

Resolutions of the 2015 session of the 50th Synod

1/15 Yoga and other such activities

Synod, noting the report on *Yoga and other such activities* in response to Synod Resolution 16/14, thanks the Social Issues Committee for its work on this matter and –

- (a) emphasises that Christians are called to obey the first commandment ‘You shall have no other Gods before me’ and thus must, as Christ’s disciples, avoid participating in the worship of false gods;
- (b) recommends that individual Christians should exercise discernment with respect to yoga and other such practices, which may or may not contain elements of worship of other gods;
- (c) advises churches not to rent out their premises to yoga classes on account of the spiritual confusion this may cause;
- (d) advises schools, and other Anglican institutions not to engage in yoga and other such practices, but to seek alternative means of promoting health and well-being; and
- (e) urges Anglicans, clergy and laity alike, to consider the missional significance of the widespread uptake of yoga by Australians of Western European cultural background in recent decades.

(The Rev Ian Millican 12/10/2015)

2/15 Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

Synod agrees to amend the terms of the resolution of the Synod by which the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee is constituted (35/09) in the manner shown in the following marked form of the resolution –

“Synod agrees to form a Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (TEMOC), consisting of 9 persons elected by Synod, for a 3 year term and one person appointed by the Archbishop, with the Committee having the additional power to co-opt and up to three more persons appointed by the Committee.

A person who is elected or appointed as a member of the Committee after the 2nd session of the 50th Synod must, before attending a meeting of the Committee, lodge with the Committee for safe-keeping a signed statement of personal faith in the form set out in Appendix 3 of the Synod’s Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations.

On the first day of each ordinary session of the Synod, 3 members elected by the Synod are to retire. Such members are those who have held office longest since last being elected but, in the case of competition, are to be determined by the members concerned or, if these members cannot agree, the order of retirement is to be determined by lot. The members appointed by the Archbishop or the Committee are to hold office for a period of 3 years. In any case, a retiring member is eligible for re-election or re-appointment.

The Committee is to be charged with furthering ministry to students in tertiary education throughout the Diocese, including responsibility for –

- (a) recruiting, training and supporting University and technical and further education chaplains and promoting their ministries,
- (b) the allocation of resources in accordance with strategic priorities, which it should report to Synod via the Standing Committee once formulated,
- (c) in consultation with appropriate bodies, preparing for Synod’s consideration a diocesan policy framework, measurable goals and strategies on ministry in TAFE and other VET (vocational education and training) institutes, and also a policy on ministry in private HEPs (higher education providers),
- (d) exploring the possibility of further creative partnerships with Anglican University colleges, AFES, Anglican Education Commission and other relevant bodies, and
- (e) encouraging the support of tertiary education ministry from other sources.

~~and agrees that the Interim Committee appointed by Standing Committee be the Committee until such time as Synod elections can be held."~~

(Professor Christopher Bellenger 12/10/2015)

3/15 Training in emergency and other safe ministry procedures

Synod requests the Standing Committee to review the form, content and timing of training required of parishioners involved in relevant ministries in relation to safe ministry including –

- (a) child protection and protection of other vulnerable individuals,
- (b) work health and safety,
- (c) emergency procedures, and
- (d) food safety

to ensure that –

- (i) the necessary training and consequent accreditation is provided in a cost-effective and timely manner,
- (ii) can be readily monitored by parishes and the Diocese as well as
- (iii) ensuring compliance with legislative changes, emerging community standards and the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

In particular, consideration be given to including hands-on training for Emergency Control/Coordination Team members in the use of firefighting equipment in a three-year cycle of accreditation, in conjunction with existing safe ministry training if practical.

(Mr David Minty 12/10/2015)

4/15 Preparation of parish histories

Synod asks parishes which prepare parish histories and similar publications to lodge complimentary copies with the Diocesan Archives and the Moore College Library to ensure the long term availability of these important documents.

(Mr Doug Marr 12/10/2015)

5/15 The Rev Stuart Abrahams

Synod records with thanks to God for the life and ministry of the Rev Stuart Noel Abrahams AM and his service of his Lord and Saviour in his many ministry responsibilities in the diocese of Sydney.

Following an early career in real estate, Stuart was a student at Moore College from 1959 to 1961. Stuart was ordained in 1962 and served as Curate at Wollongong, then from 1964 to 1966 he was the Home Secretary of CMS New South Wales. Then followed time as Rector at Northbridge (1966-73), St Andrew's Wahroonga (1973-77) and Nowra (1977-1984).

In March 1984 Archbishop Robinson asked Stuart to become the Director of the Vision for Growth Appeal. In mid-1992 Stuart took on the role of being the Director of the Archbishop's Ministry and Support Appeals Unit. For a period in 1997 and 1998 Stuart served as Chief Executive Officer of Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney.

After retirement, Stuart continued to serve others by ministering in parishes and in a variety of other ways. In 1996 he was instrumental in establishing the Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund to raise money to support the work in Ethiopia of Dr Catherine Hamlin. Stuart maintained a close and active interest in the work of Dr Hamlin until his death.

On Australia Day 2009 Stuart became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) "for service to international humanitarian aid through the establishment and administration of the Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund, and to the Anglican Church of Australia".

In all his spheres of his ministry, Stuart offered a personal and caring Christian ministry and a commitment to evangelism.

Synod sends its condolences to Billie, Stuart's widow, and to the other members of his family.

(Bishop Peter Hayward 12/10/2015)

6/15 Purpose and nature of episcopal leadership

Synod requests the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to prepare a report for the 1st Session of the 51st Synod in 2017 on the purpose and nature of episcopal leadership, giving particular consideration to the nature of episcopal and archiepiscopal ministry in a diocese such as ours where there are assistant bishops, and provide both a biblical and theological rationale as well as a practical description of the roles, responsibilities and priorities of bishops and archbishops.

(The Rev Simon Flinders 12/10/2015)

7/15 The NSW Government and Problem Gambling Harm Minimisation

Synod laments deeply that more than a year later, there has been no significant response from the NSW Government towards the recommendations in the report of the NSW Legislative Council's Select Committee on the Impact of Gambling published in August 2014.

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

Therefore Synod again commends the report's recommendations and urges the NSW Government to implement effective gambling harm-minimisation measures, as a matter of high priority, 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) responding to research on the relationship between gaming machine design features and gambling harms, and
- (g) approaching the Australian Government to request that a set of standards be established for online wagering websites.

(Canon Sandy Grant 12/10/2015)

8/15 Alternative forms of Anglican Church

For the purpose of greater missional fruitfulness, the Synod requests the Archbishop to establish a working group that will investigate the formation of alternative forms of Anglican Church –

- (a) that are theologically Anglican,
- (b) that are shaped by the principles for Christian community voiced to us by the New Testament,
- (c) that are specifically designed to penetrate and engage with the multiplicity of non-Christian spiritual and cultural worlds in which the majority of Australians now live, and
- (d) that are not necessarily required to owe anything to our traditional (Christendom-form) parish model.

Further, that the working group report back to Synod 2016 with specific and concrete proposals for the initiation of a process to create such alternative forms of church.

(The Rev Dr Martin Bragger 12/10/2015)

9/15 Licensing of incumbents

Synod requests Standing Committee, in consultation with the Archbishop, to report to the next session of Synod on –

- (a) the basis on which clergy are licensed as incumbents in the Diocese, and

- (b) whether there are circumstances where the present practice should be modified.

(The Rev Philip Wheeler 12/10/2015)

10/15 Evangelism in the Diocese

Synod, under the call of the 2020 Diocesan Mission Priority 1 to reach all the lost with the life-giving gospel of Christ, encourages –

- (a) parishes and diocesan organisations to participate in deliberate prayer for evangelism asking God to open doors for the proclamation of Jesus amongst family, friends, and neighbours and community of their ministry context,
- (b) parishes and diocesan organisations to deliberately plan for evangelism in their local ministry context,
- (c) Mission area groups to deliberately plan, partner, resource, and equip local church members for evangelism appropriate to their context,
- (d) parishes and diocesan organisations to participate in evangelism that is reaching the lost with the life giving gospel of Christ.

(The Rev Gavin Parsons 12/10/2015)

11/15 Freedom Sunday 18 October 2015

Synod notes that slavery existed in various forms from ancient times, and likewise continues today, often involving child labour, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.

Among other Scriptures that touch on the issue, Synod rejoices that even when urging personal contentment in our various circumstances, 1 Corinthians 7:21-23 encourages slaves to gain their freedom if they can and reminds them that they are the Lord's freed persons when called to faith in Christ. Being bought by Christ at a great price, Christians know that the trafficking of humans for the purpose of the enslavement of one human being by another is never desirable in God's economy.

Synod also recalls with gratitude the involvement of William Wilberforce and all involved in the fight against the slave trade in the late 1700s and the early 1800s.

Therefore Synod commends to parishes' consideration observance of 'Freedom Sunday', on Sunday, 18 October 2015, and draws attention to the prayer resources prepared by the Rev Dr David Höhne of the Social Issues Committee for the occasion.

(Dr Karin Sowada 12/10/2015)

12/15 Special Religious Education

Synod supports and values the ministry of Special Religious Education (SRE), and encourages the Archbishop, Anglican Youthworks, the Anglican Education Commission and parish Rectors to work together, including through the Archbishop's SRE Taskforce, and individually, to protect and expand that ministry.

Synod assures the Archbishop's SRE Taskforce of its prayers as it responds to multiple threats upon SRE, and encourages *Freedom 4 Faith* as it promotes and protects religious freedoms in Australia, to provide legal advice to the Archbishop's SRE Taskforce.

Synod affirms the Diocese's long standing support of public school education, and commends the Diocese's 2,500 volunteer SRE teachers and helpers for their passion and commitment to the work of providing religious education to school children in the state schools within the boundaries of the Diocese.

(The Rev Zac Veron 12/10/2015)

13/15 Study into effective church planting

Synod, noting –

- (i) the Study into Effective Church Planting in the Anglican Diocese of Sydney, and

Resolutions of the 2015 session of the 50th Synod

- (ii) the Mission 2020 goals to plant 15 new churches in greenfield areas and at least two new churches per mission area by 2020,
- (a) encourages rectors and parish councils to consider how they could initiate church planting in their parishes, or partner with other parishes to support church planting elsewhere in the Diocese,
- (b) requests that Evangelism and New Churches (“ENC”), in view of the decreased rates of church planting in this Diocese in recent years, to provide recommendations as to –
 - (i) how recruitment and training of potential church planters may be improved,
 - (ii) the identification of church planting opportunities with regard to strategic planning at a regional level,
 - (iii) the most effective method of identifying resources and assets to assist church planting,
 - (iv) effective methods to address conflict resolution in the context of church planting,
 - (v) how funding models underpinning the different styles of church planting in the Diocese could be enhanced,
 - (vi) how the role and resourcing of ENC may be improved in order to better support church planting in this Diocese, and
- (c) requests that the Standing Committee consider appropriate ways of providing financial support to church plants in brownfields areas, and report their findings to the next session of Synod.

(Bishop Peter Lin 12/10/2015)

14/15 Doctrine Commission report on fellowship meals for the proclamation of the Lord’s death

This Synod –

- (a) notes that Standing Committee declined the request of Synod expressed in resolution 7/14, since the report referred to in the resolution was a draft report of the Doctrine Commission,
- (b) thanks the Doctrine Commission for their work in producing the final report concerning Fellowship meals for the proclamation of Christ’s death, and
- (c) receives the final report and resolves that it be printed at the discretion of the Standing Committee.

(Dr Barry Newman 12/10/2015)

15/15 Incorporation of dioceses

Synod requests the Standing Committee ask the Anglican Church Property Trust and the Royal Commission Steering Committee to review the decision of all Victorian Anglican dioceses to incorporate in response to both workers’ compensation issues and the emerging findings of the Royal Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and consider the advantages and disadvantages of such action for NSW dioceses in current circumstances.

(Mr David Minty 12/10/2015)

16/15 Doctrine Commission’s report “A theology of Christian assembly”

That this Synod –

- (a) requests the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to revisit its report “A theology of Christian assembly” (4 September 2008), and
- (b) noting that the Commission's current report –
 - (i) makes no reference to WORSHIP, and
 - (ii) makes only passing reference to PRAYER,requests the Commission to give due consideration to (and advice on) the proper place for worship and prayer in Christian assembly.

(Dr David Oakenfull 13/10/2015)

17/15 Campus Bible Study, Unichurch and the Fellowship of Overseas Christian University Students

This Synod gives great thanks to God that the year 2015 marks 40 years since the commencement of Campus Bible Study (CBS) and Unichurch and 30 years since the commencement of the Fellowship of Overseas Christian University Students (FOCUS) at the University of NSW.

Synod gives thanks for the faithful ministry over these years of the Revs Phillip Jensen, Paul Grimmond and Carl Matthei at CBS and Unichurch and Joshua Ng at FOCUS. Synod particularly gives thanks for the many people who have, as a result of God using these ministries, come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and also those who have entered full-time pastoral ministry in evangelical churches in Australia or have gone onto the overseas mission field.

Synod notes with thankfulness and recognises that a celebration of these ministries will be held on Saturday 31 October at the Clancy Auditorium at the University of NSW.

This Synod commits to pray for the present generation of students and the ministry teams led by the Revs Carl Matthei and Joshua Ng.

(Dr Robert Tong 13/10/2015)

18/15 CMS Mission Aid Group in Tanzania

This Synod notes that the CMS Mission Aid Group (MAG) will close at the end of this year after 34 years of service to the Tanzanian Church. We praise God for those people who have served in this way over many years and pray that He will continue to bless the Tanzanian Church in the future.

(Dr Rodney James 13/10/2015)

19/15 Bishop Ivan Lee

Synod notes that Bishop Ivan Lee is scheduled for, major surgery on 26 October and encourages all parishes to pray for his health, impending surgery and for a swift recovery, and that the God of all comfort would pour out his comfort on Bishop Lee, Virginia and their family at this time.

(The Rev Raj Gupta 13/10/2015)

20/15 The Rev Dr Michael Stead

Synod gives thanks to God for the appointment of the Rev Dr Michael Stead as the next Bishop of South Sydney and looks forward to his leadership and partnership with the parishes and the South Sydney Regional Council in furthering the spread of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the region. The Synod warmly welcomes Dr Stead, his wife Felicity and their family as they minister with us in this area of the Diocese.

(Miss Alicia Watson 13/10/2015)

21/15 Chaplaincy in public schools

Synod encourages all those associated with the ministry of chaplaincy in public schools and assures them of our continued prayers.

(The Rev Richard Wenden 13/10/2015)

22/15 Proposal for a Property Receipts Levy

Synod –

- (i) noting the Large Property Receipts Policy (“LPRP”) approved in principle at its last session in October 2014,
- (ii) noting its request that the Standing Committee consult with parishes about the LPRP with a view to bringing a revised form to this session,

- (iii) noting the revised form of the LPRP included in the Standing Committee's report to Synod on this matter ("Report") together with an outline of a possible Property Receipts Levy as an alternative to the LPRP,
- (iv) noting that during the consultation process some parishes indicated a preference for a form of Property Receipts Levy instead of a LPRP,

agrees that a Property Receipts Levy along the lines described in the Report may be preferable to a LPRP, and therefore requests the Standing Committee to collect the necessary financial data from parishes, and undertake the necessary modelling and further consultation to bring to the Synod no later than its session in 2020 a proposal for a Property Receipts Levy to be considered as an alternative to a LPRP.

(The Rev Craig Roberts 13/10/2015)

23/15 Special Religious Education and Safe Ministry training accreditation

Synod recognises and affirms the importance of ensuring that the delivery of Special Religious Education in primary and secondary schools is of the highest quality, and is grateful to Youthworks for their efforts to this end in recent years.

Synod –

- (a) recognising that it is vital that SRE teachers be thoroughly trained,
- (b) noting that current authorisation arrangements for local trainers allow them to provide training for members of their own and only one other parish, and
- (c) acknowledging that it is difficult for remote parishes to rely on volunteers to provide local training on an infrequent basis, and uneconomical for Youthworks to provide training in remote areas,

requests Youthworks to revise accreditation policies (for both SRE Accreditation and Safe Ministry training) so that rectors are empowered to determine whether a suitably accredited local trainer from another parish possesses the capacity to provide effective training for members of their own parish.

(The Rev Anthony Douglas 13/10/2015)

24/15 Safe Ministry Policy

Synod –

- (a) affirms the following diocesan Safe Ministry Policy Statement adopted by the Synod in Motion 18/04 –
 - “The Anglican Church of Australia 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, the Church 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) encourages all parishes and organisations that have not adopted the diocesan Safe Ministry Policy Statement to do so,
- (c) recognises the *SafeMinistry.org.au* website as an important access point for survivors of abuse in the Diocese of Sydney for seeking information and support and for reporting abuse,
- (d) commends the *SafeMinistry.org.au* website to parishes in the Diocese of Sydney for safe ministry support, information and resources,
- (e) recommends each parish adopt the Safe Ministry Journey policies for Parishes, and specifically the policy documents for those serving in the following roles –
 - (i) Ministers
 - (ii) Safe Ministry Representatives
 - (iii) Head of Youth Ministry
 - (iv) Youth Ministry Leaders

- (v) Head of Children's Ministry
- (vi) Children's Ministry Leaders.

(Mr Doug Marr 14/10/2015)

25/15 Communion with the Anglican Church in North America

Synod declares it is in communion with the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) so long as communion is consistent with the Fundamental Declarations contained in the 1961 Constitution.

(The Rev David Ould 14/10/2015)

26/15 Importance of Special Religious Education

This Synod –

- (a) affirms the goodness and importance of the gospel of Christ crucified and risen, and the knowledge of God and of ourselves as revealed in the Bible for the development of children and young people,
- (b) affirms the importance of Special Religious Education (SRE) to the lives of NSW public school children as a means of developing their own personal values and beliefs,
- (c) values the opportunity given to all parents/caregivers in the NSW government school system to have SRE of their choice provided for their children,
- (d) values the priority given to SRE during the normal school timetable,
- (e) respects the right of parents to object to their child receiving SRE and withdrawing them from SRE,
- (f) values the development and implementation of SRE Curriculum authorised by approved providers outside the Board of Studies NSW syllabuses,
- (g) values the partnership with principals and school communities in seeing SRE as an integral part of school activities, taking place in school hours and under the jurisdiction of the school,
- (h) encourages all incumbents to ensure the highest quality of delivery of SRE in the schools for which they are responsible, including ensuring all SRE teachers are suitably trained, supervised and accredited, and to welcome any systems and procedures to ensure this is occurring,
- (i) encourages Anglican Youthworks to pursue the ongoing development and enhancement of contemporary, age-appropriate curriculum which links with the training given to SRE volunteer teachers, and where appropriate, reflects the broad learning outcomes for government school students, and
- (j) supports the Archbishop, bishops, clergy and other parties as they engage in clear, timely public and unified advocacy and defence of the Diocese's current SRE rights, program and policy.

(The Rev Christopher Braga 14/10/2015)

27/15 Connection with our Muslim neighbours

That a working group be formed in association with Moore College, and chaired by the Head of the Department of Mission, to develop material and an organised and comprehensive approach that will motivate, educate and equip our churches to connect with our Muslim neighbours in culturally appropriate ways in order to commend Christ to them – not from fear but because the love of Christ compels us. That the committee include the mover and the Reverends John Bales and Bruce Hall.

(The Rev Dr Margaret Powell 14/10/2015)

28/15 Ministry in socially disadvantaged areas

Synod –

- (i) noting the "Dropping off the Edge 2015" report by Jesuit Social Services and Catholic Social Services Australia which observes "consistent place-based disadvantage" in Australia and that in NSW "a significant number of postcodes have remained depressed for long periods demonstrating the persistent, entrenched nature of the disadvantage experienced by these communities",
- (ii) noting the Anglicare August 2015 Parish Disadvantage Report which –

Resolutions of the 2015 session of the 50th Synod

- (A) highlights the fact that successful ministry in such areas of disadvantage require particularly focused targeting of resources from outside those areas, and
 - (B) recommends that the Diocese, both corporately and from individual parishes, should consider how best to provide those resources,
- (a) thanks God for the work of Anglicare, Anglican Aid and other diocesan organisations and units which currently deliver, support and partner with such ministries,
 - (b) requests the Standing Committee to produce a report on how the Diocese may best support ministry in places of disadvantage in the most deliberate, effective and co-ordinated manner, including the best way to recruit, train and support leadership in these areas.
 - (c) requests the Standing Committee to report back to Synod at its next session on what is required to implement such a program of support.

(Bishop Peter Hayward 14/10/2015)

29/15 Government schools

Synod –

- (a) reaffirms its support for public education in schools, TAFE colleges and universities,
- (b) recognises the significant role that public education has played in the formation of the majority of children and young people and in the development of a civil democratic society in Australia,
- (c) gives thanks to God for Christian teachers who work in government schools and recognises the strategic importance of an ongoing supply of well-trained classroom Christian teachers, Christian education leaders and Christian principals in government schools,
- (d) recognises the role and focus of the Anglican Education Commission (“EdComm”) in the recruitment of Christian men and women into the teaching profession and in programs to assist them to develop as exemplary Christian teachers and leaders in secular society,
- (e) calls on churches to –
 - (i) pray regularly for Christian teachers in their congregations who teach children and young people in government schools,
 - (ii) support the work of EdComm in identifying and urging teachers in their congregations teaching in government schools to become part of a local network of Christian teachers for mutual encouragement, mentoring and the sharing of ideas,
 - (iii) maintain and sustain the best possible relationships with school leaders, teachers and parent groups of government schools in their locality, and
 - (iv) pray for the work of EdComm in its advocacy role on behalf of the Diocese with governments and other agencies on a wide range of contemporary educational matters including national curriculum and teaching standards, religious education, equity, funding and religious freedom.

(Professor Christopher Bellenger 14/10/2015)

30/15 Anglican schools

Synod –

- (a)
 - (i) recognising our diocesan schools as outstanding educational institutions, each with their own unique culture, which exist to advance the educational purposes of the Diocese,
 - (ii) recognising that biblically shaped education seeks, among other things, to encourage the search for and commitment to truth and to cultivate, critique and seek the transformation of our culture in accordance with godly wisdom,
 - (iii) recognising that a commitment to biblically shaped education reinforces outstanding educational outcomes,
 - (iv) recognising the crucial role that an increasing number of Chaplains are taking in working alongside academic staff to assist them in conceptualising and embedding a biblically focussed worldview throughout their teaching programs,
 - (v) recognising that the Anglican Education Commission (“EdComm”) seeks to support Christian educators in diocesan schools to understand how biblically shaped education can be embedded in all aspects of school life,

Resolutions of the 2015 session of the 50th Synod

- (vi) honouring the work of all teachers in diocesan schools but recognising the special role of Christian teachers in providing an education that is informed by a biblical worldview,
- (vii) recognising the need for effective mentoring of Christian teachers in how to integrate their faith with teaching practice,
- (viii) recognising the need for Christian students to consider teaching as a vital vocation for the benefit of future generations,
- (b) gives thanks to God for our diocesan schools and prays for the work of our schools in educating young men and women,
- (c) calls on our diocesan schools to work collaboratively with EdComm –
 - (i) to equip all their teaching staff to understand what it means to work in an Anglican Christian educational institution,
 - (ii) to support and mentor Christian teachers in the integration of their faith and teaching practice, and
 - (iii) to prioritise the recruitment and training of Christian teachers,
- (d) calls on the churches of our Diocese –
 - (i) to acknowledge the importance of the work of its members who are teachers and support them in prayer, and
 - (ii) to support the work of EdComm through prayer and in identifying and urging teachers in their parishes to become a part of local networks of Christian teachers for mutual Christian encouragement, mentoring and the sharing of ideas, and
- (e) encourages partnerships between EdComm, Anglican University chaplains and evangelical Christian university groups in facilitating the training and mentoring of Christian pre-service teachers.

(The Rev Dr Michael Stead 14/10/2015)

31/15 Affirmation of marriage as between a man and a woman

Synod –

- (a) affirms once again that marriage, as a gift from God who made us male and female, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life,
- (b) recalls that marriage is the symbol of God's unending love for his people, and of the union between Christ and his Church,
- (c) recognises that marriage is a bedrock institution of society, designed for its good order and the secure and loving care of children by their own mother and father,
- (d) notes, nonetheless, that many children are lovingly cared for in other contexts, and affirms that the welfare of such children must be paramount, along with support for their parents and other carers,
- (e) condemns any violence against or mistreatment of our neighbours who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans or intersex (LGBTI),
- (f) calls on all Australian Christians to engage respectfully in the debate over marriage and to pray for the members of the Federal Parliament in their consideration of this matter,
- (g) insists that, should the Federal Parliament decide to change the legal definition of marriage, robust provisions for freedom of speech and religion are included in relevant legislation, to protect those whose conscientious beliefs mean they cannot celebrate such a redefinition; and nevertheless,
- (h) urges the Federal Parliament to uphold the classical understanding of marriage as being between a man and a woman, in accordance with current provisions of the Marriage Act 1961.

(Canon Sandy Grant 14/10/2015)

32/15 Retention of marriage licences and same-sex marriage

Synod, noting the report provided in response to resolution 31/14, declares its view that –

- (a) if the definition of marriage under the *Marriage Act 1961* were to be amended to allow for unions of same-sex couples to be treated as marriages under the Act, and
- (b) provided clergy who are authorised as marriage celebrants under an amended Act were not legally compelled to solemnise marriages other than in accordance with God's law,

clergy should continue as authorised marriage celebrants under an amended Act in order to solemnise the marriage of a man and a woman, although it would be open for individual clergy, for example by reason of conscience, to withdraw as an authorised celebrant in consultation with their parish. Further, it would be unnecessary and pastorally unhelpful for the Anglican Church of Australia to withdraw as a recognised denomination under the Marriage Act in such circumstances.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth 14/10/2015)

33/15 Recognition, encouragement and support of faithful Anglicans

Synod –

- (a) praises God for the godly leadership of the Australian Bishops' Conference, in their unanimous adoption of the following protocol in 2014 and 2015 –

As we ordain, license or appoint to ministries within our dioceses we undertake to uphold *Faithfulness in Service*, the code of conduct for bishops adopted by the General Synod in Resolution 59/04 and as amended by the General Synod from time to time.

noting that *Faithfulness in Service* states –

- 7.1 The sexual conduct of clergy and church workers has a significant impact on the Church and the community.
- 7.2 Sexuality is a gift from God and is integral to human nature. It is appropriate for clergy and church workers to value this gift, taking responsibility for their sexual conduct by maintaining chastity in singleness and faithfulness in marriage.
- 7.4 You are to be chaste and not engage in sex outside of marriage.
- (b) regrets the recent appointment in August 2015 of a man in a long term homosexual relationship to a ministry office in the Diocese of Gippsland, as it constitutes –
- (i) a departure from the teaching of Scripture,
 - (ii) a departure from Lambeth Resolution 1.10 of 1998 (which rejects homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture),
 - (iii) a departure from *Faithfulness in Service* §7.4, and
 - (iv) a breach of the Australian Bishops' Protocol agreed to by all Australian bishops in 2014, 2015,
- (c) views the actions of the Bishop of Gippsland as a breach of collegiality and fellowship at a profound level and which deeply grieves us,
- (d) prayerfully and respectfully requests the Australian Bishops to appoint clergy and church workers in line with the expectations for elders as set forth in Scripture and in accordance with –
- (i) Lambeth Resolution 1.10 of 1998,
 - (ii) *Faithfulness in Service* §7.4, and
 - (iii) the Australian Bishops' Protocol, and
- (e) regrets the recent statements by the Bishop of Wangaratta, the Rt Rev John Parkes, in the media affirming that 'same-sex marriage' is compatible with Scripture, as it constitutes –
- (i) a departure from the teaching of Scripture,
 - (ii) a departure from *Faithfulness in Service* §7.4," and
- (f) views the actions of the Bishop of Wangaratta as a breach of collegiality and fellowship at a profound level and which deeply grieves us,
- (g) praises God for the recent formation of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans in Australia and, in the light of the actions of the Bishops of Gippsland and Wangaratta, encourages our Bishops and Standing Committee to look for ways to recognise, encourage and support those faithful Anglicans who are disenfranchised by such actions, and to reach those elements of society denied a faithful presentation of the gospel, and
- (h) requests that a copy of this resolution be circulated to all bishops and assistant bishops in the Anglican Church of Australia.

(The Rev Dominic Steele 14/10/2015)

34/15 Diocesan Doctrine Commission report on Human Sexuality

Synod thanks the Sydney Diocesan Doctrine Commission for its recent publication *Human Sexuality & the Same-Sex Marriage Debate* and commends it to the churches of the Diocese for the clarification and confirmation of the biblical theology of human sexuality and commits to pray for those in our community who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or intersex (LGBTI).

Synod requests Standing Committee to continue its work of developing pastoral guidelines for pastors as they minister to Christians experiencing same-sex attraction, their family and friends, and their churches; and that a committee be formed of sufficient size, breadth of experience, and expertise to accomplish this, to report to Synod in 2017.

(The Rev Jim Crowweller 19/10/2015)

35/15 Review of Regional Councils

Synod requests Standing Committee to conduct a review of the purpose and effectiveness of Regional Councils.

(The Rev Roger Cunningham 19/10/2015)

36/15 Effective Ministry under God

Synod –

- (a) recognises and gives thanks to God for the work of the dedicated staff of Effective Ministry;
- (b) commends the online resource effectiveministry.org and encourages rectors, other clergy and lay people to visit the website, to explore the resources and to use those which suit their local ministry.

(The Rev Robin Kinstead 19/10/2015)

37/15 Priscilla and Aquila Centre

Synod, acknowledging the perfect wisdom of our Creator in making us male and female to complement each other as we work together in his world –

- (a) thanks God for the work of the Priscilla and Aquila Centre at Moore College and particularly the leadership of its Director, Jane Tooher, in helping us think through the implications of God's good design for the ministry in this Diocese, and
- (b) recommends the forthcoming conference on Monday 1 February 2016 to the ministry teams of the churches and organisations represented at this Synod.

(The Rev Alistair Seabrook 19/10/2015)

38/15 Liverpool South: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Liverpool South as a parish with effect from 1 January 2016.

(Bishop Peter Lin 19/10/2015)

39/15 Glenmore Park: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Glenmore Park as a parish with effect from 1 January 2016.

(Bishop Peter Hayward 19/10/2015)

40/15 Bishop Robert Forsyth

Noting that this will be Bishop Robert Forsyth's last Synod, Synod gives thanks to God for Bishop Forsyth's nearly 40 years of ordained ministry both in the Diocese of Sydney and beyond. As a curate in the parishes of Glenbrook and Holy Trinity, Adelaide, as Rector of St Barnabas Broadway, and as Bishop of South Sydney, Robert has proclaimed Christ, warning and teaching with wisdom, so that people might be presented mature in Christ. As Chaplain to the University of Sydney, and for over 20 years the Chairman of The EU Graduates Fund, Robert pioneered a model of partnership with the Sydney University Evangelical Union which continues to bear fruit today. As Bishop of South Sydney, Robert has overseen a revitalisation of gospel ministry throughout the Region, with many churches turning around and a significant number of churches planted. Through his membership of the Standing Committee, the Archbishop's liturgical panel, and the renewing structures taskforce, Robert has served the Synod with creativity and wisdom. As he moves into a new sphere of ministry, Synod thanks God for both Robert and Margaret, and prays that he will continue both to bless them, and to bless others through them, so that Jesus Christ will be honoured as Lord and Saviour.

(The Rev Andrew Katay 19/10/2015)

41/15 Parental leave for parish clergy

Synod, noting the report Parental leave for parish clergy –

- (a) agrees in principle to making provision for parental leave for parish clergy,
- (b) requests Standing Committee to consider whether such provision is best made by ordinance, by policy, or by some other instrument,
- (c) invites Synod members to send any comments on the exposure draft to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2015 and requests the Standing Committee to take these comments into account in finalising a proposal for consideration at the 2016 session of Synod.

(Archdeacon Kara Hartley 19/10/2015)

42/15 Ministry progress and brownfields' grants

Synod gives thanks to God for the contribution of \$9.32m from the Diocesan Endowment in stimulating some \$43m in parish building projects, which has facilitated enhanced new ministry opportunities, measured by notable increased attendance and offertory growth in a number of those churches.

Further, noting –

- (i) the report regarding Ministry Progress and Brownfields grants, and
- (ii) that 70% of the growth in new housing in Sydney is anticipated to be in brownfield areas, and
- (iii) the urgent desire to introduce Jesus to more people,

Synod requests that Standing Committee, in consultation with the Strategic Research Group and any other necessary parties, develop –

- (a) recommendations for Synod 2016 as to how capital could be raised for the development and expansion of church facilities in brownfield areas, and
- (b) appropriate criteria that could be used to ascertain suitable and strategic parishes to receive such an investment.

(The Rev Raj Gupta 19/10/2015)

43/15 The Rev Bruce Hall

Synod gives thanks to God for the work of the Rev Bruce Hall from 2012 to 2015 in carrying forward the legacy of Canon John Chapman as the Director of Evangelism and New Churches, in particular –

- (a) his unceasing desire to see the gospel of Christ crucified preached to all the people of Sydney,
- (b) his support for new and creative initiatives to reach people from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and
- (c) his encouragement of new church plants under the banner of Evangelism Ministries to reach people who would not be reached through our existing structures.

Synod also welcomes with joy the appointment of the Rev Phil Wheeler as the new Director of Evangelism and New Churches and assures him of our prayerful support as he begins in the vital role of encouraging and supporting evangelism and the planting of new churches to reach the lost of Sydney.

(The Rev Archie Poulos 20/10/2015)

44/15 Biography of Sir Marcus Loane

Synod thanks Canon Allan Blanch for his newly published biography of Sir Marcus Loane, *From Strength to Strength – a Life of Marcus Loane* launched on the 14th October 2015.

Synod also encourages future biographical and historical work, which records and celebrates those whom God has used to help secure and develop the evangelical character of the Diocese.

(The Rev Peter Tong 20/10/2015)

45/15 Nomination process for electing the Archbishop

That Standing Committee consider bringing to Synod amendments to the *Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982* to give effect to a provision that, once the minimum number of 20 nominations for a nominee is reached, no more nominators are required, and only the first 20 nominations for a nominee received by the Returning Officer will be made known to members of Synod.

(Dr Stuart Piggin 20/10/2015)

46/15 Implementation of the Diocesan policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour

Synod –

- (a) determines that the Diocesan Policy for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour (the “policy”) commences on 1 January 2016 and that the existing Grievance Policy and Procedure for dealing with allegations of unacceptable behaviour by clergy and church workers in parishes ceases on that date, and
- (b) requests that a copy of the policy be circulated to all rectors and parish councils for their attention and that parishioners be made aware of the policy, and
- (c) requests that the Regional Bishops be offered training to undertake their responsibilities under the policy, and
- (d) requests that the Regional Bishops report annually to Standing Committee on such training received for their policy responsibilities and on their use (or otherwise) of the policy and model procedures, and
- (e) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the policy provided any amendments are reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod, and
- (f) requests the Standing Committee to undertake a review of the policy after a period of 5 years from its commencement, and
- (g) requests the committee appointed to review the *Discipline Ordinance 2006* to consider the relationship between the policy and the Discipline Ordinance and, in particular, to consider whether the *Offences Ordinance 1962* should be amended to include as an additional offence for clergy and other church workers “repeated and unreasonable behaviour directed towards a staff member or volunteer worker in a parish that creates a risk to the health or safety of that person”.

(Canon Sandy Grant 20/10/2015)

47/15 Syrian refugee crisis

This Synod, mindful of the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe in the wake of the violence in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East, remembering the open handed generosity of Christ our Good Samaritan, and aware of the abundant resources with which our gracious God has endowed this nation –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the leadership of Archbishop Glenn Davies on this issue both in public and in private, and particularly in mobilising the Diocese through its parishes and organisations to assist those in such dire need;

Resolutions of the 2015 session of the 50th Synod

- (b) commits itself to support him in prayer as he continues to play such an important role in our nation's response to this crisis;
- (c) commits itself and encourages all in this Diocese to continue to pray for the people of this war-torn region, especially those who suffer persecution for the name of Jesus;
- (d) encourages all in the Diocese to seek to build personal helping relationships where possible;
- (e) commends the Australian Government for agreeing to increase the number of refugees from this region;
- (f) respectfully calls on the Australian Government to consider further significant increases to this number and the provision of a permanent safe-haven for the men, women and children who have suffered as result of civil war, terrorism and the policies of regimes and organisations in all parts of the world, including all those who have suffered persecution for their faith; and
- (g) encourages all members of the Anglican Church in Sydney to enthusiastically and generously support the fundraising initiatives of Diocesan organisations that have committed assistance, expertise, resources and facilities towards the needs of the Syrian refugees.

(The Rev Dr Mark Thompson 20/10/2015)

48/15 Repentance and redress for child abuse

Synod acknowledges that the Anglican Diocese of Sydney –

- (a) continues to publicly repent of and apologise for child abuse suffered within the institutions of the Diocese, and
- (b) continues to engage with survivors as they come forward to offer redress that may include –
 - (i) an acknowledgment of the abuse,
 - (ii) financial assistance,
 - (iii) provision of specific services including counselling, and
 - (iv) a meaningful personal apology.

(The Rev Nigel Fortescue 20/10/2015)

49/15 Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015

Synod defers further consideration of the bill for the *Anglican Schools Ministry Ordinance 2015* until the next session of Synod and requests the Standing Committee to –

- (a) consult with the Chairs, Heads and Chaplains of Anglican schools in respect to a suitable form of the bill and any matters of principle identified in any proposed amendments to the text of the bill which have not been dealt with at this session,
- (b) invite the Chairs, Heads and Chaplains to send any comments on the bill and matters of principle to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 March 2016, and
- (c) make arrangements to resume consideration of the bill at the next session having regard to any comments that are received.

(Bishop Chris Edwards 20/10/2015)

50/15 Professional Pastoral Supervision for Clergy and Stipendiary Lay Ministers

Synod –

- (a) recognises and gives thanks to God for the sacrificial and tireless efforts of our clergy and stipendiary lay ministers in parish ministry;
- (b) notes the need for all clergy and stipendiary lay ministers to debrief in a safe, stable and suitable supervisory space;
- (c) requests that the Standing Committee ask for a report from the Pastoral Supervision Working Group, and then review and report back to the Synod.

(The Rev Robin Kinstead 20/10/2015)

51/15 Career Transition Management for Clergy and Stipendiary Lay Ministers

Synod –

- (a) recognises and gives thanks to God for the sacrificial and tireless efforts of our clergy and stipendiary lay ministers in parish ministry;
- (b) requests that the Standing Committee establish a Working Group to explore ways of making it possible for those clergy and stipendiary lay ministers who need to transition from their parish ministry role to do so with honour and dignity, and report back to the Synod.

(The Rev Robin Kinstead 20/10/2015)

52/15 Large Receipts Policy

Synod requests Standing Committee to adhere to its Large Receipts Policy until such time as a proposal for a levy as an alternative to a LPRP is considered by Synod.

(The Rev Craig Roberts 20/10/2015)