

Resolutions of the First Ordinary Session of the 52nd Synod (held in 2021)

1/21 Moore College Open Week

That the Synod notes that the May 2021 Moore College Open Week and Open Night is to be held by live stream and on campus 10-14 May 2021. More information is available to Synod members via a flyer in the foyer as they leave for, and return from, the dinner break.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett 3/05/2021)

2/21 Allowing diocesan organisations to align with the broader purposes of the Diocese

Synod agrees to amend the policy guidelines in Appendix 2 of the *Diocesan Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations* by –

- (a) inserting a new paragraph 2 under the heading “Purpose” as follows (with consequential renumbering of existing paragraphs) –

‘In recognition that the diocesan organisation is part of a network of parishes and organisations which is collectively seeking to advance the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese, the diocesan organisation should be expressly permitted to pursue its purposes in a manner which advances the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese, including such purposes as are declared or recognised from time to time by the Synod. See also paragraph 32.’

- (b) inserting a new paragraph 32 under the heading “Duties, powers and limitations” as follows (with consequential renumbering of existing paragraphs) –

‘A board member is taken to act in good faith in the best interests of the diocesan organisation and to further the purposes of the diocesan organisation for the purposes of paragraph 31(b) if –

- (a) the diocesan organisation is expressly permitted to pursue its purposes in the manner referred to in paragraph 2;
- (b) the board member acts in good faith in pursuing the purpose of the diocesan organisation in a manner which advances the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese; and
- (c) the diocesan organisation is not insolvent at the time the board member acts and does not become insolvent because of the board member's act.’

(Mr Greg Hammond 3/05/2021)

3/21 Domestic Abuse Leave for Clergy

Synod, noting the report “Domestic abuse leave for clergy” –

- (a) agrees in principle that provision be made by parishes to provide leave to members of clergy who are unable to perform their duties because they are experiencing domestic abuse or dealing with the impact of experiencing domestic abuse; and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to amend its annual Guidelines for the Remuneration of Parish Ministry Staff to provide for domestic abuse leave for clergy on this basis, with the changes effective 1 July 2021.

(Archdeacon Kara Hartley 3/05/2021)

4/21 Bishop Ivan Lee

Synod gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Bishop Ivan Lee. His testimony of trusting Jesus in the face of cancer and his devotion to seeing churches grow have left an indelible mark on the life of the Diocese. He is sorely missed. We pray that Virginia and her family will be comforted in the knowledge that we do not grieve like the rest who have no hope, because Jesus has died and risen from the dead, and that Ivan has gone to be with Jesus, his Lord, which is better by far.

(Bishop Gary Koo 3/05/2021)

5/21 Gender Identity – Practical Guidelines for Ministers and Parishes

Synod, noting the report *76/19 Gender Identity – Practical Guidelines for Ministers and Parishes*, notes that in response to resolution 76/19 Archbishop Glenn Davies, acting through the Regional Bishops, has distributed the Practical Guidelines for Ministers and Parishes and the Suggested Responses to Practical Questions attached to that report to all parishes.

(Mr Michael Meek sc 3/05/2021)

6/21 The Public Reading of Scripture

Synod, noting the Biblical affirmation of the priority of the public reading of scripture (2 Kg 22:8-13; 2 Chron 34:13-21; Neh 8:2-6; Lk 4:14-21; and 1 Tim 4:13), gives great thanks to God for –

- (i) the Scriptures, and their usefulness for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the saints may be equipped for every good work,
- (ii) the recognition of the priority of the ministry of God's Word throughout our Diocese, expressed through regular, prayerful, and expository preaching of the Scriptures, and
- (iii) the heritage of Reformation Anglicanism expressed in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), whereby Archbishop Cranmer sought to edify Church of England members with the Scriptures through regular, prayerful, and expository preaching, and through services thoroughly immersed in the Scriptures involving the regular, systematic, and public reading of the Scriptures.

In light of this, this Synod requests that the Doctrine Commission explore how the theological priority of congregations being thoroughly immersed in the scriptures can be further expressed within our diocese, reporting to Synod on –

- (a) the effect of church services being thoroughly immersed in the Scriptures (especially through the public reading of Scripture) in the BCP's Reformation context,
- (b) the effectiveness of contemporary strategies to thoroughly immerse Christian congregations with the Scriptures, and
- (c) the challenges and opportunities of applying the Biblical priority, and Reformation principle of Scriptural immersion (especially through the Public Reading of Scripture) to our contemporary Australian context.

And furthermore, that the Doctrine Commission suggests resources or gives guidelines for the production of resources that might be used to assist contemporary Anglican churches to further immerse their parishioners in the Scriptures.

(The Rev David Morgan 3/05/2021)

7/21 Ministry to all Australians, regardless of educational qualifications

Synod –

- (a) gives great thanks to God for his salvation, and the precious diversity of people who are members of our churches,
- (b) praises God for the extraordinary fruit in this Diocese from ministry to University students and for the number of University educated people in our churches, and

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- (c) notes that only 35% of the Australian adult population have a bachelor's degree or higher qualification (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/education-and-work-australia/latest-release#non-school-qualifications>).

In light of paragraph (c), this Synod requests that the Strategy and Research Group consider conducting research into the effectiveness of our parishes and diocesan organisations in engaging the 65% of Australians without a bachelor's qualification, focusing in particular on the following questions –

- (i) In what ways are we reaching these Australians with the gospel of grace? Where are there needs and opportunities to grow this ministry?
- (ii) In what ways are we welcoming and valuing these Australians as members of our churches? Where are there needs and opportunities to grow this ministry?
- (iii) In what ways are we discipling these Australians to live new lives in light of the gospel of grace? Where are there needs and opportunities to grow this ministry?
- (iv) In what ways are we equipping these Australians to share the gospel of grace and build up others in that gospel? Where are there needs and opportunities to grow this ministry?

(The Rev David Morgan 3/05/2021)

8/21 Episcopal Standards Ordinance

Synod requests the Standing Committee to prepare a Bill for an Episcopal Standards Ordinance for promotion to the second ordinary session of the 52nd Synod.

(Dr Robert Tong AM 3/05/2021)

9/21 Problem Gambling: harm minimisation methods

Synod notes that Almighty God calls on the governing rulers to “defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed” (Psalm 82:3).

So Synod again calls on the NSW Government, together with all members of the NSW Parliament, to implement effective harm minimisation methods to reduce the misery caused by problem gambling, especially via poker machines.

Such methods should prioritise the recommendations of experts independent of the gambling industries, and should favour maximal harm reduction for problem gamblers over convenience and ease of implementation for gambling providers.

Therefore, Synod notes support for the concept of a pre-load gambling-limit card from Commissioner Patricia Bergin, in her report into Crown Resorts' suitability to run a casino, where she concluded there could be “significant utility of the card to assist the problem gambler” alongside being a “powerful mechanism to assist in combatting money laundering”.

Synod also again calls for strong consideration of other simple but effective harm minimisation methods, such as introducing a \$1 maximum bet limit for poker machines in New South Wales, as recommended by the Productivity Commission.

Synod also supports efforts to reduce the disproportionate concentration of poker machines in lower socioeconomic areas of NSW, where they create greater harm.

Finally Synod urges the NSW Parliament to find alternative methods of revenue raising that would reduce its reliance on regressive gambling taxation.

(Canon Sandy Grant 3/05/2021)

10/21 Review of the *Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017*

Synod, noting the report Consultation on exposure drafts bills for the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017 Amendment Ordinance 2021 and Reportable Allegations and Convictions Ordinance 2021, invites members of Synod to provide feedback on the exposure draft bills, to the Diocesan Secretary, by 30 June 2021.

(Mr Michael Easton 3/05/2021)

11/21 Terrey Hills: Classification as a Parish

Synod assents to the classification of Terrey Hills as a parish with effect from 1 July 2021.

(The Rev Scott Tarrant 3/05/2021)