

Resolutions of the 2016 session of the 50th Synod

(Resolutions 1/16 to 2/16 were passed at the Special Session of Synod for the proposed merger of Anglicare and ARV in April 2016.)

3/16 Non-parochial forms of Anglican ministry

Synod, noting the report, "Alternative forms of Anglican Church" –

- (a) commends the Department of Evangelism and New Churches Board ("ENC") for their past and current efforts in supporting non-parochial forms of Anglican ministry in Sydney,
- (b) recognises the contribution of non-parochial forms of Anglican ministry to the mission of the Diocese,
- (c) encourages parishes and individuals to partner with ENC in the support of non-parochial forms of Anglican ministry,
- (d) requests the Standing Committee to modify the ordinance of ENC to make more explicit ENC's responsibility for identifying and supporting new and existing non-parochial forms of Anglican ministry,
- (e) requests that the Strategic Research Group, in light of this report and the contribution of non-parochial forms of Anglican ministry to the mission of the Diocese, provide a recommendation to the Diocesan Resources Committee as to the value and importance of potentially increasing funding for ENC in the next triennium to provide for the employment of staff to –
 - (i) develop existing and new non-parochial forms of Anglican ministry, and
 - (ii) identify, develop and support their leadership, and
- (f) requests ENC to report progress to Synod within two years with suitable recommendations to support and promote non-parochial forms of Anglican ministry.

(The Rev Bruce Stanley 10/10/2016)

4/16 Funding church planting in urban areas

Synod, noting the report "Funding church planting in urban areas" –

- (a) recommends that the Regional Bishops and the Department of Evangelism and New Churches ("ENC") encourage and facilitate inter-parochial partnerships, where needed, to allow larger churches to resource the planting of churches in urban areas,
- (b) requests the Large Property Receipts Policy Committee, when presenting the proposed Property Receipts Levy, to include in its modelling an option that provides significant additional funding for ministry initiatives, and
- (c) agrees that if additional funding were provided through a Property Receipts Levy, additional funding for ENC is worthy of strong consideration in order to support church planting initiatives in urban areas.

(Bishop Peter Lin 10/10/2016)

5/16 Gambling reform

Gambling addiction is easily acquired but difficult to escape. It brings destruction to the person, the family, friends and the employer. Synod notes with deep concern the continued inaction by governments on gambling reform, in order to reduce the normalisation of gambling and community harm, in particular –

- (a) the continued rise of poker machine use in NSW, especially in areas of socio-economic disadvantage;
- (a) the uptake of on-line sports betting in Australia as reported by the Australian Gambling Research Centre;
- (b) the demonstrated potential for sports betting to corrupt genuine sporting contests;
- (c) that advertising for sports betting now legitimises and normalises this activity as an essential component to the enjoyment of many sports;
- (d) the continued unacceptable exposure of young Australians to advertising for betting in all forms of media, especially family TV viewing time;

and calls on the Prime Minister, and the Minister for Communications, to work with state ministers to implement additional controls on poker machines and advertising for sports betting on TV, radio, the internet, and mobile apps, with specific action on –

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- (i) a national agreement on setting \$1 bet limits on poker machines;
- (ii) the elimination of advertising for sports betting on television in G, PG, news current affairs and live sports broadcasts; and
- (iii) tighter regulation of on-line betting, especially 'push' advertising and cookie-enabled advertising.

(Dean Kanishka Raffel 10/10/2016)

6/16 Protestant Reformation

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century in the year of the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 95 theses by Dr Martin Luther. We particularly give thanks for the recovery and clear proclamation of the great reformation doctrines of –
 - **Grace alone** — The only source of our salvation and life is nothing but the unmerited favour and merciful love of God;
 - **Christ alone** — Jesus the incarnate Son and Messiah is our only Saviour, who in his loving act of bearing our sin and undergoing the judgment we deserve makes the love of the Father known to us;
 - **Faith alone** — Our salvation is received not as a reward for our character or our work but through God imputing righteousness to us by the instrument of faith, which is empty-handed trust in the promises of God and in the faithfulness of the one who has made those promises;
 - **Scripture alone** — The teaching of the Bible, the revealed, written word of God, is the final authority in all matters of doctrine and Christian living, by which standard every other word and all practice is to be judged;
 - **To the glory of God alone** — The goal of Christian living, both individual and corporate, and of the whole course of universal history, is the glory of the one true God by whom all things are made and by whom we have been redeemed;
- (b) acknowledges our Reformation heritage, particularly through the 39 Articles of Religion and the Homilies, the Book of Common Prayer and the Ordinal, and through the ministries of faithful men and women over the past five hundred years and joyfully reaffirms these confessional standards; and
- (c) respectfully requests the Standing Committee, the Chapter of St Andrew's Cathedral, Moore Theological College, Youthworks College, Mary Andrews College, and Anglican Deaconess Ministries to consider ways in which they might contribute to a diocesan wide celebration of our Reformation heritage during 2017.

(The Rev Dr Mark Thompson 10/10/2016)

7/16 Restoring Hope, Respect and Trust in our Society

Synod acknowledges that sins committed within a Society destroy Hope, Respect and Trust and that restoring Hope, Respect and Trust in that Society is essential for the improvement of the welfare of the people.

Synod is aware that public exposures of misconduct within various Anglican Churches reflect on public perceptions of churches even within our own Diocese. Unless Trust is restored many people will continue to regard the Church as but a 'clanging symbol'.

Therefore, as Sydney Anglicans we grieve over the wickedness and sin that exists in our nation and churches, and pray that we all may repent and seek God's forgiveness.

Synod recognises the need to repent of our own sins if we are to be effective in the evangelisation of our Diocese.

When we do so individually and corporately, God may use us more effectively to change our communities and nation.

(Bishop Ivan Lee 10/10/2016)

8/16 Dr Laurie Scandrett

Synod gives thanks to God for the work and ministry of Dr Laurie Scandrett as CEO of the Anglican Schools Corporation from September 1999 to August 2016, a period of 17 years.

- (a) Synod especially gives thanks for Laurie's –
- (b) passion to see the ongoing development of quality Christian education where the gospel is proclaimed,
- (c) energy to grow the Corporation from 9 to 20 schools and 4,000 to 14,000 students,
- (d) development and management of the structures to resource the Corporation over these 17 years, and
- (e) engagement of the Corporation and the Diocese in and with the education sector and its stakeholders in NSW and nationally.

Synod also welcomes the appointment of Mr Ross Smith as the incoming CEO of the Anglican Schools Corporation and assures Ross of our prayerful support as he takes up this role.

(Mr Tony Willis 10/10/2016)

9/16 Equipping rectors for their task of leadership

Synod gives thanks to God for the well trained men who lead our parishes and recognising that –

- (a) rectors are charged with the leadership of our parishes, and
- (b) many could be even better prepared and even better resourced for this task.
- (c) Synod asks the Strategic Research Group to establish a committee (in consultation with MT&D, CMD and other appropriate instruments) to explore and report back to the Synod in 2017 on what action is required and how it may be implemented to better equip rectors for their task of leadership.

(The Rev Ted Brush 10/10/2016)

10/16 Licensing of incumbents interim report

Synod –

- (a) welcomes the interim report on "Licensing of incumbents",
- (b) encourages the Committee to continue to meet and provide a final report with recommendations and proposed ordinances for consideration by the Synod in 2017,
- (c) notes that the survey mentioned in the report will be sent to Synod members shortly and invites members to complete the survey, and
- (d) invites Synod members to provide feedback on the interim report to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2016 for consideration by the Committee.

(Bishop Peter Hayward 10/10/2016)

11/16 Asylum seekers

In the certain knowledge that all persons are created in the image of God (Gen 1:27), Synod acknowledges the efforts of the Federal Government in reducing the number of children who are asylum seekers in immigration detention facilities within Australia, and requests the Government to enact further changes in order that the human dignity of those seeking asylum in our nation is upheld. In particular –

- (a) expediting the process of settling the 12,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees;
- (b) removing the secrecy surrounding the operation of immigration detention centres, and allowing scrutiny of their operation;
- (c) expediting the time taken to process the claims of people in immigration detention centres within Australia, noting that, of the 1580 people in detention as at 31 July 2016, 44% had been in detention for one year or longer;
- (d) ensuring that the over 1,240 asylum seekers held at the processing centres at Manus Province PNG and the Republic of Nauru are afforded dignity and respect and their applications for refugee status to be processed as quickly and efficiently as possible; and

- (e) developing a solution that accords with Australia's documented agreement with international conventions,
- and commends the continuing work of Anglicare, parishes and other agencies in assisting with re-settlement efforts.

(Dr Karin Sowada 10/10/2016)

12/16 Community Chaplains (Evangelists)

Synod, noting that 90% of the population within the Diocese do not regularly visit our churches, and that a reported 50% do not know a Christian person –

- (a) acknowledges there is a desperate need to reach the spiritually lost in new ways, and reach into the many sub-cultures and networks of the Diocese,
- (b) commends the work of Anglicare, Anglican Deaconess Ministries (ADM), Moore College, and Evangelism and New Churches (ENC) in developing the work of Community Chaplains,
- (c) gives thanks to God for the current 70+ Community Chaplains showing the love of Christ and speaking the life-giving good news of salvation and hope through Jesus Christ, for example, in pubs, sporting clubs, nursing homes, dementia wards, and ESL classes,

and asks Synod members and our churches to –

- (d) pray for these Community Chaplains, and that 1000 more might be deployed as pioneering urban evangelists across the Diocese,
- (e) identify those within our own communities who are unreached by the gospel and marginalised and raise up evangelists for these groups,
- (f) partner with ENC, Anglicare, Anglican Aid, ADM and Moore College in training and deploying Community Chaplains, and
- (g) consider attending the Forum and Information Day on Community Chaplains and Missional Communities on 12 November 2016 at St Phillip's Anglican Church Auburn.

(The Rev Philip Wheeler 10/10/2016)

13/16 Truth and Unity in the Anglican Church regarding Marriage

Synod trusts the teaching of Scripture about marriage, above all the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, who said of marriage that –

“From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no one separate.”
[Mark 10:6-9]

Synod also recalls with gratitude the teaching of our Prayer Books that one of marriage's key purposes is that in it –

“... a new family is established in accordance with God's purpose, so that children may be born and nurtured in secure and loving care, for their wellbeing and instruction, and for the good order of society, to the glory of God.” [An Australian Prayer Book, p561, Common Prayer, p117]

Synod also notes Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference which, among other things, in view of the teaching of Scripture –

- upheld faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union, and believed that abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage;
- while rejecting homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture, called on all our people to minister pastorally and sensitively to all irrespective of sexual orientation and to condemn irrational fear of homosexuals, violence within marriage and any trivialisation and commercialisation of sex; and
- could not advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions nor ordaining those involved in same gender unions.

And Synod notes the consistent pattern of resolutions of our General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia in regards to marriage, for example, in 2004, where General Synod welcomed the initiative of the Federal Parliament in clarifying that marriage, at law in this country, is the union of a man and a woman to

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the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life (64/04; reaffirmed in 56/10 of 2010), and where General Synod also did not condone the liturgical blessing of same sex relationships (62/04), nor the ordination of people in open committed same sex relationships (63/04).

Synod therefore gives thanks to God for bishops in our diocese and other Australian dioceses who faithfully uphold the teachings of Scripture regarding marriage, even when to do so is unpopular. By contrast, Synod is grieved by the suggestions from some bishops in other dioceses which undermine both the teaching of Scripture about marriage and also the unity of our Church by promoting a departure from our agreed Scriptural and Anglican position in regards to the definition of marriage at law in our country.

Synod calls on all bishops and other leaders in our church to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace, not least by only speaking the truth in love.

(Canon Sandy Grant 11/10/2016)

14/16 Funding for Urban Renewal

Synod, noting the report "Funding for Urban Renewal" –

- (a) notes –
 - (i) that 70% of the growth in new housing in Sydney is anticipated to be in Brownfields areas, and
 - (ii) the urgent desire to introduce more people to Jesus,
- (b) also notes –
 - (i) that the Synod has already approved triennium funding ordinances for 2016-2018;
 - (ii) is due to consider its "Statement of Funding Principles" for the 2019-2021 triennium at the 2017 Synod; and
 - (iii) approved its "Mission 2020" priorities at the 2014 Synod,
- (c) requests that Standing Committee consider the recommendations of the "Funding for Urban Renewal" report against other funding needs and opportunities in the preparation of the "Statement of Funding Principles" report for the 2017 Synod for potential inclusion in the triennium funding ordinances for 2019-2021,
- (d) requests that Standing Committee –
 - (i) assess factors other than building grants that may induce growth in established areas, and
 - (ii) establish a priority list for the disbursement of funds for the purpose of growing evangelistic ministry in urban areas.

(The Rev Raj Gupta 11/10/2016)

15/16 Gratitude for Funding for Urban Renewal proposal

Synod expresses its thanks to God for the work of the Rev Raj Gupta and the Funding for Urban Renewal (FUR) Committee in bringing this important issue to the attention of the Synod and commits to pray for wisdom in determining means to fund Urban Renewal in our Diocese.

(Canon Philip Colgan)

16/16 Diversity and Inclusion Policies

Synod notes –

- (a) that many organisations, both secular and Christian, have "Diversity and Inclusion" policies,
- (b) that a number of our diocesan organisations, such as schools, nursing homes, and retirement villages, have, or will be developing such policies,
- (c) the potential for such policies to adversely affect the gospel influence of our organisations, and therefore requests the Diocesan Doctrine Commission or the Social Issues Committee to provide a report on the biblical understanding of "diversity and inclusion" so as to assist our organisations in the formulation of such policies, and to report back to the next session of Synod.

(The Rev Brian Heath 12/10/2016)

17/16 South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Bill

Recognising that all life is precious in God's sight and that deliberately ending a human life is wrong, Synod views with deep concern the possibility that the Voluntary Euthanasia Bill 2016 may pass the South Australian Parliament shortly.

Further Synod –

- (a) rejects the false notion that euthanasia represents dying with dignity;
- (b) recognises that euthanasia represents a deep and fundamental change to society's commitment to caring for people at their most vulnerable, and that the elderly in particular will be exposed to possible medical error and abuse;
- (c) believes that euthanasia will fundamentally change the doctor-patient relationship by undermining the trust inherent in that bond and the "do no harm" purpose of medical care;
- (d) supports the maintenance and if possible extension of funding available to palliative care units of South Australian hospitals;

and respectfully urges Members of the South Australian Parliament to oppose the Bill.

(Dr Karin Sowada 12/10/2016)

18/16 Muslim neighbours

While acknowledging that there are real and significant differences between the Islamic and Christian faiths, this Synod –

- (a) extends a peaceful welcome to Australian Muslims as our fellow citizens,
- (b) welcomes opportunities for standing alongside Australians of Islamic faith, where we agree, in matters of justice and social order, and in repudiating acts of terror, and
- (c) invites genuine, respectful and honest conversation with our Muslim neighbours on matters of ultimate significance.

(The Rev Dr Michael Jensen 12/10/2016)

19/16 Safe Ministry and Licensing

Recognising the Archbishop's concern for proper licensing of ordained and lay leadership in our parishes as expressed in his Presidential Address and as required by ordinance, and noting –

- (a) the requirement that those licensed or authorised for ministry in the Diocese of Sydney whether paid or unpaid, must have completed the confidential lifestyle questionnaire and be interviewed as part of that process before receiving a licence or authority, and
- (b) that the confidential questionnaire and interview can highlight areas of moral vulnerability relevant to the conduct of safe ministry and be helpful for the pastoral care of the applicant, and
- (c) the view of the Safe Ministry Board that such scrutiny for church leadership is critically important for helping ensure safe ministry in our churches, and
- (d) that many ministering in our churches who should be licensed, currently have not yet applied for such licensing,

Synod urges all rectors to make sure that all those serving in their parishes who are required to be licensed by the Archbishop are so licensed.

(The Rev David Mears 12/10/2016)

20/16 Partnering with Anglican Aid

This Synod gives thanks for the ongoing work of Anglican Aid in alleviating poverty in the developing world and in providing charitable support to churches meeting human need in our Diocese.

We encourage Anglican Aid to continue –

- (a) Seeking out like minded Christian partners to work with through the Overseas Ministry Fund and the Overseas Relief and Aid Fund;

- (b) Delivering Community Care Programs in partnership with Sydney Anglican Parishes;
- (c) Informing parishes of their work and giving them the opportunity to partner with Anglican Aid financially and prayerfully.

(The Rev Stephen Semenchuk 12/10/2016)

21/16 Membership structure of Mission Property Committee

Synod records its appreciation and thanks to God for the good work of all members of the Mission Property Committee in securing sites and buildings for new churches in greenfield areas, and for its advice and support of parishes in brownfield areas; and requests Standing Committee to review the membership structure of the Mission Property Committee in consultation with its chairman and deputy chairman.

(Bishop Ivan Lee 12/10/2016)

22/16 Retirement of Paul Willis

Synod thanks God for the service of Paul Willis as Fund Secretary of Anglican National Super for 14 years and wishes him well in his retirement.

(Mr James Flavin 12/10/2016)

23/16 Westmead: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Westmead as a parish with effect from 1 January 2017.

(Bishop Ivan Lee 12/10/2016)

24/16 Domestic Violence

Synod –

- (a) acknowledges that domestic abuse continues to be a significant social problem both inside and outside the church;
- (b) gives thanks for the work of the Domestic Violence Response Task Force and calls on them to continue their work - in particular that of developing policy and pastoral guidelines to recommend to Standing Committee and make recommendations about education - as expeditiously as possible;
- (c) calls on Standing Committee to consider providing funding for the Task Force sufficient to expedite its work and particularly the work of interviewing and caring for victims;
- (d) calls upon all clergy, church workers and parish councils to read the Task Force's 2016 progress report to Synod and to familiarise themselves with the headline definition and expansive description of domestic violence adopted by the Task Force;
- (e) notes that clergy and church workers who are domestic abusers are in breach of standards expressed in Faithfulness in Service;
- (f) encourages victims of domestic abuse by clergy or church workers to speak to the Professional Standards Unit;
- (g) asks the Task Force, and the *Discipline Ordinance 2006* Review Committee, to consider changes to the necessary ordinances which would allow victims of domestic abuse, who have brought the abuse to the attention of church-workers who have their pastoral oversight and who feel that they have received negligent, callous or otherwise improper advice or treatment by those with pastoral oversight, to have complaints referred to the Professional Standards Unit;
- (h) looks forward to the inclusion of education in the area of domestic violence in 2017 via the PSU's compulsory Faithfulness in Service training sessions for clergy and paid church workers, and while the Task Force's pastoral guidelines are being developed encourages ministers, whenever they receive an allegation of domestic abuse, to consider contacting the PSU for advice on the best practices for pastoral care;
- (i) encourages clergy and church workers to preach and speak against domestic violence, again rejecting the twisting of Scripture to justify abuse of any kind, and to make pastoral enquiries when meeting with married people;

- (j) requests the Task Force to report again, no later than next Synod; and
- (k) expects that the diocesan response to domestic violence will go beyond the ambit and life of the Task Force,

and prays for the protection, healing and support of victims and survivors of domestic violence within our churches; for wisdom and insight, courage and compassion for clergy and church workers in providing pastoral responses to people in such situations; and for the continued work of the Task Force.

(Canon Sandy Grant 12/10/2016)

25/16 Support for Archbishop Davies in licensing for ordained ministry

This Synod affirms that the right and responsibility for licensing for ordained ministry in a diocese rests with the diocesan bishop. Accordingly this Synod expresses its support for Archbishop Davies in his exercise of this responsibility.

(Dr Robert Tong AM 12/10/2016)

26/16 Debate concerning same-sex marriage

Synod, in light of the on-going debate as to whether the legal definition of marriage should be changed to include same-sex relationships, and consistent with its long-standing and previously expressed position in relation to marriage and human sexuality –

- (a) continues to affirm 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) notes that the inclusion of same-sex relationships within the legal definition of marriage would lead to a deeply regrettable divergence between the inherent meaning of marriage and its legal definition,
- (c) expresses deep concern, based on experience both overseas and more recently in Australia, about the impact that a change in the legal definition of marriage would have on the freedom of individuals and organisations to uphold the view that marriage is inherently a union between a man and a woman,
- (d) commends for consideration the booklet prepared by the Archbishop's Plebiscite Task Force *What Has God Joined Together?* as a resource to assist Sydney Anglicans and others prepare for and engage in public debate on this issue,
- (e) calls on Rectors in the Diocese to incorporate teaching on marriage, human sexuality and religious freedom in the teaching program of their parish,
- (f) encourages all Christians to participate fully in the democratic processes open to us in this country to seek to persuade our nation of the goodness and wisdom of ensuring the legal definition of marriage in the Marriage Act 1961 remains aligned with its inherent meaning,
- (g) urges all Christians to engage lovingly and respectfully in the debate about marriage, and condemns any vilification, bigotry or other expressions of hatred or fear directed against anyone, not exclusively but especially members and supporters of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans or intersex (LGBTI) community,
- (h) believes respectful advocacy for the legal definition of marriage to remain unchanged does not constitute hate speech or bigotry,
- (i) calls on our political leaders to model respectful debate which is courteous and persuasive and does not assume a lack of goodwill from those with whom they disagree, and
- (j) recognises marriage as a bedrock institution of society and therefore considers that, despite its cost, a plebiscite is both a justifiable and the preferred means of establishing whether a majority of the Australian community genuinely wish to change the legal definition of such an institution.

(Bishop Michael Stead 12/10/2016)

27/16 Syrian Iraqi Refugee Response

Synod notes the report from Anglicare on the Syrian Iraqi Refugee Response and gives thanks to God for the work of Anglicare and other agencies in developing training and resources and for the generous financial response from across the Diocese to assist in this work.

Synod asks –

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- (a) in the light of the discovery noted in the report (under heading Refugee Intake Update), Anglican churches to consider sponsoring a refugee family caught up in the conflict to be granted a visa sub-class 202 (global special Humanitarian Visa),
- (b) Anglicare to continue to facilitate this sponsorship process by consultation with key stakeholders and development of documentation setting out clearly how the sub-class 202 visa sponsorship operates and the responsibilities and expectations of a sponsoring organisation including the financial obligation involved, and to make this document available to Anglican churches as soon as possible,
- (c) the governance group that oversees the appeal funds collected to date to consider allocating some of those funds to any Anglican church or organisation that succeeds in sponsoring a refugee family under a 202 Humanitarian Visa in order to offset the local costs involved in such a sponsorship.

Synod further calls upon all Christian people to continue to pray for a prompt and peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis and encourages all to be generous in responding financially especially to the needs of our Christian brothers and sisters caught up in the crisis.

(The Rev Philip Wheeler 12/10/2016)

28/16 Apologetics as an adjunct to the proclamation of the gospel

This Synod –

- (a) commends Moore Theological College, Youthworks College and Ministry, Training & Development and individuals in our Diocese, both clergy and lay, for the many and various ways by which they attempt to educate others on the need and importance of apologetics as an adjunct to the proclamation of the gospel, and
- (b) recognising that many in our modern western world, whatever their background and culture, know little or anything of the gospel, are quite apathetic towards or have little interest in the gospel, and sceptical or agnostic towards the gospel or even opposed to the gospel, encourages our organisations, clergy and laity –
 - (i) to continue to give thought to how they themselves can argue for, commend and proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to those who do not believe, and
 - (ii) to continue to reflect on how they can better help others to do the same.

(Dr Barry Newman 17/10/2016)

29/16 Moore Theological College teaching and learning centre

Synod gives thanks to God for the provision of the new teaching and learning centre at Moore College to house the library, an assembly hall, multiple teaching spaces and research facilities. It also thanks the Governing Board of the College for its careful stewardship of synod grants and other gifts which has made this building possible.

Synod also thanks God for the generosity of his people that has made this possible and notes that an official opening is planned for 11 February 2017.

(Dr Robert Tong AM 17/10/2016)

30/16 Culture of consumerism

The Synod requests the Social Issues Committee to report on the culture of consumerism and its impact on our society and churches with recommendations on how we can respond better to the challenges it presents.

(The Rev Christopher Braga 17/10/2016)

31/16 Diocesan Day of Prayer

Synod notes –

- (a) the apparent growing opposition to Christianity in Australian society, and
 - (b) the many and potentially competing strategies and opportunities for ministry in our Diocese,
- and therefore requests a Diocesan Day of Prayer be appointed, enabling our churches and organisations to join together in focused, humble petition over these issues.

(Mrs Kristen Young 17/10/2016)

32/16 100th anniversary of Sydney Missionary and Bible College

Synod notes that 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Sydney Missionary and Bible College and gives thanks to God for the way in which this college has trained and equipped many Sydney Anglicans for the task of mission both within and outside of the Diocese.

(The Rev Mark Tough 17/10/2016)

33/16 Resourcing the management and development of parish property

Synod, noting the report “Funding for Urban Renewal” and noting in particular the recommendation contained in draft Synod motion 8.5(b)(vi), requests that Standing Committee establish an appropriate task-force or committee (made up of people with relevant expertise) to serve as a resource to parishes in managing and developing parish property for gospel benefit.

(The Rev Simon Flinders 17/10/2016)

34/16 Opening, closure, merger or takeover of Schools Corporation schools

Synod thanks God for –

- (a) the growth of the Anglican Schools Corporation over the past two decades, especially the growth in student numbers and Christian ministry at Corporation Schools, and
- (b) the partnership of the Board of the Corporation, individual school councils and local parishes in Corporation schools.

Synod noting the recent merger of Loquat Valley Anglican Schools by St Luke’s Grammar School, respectfully requests –

- (i) the Standing Committee review the Anglican Schools Corporation Ordinance, especially regarding the interaction between the Corporation Board, individual school councils and broader stakeholders regarding the opening, closure, merger or takeover of Corporation schools, and
- (ii) the Schools Corporation Board review its internal processes and procedures regarding consultation and the sharing of information concerning the opening, closure, merger or takeover of Corporation Schools (or other similarly major decisions) with broader stakeholders, including school councils and local parishes.

(The Rev Jason Ramsay 17/10/2016)

35/16 The Rev Dr William Dumbrell

Synod gives thanks for the life of the Rev Dr William J Dumbrell, teacher, scholar, author and disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank God for his faithful service at Moore College, Regent College, Vancouver and Trinity College, Singapore as well as in the parishes of the diocese. Bill’s contribution to scholarship is known all over the world, but his personal interest in his students and his care for them long after they had left his classes is only really known by them. We rejoice that Bill is now in the presence of the Lord he served throughout his life and commit to pray for his wife Norma, and their children David, Ian, Grace and Naomi.

(The Rev Dr Mark Thompson 17/10/2016)

36/16 The Rev Dr Hugh Cox

Synod gives thanks to God for the faithful and fruitful ministry of the Rev Dr Hugh Cox, who will retire as the Executive Assistant to the Bishop of South Sydney at the end of this year. After theological training at Moore College, Hugh commenced parish ministry in the Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn in 1969 and served there until 1981. Hugh's ministry in Sydney Diocese began in 1982, and has served as rector of Lane Cove, Castle Hill and St John's Darlinghurst. Hugh also ministered for 6 years in Brussels. Hugh has enhanced his ministry through further theological studies at Oxford and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Since 2010, Hugh has served with distinction as the Executive Assistant to the Bishop of South Sydney, demonstrating great wisdom in leadership and warmth in his pastoral support of clergy in the region. We pray that God will bless Hugh and Barbara in the years ahead.

(Bishop Michael Stead 17/10/2016)

37/16 Glenhaven: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Glenhaven as a parish with effect from 1 January 2017.

(Bishop Ivan Lee 17/10/2016)

38/16 Moore College restructure

The Synod wishes to thank all those retrenched at Moore College in the recent restructure for their faithful service over many years.

(Mrs Lynette Ferguson 17/10/2016)

39/16 Business rules for moving amendments to motions

Synod, recognising that –

- (a) some of the motions brought before it can be long and complex;
- (b) on occasion, Synod has chosen to vary its business rules so as to enable a “set piece” debate;
- (c) the *Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000* allows that –
 - (i) “a member may move a motion to amend a principal motion at any time before the close of debate.” (4.9.1);
 - (ii) “...for motions to amend a motion, a member may speak for up to 5 minutes” (4.6.1.c); and
 - (iii) the President is permitted to waive the application of rule 4.9 in order to enable the Synod to express its mind (4.9.8);
- (d) no such relief is given by the ordinance to the President in respect to rule 4.6; and
- (e) Synod's practice has been to allow the movers of amendment to speak to their amendments prior to those wishing to speak for or against the principal motion, although this is not required by the *Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000*,

is concerned for the possibility that a large number of amendments can have the effect of consuming the bulk of the time allocated for the debate of a particular motion, to the detriment of the Synod's ability to debate the principal motion.

Accordingly, Synod requests Standing Committee to re-examine the *Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000*, with respect to –

- (a) whether the President should be given permission to waive the application of rule 4.6 on similar grounds to the relief offered in 4.9.8;
- (b) whether the ordinance should require Synod's practice of allowing movers of amendments to speak prior to those wishing to speak for or against the principal motion, or otherwise;
- (c) whether the ordinance should provide a rule regarding “set piece” debates, in particular for looking at the right of reply by both sides;
- (d) whether to provide for a considerably shorter time limit for the mover of an amendment, while providing for the mover of the amendment to speak one more time in the debate; and

- (e) any other matters that might improve the effectiveness of Synod's business rules as they apply to the debate of a motion,
- (f) and to bring to Synod in 2017 a report and any such amending ordinance as is required to give effect to its findings.

(The Rev Anthony Douglas 17/10/2016)

40/16 Safe learning environment for all students

This Synod recognises that the gospel of Jesus Christ is good for all children, young people and adults. We support age appropriate ministry to children in the contexts of family, churches and schools and call on all appropriately gifted members of our churches to be involved in praying, being trained for and enabling the next generation to hear and respond to the good news of Christ crucified and risen.

We encourage efforts to develop school environments where there is tolerance of people's opinions, the acceptance of all people regardless of ethnicity, religion, professed sexual orientation or gender identity, the absence of bullying for any reason and the freedom to express a person's religious convictions, including the sharing of one's faith.

We oppose the implementation of the "Safe Schools Coalition" program on the basis that children are indirectly encouraged to question their gender identity and determine their sexual orientation at an inappropriate age. Therefore, Synod –

- (a) respectfully asks the Archbishop to call upon the NSW Department of Education and the Federal Department of Education and Training to seek to provide a safe learning environment for all students, by putting the needs of children ahead of sexual ideology, and discontinuing the "Safe Schools" program with its use of age-inappropriate sexual material, by the beginning of the 2017 academic year,
- (b) requests that this resolution be circulated to all parishes and Anglican Schools Councils in order that they be informed about the Synod's concern of the sexual ideology of the "Safe Schools Coalition", and
- (c) acknowledges the work of the Gender Identity Subcommittee of the Social Issues Committee, which is currently considering these matters, including the development of possible resources, and looks forward to receiving the Committee's report at the 2017 Synod, and undertakes to pray for the Committee's work.

(The Rev Chris Braga 17/10/2016)

41/16 Soul Revival Church

Synod notes that the Soul Revival Church, Sutherland Shire, has been declared to be a recognised church by the Wollongong Regional Council from 1 June 2016 under clause 8 of the *Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000*. Soul Revival began as an initiative of Evangelism and New Churches by members of St Pauls and St Barnabas Anglican Church Gympie in February 2012. Synod thanks God that from small beginnings it has grown vigorously and joins in praising God as it celebrates its fifth year of ministry.

(Dr Alan Watson 17/10/2016)

42/16 Mr Rob Freeman

Synod gives thanks to God for the work and ministry of Mr Rob Freeman as CEO of Anglican Retirement Villages.

Synod especially gives thanks for Rob's –

- (a) determination to see the ongoing development of Christian ministry throughout every aspect of ARV's work to residents, clients, their families and the staff,
- (b) vision to see ARV provide care to the frail and vulnerable regardless of their circumstances, and
- (c) resolve to see a renewed relationship with the Diocese.

During his time as CEO, Rob led ARV's shift in focus to people who are less well-off and living in economic hardship –

Resolutions of the 2016 session of the 50th Synod

- The “At risk of homelessness” program for people who are either living on the street or without permanent accommodation
- Rooty Hill – an integrated village providing accommodation for independent living as well as hostel care plus Anglicare welfare services and other health and medical services co-located in the village precinct
- Also –
 - o The Ponds – a new village with one of our largest and newest churches adjacent
 - o Milperra – with high levels of rental accommodation
 - o Lober Square – restoration of the heritage buildings as well as a new Chapel and multi-purpose community room
- Commitment to the renewal of residential care facilities
- The introduction of the person-centred care model, “Rhythm of Life”
- Strengthened and expanded chaplaincies so that the holistic care of each resident and client could be met.

(Bishop Chris Edwards 17/10/2016)