

Resolutions of the 2014 session of the 51st Synod

1/14 Amendments to the *Faithfulness in Service* definition of bullying

Synod, noting the report 6/13 *Amendments to the Faithfulness in Service definition of bullying* –

- (a) adopts as an amendment to *Faithfulness in Service* the General Synod Standing Committee's proposed definition of "bullying" incorporating the amendments marked up on the Annexure to the report, and
- (b) recommends that the General Synod Standing Committee adopt these additional amendments to the *FIS* definition of "bullying".

(Canon Sandy Grant 13/10/2014)

2/14 Review of School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975

Synod, noting the report 4/13 *Review of School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975*, requests the Standing Committee to consult with Chaplains and Heads of Diocesan Schools in respect to the exposure draft and to bring a bill for an ordinance to the 2015 session of the Synod having regard to any comments that are received.

(Mr Tony Willis 13/10/2014)

3/14 Deaconess Margaret Rodgers

Synod records its thanks to God for the life and witness of Margaret Rodgers who devoted her life to serve her Saviour and Lord particularly within the context of the Anglican Church of Australia.

As a student at Deaconess House she completed a Th.L with first class honours and then went on to earn a BA and BD (Hons) at Sydney University. Archbishop Marcus Loane invited her to become Principal of Deaconess House in 1976. She modernised the institution following the iconic tenure of Deaconess Mary Andrews AM. Educational standards were lifted and a fresh vision for women's ministry was articulated.

The appointment to the position of Research Officer for the General Synod in 1985 allowed Margaret to combine her training in theology and history and apply this to national questions of policy and practice in the Anglican Church of Australia and beyond. Her final two positions as CEO, Anglican Media, Sydney in 1994 and subsequently in 2004, Archbishop's Media Officer, enabled her personal skills, wide circle of friends and many years of Anglican networking to be harnessed in service to her home diocese and its Archbishop.

Within the Diocese of Sydney she served as a member of the Standing Committee for some 30 years, lay canon of the Cathedral Chapter, Chair of New College in the University of New South Wales and Director of Anglican Deaconess Ministries. Nationally, there were two decades of membership of the General Synod Standing Committee and membership of the Board of Electors for the Primate and the National Council of Churches.

International Anglican ministry included substantial media involvement with several Anglican Consultative Councils, the tumultuous 1998 Lambeth Conference and the Christian Conference of Asia.

Margaret was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2014.

(Dr Robert Tong 13/10/2014)

4/14 Bishop John McIntyre

Synod records its gratitude to God for the life and ministry of John Charles McIntyre, the Eleventh Bishop of Gippsland from 2006 to 2014.

John was trained in London and at Ridley College in Melbourne, where he continued to serve as lecturer until 1990. He was Rector of South Sydney from 1990 from where he was appointed to the position of Bishop of Gippsland in 2006. John also served on the Sydney Diocesan Standing Committee and Social Issues Committee until 2001.

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Synod prays for his widow Jan and their three children and with God's people in Gippsland, as they mourn the untimely death of Bishop McIntyre.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth 13/10/2014)

5/14 Jesusbrings Campaign

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for our united evangelistic campaign *Jesusbrings*,
- (b) asks Evangelism and New Churches to work with the Standing Committee to propose a new campaign to further our working together in evangelistic mission (drawing from lessons learned in the initiatives of *Jesusbrings*), and
- (c) asks Evangelism and New Churches to quarantine any funds left over from *Jesusbrings* for this purpose.

(The Rev Archie Poulos 13/10/2014)

6/14 The Rev Peter Clark

That this Synod on the eve of his retirement from full time Parish ministry recognises the long, faithful and effective ministry of the Reverend Peter and Heather Clark who have served the Lord Jesus for eight years in the Diocese of Armidale and for the last twenty-eight years in the Diocese of Sydney, in the Parishes of Wilberforce, Newport, Hunters Hill and Waverley and for some years as a part-time Chaplain with the RAAF. We pray that Peter and Heather's retirement ministry will be rewarding and fruitful.

(Bishop David Mulready 13/10/2014)

7/14 Doctrine Commission report on fellowship meals for the proclamation of the Lord's death

This Synod –

- (a) records its appreciation of the conscientious and diligent manner in which the members of the Standing Committee carry out their responsibilities on behalf of the Synod,
- (b) respectively requests Standing Committee to forward to the Synod any report requested by the Synod of a committee or a commission, without seeking to have that report altered by that committee or commission, where that committee or commission is not required to have that report referred to Standing Committee for its consideration other than for distribution,
- (c) thanks the members of the Doctrine Commission for its report to the Synod in response to Synod resolution 38/07, concerning fellowship meals for the proclamation of the Lord's Death, tabled and discussed at the meeting of the Standing Committee on February 25, 2013,
- (d) notes that the Standing Committee having thanked the Doctrine Commission for its work on that report then requested "that the Doctrine Commission reconsider the report in the light of any comments received from members of the Standing Committee", and
- (e) respectfully requests Standing Committee to forward to the Synod at its earliest convenience the original report.

(Dr Barry Newman 13/10/2014)

8/14 Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Mrs Ailsa Knox

Synod gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Mrs Ailsa Knox. We rejoice in her faithful witness to Christ, and her service to the kingdom of God, noting especially her role at Moore Theological College, where she ministered alongside her husband, Dr Broughton Knox, during his 26 years as principal, and at George Whitfield College in Capetown, South Africa, where he was founding principal.

Under God's hand, Ailsa's care and prayerful concern for generations of students and faculty, and their families, made a considerable contribution to progress of the gospel in the Diocese of Sydney and beyond.

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Synod extends our condolences to her family, and yet rejoices with them in the resurrection hope of the gospel, and that we, along with Ailsa, will find eternal rest with Christ in the new creation.

(The Rev Dr Mark Thompson 13/10/2014)

9/14 Overseas aid

This Synod, recognising that Australian government aid and development assistance, according to the 2012-13 AusAid Annual Report, helped to –

- (i) vaccinate more than 3 million children against killer diseases,
 - (ii) provide safe water to more than 2 million people,
 - (iii) provide access to decent sanitation and better hygiene information for almost 2 million people,
 - (iv) enrol 1 million children in school, and
 - (v) provide almost 12 million people, caught in conflict or crisis, with life-saving assistance,
- (a) regrets the cuts of over \$600 million to overseas aid and development in the Federal budget presented in May 2014, and
- (b) calls on the Federal Government to increase its overseas aid and development to 0.5% GNI as a matter of priority, to announce a timetable by which this will be achieved, and to reaffirm its commitment to reach 0.7% GNI for overseas aid and development.

(The Rev Paul Perini 13/10/2014)

10/14 Social housing

This Synod, recognising that –

- (i) availability of affordable housing, including social housing, is essential to the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, and
- (ii) lack of stable, secure and affordable housing may lead to housing insecurity, rental stress, food insecurity, relationship breakdown, mental or physical ill-health, reduced employment or educational opportunities and other adverse outcomes for low income households, as identified in Anglicare Sydney's authoritative research and advocacy over the last five years,

recommends –

- (a) that the State Government commits to an increase of social housing stock across NSW with a numerical target of an additional 8000 social housing dwellings by 2020,
- (b) that the State Government and Local Governments ensure no net loss in social housing stock in any Local Government Area (LGA) and that new stock be located across LGAs consisting of low, medium and high socio-economic indexes, and
- (c) that Federal, State and Local Governments commit to developing, funding and implementing a five-year strategy to increase the supply of affordable, safe and sustainable housing.

(The Rev Paul Perini 13/10/2014)

11/14 Appointment of The Rev Peter Lin as Bishop of the Georges River Region

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the godly, Bible-based and wise leadership provided by the bishops of this Diocese,
- (b) thanks Bishop Peter Tasker and Archdeacon Ian Cox for their continued oversight of the Georges River Region in their retirement,
- (c) records its gratitude to the Archbishop for his concern for the Georges River Region, and his work in securing funding for a bishop for the Region,
- (d) thanks those bodies and individuals whose contributions have made this possible,
- (e) warmly welcomes the appointment of the Rev Peter Lin to the position of Bishop of Georges River Region, and

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- (f) congratulates the Rev Peter Lin on his appointment, and assures him and Isobel and their family of our prayers for him and his family.

(Mr Clive Ellis 13/10/2014)

12/14 Katoomba: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Katoomba as a parish with effect from 1 January 2015.

(The Rev Ray Robinson 13/10/2014)

13/14 NSW Ecumenical Council

Synod –

- (a) sends its prayerful good wishes to the New South Wales Ecumenical Council as it seeks to serve the churches and bear witness to Christ,
- (b) commends the Council's website nswec.org.au to members, and
- (c) commends to churches the Parish Workbook on Receptive Ecumenism entitled "The Gift of Each Other – Learning From Other Churches".

(The Rev Dr James Collins 13/10/2014)

14/14 Theology of Baptism

This Synod requests the Doctrine Commission to consider a theology of baptism with particular reference to the Scriptures and the Anglican formularies and to bring a report on this matter to the Synod at a convenient time.

(Dr Barry Newman 14/10/2014)

15/14 Global Anglicanism

Synod –

- (a) gives God thanks for the success of GAFCON 2013 (Global Anglican Future Conference) being made up of 1358 delegates from 39 countries including the 99 delegates from Australia,
- (b) recognises that GAFCON is an emerging instrument of communion when others have failed to provide the well needed leadership at a time of growing liberalism within Anglicanism, aggressive secularism, militant Islamism and seductive syncretism,
- (c) encourages and supports GAFCON/FCA (Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans) in its desire to expand its membership, develop networks, authorise and affirm those who have been excluded by their dioceses or provinces,
- (d) recognising Synod's desire to be in full communion with the ACNA (Synod resolution 46/09), Synod congratulates the Most Reverend Foley Beach on his consecration as Archbishop to the ACNA (Anglican Church of North America),
- (e) encourages the development of FCA Australia and its inaugural conference, "The Anglican Future Conference" to be held in Melbourne next year,
- (f) looks forward to the next GAFCON as a principal gathering of leaders in the Anglican Communion, and
- (g) requests the Secretary to write to The FCA Primates' Council, The ACNA and FCA Australia informing them of this.

(The Rev Gavin Poole 14/10/2014)

16/14 Yoga and other such activities

Synod –

- (a) notes that in multi-cultural Australia there are many activities available for public participation which are based on, or derived from, Eastern religious practices and beliefs, including yoga, tai chi, some martial arts, and dragon boating,

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- (b) notes that some of our Diocesan churches and organisations offer such activities or allow them to be held on their premises,
- (c) notes that some Christians believe such activities are contrary to the gospel, and lead those involved in them to inadvertently worship idols and false gods, and access evil spiritual forces; and accordingly,
- (d) requests the Social Issues Committee of the Diocese to report back to the next Session of Synod as to whether such activities are inconsistent with the gospel, and if so, should not be offered by our churches or Diocesan organisations, or allowed to be held on their premises.

(The Rev Ian Millican 14/10/2014)

17/14 The Rev Dr Gregory Anderson

Synod records its thankfulness to God for the election of the Rev Dr Gregory Anderson to become Bishop of the Northern Territory and assures Dr Anderson of its continued interest and prayerful support for him as he takes on this important post.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth 14/10/2014)

18/14 Sydney Diocesan Secretariat

This Synod –

- (a) commends the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat (SDS) and the Glebe Administration Board for their excellent Annual Reports for 2013, which include their full audited Financial Reports, and
- (b) notes that these are publicly available on the internet, through the SDS website, and encourages other Diocesan organisations also to make their Annual Reports and full audited financial reports publicly available through an appropriate website.

(Ms Lyn Bannerman 14/10/2014)

19/14 Pastoral care of same-sex attracted persons

Synod requests that the Standing Committee establish a committee of lay and clergy representatives to bring recommendations to the 2015 session of Synod on ways of providing pastoral care to people attracted to others of the same sex.

(Mrs Pamela Shaw 14/10/2014)

20/14 Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

Synod –

- (a) notes that the report from TEMOC on Ministry to TAFE and CVET students is in partial fulfilment of its charter to “prepare for Synod’s consideration a diocesan policy framework, measurable goals and strategies of ministry” for the sector,
- (b) endorses the recommendation to trial different ministry initiatives,
- (c) encourages individual parishes and Mission Areas to select and trial an initiative and share outcomes with TEMOC,
- (d) notes that TEMOC proposes to collate and report outcomes of such trials to Synod in 2018, and
- (e) requests Standing Committee to consider modest additional funding to TEMOC for TAFE/CVET ministry grants in the 2016-2018 triennium.

(Professor Christopher Bellenger 14/10/2014)

21/14 Reconciliation Action Plans

That Synod –

- (a) notes the launch of Anglicare Sydney’s inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in May 2014 as a significant indication of the organisation’s commitment to the development of deeper understanding and closer relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,

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- (b) welcomes progress made to date as a result of Anglicare's Reconciliation Action Plan through direct service delivery, increased cultural awareness amongst staff and the provision of employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and
- (c) encourages individual parishes as well as diocesan organisations and schools to develop their own Reconciliation Action Plans aimed at enhancing relationships, respect and opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Sydney Diocese.

(The Rev John Reid 14/10/2014)

22/14 Problem Gambling in NSW

Synod welcomes the report of the NSW Legislative Council's Select Committee on the Impact of Gambling published in August 2014.

Synod grieves that NSW has above-average expenditure on gambling on a per capita basis compared to national averages.

Therefore Synod commends its recommendations and calls on the NSW Government to implement effective harm minimisation measures, in particular –

- (a) introducing a \$1 maximum bet limit for poker machines in New South Wales,
- (b) stopping the disproportionate concentration of poker machines in lower socioeconomic areas, where they create greater harm,
- (c) implementing a freeze on the transfer of machine entitlements between venues and the creation of any new entitlements,
- (d) implementing a third-party exclusion scheme in the state's clubs and hotels by 2017,
- (e) developing a scheme that requires venues to intervene to assist problem gamblers,
- (f) launching an awareness campaign specific to the risks of online gaming,
- (g) responding to research on the relationship between gaming machine design features and gambling harms, and
- (h) approaching the Australian Government to request that a set of standards be established for online wagering websites.

Synod calls on Sydney Anglican affiliated organisations to divest themselves of any investments in any company whose revenue from gambling exceeds either 10% of revenue or \$50 million per annum by December 31, 2014, or to report to the Synod the mission imperatives of owning shares in gambling companies.

(Canon Sandy Grant 14/10/2014)

23/14 Signing of statement of personal Christian faith by alumni representatives

Synod –

- (i) recognising that alumni associations are significant stakeholders in a number of diocesan schools constituted or regulated by ordinance of the Synod, and
 - (ii) recognising that the constituting ordinance for some of these diocesan schools make provision for representatives of the alumni association to be elected or appointed as members of the school's governing board or council, and
 - (iii) recognising that at present some alumni representatives, while able to express support for the Christian ethos and charter of the school, may not be able to profess a personal Christian faith in the form of a statement determined by the Synod, declares its view that –
- (a) each diocesan school must have at its heart the object of advancing the purposes of the Diocese and ultimately, therefore, promoting the kingdom of Christ and giving glory to God, and
 - (b) each member of the governing board or council of a diocesan school must, as a matter of good governance, be personally committed to such object of the school, and
 - (c) such personal commitment should be demonstrated, among other ways, through the profession of a personal Christian faith in the form of a statement determined by the Synod, and

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- (d) in order to accommodate the current position of alumni associations, any person elected, or appointed as an alumni representative on the governing board or council of a diocesan school until 30 June 2020 should have the option of signing a statement of support for the Christian ethos and charter of the school in a form determined by the Synod as an alternative to signing the statement of personal Christian faith provided that no person may become chair of the board or council without signing the statement of personal Christian faith, and
- (e) from 1 July 2020 any person elected or appointed, as an alumni representative on the governing board or council of a diocesan school must sign the statement of personal Christian faith, and agrees to give effect to the declared view of the Synod by inserting the matter “before 1 July 2020” before the words “may sign a statement of support for the Christian ethos and charter of the school” in paragraph 10 of Appendix 2 of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations and by suspending so many of the business rules as would prevent this.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett 14/10/2014)

24/14 Ministry of Anglican schools and Christians in government schools

Synod –

- (a) notes that in the Diocese of Sydney around 40,000 students are enrolled in Anglican schools which engage students for 30 hours per week, for 40 weeks per year and for up to 14 of the most formative years of their life,
- (b) recognises the growing demand for Anglican schooling as an opportunity for bringing the whole counsel of God to bear on all areas of life,
- (c) recognises the importance of supporting the ministry of Christian principals, teachers, students and voluntary SRE teachers in government schools,
- (d) calls on our churches to support the Christian ministry of Anglican schools, and
- (e) calls on our churches to encourage Christian young people to consider teaching as a strategic vocation and commends the Anglican Education Commission for its work in recruiting Christians into teaching.

(The Rev Andrew Katay 14/10/2014)

25/14 Theology of communion and catholicity

In light of the Primate’s Address at the 16th General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia in Adelaide and recent comments made by the Archbishop of Canterbury on what constitutes membership of the Anglican Communion (in an interview with the editor of the *Church of Ireland Gazette*), this Synod requests the Sydney Diocesan Doctrine Commission to prepare a report on the theology of communion and catholicity with special reference to contemporary Anglicanism in Australia and to report back to the next session of this Synod.

(Bishop Chris Edwards 15/10/2014)

26/14 Moore College learning and teaching centre

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the generous provision that has made possible commencement on the Moore College learning and teaching centre,
- (b) recognises that Synod has itself contributed substantially to this project over many years, as have many members of its churches, and
- (c) commits to continued support and prayer, asking particularly that the Lord would provide the necessary funds to complete this strategically important initiative.

(Dr Karin Sowada 15/10/2014)

27/14 General Synod 2014 Legislation

Synod receives the report on General Synod 2014 Legislation and adopts the recommendations made in that report.

(Dr Robert Tong 20/10/2014)

28/14 Ministries of Christ-like compassion

Synod notes –

- (i) the imperative to love our neighbour as ourselves,
 - (ii) that Jesus urges us to do good works so that those around us will praise our Father in heaven,
- (a) affirms its commitment to ministries of Christ-like compassion that seek to not only love those in need but, as a matter of priority, seek to do so in a manner that provides every opportunity to proclaim the gospel,
- (b) commends the work of Anglicare in its mission of good works and gospel proclamation through Christ-centred services, which are conducted in partnership with parishes wherever possible,
- (c) commends the upcoming “Festival of Just Ideas” hosted by Anglican Aid on Saturday 25 October, and
- (d) encourages parishes and other organisations to consider and enact ways in which they may love their neighbours and be involved in such ministries of Christ-like compassion.

(The Rev David Mansfield 20/10/2014)

29/14 Sydney Diocesan Doctrine Commission membership and reports

That Synod requests that –

- (a) the membership of the Sydney Diocesan Doctrine Commission be posted on the Diocesan website, and
- (b) links to the full texts of the Commission’s reports since the year 2000 be provided at the same web location.

(Dr David Oakenfull 20/10/2014)

30/14 Church Land Acquisitions Levy

Synod requests the Standing Committee to provide the 2015 Synod session with a report of the mid and long term views of the need for the Mission Property Committee (MPC) “Church Land Acquisitions Levy”.

Synod requests that this report should also outline possible future strategies for raising these funds from parishes and other sources so that parishes may be informed of expected financial commitments for mid and long term planning purposes.

(Mr Glenn Murray 20/10/2014)

31/14 Retention of marriage licence and same sex marriage

Synod requests Standing Committee to establish a working party to consider the wisdom of clergy keeping their marriage licence if same sex marriage becomes a reality.

(The Rev Ramon Robinson 20/10/2014)

32/14 Medical Services (Dying with Dignity) Bill

Synod notes the exposure draft of the Medical Services (Dying with Dignity) Bill 2014 currently being considered in the Australian Senate.

Consistent with its previous resolutions, Synod advises all federal senators from NSW that it would oppose passing into law in Australia this bill or any similar bill permitting euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide.

Synod urges legislators to put their efforts into funding the improved provision of palliative care.

(Canon Sandy Grant 20/10/2014)

33/14 Ministry progress and brownfields' grants

Synod rejoices in the ministry progress of the 10 brownfields churches which received grants from the \$20 million taken out of the Diocesan Endowment last decade for various church building projects, and Synod gives thanks to God for the 28% growth in church members in total for the 9 of those churches which have reliable attendance statistics spanning the years 2004 to 2013, lifting diocesan offertories in 2013 by \$2,722,588 more than what was received by those 9 churches in total in 2004 (121% increase in offertories from those 9 churches).

Synod requests the Standing Committee to investigate what conclusions can be drawn from these statistics, including whether adequate church building facilities is an important strategy in assisting growing brownfields churches to grow further and introduce Jesus to more people, and whether more resources raised from parishes and/or the Diocesan Endowment, and then applied to similar projects that the \$20million was applied to, will assist further and accelerated growth in church attendance across the Diocese. Synod further requests that Standing Committee's investigation be reported to the Synod in 2015, together with any possible recommendations flowing from the investigation on how more capital funds could be raised for brownfields church building enhancement projects.

(The Rev Zac Veron 20/10/2014)

34/14 Thanksgiving for the ministry of Dean Phillip Jensen

This Synod, recognising that this will be the last session at which Dean Phillip Jensen will be present, thanks God for the long and valuable ministry of Phillip Jensen in this Diocese. Phillip's ministry at the Department of Evangelism, the University of New South Wales, St Matthias Centennial Park, and most recently at St Andrews Cathedral, and at the Department of Ministry, Training and Development, as well as on many boards and as a member of many organisations in the Diocese has been outstanding. His energy, his single-minded devotion to Christ and his gospel, his passion for evangelism, fuelled by that of the Lord Jesus himself, have all contributed to a ministry of extraordinary faithfulness and extraordinary effectiveness. He revitalised the Katoomba Conventions ministry and created both the Ministry Training Strategy and Matthias Media. Under his leadership, a generation of men and women were mobilised for ministry both here and around the world. Phillip is recognised by evangelicals all over the world as one of the most significant Christian leaders to have emerged from Sydney in the last fifty years and this Diocese has been blessed by God through him. Many in this Synod can give more personal thanks to God for Phillip's ministry, by which they were brought to faith or deepened in faith or challenged to give their lives to the proclamation of Christ to a needy world. As he moves into another sphere of ministry, this Synod thanks God for both Phillip and Helen and commits ourselves to pray for them and for the work they will continue to do to see the Lord Jesus honoured in this city and around the world.

(The Rev Ray Galea 20/10/2014)

35/14 Thanksgiving for the ministry of Bishop Peter Tasker

Synod gives thanks to God for the ministry of the Right Reverend Peter Tasker, to this Synod, our Diocese and world mission, and in particular –

- (a) his indefatigable commitment to the Georges River Region as Bishop of Liverpool from 2002-09;
- (b) his willingness to continue as Acting Bishop for the Georges River Region from 2009 onwards, while he exercised his role as Archbishop of Sydney's Bishop for International Relations from 2009;
- (c) his tireless commitment to and promotion of cross-cultural mission in the Synod as well as through his role as CMS NSW General Secretary (1978-92);
- (d) his faithful decade of ministry as rector of Dapto (1992-2001);
- (e) his missionary service in the Diocese of Singapore and West Malaysia when he served with CMS in Penang (1969-76);
- (f) his commitment to the work of the gospel and the glory of God over 50 years of ordained ministry.

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Synod expresses its gratitude to Peter and wishes him and his wife, Joan, God's blessing upon them as they continue to serve the risen Christ in their 'retirement'.

(Mr Clive Ellis 20/10/2014)

36/14 Further review of the Discipline Ordinance 2006

Synod requests the Standing Committee to appoint a committee consisting of three lay persons and three members of the clergy together with a person to be appointed by the Archbishop with the following terms of reference –

- (a) to review the *Discipline Ordinance 2006* and related disciplinary ordinances,
- (b) to consult with the other Dioceses in the Province with a view to exploring the feasibility of a uniform disciplinary regime in the Province,
- (c) to bring a report and any proposed amending or replacement ordinance or ordinances to the 2nd ordinary session of the 50th Synod.

(Mr Garth Blake SC 20/10/2014)

37/14 Immigration policy and child detention

Synod, noting –

- (i) the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for us, compels us to love neighbours and even enemies, and
 - (ii) the difficulty of framing a just refugee policy in a war torn and poverty stricken world, and
 - (iii) the intention of political leaders to achieve a just outcome in trying circumstances, and
 - (iv) the concern of bodies like the AMA for the mental health of children of asylum seekers in immigration detention, and
 - (v) that there remain many hundreds of such children in detention, and
 - (vi) recognising that, as with the lawyer's question to Jesus in Luke 10:29 our sinful evasion of responsibility for siblings and neighbours continues –
- (a) calls on the Australian government to end the immigration detention of children, and
 - (b) commits to pray for the Prime Minister and for the Minister for Immigration in their work.

(The Rev Dr Michael Jensen 20/10/2014)

38/14 Implementation of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations

Synod –

- (a) requests each diocesan organisation to review the Governance Standards and Policy Guidelines in the Governance Policy and to take appropriate action to achieve conformity with the Governance Standards and, where appropriate, the Policy Guidelines, including through the promotion of amendments to the ordinance by which the diocesan organisation is constituted or otherwise regulated by the Synod, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to amend the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995* to require the chair of each organisation to include as part of its annual report to the first ordinary session of each Synod a statement which –
 - (i) assesses the extent to which the organisation's governance arrangements conform with the standards and guidelines in the Governance Policy, and
 - (ii) explains any areas of non-conformity, and
- (c) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the Governance Policy unless before such amendment is made, any 3 members of the Standing Committee request in writing that the amendment be referred to the Synod and provided any amendment made by the Standing Committee is reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett 20/10/2014)

39/14 Solidarity and support for Christians in Iraq and Syria

Synod, remembering that our Lord said –

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first” (John 15:18),

- (a) expresses its dismay at the horrific persecution of Christians throughout Iraq and Syria in recent months,
- (b) commits to pray for Christians throughout the region, including Canon Andrew White (St George's Anglican Church Baghdad), for protection, provision and perseverance,
- (c) encourages all Christians in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East to stand firm in the faith, to proclaim the Gospel, to trust in God, who is our constant strength and refuge, and to pray, and
- (d) calls upon all Sydney Anglicans and Christians everywhere to support these persecuted brothers and sisters by –
 - (i) continuing faithfully in prayer, asking God to give them peace and assurance and a renewed commitment to forgiveness along with a passion to share the Gospel of hope,
 - (ii) warmly welcoming them into our churches and communities and considering what practical steps can be taken to assist them in their strife,
 - (iii) giving generously to the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid Iraq Relief Appeal,
 - (iv) increasing awareness of their plight by sharing accurate reports from the region (to promote prayer and concern),
 - (v) considering the use in social media and other contexts of the Arabic letter 'N' which has been painted on the doors of Christians throughout the region, thus making them targets of persecution,
 - (vi) calling on our Australian Government to act wisely and compassionately in light of this crisis, and
 - (vii) keeping our own eyes fixed on the living hope we have in Christ, despite the persecution of Christians throughout the world.

(The Rev Michael Williamson 20/10/2014)

40/14 Christians and other persecuted minority groups in Iraq and Syria

Synod –

- (a) expresses its deep sorrow and dismay at the extreme religious and political persecution currently being faced by Christians and other minority groups in northern Iraq and Syria,
- (b) prays that God might graciously impart compassion and profound wisdom on all those involved in responding to alleviate the plight of such peoples, and
- (c) commends the Federal Government on its actions to date in setting aside 4,400 places in the Special Humanitarian Program in 2014-15 for Iraqi and Syrian people facing persecution,
- (d) noting that other Western democracies including Germany, Norway and Sweden have increased their overall intake of asylum-seekers in order to accept additional numbers of Iraqi and Syrian refugees, calls on the Federal Government to –
 - (i) temporarily increase the places available in the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Special Humanitarian Program to allow for additional resettlement of Christians and other persecuted groups of people from Iraq and Syria, and
 - (ii) take any necessary steps to process all applications for asylum in Australia as expeditiously as possible, and
- (e) respectfully requests the Archbishop to thank the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection for the many times he has taken an interest in refugees who have been in our own church communities, and
- (f) respectfully requests the Archbishop to convey the above terms of this resolution to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth 20/10/2014)

41/14 Bishop Ken Short

This Synod notes with great sorrow the death of Bishop Ken Short last Sunday evening. We give thanks to God for the extraordinary ministry of Ken, who has faithfully served his Lord and Saviour throughout his life and has been a blessing to others in his various ministries as an elder statesman of the Diocese of Sydney, missionary in Tanganyika, evangelist, parish rector, military chaplain, regional bishop, Dean of Sydney and Bishop of the Defence Forces. We pray for his widow Gloria and the family as they grieve their loss; yet rejoice with them in the sure and certain knowledge that our brother Ken is now “at home with the Lord”.

(Bishop Peter Tasker 21/10/2014)

42/14 The Rev Barry Lee

Synod recalls that “God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honour to the parts that lacked it” (1 Corinthians 12:24), gives great thanks to God for the “unsung heroes” of the ministry in our Diocese, and express our gratitude for their quiet and faithful service.

We note especially that this is the last Synod of the Reverend Barry Lee, after almost 40 years of ordained ministry in our Diocese, as Curate at Camden, Lalor Park with Seven Hills, Normanhurst, Rector of Ashbury, Assistant Minister at St Philip's Castle Cove in the parish of Roseville East, and as Curate-in-Charge, then Rector of Robertson for the last 15 years.

(Canon Sandy Grant 21/10/2014)

43/14 Former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam

Synod notes with sadness the death of former Prime Minister of Australia, Gough Whitlam, acknowledges his diverse and significant contribution to our national life, and assures all those who are mourning his death of its prayers for them.

(The Rev Bob Cameron 21/10/2014)

44/14 *Mission 2020* document

Synod welcomes the *Mission 2020* document and agrees to adopt *Mission 2020* set out in that document.

(The Rev Peter Lin 21/10/2014)

45/14 Strategic Research Group

Synod –

- (a) welcomes the establishment of the Strategic Research Group (SRG),
- (b) encourages the SRG to identify, research, evaluate and develop high level vision, strategy and structure which optimise the capacity of the diocesan network to achieve the Mission goals,
- (c) encourages the SRG to investigate ways of church gathering and mission that may prove effective in reaching those people who are unlikely to attend the majority of our current churches,
- (d) encourages the SRG to develop strategies to assist parishes to clarify, research, evaluate and implement ways to achieve the Mission goals as appropriate to their local context, and
- (e) invites all Anglican organisations within the Diocese, including schools, to embrace the vision of seeing Christ honoured as Lord and Saviour in their communities and to partner with parishes in light of the four Priorities of the Mission.

(Bishop Ivan Lee 21/10/2014)

46/14 Synod attendance

Synod, noting the report on Synod attendance and the desirability of seeking ways to increase the attendance and participation of members at Synod sessions –

- (a) requests the Standing Committee to ensure, as far as possible, that the business it promotes to the Synod focuses on significant issues of policy and strategic direction and that it avoids promoting to the Synod technical or administrative business which can be dealt with by the Standing Committee under its delegated authority,
- (b) requests members who are likely to be unable to attend and participate in any part of the 2nd ordinary session of the Synod in 2015 to take early action to investigate and pursue options and arrangements that will enable them to attend and participate in the whole of the session,
- (c) requests members who, after exhausting such avenues, are still unable to attend and participate in any part of the 2nd ordinary session of the Synod in 2015 to consider, in the case of parochial ministers and parochial representatives, appointing an alternate for the session or, in the case of elected or appointed members, resigning their membership to enable the election or appointment of those who can, and
- (d) requests the Standing Committee to review the procedures and ordinances relating to alternate and replacement synod representatives with a view to streamlining the process and removing obstacles.

(Ms Nicola Warwick-Mayo 21/10/2014)

47/14 Report of the Viability and Structures Task Force

Synod, noting –

- (i) the Report of the Viability and Structures Task Force (the “Viability Report”) considered at this year’s session of General Synod, and
 - (ii) the response of the General Synod to the Viability Report in resolution 65/14 (the “Viability resolution”), particularly the referral of the Viability Report to the dioceses for their consideration and response to the Standing Committee of the General Synod by 31 October 2014,
- (a) expresses its preliminary view that changing the structures, policies and leadership of the Anglican Church of Australia (the “ACA”) will not, of itself, adequately address the underlying challenges faced by the ACA, although agrees that the focus of work in these areas may best be pursued on a provincial basis,
 - (b) calls on the Standing Committee of the General Synod to ensure that clarity and confidence in the content of the gospel message and its faithful proclamation in word and deed across the ACA, particularly in the context of local Anglican churches, are at the fore of any proposal to respond to these challenges,
 - (c) affirms its commitment to the diocese as the unit of organisation of the ACA and therefore calls on the Standing Committee of the General Synod to ensure that it consults widely with dioceses about the Viability Report and the Viability Resolution over a reasonable time frame before formulating any significant proposals which may require the support of dioceses,
 - (d) opposes as a matter of principle any proposal which would involve an increase in the central powers of the General Synod as a means by which the challenges faced by the ACA are sought to be addressed,
 - (e) considers that the expectation of a considered response from dioceses to the Viability Report by 31 October 2014 is unrealistic,

and invites Synod members to send any comments on the Viability Report and Viability resolution to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2014 and requests our Standing Committee to respond to the Viability Report and the Viability Resolution taking any comments from Synod members into account.

(Dr Robert Tong 21/10/2014)