

## Resolutions of the 2005 session of the 47<sup>th</sup> Synod

### 1/05 Archdeacon Peter Smart

Synod gives thanks to God for the ministry of the Venerable Peter Smart, who retires from Synod at the end of this year, and in particular -

- (a) his faithful ministry at Christ Church Lavender Bay since 1997 which has borne much fruit in people coming to know Christ and enabled the parish to develop beyond its provisional parish classification,
- (b) his skilful administration as Registrar of the Diocese (1997-2001),
- (c) his outstanding service to Anglican education as Headmaster of Illawara Grammar School (1989-96) and Principal of Calrossy School & Christian Education Institute (1976-88),
- (d) his former ministry in the Diocese of Armidale since his graduation from Moore College, and
- (e) his commitment to the work of the gospel and the glory of God over 43 years of ordained ministry.

Synod expresses its gratitude to Peter and wishes him and his wife, Elizabeth, God's blessing upon their future life and ministry.

(Bishop Glenn Davies 10/10/2005)

### 2/05 Appointment of the Stipends and Allowances Committee

Synod requests that the Standing Committee –

- (a) reconstitute the Stipends and Allowances Committee as a subcommittee of the Standing Committee, with power to co-opt, and
- (b) appoint persons to be members of the subcommittee for a 3 year term at the first meeting of the Standing Committee after the first ordinary session of each Synod, and
- (c) report its findings about stipends and allowances to the Synod each year.

(Mr Philip Gerber 10/10/2005)

### 3/05 Prohibited persons

Synod requests that the Standing Committee amend the *Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988* to provide that –

- (a) a prohibited person under the *Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998* may not be elected as a parish representative to the Presentation Board (Nominator), and
- (b) a person elected as a parish representative must, within the time required by the ordinance, make a declaration that he or she is not a prohibited person, and
- (c) a parish representative ceases to hold the position of parish representative if the person –
  - (i) fails, within the time required by the ordinance, to make a declaration that he or she is not a prohibited person, and
  - (ii) becomes a prohibited person while holding that position.

(The Rev David Clarke 11/10/2005)

### 4/05 Creative use of popular media to commend the gospel

Synod encourages churches to consider carefully and creatively how they might make the most of opportunities presented by popular culture, particularly film, to attract people to their meetings and to defend and commend the gospel. In particular, the Synod notes upcoming films with particular significance for the Christian message – *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (opens 9 December 2005) and *The Da Vinci Code* (opens 19 May 2006).

(Dr Greg Clarke 11/10/2005)

**5/05 The Rev Michael Deasey OAM**

Synod expresses its thanks to the Rev Michael Deasey OAM on his 25 years of service to the Diocese as Organist and Master of Choristers at St Andrew's Cathedral.

(Mr Samuel Blanch 11/10/2005)

**6/05 Proposed Federal Government workplace changes**

Synod thanks the Archbishop for his public comments in the media about the possible impact of the Federal Government's proposed workplace changes upon family and church life in the Sydney Diocese and in Australia and respectfully requests the Archbishop and/or his delegates to continue to make representations to the Federal Government about "the need for preserving shared time for children, families, relationships for all Australians".

(The Rev Denise Nicholls 12/10/2005)

**7/05 Parish Annual Financial Returns and Audited Accounts**

Synod notes that for financial year ending 2004,

- (a) 5 parishes have not yet submitted their audited accounts, and
- (b) a further 3 parishes have not yet submitted their Annual Financial Returns,

and requests those parishes to lodge the outstanding documents as soon as possible.

(Mr Graeme Marks 12/10/2005)

**8/05 Growing legalism and management**

Synod, in the light of growing legalism and management which increasingly regulates activities in many areas in our society, encourages Christian thinkers to examine these issues critically from a Biblical perspective, especially as they are affecting the Christian Church and the Anglican Church in Sydney in particular.

(Miss Joanna Warren 12/10/2005)

**9/05 Mr John Taylor**

Synod notes the death of the late John Taylor in July 2005. John was a Synod representative for many years and a Diocesan Lay Reader for over 50 years. He died with a firm trust in Jesus as his personal Saviour. Synod Gives thanks to God for John's life, faith and service to the Diocese and Synod welcomes his widow Josie who was elected to replace John as a Synod representative for Neutral Bay.

(The Rev Craig Roberts 12/10/2005)

**10/05 Australian Racing Industry**

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for a ministry of the Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy (ARCC) in seeking to bring the gospel to people in the thoroughbred horse racing industry,
- (b) gives thanks to God for the many opportunities that its members have had to minister to people through baptisms, funerals and pastoral care,
- (c) gives thanks to God for the initiative of establishing a weekly Bible study group at Randwick Racecourse, and for moves to develop a monthly fellowship meeting,
- (d) prays that God would continue to bless the work of ARCC, particularly in the provision of funds for the employment of a chaplain and through the ministry of its members to those working in the horse racing industry,
- (e) gives thanks that all the administrative and legal obligations have been fulfilled to enable ARCC formally to launch its ministry.

(Dr Karin Sowada 12/10/2005)

**11/05 New Capital Project**

Synod requests that the Standing Committee, in prayerful dependence on God and in fellowship with parishes and diocesan organisations –

- (a) continues to pursue –
  - (i) utilisation of the Diocesan database for Mission purposes, and
  - (ii) opportunities to release capital for use in developing that infrastructure required for Mission, and
- (b) pursues strategies which will enable the raising of the bulk of the infrastructure required for the mission through public appeals to Sydney Anglicans and through other fundraising initiatives, and
- (c) reports progress to the Synod in 2006.

(Mr Rodney Dredge 12/10/2005)

**12/05 The Rev Stuart Robinson**

Synod welcomes the appointment by the Standing Committee of General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia of the Rev Stuart Robinson as National Mission Facilitator (part-time) for an initial period of 12 months commencing August 2005.

Synod welcomes also the adoption of Mission and Evangelism as the key focus and strategic priority of this General Synod Standing Committee.

Synod assures Stuart of our prayerful support in this significant opportunity to challenge and address dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia on matters of mission and evangelism as well as taking up his new responsibilities in the parish of St Paul's Chatswood.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth 17/10/2005)

**13/05 Evangelical response to the Windsor Report**

Synod –

- (a) expresses its thanks to the publishers, editors and contributors of "*The Faith Once for All Delivered: An Australian Evangelical Response to the Windsor Report*" published in January 2005 by the Anglican Church Record in conjunction with the Anglican Church League, and
- (b) commends this publication to the churches and people of this Diocese as a helpful contribution for understanding the current debate, underlying issues and an appropriate evangelical response, and
- (c) commends this publication to the leaders of churches and Dioceses outside Sydney for their consideration.

(The Rev Richard Blight 17/10/2005)

**14/05 Parishes who are struggling financially and with ministry strategies**

Synod requests that the Standing Committee –

- (a) call upon the Regional Councils to indicate what strategies and policies have been developed by the respective regional councils to assist parishes who are struggling financially or who are struggling to implement ministry strategies, and
- (b) provide a report identifying for Synod in 2006 the strategies and policies which have been developed by the respective regional councils to assist parishes who are struggling financially or who are struggling to implement ministry strategies, and
- (c) incorporate in the report recommendations as to how the personal and physical resources of the Diocese can be more efficiently utilised to implement the successful strategies and policies which have been developed by the respective Regional Councils to assist parishes who are struggling financially or who are struggling to implement ministry strategies.

(Mr Andrew Frank 17/10/2005)

**15/05 Pastoral and practical support for clergy**

Synod requests that the Standing Committee or a committee appointed by the Standing Committee report to Synod in 2006 on the following –

- (a) Is there a need to provide formalised pastoral and practical support for clergy within the Diocese?
- (b) If question (a) is answered in the affirmative, please identify the needs which need to be met?
- (c) What formalised pastoral and practical support in addition to current resources can be developed and offered to clergy and parishes to support the clergy.

(Mr Andrew Frank 17/10/2005)

**16/05 Review of discipline ordinances**

With a view to creating public trust in the Diocese of Sydney as an authoritative institution, Synod requests that the committee appointed by Synod to review the *Tribunal Ordinance 1962*, the *Church Discipline Ordinance 2002* and the *Relinquishment of Holy Orders Ordinance 1994* consider incorporating in the draft amending ordinance the appointment of an individual or the utilisation of a mechanism to overtly promote independence, fairness and integrity within the disciplinary process.

(Mr Andrew Frank 17/10/2005)

**17/05 TAFE colleges**

Synod notes that more people attend colleges of TAFE in Australia than those who attend universities and therefore encourages the Standing Committee, the regional councils and all parishes to give a high priority to supporting the development of ministries to TAFE students.

(Mr Philip Gerber 17/10/2005)

**18/05 The Rev Canon John Livingstone**

Synod thanks God for the outstanding ministry exercised by the Rev Canon John Livingstone over 41 years of ordained ministry in the Diocese and by his wife Jan in support of John and in the national MU and wishes them well in the work for their further ministry following John's retirement.

(Bishop Reg Piper 17/10/2005)

**19/05 Hoxton Park: Reclassification as a Parish**

Synod assents to the reclassification of Hoxton Park as a parish with effect from 1 January 2006.

(The Rev Bruce Dingwall 17/10/2005)

**20/05 Communion with the Church of England in England**

Synod, while supporting the adoption of the General Synod canon to substitute a new section 6 in the Constitution of The Anglican Church of Australia –

- (a) notes, with regret, that the recent developments within the Church of England in England relating to same sex relationships may make it desirable that the existing section 6 of the Constitution (if it remains unchanged) and the proposed section 6(1) (if it is substituted for the existing section 6) be modified to make continued communion with the Church of England in England subject to the operation of canon of the General Synod, and
- (b) requests that the Standing Committee address this matter.

(Mr Robert Tong 18/10/2005)

**21/05 Anglican Communion**

Synod notes the establishment of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Panel of Reference and encourages the Archbishop of Canterbury in making arrangements to protect and support parishes seeking alternative Episcopal oversight over matters of significance where there is repudiation of Biblical authority.

(The Rev Dr Mark Thompson 18/10/2005)

**22/05 The Rev Ken Coleman**

Synod notes the retirement of the Rev Ken Coleman in February 2006 and thanks God for his outstanding Ministry in the wider church and this Diocese over the past 45 years. His ministry has included service with the Borneo Evangelical Mission in Borneo. His other positions have been –

State Secretary OMF Brisbane  
Curate at Avalon  
Lecturer Bible College of South Australia  
Vicar St Andrews Kowloon  
Rector of Avalon  
Australian Director of OMF  
Rector of Balgowlah  
Area Dean of Warringah  
Director Cross Cultural Ministries HMS Sydney

and more recently as Curate-in-charge Auburn and part time Multicultural worker and advisor Western Region.

He has also been a member since inception of the Diocesan Indigenous Peoples Ministry Committee, the Multicultural Network Forum, the Diocesan Multicultural Advisory Group, a consultant to the Northern Region Cross Cultural Ministry Committee and an honourable member of the Chinese Ministers Fellowship.

Synod offers its prayer best wishes to Ken and Maureen for a long and happy retirement and God's blessing on their future ministry together.

(Bishop Ivan Lee 18/10/2005)

**23/05 Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission**

Synod notes the release by the Anglican – Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) of *Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ* (The Seattle Statement) on 16 May 2005 but regrets that many of the conclusions of the report are in conflict with the teaching of Scripture. We therefore distance ourselves from the report and further state that the Commission does not represent or speak on behalf of the Diocese of Sydney. Synod also requests that the Diocesan Doctrine Commission prepare a response to the report. This response to be made available to the Diocese for use with the statement as the basis of study and dialogue.

(The Rev Dr Mark Thompson 18/10/2005)

**24/05 Diocesan Development (Provision of Capital) Ordinance 2005**

Synod –

- (a) encourages the Glebe Administration Board to establish a Diocesan Development Fund; and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to take such actions and pass such ordinances as may be required –
  - (i) to transfer the assets of the Sydney Anglican Car and Insurance Fund ("Car Fund") to the Sydney Church of England Finance and Loans Board (the "F & L Board") to be held on trust for the purposes of the F & L Board; and

- (ii) (if the Board of the Car Fund cease to operate) to ensure that the members of the F & L Board continue to hold office and be appointed on the same basis as the Board of the Car Fund under the *Sydney Anglican Car and Insurance Fund Ordinance 1978*.

(The Rev Dr Tim Foster 18/10/2005)

### **25/05 Bishop of Gippsland**

Synod congratulates the Rev John McIntyre, Rector of St Saviour's, South Sydney and Area Dean of Sydney South Area Deanery, on the announcement of his appointment as the eleventh Bishop of Gippsland and assures him of our prayers and best wishes in this important new ministry for Christ.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth 18/10/2005)

### **26/05 Reforming parochial structure and administration**

Synod, noting the Policy 4 report about reforming parochial structure and administration –

- (a) gives its in-principle support for the proposals outlined in the report apart from the proposal that the tenure of ministers of provisional parishes be subject to review, and
- (b) requests that the Standing Committee bring to the next session of the Synod an ordinance or ordinances which would give effect to these proposals.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth 18/10/2005)

### **27/05 Mr Roderick West**

Synod notes that this evening marks the retirement from the Synod of Mr Roderick West after serving for the last 31 years, give thanks to God for Mr West's contribution to this House and the Diocese in many other ways and wishes Mr West God's blessing for the future.

(Mr Peter Kell 18/10/2005)

### **28/05 Safe Ministry Policy**

Synod –

- (a) again requests that each parish council and diocesan organisation specifically adopt the following Safe Ministry Policy –
- “[name of parish or organisation] is committed to the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare and safety of all people, particularly within its own community. To ensure the safety of children and vulnerable people in our communities, [name of parish or organisation], in conjunction with the Anglican Church of Australia, will -
- Carefully recruit and train its clergy and church workers,
  - Adopt and encourage safe ministry practices by its clergy and church workers,
  - Respond promptly to each concern raised about the behaviour of its clergy and church workers,
  - Offer pastoral support to any person who has suffered abuse, and
  - Provide supervision of and pastoral accountability to any person known to have abused a child or another vulnerable person’
- (b) requests that each non-parish organisation appoint at least one safe ministry representative equivalent to the parish safe ministry representative or a committee, if required, to take responsibility under the CEO to implement safe ministry policies in their organisation.

(Mr Philip Gerber 18/10/2005)

**29/05 Boyer Lectures**

Synod congratulates the Archbishop on having been invited by the ABC to give the 2005 Boyer Lectures and encourages members to make the lectures widely known as the Archbishop points our community to the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Dr Philip Selden 18/10/2005)

**30/05 Administration of confirmation by presbyters**

Synod –

- (a) endorses the proposal that confirmation should not be required of those baptised as adults, before their being admitted to holy communion,
- (b) endorses the proposal that clergy, under licence from the Archbishop, be allowed to administer confirmation,
- (c) encourages the involvement of senior laypersons in the catechetical preparation of candidates for confirmation,
- (d) endorses the proposal that clergy, under licence from the Archbishop, be allowed to receive into the fellowship of the Anglican Church people who are communicant members of other Christian denominations, and
- (e) requests that the Standing Committee bring an ordinance to a forthcoming session of Synod or promote a General Synod Canon for the next General Synod that would make the above proposals possible.

(Bishop Glenn Davies 18/10/2005)