

Resolutions of the 2013 session of the 49th Synod

(Resolutions 1/13 to 3/13 were passed at the Archbishop's Election Synod in August 2013.)

4/13 Review of School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975

Synod –

- (a) notes the report summarising submissions received from Synod members, school councils and others in response to Synod resolution 1/12, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to appoint a committee, with appropriate representation from chaplains and heads of schools (or their nominees), to consider the submissions received with a view to bringing an ordinance to the next ordinary session of Synod to amend the *School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975*.

(Mr Tony Willis 14/10/2013)

5/13 Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

Synod –

- (a) receives the annual report of the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee ("TEMOC"), to which is appended a discussion paper about Anglican ministry to the TAFE and CVET sector, and
- (b) notes that TEMOC has requested that parishes and organisations respond to the Discussion Paper by 30 March 2014, and
- (c) notes that TEMOC will host a consultation day on VET ministry in April 2014, with a view to bringing specific proposal to the Synod in 2014 for the direction and funding of this work.

(Professor Chris Bellenger 14/10/2013)

6/13 Amendments to the *Faithfulness in Service* definition of bullying

Synod, noting –

- (a) the terms of resolution 27/12,
- (b) that Safe Work Australia is yet to finalise its model code on workplace bullying, and
- (c) that the Diocesan Grievance Policy and Procedure is due for review by the Standing Committee after July 2014,

defers consideration of the amendment to the definition of "bullying" in *Faithfulness in Service* until the next ordinary session of the Synod.

(Mr Lachlan Bryant 14/10/2013)

7/13 Review of the Department of Evangelism and New Churches

Synod establishes the following guidelines with respect to the planting of new fellowships by the Department of Evangelism and New Churches ("ENC") –

- (a) Before establishing a new fellowship, ENC should discuss the proposal with the Parish Council, Minister, Mission Area Leader, Regional Council and Regional Bishop of the parish in which the fellowship is proposed to be situated.
- (b) In the context of this discussion, a representative of ENC (preferably the proposed new fellowship leader) should present a ministry plan for the new fellowship. It is not necessary that this ministry plan be agreed to by the parties present (although this is preferable) but ENC must consider any feedback given.
- (c) All parties should encourage and maintain communication and a spirit of partnership in relation to their ministry activities.

(Mr Malcolm Purvis 14/10/2013)

8/13 General Synod Assessments and Consultation

Synod, noting the report "28/11 General Synod Assessments and Consultation" –

- (a) encourages ongoing dialogue at the forthcoming session of the General Synod in 2014 in response to General Synod resolution 155/10 concerning the unity of the Anglican Church of Australia, and
- (b) welcomes the work of the Financial Principles and Policies Task Force (the "Task Force") in considering the financial principles and policies which should apply to the use of General Synod funds, and
- (c) endorses the Standing Committee's response to the proposals in the Task Force's report of October 2012, and
- (d) notes the General Synod Standing Committee is due to consider the outcome of the Task Force's work at its meeting in November 2013, and
- (e) in anticipation of the satisfactory resolution of this matter, approves the payment of an additional \$27,332 from funds under the Synod's control to meet the shortfall between the total amount to be invoiced for the General Synod assessment in 2013 (\$348,332) and the amount currently allocated by the Synod for this purpose (\$321,000).

(Dr Robert Tong 14/10/2013)

9/13 Protecting, strengthening and promoting freedom of religion and related freedoms

Synod –

- (i) recognising the importance of freedom of religion and its manifestation in the related freedoms of speech, association and conscience for a healthy and mature society,
 - (ii) declaring its opinion that such freedoms are at risk of being undermined in Australian society due to a focus on other, sometimes competing, rights,
- (a) calls on the Federal and State governments to take steps to ensure that the freedoms of religion, speech, association and conscience are protected, strengthened and promoted,
 - (b) respectfully requests the Archbishop to convey the above terms of this resolution to the Prime Minister, the Premier and their respective Attorneys General, and
 - (c) requests the Standing Committee of the General Synod to promote by its request a motion for a resolution in similar terms to the above at the forthcoming session of the General Synod in 2014.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth 14/10/2013)

10/13 Retirement of Dr Philip Selden

Synod gives thanks to God for the ministry of Dr Philip Selden who retires in November as Diocesan Registrar and Executive Assistant to the Archbishop after almost 12 years of dedicated and faithful service. During this time Philip has served as a member of the Standing Committee, the chair of the Work Outside the Diocese Committee, a member of the Endowment of the See Committee, the Registrar for the Synod of the Province of New South Wales and in numerous other ways to serve the Diocese. Synod expresses its gratitude to Philip for his service and wishes him and his wife, Pru, God's blessing for their future life and ministry.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth 14/10/2013)

11/13 Purchase of Macquarie Anglican Grammar School and Orange Anglican Grammar School in the Diocese of Bathurst

Synod –

- (a) notes with pleasure that the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation has purchased Macquarie Anglican Grammar School in Dubbo and Orange Anglican Grammar School, both in the Diocese of Bathurst,
- (b) gives thanks to God that these purchases have been made with the goodwill of the Bishop of Bathurst and the Archbishop of Sydney,
- (c) offers its prayerful encouragement to the Principals of these two schools, respectively Mr Geoff Fouracre and Mr Len Elliott, and

- (d) congratulates the Corporation on these purchases which will help to ensure the future of the schools in the provision of Christian education.

(Mr Tony Willis 14/10/2013)

12/13 Archbishop Glenn Davies

Synod thanks God for the election of Dr Glenn Davies as Archbishop of Sydney and assures him of our wholehearted and prayerful support. We thank God for his recent statement on the Bible's teaching about marriage as "an exclusive relationship between a man and a woman for life". We also thank God for his inaugural sermon in which he reaffirmed the priority of prayer in his own ministry and in the ministry of each one of us.

(The Rev Dr Mark Thompson 14/10/13)

13/13 *Jesusbrings* mission campaign

Synod enthusiastically endorses the united diocesan mission campaign *Jesusbrings* and commends it to parishes and organisations for each to prayerfully consider how they can be involved in Jesus bringing forgiveness to the guilty, hope to the broken, eternity without tears, real community, satisfaction to the satisfied, joy to marriage, wisdom to parents and life to the full and encourages each parish to set apart time in their services on Sunday 2nd February 2014, or another convenient Sunday, to pray for the mission.

(The Rev Dominic Steele 14/10/2013)

14/13 Goal of a paperless Synod

Synod, noting the initial steps towards reducing the distribution of materials to Synod members in printed form by the passing of the *Synod (Electronic Communications) Amendment Ordinance 2013* (the "Electronic Communications Ordinance"), adopts the goal of operating on an essentially paperless basis by the 51st Synod (in 2017) and to this end –

- (a) requests the Standing Committee to make regulations under clause 6B(4) of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* along the lines outlined in the Explanatory Statement for the Electronic Communications Ordinance and to review the scope of those regulations from time to time, and
- (b) encourages members, where possible, to download electronic forms of Synod documents on tablets or laptops for use during Synod sessions in preference to using printed forms, and
- (c) requests the Registrar to ask the members of the 50th Synod whether they opt to continue receiving printed forms of the Synod book and other large documents for use during sessions of this Synod and to report this information to the first session of this Synod, and
- (d) requests the Secretariat, in light of this information, to consider and report to the Standing Committee on further steps that might be taken to achieve the goal of a paperless Synod, and
- (e) requests the Standing Committee, when choosing a venue for sessions of the 51st Synod, to take into account the provision of recharging points and the capacity of the venue to support Synod members accessing and downloading Synod documents by Wi-Fi during these sessions.

(The Rev Nigel Fortescue 14/10/2013)

15/13 Upholding the classical definition of marriage

Synod –

- (a) regrets and opposes any misuse of the Bible to justify a lack of love towards members of the gay community, and
- (b) noting the millions of Australians who want to uphold the classical definition of marriage, as reflected in the *Marriage Act 1961*, commends the Federal Government on its decision to challenge the Australian Capital Territory's proposed "same sex marriage" legislation, should such legislation be passed, and

- (c) urges the Federal Government to take whatever action may be necessary to preserve the God-given institution of marriage, desiring our society to avoid the significant ramifications of a breakdown in or dilution of the most basic family unit.

(The Rev Raj Gupta 15/10/2013)

16/13 GAFCON 2013

Synod welcomes the second Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) to be held in Nairobi, 21 to 26 October 2013. It commends the theme, "Make disciples of all nations..." amidst the continual challenge to uphold the authority of Scripture, the truth of the gospel and the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Synod looks forward to the Conference's contributions in maintaining and generating partnerships with faithful Anglicans from around the world. Synod encourages prayer for the Conference, the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglican (GFCA) General Secretary, Archbishop Peter Jensen and the 94 Australian delegates.

(The Rev Gavin Poole 15/10/2013)

17/13 The Rev Eric Bird

Synod gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of the Rev Eric Bird. We praise God for the eternal results of his ministry in the parishes of Punchbowl, Wollongong, Keiraville and Minto, and most especially for the 24 years of his tireless service in retirement to establish the parish of Shoalhaven Heads. Eric was also a pioneer in the use of radio for Christian ministry, offered low-cost professional desktop publishing and printing services, and played a significant role in bringing "Evangelism Explosion" to our Diocese. He was also a member of the Board of the Department of Evangelism that recommended John Chapman's appointment to his role as Diocesan Missioner.

In all things, Eric humbly sought to promote the clear teaching of God's word, and Synod is thankful to God that he was pleased to use Eric Bird to promote the Gospel by every means possible. We offer our condolences to his widow Dorothy and their family, and share in their rejoicing that Eric has received his long-awaited hope.

(The Rev Anthony Douglas 15/10/2013)

18/13 Review of the Discipline Ordinance 2006 and Relinquishment of Holy Orders Ordinance 1994

Synod requests the Standing Committee to review the *Discipline Ordinance 2006* and the *Relinquishment of Holy Orders Ordinance 1994*, with particular regard to their interaction with the *Child Protection (Working With Children) Act 2012* (NSW), and to bring a report and any proposed amending ordinance or ordinances to the 1st ordinary session of the 50th Synod.

(Mr Garth Blake 15/10/2013)

19/13 Review of the Diocesan Mission and the next phase of Mission

Synod, noting the report on the review of the Diocesan Mission and the next phase of Mission, requests its members to provide comment on the draft early exposure of a possible new Diocesan Mission outlined in the report by 30 November 2013, with a view to a new Diocesan Mission being prepared by the Archbishop and Standing Committee, and circulated to Synod members by 1 August 2014 for consideration at the 2014 session of Synod.

(Bishop Peter Hayward 15/10/2013)

20/13 Church planting models for Greenfield Areas

Synod, noting the report on the strategy for ministry in Greenfield and Brownfield areas of the Diocese, invites its members to submit comments on the holistic strategy for promoting ministry in Greenfield and Brownfield areas of the Diocese to the CPTF by 31 December 2013.

(The Rev Bruce Hall 15/10/2013)

21/13 Special Religious Education

This Synod –

- (a) acknowledges the privileged access which the Anglican Church and the other approved religious bodies have to deliver SRE in government primary and secondary schools,
- (b) acknowledges the contribution of Genr8 to helping churches to expand the provision of SRE in government secondary schools, and
- (c) notes and applauds the partnership announced between Bush Church Aid Society and Genr8 which will enable the provision of additional SRE coordinators in country regions of New South Wales so that SRE can be provided not only in the city of Sydney but throughout the State of New South Wales.

(Mr Fred Chilton 16/10/2013)

22/13 The Diocesan Mission and Baby Boomers

Given that Baby Boomers (the generation born between 1946-1962) is arguably the largest segment in the Australian population and will be entering their retirement at an unprecedented rate over the next 15 years, with more discretionary time and increased longevity, this Synod requests the Missions Committee to explore and report back to Synod on how the Diocesan Mission plan for the next 10 years will be directed toward –

- (a) ensuring that Baby Boomers in the Diocese are evangelised, nurtured in their faith, reaching out to their peers with the Gospel, and exercising their spiritual gifts and godly wisdom in vital ministry within churches and the wider community, and
- (b) raising the awareness of parishes and the Diocese concerning the needs and potential of Baby Boomers and inspiring, training, and encouraging them in ministry to their peers and others.

(Mr James Ackland 16/10/2013)

23/13 Transparency of Synod funding

Synod, in order to improve the transparency of Synod funding, requests the Standing Committee to consider, as part of its review of the document “Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities for 2013” (the “Statement”) –

- (a) requiring all potential recipients of Synod grants (under the Appropriation headings *Long Term Mission Commitments* and *Current Mission Activities*) to provide the Standing Committee, for the purposes of formulating the Synod budget for the next triennium, with information about their ongoing funding requirements for the triennium, including information similar to that referred to on page 21 of the Statement; and
- (b) making this information available to Synod members.

(Mr John Pascoe 16/10/2013)

24/13 Christian marriage

This Synod, noting that all authorised services of this Church solemnising marriage affirm that God's word defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman and noting further that celebrants acting in the name of this Church are required, as part of their registration as celebrants, to use only Anglican rites on such occasions, calls on the General Synod and all diocesan bishops to ensure that there are no marriages solemnised in the name of this Church which do not conform to this standard.

(The Rev Dr Mark Thompson 16/10/2013)

25/13 Parish contributions to the Synod fund

Synod –

- (a) acknowledges the generous and sacrificial contribution from the following parish trust funds to the Synod fund each year –
- St James, Sydney
 - Manly
 - Hunters Hill
 - Narellan
 - Ryde
 - St Philips, Sydney
- (b) thanks those parishes for contributing in this way to our Diocese and so to our shared diocesan mission, and
- (c) requests the Secretary of the Synod to write to the rector each of those parishes, in their ex officio capacity as chair of their respective parish councils, thanking each parish for their partnership in the gospel expressed in their past and ongoing financial support of the Diocese and the diocesan mission.

(Canon Christopher Allan 16/10/2013)

26/13 Thanksgiving for Indigenous churches and fellowships

Synod –

- (a) thanks God for those who first brought the gospel to this land and proclaimed it to our first peoples,
- (b) thanks God for the thousands of Indigenous believers who in past days have faithfully run the race set before them,
- (c) thanks God for the leadership and members of the Indigenous churches and fellowships presently meeting in the Diocese at Glebe, Mt Druitt, Campbelltown and Nowra, and for plans to commence a work located in Redfern,
- (d) thanks God for efforts of the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee is making to grow these and other ministries,
- (e) calls on parishes and members to join in prayer for the continuing growth of the gospel among the Indigenous communities in the Diocese, and
- (f) urges parishes to consider prayer, financial and other forms of partnership with our Indigenous churches and fellowships beyond the present funding and other support provided under the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Ordinance.

(Pastor Michael Duckett 16/10/2013)

27/13 Annual Caleb Awards

Synod congratulates Anglican Youthworks upon the recent recognition of their publishing ministry through being awarded three major and significant prizes at the Caleb Awards last week.

The annual Caleb Awards are presented by the Omega Writer's Association and are an acknowledgement of quality authorship and overall presentation as opposed to market success. These awards promote Christian writing in the specific areas of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Entry is open to Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific authors.

Anglican Youthworks won the top prizes for –

1. Children's Books: *Wonderfully Madison*, by Penny Reeve (author) and Jemima Trappel (illustrator), under the Growing Faith imprint;
2. Reviewer's Choice: *Youth Ministry on the Front Foot*, edited by Zachary Veron, under the Youthworks Press imprint; and the
3. Caleb Gala Prize (for the best overall book of the year); *Teen Sex By the Book*, by Dr Patricia Weerakoon, under the Fervr imprint

Synod further encourages the staff and authors of Anglican Youthworks to continue producing world class resources and publications to support children's, youth and families' ministries in our Diocese and beyond.

(The Rev Christopher Braga 16/10/2013)

28/13 Clovelly: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Clovelly as a parish with effect from 1 January 2014.

(The Rev David Rogers 16/10/2013)

29/13 Robertson: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Robertson as a parish with effect from 1 January 2014.

(Mr Tony Willis 16/10/2013)

30/13 Mission Property Committee

Synod –

- (a) notes the progress of the Mission Property Committee ("MPC") in relation to Greenfield acquisitions;
- (b) notes that in addition to its other funding sources, the MPC proposes a financial contribution from those parishes benefitting directly from the MPC's current and future Greenfield developments, and
- (c) provides in principle support for –
 - (i) parishes that receive MPC funded ministry centres paying a contribution to the Mission Property Fund equal to 10% of annual parish offertories from the date of occupation of the building for a period of between 15 and 30 years, or until substantial commencement of any "stage 2" building, and
 - (ii) parishes that receive MPC funded ministry residences paying a contribution to the Mission Property Fund equal to 50% of the market rental valuation, increasing to 100% after five years, until the original capital investment of the MPC is repaid.

(Mr Geoff Kyngdon 16/10/2013)

31/13 Synod in 2014

Synod supports the First Ordinary Session of the 50th Synod in 2014 being held over 5 days on the basis that the meeting will commence at the usual time of 3.15pm on each of those days.

(Mr Robert Wicks 16/10/2013)

32/13 Bishop Dudley Foord

This Synod gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Bishop Dudley Foord, conveys heartfelt good wishes to Elizabeth, his wife, and members of his family and allows the mover to speak for 2 minutes in support of the main substance of this motion.

(Dr Barry Newman 16/10/2013)

33/13 Domestic violence and educating clergy

Synod requests Moore College and Ministry Training and Development, in consultation with the Safe Ministry Board and appropriate experts as required, having reviewed the input they already provide, to investigate and, as needed, develop an effective approach to educating ordinands and clergy in regards to domestic violence and how to respond when it comes up as an issue in marriage (and other relationships).

In such training, consideration ought to be given to ensuring that upholding the Bible's good teaching on submission and sacrificial love – both in preaching and teaching, and in marriage education or counselling – is not easily twisted as a cover for abuse.

Synod requests that Moore College and Ministry Training and Development report back with a progress report by the next session of Synod.

(Canon Sandy Grant 16/10/2013)