming unavailable due to building work in St Andrew's House.

We agreed to maintain our present arrangements of meeting in the Chapter House. We also agreed not to pursue options for either a major refurbishment of the Chapter House or the construction of a new Cowper Room on the Ground Floor of St Andrew's House.

We requested the Diocesan Secretary to negotiate appropriate arrangements with the Cathedral Chapter for our continued use of the Chapter House. We also agreed to contribute \$74,500 for improvements to lighting, sound and other appropriate amenities in the Chapter House.

5.16 Standing Committee's decisions concerning parishes

We considered how to achieve a satisfactory integration between the state of ministry in a parish and any decision that we might make in relation to the parish, particularly in the context of ordinances authorising dealings with parish property.

We agreed in-principle to review and develop policies on the exercise of our discretion, particularly in areas which affect parishes, and requested the Archdeacons and the Assistant to the Bishop of Wollongong to prepare policies for consideration by us at a future meeting.

Draft policies have not yet been prepared for our consideration.

5.17 Consumption of alcohol in parishes

Last year we asked the Archbishop to appoint a group to bring us a draft policy addressing whether and in what circumstances alcohol consumption should be permitted –

- at private social gatherings on church trust property, and
- at advertised and/or public ministry events (whether or not held on church trust property), and
- on church trust property leased for commercial purposes.

During the year we considered a draft policy on these matters and requested that parish councils, Synod representatives, health institutes and the diocesan insurance broker provide comments about the draft policy and an alternative policy.

In response to the comments received, we approved the printing of a report about the consumption of alcohol in the parish context and requested that a motion be moved at the Synod requesting that the minister and parish council of each parish study the information in the report and determine the parish's own policy on the consumption of alcohol having regard to the recommendation in the report.

The report on the consumption of alcohol in the parish context is printed separately.

5.18 Discipline Amendment Ordinance 2009

The Discipline Ordinance 2006 has been in operation since 2007. During this time there have been 13 matters come before the Professional Standards Committee and 3 matters come before the Tribunal. As a result of this experience, we requested that an ordinance be promoted to the Synod to make a number of amendments to the Ordinance to improve its procedures.

A bill for the Discipline Amendment Ordinance 2009 together with an explanatory report are printed separately.

5.19 Nominated Indigenous representatives

We requested that a bill be promoted to the Synod this year which would enable the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee to appoint two Indigenous persons as members of the Synod instead of one Indigenous minister and one Indigenous lay person.

A bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2009 and an explanatory statement are printed separately.

5.20 Moore Theological College Ordinance

We requested that a bill for the Moore Theological College Ordinance 1984 Amendment Ordinance 2009 be promoted to the Synod. The bill proposes substantial amendments to Moore Theological College's constituting ordinance.

The bill and an explanatory report for the bill are printed separately.

5.21 Provisional Cathedrals of St Michael's Wollongong and St John's Parramatta

We requested that a bill for the Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Amending Ordinance 2009 be promoted to the Synod. The bill proposes extending St Michael's, Wollongong and St John's, Parramatta as Provisional Cathedrals from 1 January 2010 to 1 January 2012.

The bill and an explanatory statement for the bill are printed separately.

6. Relations with Government

6.1 Social Issues Executive

The Social Issues Executive (SIE) is one of our sub-committees. The SIE provides advice to the Archbishop on issues which are referred to it by him and provides advice on issues referred to it by us or at the request of the Synod. The SIE also identifies and initiates the study and discussion of social issues among Anglicans in the Diocese.

During the year, the SIE gave evidence at hearings and written submissions on behalf of the Diocese to Government Inquiries and public consultation on the following issues –

- surrogacy
- freedom of religion and belief
- same-sex adoption
- ethical issues on ageing and chronic illness
- code of professional conduct on medical practice
- privatisation of prisons

The SIE provided us with briefings, research support and draft correspondence in relation to –

- (a) the Sex Discrimination Act,
- (b) the Federal Human Rights consultation,
- (c) abortion law reform.

The SIE initiated discussion at churches and other Christian gatherings on issues relating to the environment, infertility and artificial reproduction technology, ethics and ageing, church and state, poverty and social exclusion. It also participated in the Disability Ministry Network and the Australian Public Theology Network.

6.2 Australia's Future Tax System Review

Last year we noted an inquiry being undertaken by Treasury about Australia's future tax system. We made a submission to the Inquiry making the following key points –

- There is a need positively to recognise the valuable contribution made by charities and religious institutions and charitable funds to the “social economy” and social inclusion through the concessions and benefits available to them.
- A clear articulation of the place of charities in society in promoting the common good has been missing from current regulatory regimes. Although it exists in judicial decisions, it is noticeably absent in a regime where the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is the primary “gate keeper”. The ATO, like other taxing authorities, has a

statutory responsibility to protect the tax base and not to provide an intentional, policy-based regime for the charities sector.

- There remains a need for a high level, in-principle commitment to support the charities sector as a key player in the provision of services and support to social inclusion. This could be achieved by the introduction of a form of charities' commission.
- Any legislative reform relating to taxation of charities should reflect the common law of charities as it presently stands, including the role of judicial interpretation, because this has enabled the historical flexible response to need which has been a feature of the role of charities in society.

The Inquiry's report is due to be released by the end of the year.

6.3 Inquiry into the effectiveness of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 in eliminating discrimination and promoting gender equality

Last year we were informed about an Inquiry by the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee into the effectiveness of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 in eliminating discrimination and promoting gender equality. We noted a recommendation of the Inquiry Committee that further consideration be given to removing the existing permanent exemptions in the Act and replacing them with a general limitations clause.

We requested the Social Issues Executive, in consultation with the Archbishop and the Secretariat, to write to the Federal Attorney General, as he considers his response to the Senate Inquiry's recommendation, to urge him to –

- make no change to the current system of exemptions, and
- express support for some of the positive recommendations in the report.

We also requested that –

- (a) if there is a further consultation phase, the Social Issues Executive prepare submissions, in consultation with Anglicare, the Anglican Education Commission and other affected Anglican organisations in Sydney, and
- (b) the Social Issues Executive monitor the Standing Committee of Attorney Generals (SCAG) progress, as they consider short, medium and long term options for harmonisation of discrimination laws across Federal, State and Territory jurisdictions.

6.4 National human rights consultation

See item 8.16.

6.5 Freedom of religion and belief project

On 17 September 2008, the Human Rights Commission launched the "Freedom of religion and belief project" (FRB). The FRB's terms of reference are broad in that they seek to address the experiences and place in civil society of every religious and secular belief. On 22 September 2008 we endorsed the formation of an Oversight Committee comprising the Rev Dr Andrew Cameron, Mr Robert Wicks and Bishop Robert Forsyth (chair) to coordinate the initial response of the Diocese to the FRB.

During the year, the Oversight Committee made a submission to the FRB on our behalf and coordinated the preparation of 9 related submissions from various organisations and individuals within the Diocese under cover of a letter from the Archbishop.

In May 2009, the Oversight Committee hosted a Sydney stakeholders' meeting between FRB researchers and denominational/organisational representatives. At the stakeholders' meeting, our representatives expanded on the following particular concerns –

- (a) That any introduction of religious hate (or anti-vilification) laws will have an unacceptable "chilling-effect" on religious discourse in the public arena. The outer limits of expression already set by criminal and defamation laws provide adequate protection.
- (b) That there has been an "over-reach" of anti-discrimination laws and an increased tendency for religious exemptions to be narrowed.
- (c) That a number of questions in the FRB discussion paper appear to question whether it is appropriate for religious organisations and individuals to fully participate in public policy debate.

It is expected that a final report from the FRB will be released in early 2010. We requested the Oversight Committee to report to us about the final report once it is released.

6.6 Inquiry into the disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations

Last year we made a submission to an Inquiry by the Senate Standing Committee on Economics into the disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations. The main points of our submission were –

- We supported calls for a reform of the regulatory regimes that govern the charities sector. Principally this should address the need for harmonisation of the complex arrangements that impact on the sector. The

most significant benefits, from both direct cost savings and improved efficiencies, will come from the rationalisation and harmonisation of the range of State and Federal government regulations and tax regimes that apply to the sector.

- The sector is a significant contributor in all areas of the “social economy”. The great potential benefits for society as a whole from the sector could be lost if the current regulatory regime remains as complex and messy as it is now or is replaced by a burdensome and overly bureaucratic regime.
- The introduction of a form of charities’ commission may be an effective way to facilitate the operation and governance of the charities sector. If a charities’ commission is adopted, then it is essential that it assists charities to do what they are doing, and does not undermine or destroy the inherent flexibility, responsiveness and creativity which are the sector’s strengths.
- The scope and role of any charities’ commission should be determined on the basis of a demonstrable benefit to the public and to the sector and must be appropriate in scale and well targeted to the need. Specifically it must not be an over-engineered model as an overreaction to the relatively low level of evidence abuse.
- In particular we would support a new system of registration of charities through a charities’ commission provided such a system does not add to the overall regulatory burden on charities.

During the year, the Senate Standing Committee released its report on this matter.

We requested the Diocesan Secretary to convey to the Federal Government our in-principle support for appropriate levels of transparency and accountability for all not-for-profit organisations but our uneasiness with the “one size fits all” approach that appears to have been taken by the Inquiry Committee in a number of its recommendations. In particular we noted with concern the Inquiry Committee’s recommendation that a new special legal structure be mandatory and that all existing not-for-profit organisations be required to migrate to the new structure once it has been developed.

6.7 Taxation of commercial activities undertaken by charities

Last year we received a report about a judgment of the Full Federal Court concerning the taxable status of an entity known as Word Investments Pty Limited (“Word”). Word is connected with, and

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provides an income stream to, Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia.

In December 2008, the High Court dismissed an appeal by the Commissioner of Taxation from the decision of the Full Federal Court concerning whether Word is eligible for endorsement as an income tax exempt charitable institution. The majority judgment confirmed that an organisation, conducting activities that are not intrinsically charitable (in this case a funeral business), could nonetheless be a charitable institution for tax purposes if its objects are charitable. This is the case even if the charitable purposes are fulfilled by distributing the surpluses made from the activity to another charity (in this case Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia).

The High Court's judgment is significant as it affirms the need to make a clear distinction between the purposes of a charity and its activities. As a consequence, the High Court has confirmed that charities are not limited to raising funds through donations and passive forms of investment. It will allow charities to engage in activities that are commonly associated with commercial enterprise provided their objects remain unambiguously charitable and the revenue raised is applied toward charitable purposes.

6.8 Inquiry of the Legislative Council of NSW into the adoption of children by same-sex couples

We encouraged the Social Issues Executive to make a submission to the Inquiry of the Legislative Council of NSW into the adoption of children by same-sex couples. In its submission, the Social Issues Executive recommended that no amendment should be made to the definition of or operation of the Adoption Act 200 (NSW) in relation to same-sex couples seeking adoption.

The main recommendations of the Inquiry are –

- To amend the definition of “couple”, “defacto relationship” and “spouse” in the Adoption Act 2000 to be non-discriminatory to enable same-sex couples to apply to be assessed for adoption.
- To introduce a new second-parent adoption provision, similar to step-parent adoption.
- To include in any legislative amendment to allow same-sex adoption an exemption for faith-based adoption agencies from the application of the Anti Discrimination Act 1977.
- If an exemption is created it should be linked to a statutory requirement that church adoption agencies refer same-sex couples to another accredited agency that will assist them.
- If an exemption is created, that the Department of Community Services ensure that in practice all

applicants for adoption have equitable access to the full range of children subject to local adoption.

6.9 Productivity Commission's study into the contribution of the not-for-profit sector

In March 2009, the Commonwealth Government announced a review by the Productivity Commission of the contribution of the not-for-profit sector to Australian society. One focus of their review is a study about the way in which contributions by the not-for-profit sector are measured and whether the measurement of such contributions can be improved.

We made a submission to the Productivity Commission's review making the following main points –

- Historically the Diocese, together with other church and Christian charities, has been a major provider of social services and a contributor to social capital throughout the community.
- Unincorporated identities, such as churches, contribute greatly to our programs and to enhancing social inclusion through volunteer work and the maintenance of social networks. Any meaningful assessment of the total service provision and contribution of the not-for-profit sector should take these entities into account.
- There is a need to better recognise and measure the non-economic contribution of the not-for-profit sector to the social fabric of society, particularly in the areas of volunteering and social networking.
- Appropriate indicators focusing on outcomes and impact should be developed in order to properly measure the contribution of the sector.
- The efficiency and effectiveness of the sector could be enhanced by Government in a number of ways, including adopting a single accreditation process for all State and Federal programs, standardising the timing of reporting for service delivery outputs, reviewing the current regulatory burden associated with volunteers in the workforce and not pursuing a "one size fits all" approach to legal structure and disclosure regimes.
- The provision of Government funded services could be improved by Government in a number of ways, including streamlining tender application processes to reduce the administrative resource burden, adopting one simplified contract covering all Government departments and balancing calls for competitive neutrality with non-economic considerations to ensure the community is not left with a reduced range of services and less favourable cohesion and social inclusion outcomes.

6.10 Abortion legislation

We received a report about a proposal from the Greens to relax the laws on abortion in NSW. There is currently no indication such moves are supported by the NSW Government or Opposition. However in view of recent changes in the law in Victoria, we asked the Social Issues Executive to actively engage in the consultation process if the NSW Government refers the matter to the NSW Law Reform Commission or a Parliamentary Committee.

6.11 Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009

In June 2009, the Senate referred the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009 for inquiry and report to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee. This is a private members' bill from the Federal Greens. The objects of the bill are –

- (a) to remove from the Marriage Act 1961 discrimination against people on the basis of their sex, sexuality or gender identity,
- (b) to recognise freedom of sexuality and gender identity as fundamental human rights, and
- (c) to promote acceptance and the celebration of diversity.

The bill seeks to repeal the existing definition of marriage being “the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life” with a new definition being “the union of two people, regardless of their sex, sexuality or gender identity, voluntarily entered into for life”. Although the new definition retains the concept of life-long commitment, it removes the need for a marriage to be between a man and a woman and also removes the concept of marriage being an exclusive relationship.

We made a submission to the Inquiry opposing any changes to the Marriage Act 1961.

6.12 Review of the Banks and Bank Holidays Act 1912

We noted a review being undertaken by the NSW Government of legislation under which public holidays are proclaimed. Public holidays are gazetted each year by the Government under the Banks and Bank Holidays Act 1912. Historically all commercial activity revolved around the opening hours of banks as transactions were conducted over the counter. Over time, trading hours, banking services and patterns of working have changed such that it may no longer be appropriate to set public holidays by reference to banking activity.

We have made submissions to the Government about making Easter Day a public holiday and about the basis upon which banks are entitled to obtain an exemption from the prohibition from trading on weekends under the Banks and Bank Holidays Act 1912.

7. The International, National and Provincial Church

7.1 Appointment of the Rev David Short and the Rev Dr Jim Packer as Honorary Clerical Canons of St Andrew's Cathedral

After being informed that the clergy of St John's Shaughnessy, Vancouver, Canada had had their licences removed and had been deposed from Holy Orders, we respectfully asked the Archbishop to consider making the Rev David Short and the Rev Dr Jim Packer Honorary Clerical Canons of St Andrew's Cathedral.

We subsequently warmly welcomed the news that the Rev David Short and the Rev Dr Jim Packer had accepted the Archbishop's offer of appointment as Honorary Clerical Canons.

7.2 Appointment of the Rev Stuart Robinson as the next Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn

We congratulated the Rev Stuart Robinson on his election as the tenth Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn and assured him and his wife of our prayers as they begin this new ministry.

7.3 Province of the Anglican Church of North America

We noted that a provisional constitution for the Province of the Anglican Church in North America was adopted on 3 December 2008. We warmly welcomed the creation of the new province, sent our greetings to the faithful men and women who have taken this significant step forward in gospel mission and assured them of our prayers for God's blessing on the Province as it works to make Jesus known and as it represents orthodox North American Anglicans in the Councils of the Anglican Communion.

7.4 General Synod Statutory Assessment

Last year the General Synod office issued invoices for the 2008 statutory assessment. The amount invoiced for this Diocese was \$273,200. We noted that for the first time the 2008 statutory assessment included an amount of \$92,997 representing costs related to the employment of an Assistant to the Primate. We agreed to pay \$249,311 to the General Synod for the 2008 statutory assessment being an amount which excluded our share of the costs of employing an Assistant to the Primate.

During the year, the General Synod office issued invoices for the 2009 statutory assessment. The amount invoiced for this Diocese was \$281,396 which represented a 3% increase over the comparable figure for 2008 (\$273,200). The 2009 statutory assessment included an amount of \$95,787 (\$92,997 in 2008) representing costs related to the employment of an Assistant to the Primate, of which our share is \$24,606 (\$23,889 in 2008).

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Under the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2008, the Synod allocated an amount of \$257,000 to cover our 2009 statutory assessment. Accordingly we authorised the payment of \$256,790 to the General Synod for the 2009 statutory assessment which excluded an amount for the costs of the Assistant to the Primate. We also authorised payment from 2009 Synod Fund Contingencies of an amount to meet our proportion of the costs of the Assistant to the Primate for the period up to her resignation in mid-June on the basis that –

- this payment is made without agreeing that there is any ground for the position of Assistant to the Primate to be paid as part of the statutory assessment, and
- no consideration will be given to paying for a replacement Assistant until there has been consultations between us and the General Synod Standing Committee.

We subsequently appointed Mr Neil Cameron, Mr Robert Tong, the Rev Gavin Poole, the Rev Rick Smith and the Rev Dr Mark Thompson as our representatives to consult with the General Synod Standing Committee. Following their first meeting with representatives from the General Synod Standing Committee on 12 June 2009, we asked our representatives to continue in dialogue with the General Synod Standing Committee on the matters raised at that meeting and related matters.

No further meeting with representatives from the General Synod Standing Committee has been held to date.

However in considering the bill for the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2009 (see item 4.9), we requested the General Synod Standing Committee to bring a budget to General Synod in 2010 which recognises the present serious constraints consequent on the state of the Australian economy and, in particular, reduces the amount to be raised by assessments by 25% of the amount payable in 2009.

7.5 Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans

Last year we received a Statement made by the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) at the conclusion of its June conference together with the Jerusalem Declaration which forms part of the Statement. The Jerusalem Declaration announced the establishment of a “Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans for the benefit of the Church and the furtherance of its Mission”.

We authorised the Diocesan Secretary to submit an application for this Diocese to become a member of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans.

7.6 General Synod canons

During the year we considered a number of canons made by the General Synod at its session in 2007. A report about these canons together with our recommendations is printed separately.

7.7 Reference to the Appellate Tribunal concerning the Administration of Holy Communion by persons other than a priest or presbyter

We were informed that the President of the Appellate Tribunal had received from the Primate a reference of questions concerning the administration of Holy Communion by persons other than a priest or presbyter.

In response, we informed the General Secretary that this Diocese did not wish to participate in the consideration of this reference by the Tribunal.

8. Sydney Synod Matters

8.1 Proposed response to feedback from 2008 Synod survey

Following the 2008 session of Synod, members were asked to complete a survey about various aspects of the Synod. Responses to the survey were received from about 200 members.

A report setting out a summary of feedback from the survey and the action proposed to be taken in response to the feedback is printed separately.

8.2 Parental leave for clergy

At Synod in 2008, the Archbishop was asked the following question –

- (a) does the Diocese have a policy or a set of recommendations for maternity and/or paternity leave for clergy and other church workers and for employees of diocesan organisations, and
- (b) if such a policy exists, is there any provision for paid maternity and/or paternity leave, and if so, what is the provision?

In his response to this question, the Archbishop indicated there is no diocesan policy or set of recommendations for maternity or paternity leave but that it would be appropriate as an initial step, to determine whether we wished to reconsider this matter at a future meeting.

We have agreed to reconsider this matter at a future meeting.

8.3 Clergy Removals Fund

Last year we requested that a bill for the Clergy Removals Fund Ordinance 2003 Amendment Ordinance 2008 be moved at the Synod

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to ensure that the Fund remained in surplus beyond 2011. The Synod commenced consideration of the bill at its 2008 session but deferred further consideration until 2009.

During the year we received a report from the Finance Committee which indicated that based on current projections the Fund will remain in surplus for a longer period than initially anticipated. This is due in part to forecast payments for clergy removals being lower than initially expected and also a significant reduction in projected administrative expenses.

We have therefore requested that a motion be moved at Synod this year to enable the bill to be withdrawn from Synod.

8.4 25/03 Freemasonry

By Synod resolution 25/03, the Synod, noting the 1988 report to Synod entitled "Freemasonry Examined" and subsequent resolution 9/88 of the Synod –

- (a) affirmed that Freemasonry and Christianity are fundamentally and irreconcilably incompatible, and
- (b) affirmed that Freemasonry teaches and upholds a system of false religious and spiritual beliefs that are contrary to biblical Christianity .

By that resolution, the Synod also requested that we undertake the preparation for the production and distribution of a clear and an unambiguous booklet suitable for wide distribution, examining the key rights, teachings and beliefs of Freemasonry and explaining why they differ from biblical Christianity and explaining why it is wrong for a Christian to belong to the Lodge.

During the year we requested the Principal of Moore Theological College to arrange for the College to prepare, in consultation with the Archbishop, the booklet referred to in Synod resolution 25/03.

The booklet is still being prepared.

8.5 26/06 Parish Development reviews 12/07 Parish Development reviews

By resolution 12/07, the Synod, noting the previous resolution 26/06 on this matter, again –

- urged the filling of vacancies in the membership of the Parish Review Monitor Panel and the rapid convening of that Panel, and
- requested the Panel to develop and publish by 31 March 2008, guidelines as to the process and best practice for the conduct of parish reviews, along with a list of suitably trained, experienced and gifted review group facilitators and members which it has accredited, and

- encouraged every parish to undergo a development review utilising the terms of the Parish Development Review Ordinance 2001, within the next 5 years.

Having considered a report on this matter from the Parish Review Monitoring Panel, we declined to adopt its recommendation to proceed to develop guidelines and train and accredit facilitators and review group members despite the current lack of demand for reviews. Instead we requested that a bill to repeal the Parish Development Review Ordinance 2001 be promoted to the Synod.

We also appointed a taskforce to recommend alternative approaches for encouraging a culture of review among our parishes and clergy, and for facilitating actual review mechanisms where parishes and clergy wish to request a review, with a view to such recommendations being provided to the Synod in 2010.

A bill for the Parish Review Repeal Ordinance 2009 and an explanatory statement are printed separately.

8.6 11/07 Church membership

By resolution 11/07 the Synod –

- noted that the last report into Anglican Church membership was delivered in 1975, and
- asked us to convene a committee to investigate the theology and practice of church membership and to make recommendations to Synod as to what changes to our ordinances and structures, if any, would best strengthen and deepen church life and promote the meaningful involvement of members in “partnership in the gospel”.

We appointed a committee to undertake the work requested in Synod resolution 11/07 on Church Membership and to report to us about its findings and recommendations.

We have not yet received a report from the committee about this matter.

8.7 35/07 Theology of Christian assembly

By resolution 35/07, the Synod, thankful to Almighty God for the inheritance of the Book of Common Prayer, and mindful of the biblical injunction for believers to gather together regularly as the Body of Believers –

- asked the Doctrine Commission to prepare a report for the next Synod presenting a theology of Christian assembly which can help shape authentic, biblical and Anglican orders of service suitable for the contemporary church, and

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- asked the Archbishop's Liturgical Panel to review its Sunday Services in consultation with the Doctrine Commission and the Diocese as a whole, and
- requested the Archbishop to appoint a committee to investigate and report on the architecture of buildings for contemporary church with special attention to the impact of technological changes.

Last year the Doctrine Commission provided the Synod with a report on a theology of Christian assembly.

This year a committee appointed by the Archbishop reported on the architecture of buildings for contemporary church. The report is printed separately.

8.8 36/07 Biblical teaching on Jesus Christ

By resolution 36/07, the Synod requested the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to provide a report which explores the importance of penal substitution in understanding the Bible's teaching on the atonement.

We have not yet received a report from the Doctrine Commission on this matter.

8.9 38/07 Fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death

By resolution 38/07, the Synod requested the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to consider the appropriateness, with respect to the teaching of Scripture and the Anglican formularies, of Anglican churches having a fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death, and to bring a report to Synod at a convenient time.

The Doctrine Commission has not yet reported on this matter.

8.10 20/08 Parish cost recoveries for churches without property

By resolution 20/08, the Synod requested us to bring to the next session of the Synod a parochial cost recoveries ordinance which applies a variable charge component which takes into consideration whether or not a parochial unit has church trust property.

We prepared the bill for the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2009 in a form which excludes the cost associated with property insurance from the variable charge payable by parochial units without property.

See item 4.12.

8.11 21/08 Administrative burden on parishes 25/08 Business managers for churches

By resolution 21/08, the Synod requested that a report be provided

about how the administrative burden on parishes can be alleviated. By resolution 25/08, the Synod requested that arrangements for the employment of business managers for churches be investigated and that consideration be given to undertaking a pilot program on appointing such managers.

A report about these matters is printed separately.

8.12 24/08 Review of General Synod legislation

By resolution 24/08, the Synod noted that we are undertaking a review of all General Synod legislation currently in force in the Diocese and requested a report on the review at its next session.

As part of the review, we agreed to promote to the Synod a bill for an ordinance to exclude a number of canons from having effect in this Diocese.

A bill for the General Synod Legislation Repeal and Exclusion Ordinance 2009 together with a report about the review of General Synod legislation is printed separately.

8.13 26/08 Consultation with affiliated churches

By resolution 26/08, the Synod warmly welcomed, as an expression of our partnership in the gospel, the formal affiliation between this Diocese and the following churches –

Northern Lakes Evangelical Church
Albury Bible Fellowship
The Point Community Church
The Lakes Evangelical Church
Maitland Evangelical Church
Stanthorpe Evangelical Community Church

The Synod requested that we consult with each of our affiliates about the ways in which our partnership in the gospel can be strengthened and to report back to the Synod this year about any action taken for this purpose.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

8.14 32/08 Report on procedures and sanctions for all standards in *Faithfulness in Service*

By resolution 32/08 the Synod, among other things, requested us to report to the 2009 session of Synod (with proposed draft ordinances if thought necessary) on the possibility of providing specific procedures and sanctions in relation to all standards enunciated in *Faithfulness in Service*. The Synod also requested us to consider all possible procedures and sanctions including alternative, non-legal, mediatory and conflict solving processes.

38 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

During the year we established a working group to develop, in consultation with the Safe Ministry Board, a diocesan grievance policy and procedure in response to resolution 32/08.

A report about this matter, including a proposed grievance policy and procedure and a bill to amend the Parish Relationships Ordinance 2001, is printed separately.

We requested that a motion be moved at the Synod to enable members to provide comments on the proposed grievance policy and procedure and amendments to the Parish Relationships Ordinance 2001 with a view to revised forms of these documents being brought to the Synod in 2010.

8.15 33/08 Anglican chaplains

By resolution 33/08, the Synod appointed a committee to report to us on the best way to promote and support the work of Anglican chaplains in universities and TAFEs, including the possibility of establishing a new body to oversee the appointment, funding and work of such chaplains. The Synod also requested the committee recommend how such a body would be structured and the implications for funding for the 2010 – 2012 funding triennium.

We received a report from the committee appointed by the Synod and requested that a motion be promoted to this year's Synod for the purposes of establishing a Tertiary Ministry Oversight Committee. We also agreed that due to the strategic nature of tertiary ministry, consideration should be given as to whether the current levels of funding of tertiary ministry should be increased from 2010 notwithstanding the current financial challenges but taking into account the current total level of funding already provided for these ministries.

As an interim arrangement we –

- appointed an interim Tertiary Ministry Oversight Committee until Synod elections are possible, and
- asked the Mission Board to consider making recommendations in relation to the direct provision of Synod funding for tertiary ministry in conjunction with its recommendations for Synod appropriations and allocations for the 2010 – 2012 triennium, and
- requested that, upon its creation, the Tertiary Ministry Oversight Committee develop a strategic plan for the purpose of making recommendations in relation to funding from 2011 onwards and the development of further forms of funding for tertiary ministry.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

8.16 35/08 Human rights framework for Australia

By resolution 35/08, the Synod –

- welcomed the proposed Federal Government consultation process on the protection of human rights in Australia, and
- thanked the Social Issues Executive for the work they have undertaken in the area of human rights to date and requested that they maintain a watching brief on developments in this area, and
- requested the Diocesan Doctrine Commission, in consultation with the Social Issues Executive, to prepare for us as a matter of priority a paper clarifying our theological understanding of human rights, and
- requested us to engage with the Federal Government consultation process and report progress to the next session of the Synod.

A copy of our submission to the National Human Rights Consultation under cover of a brief progress report is printed separately.

8.17 Resolutions made by the Synod in 2008 and not mentioned in this report

Circulars were sent to parishes and organisations about the matters arising from the 2008 Synod session. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons and organisations.

8.18 Ordinances for this session

The bills for ordinances for this session of the Synod are printed separately, together with accompanying reports or explanatory statements.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

ROBERT WICKS
Diocesan Secretary

29 September 2009