

**First Session of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Synod**  
**Daily Papers**  
**13 September 2023**

Business Paper

Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney

## **Bible passage: Wednesday 13 September 2023**

### **2 Corinthians 4:7-18**

Mrs Julianne Jones

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. <sup>12</sup> So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

<sup>13</sup> It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, <sup>14</sup> because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. <sup>15</sup> All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

**Song:** Come behold the wondrous ministry

(Matt Boswell, Michael Bleecker, Matt Papa 2013)

# Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

## First Session of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Synod Business Paper: Wednesday 13 September 2023

---

- A notation “B#” refers to Bills and “M#” refers to motions which are provided in the attached schedule: Bills and motions for the consideration of the Synod.
- The Synod Standing Orders are found on page 399 in Book 3: the Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019. See Part 5 of the Synod Standing Orders for ordinance procedures.

1. Prayers are read by the President or a person appointed by him.

2. Bible study is led by the Rev Andrew Rees.

3. Minutes of 12 September 2023

4. Answers to questions asked 11 September

4.1 President of the Diocesan Tribunal

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

Who is the current president of the Diocesan Tribunal?

5. Answers to questions asked 12 September

5.1 Moore College enrolments

The Rev Dr Raj Gupta asked the following question –

In relation to Moore College enrolments:

- (a) How many students (male, female and total) are enrolled in a Bachelor of Theology or Bachelor of Divinity:
  - (i) First year,
  - (ii) Second year,
  - (iii) Third year, and
  - (iv) Fourth year
- (b) How many ordination candidates are there in each year of College?
- (c) What is the number of first year students (in a Bachelor of Theology or Bachelor of Divinity degree) in each of the last 5 years?

5.2 Parish statistics

The Rev Dr Raj Gupta asked the following question –

For each year, 2010-2022, what is the:

- (a) Total parish adjusted net operating receipts including Jobkeeper receipts
- (b) Total parish adjusted net operating receipts excluding Jobkeeper receipts
- (c) Total parish offertories
- (d) Total average attendance
- (e) Total number of licenced clergy

### **5.3 Relationship between the Diocese and dioceses that ordain women as priests or consecrate women as bishops**

Professor Bernard Stewart AM asked the following question –

Does a state of breached, broken or withdrawn fellowship exist between the Diocese of Sydney and any diocese(s) within the Anglican Church of Australia as a consequence of such a diocese(s) authorising or acknowledging the ordination of women as priests or the consecration of women as bishops?

If the answer to the answer to that question is “yes”, please specify the diocese(s) involved and the respective relevant instruments.

### **5.4 Minister burnout**

The Rev Nigel Fortescue asked the following question –

Could you please indicate –

- (a) The number of cases across to diocese where ministers have suffered from burnout or depletion over the past 5 years?
- (b) The percentage of ministers across the diocese who have suffered from burnout or depletion over the past 5 years?
- (c) Has this increased during the 2022/23 period?
- (d) The impact that this issue is having on our diocesan insurance and therefore parish cost recoveries?

### **5.5 Synod Resolution 42/22**

The Rev Jason Veitch asked the following question –

- (a) In response to Synod’s motion last year, how many of our Sydney Anglican Schools have found ways to partner with local Anglican Churches to support SRE in local public schools?
- (b) If it is more than zero, could a list of these schools and Parishes, and a description be provided to Synod?

### **5.6 Coledale Frontyard Church**

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford asked the following question –

Noting that the Work Outside the Diocese Committee allocates a grant to an indigenous ministry within Armidale Diocese – Coledale Frontyard Church (Book 1, p219),

- (a) What is the nature of this ministry?
- (b) Is there an easy facility for individuals to give a tax-deductible gift to this or other indigenous ministries?
- (c) What other indigenous ministries could be donated to through such a facility?

### **5.7 Acknowledgement of Country**

Dr Fletcher Cole asked the following question –

Does the Diocese have an authorised or otherwise suitable form of words for the Acknowledgement of Country in our church services and meetings?

### **5.8 NCLS statistics**

The Rev Dominic Steele asked the following question –

In the recent NCLS survey of the Diocese what were the statistics for Sydney Anglicans in the following areas (most recent survey, vs 2011 results) –

- (a) Percentage of members expressing a willingness to talk intentionally about their faith?

- (b) Percentage of members having invited someone to church in the last 12 months?
- (c) Percentage of newcomers in church?
- (d) Percentage of members reporting much growth in faith?
- (e) Percentage of members reporting time spent in prayer, bible reading, meditation, every day/most days?
- (f) Percentage of members reporting their use of gifts 'to a great extent'?
- (g) Percentage of members born in non English speaking countries?
- (h) Percentage of our members children retained in church?
- (i) In the period 2011-2020 how many new churches were planted in Greenfield's areas?
- (j) In the period 2011-2020 in how many mission areas was the goal of planting two new church per mission area achieved?

## 5.9 Anglicare's Mary Andrews Village

Mr James Mayfield asked the following question –

Has Anglicare made a decision to close all or part of Mary Andrews Village, South Hurstville? If so –

- (a) Did Anglicare call a meeting of independent living unit (i.e. retirement living) residents of Mary Andrews Village, South Hurstville on Wednesday 30 August 2023? If so:
  - (i) Were those residents informed that retirement living at that village would be closed and that they would have 12 months to move out?
  - (ii) Did Anglicare provide any written materials to residents at the meeting?
  - (iii) At the time of, or subsequent to, the closure announcement being made by Anglicare, did/does Anglicare have a current development consent and/or other necessary approvals for substantial works that would require vacant possession of Mary Andrews Village? If so, for each such approval –
    - 1) Who was the consent issuing authority?
    - 2) What was the consent number?
    - 3) What date was the consent issued?
  - (iv) What steps, if any, has Anglicare taken to investigate and monitor any negative impact that the closure announcement has had on its elderly and vulnerable residents? What impacts were identified?
- (b) Did the full board of Anglicare make the decision to close retirement living at Mary Andrews Village? If yes:
  - (i) At how many board meetings was the matter discussed before the decision was taken?
- (c) If the decision was not made by the full board of Anglicare, who made the decision to close Mary Andrews Village?
- (d) Prior to making the decision, what steps did the decision maker(s) take to investigate and consider the individual circumstances of the impacted residents? Were the following specific factors considered as part of these steps:
  - (i) Spousal connections between the retirement living section and the aged care home.
  - (ii) Proximity of residents to their current church, GP, family, friends and other support network?
- (e) Can Anglicare confirm that no resident of Mary Andrews Village South Hurstville will suffer financial loss if they choose to move to either a comparable non-Anglicare property or a comparable Anglicare village?
- (f) Will any independent living unit resident of Mary Andrews Village be evicted from their home by Anglicare if they do not want to leave and/or alternative accommodation offered by Anglicare is not acceptable to the resident?
- (g) What was the reason the decision maker(s) chose to close Mary Andrews Village?
- (h) Excluding units under construction, what is the total number of independent living (retirement living) units owned by Anglicare across all of its sites?

- (i) How many independent living units are there at Mary Andrews Village? What percentage is that of the total number of units above?
- (j) If Mary Andrews Village retirement living is closed, how many retirement villages will Anglicare then have in the St George area?
- (k) What are the names of all the retirement villages that have been strategically reviewed by Anglicare and identified for closure?
- (l) Has the Residential Aged Care Facility (Nursing Home) at Mary Andrews Village been identified for closure by Anglicare?
- (m) Which, if any, other Residential Aged Care Facilities (Nursing Homes) have been identified for closure by Anglicare?
- (n) Will Anglicare reconsider its decision to close the independent living units at Mary Andrews Village and allow the current residents to continue living in their homes until such time as they die or move into residential aged care?

#### **5.10 Bishopscourt costs**

Mr James Mayfield asked the following question –

- (a) What were the net proceeds, after all disbursements, from the sale of Bishopscourt Darling Point?
- (b) What was the value of the Bishopscourt Glebe property before construction commenced?
- (c) What was the unimproved value of the land at the location of Bishopscourt Glebe before construction commenced?
- (d) With regards to the project cost for construction of Bishopscourt Glebe, including all costs except those related to acquisition of the property and temporary accommodation for Archbishops:
  - (i) What was the projected end-to-end project cost?
  - (ii) What is the spend to date?
  - (iii) What is the current projected end-to-end project cost (including spend to date)?
- (e) With regards to the total costs for housing Archbishops in temporary accommodation in the period between the sale of Bishopscourt Darling Point and the completion of the construction of Bishopscourt Glebe:
  - (i) What was the projected cost for this prior to commencement?
  - (ii) What is the spend to date?
  - (iii) What is the current projected end-to-end cost?

#### **5.11 Health advice**

The Rev Zac Veron asked the following question –

- (a) Was there any peer reviewed documented health advice and scientific data, given by officials of the NSW Government to the Diocesan leadership, which was used by the NSW Government to justify the 2020 and 2021:
  - (i) restrictions on singing during church services?
  - (ii) restrictions on the number of attenders at church services?
  - (iii) requirements of mask wearing during church services?
  - (iv) banning of wedding ceremonies?
  - (v) limiting the number of attendees at funeral services?
  - (vi) establishment of the cleaning requirements in between church services?
- (b) If so, how can synod members gain access to the content of that peer reviewed documented health advice and scientific data?

#### **5.12 Synod Resolution 38/22**

The Rev Andrew Barry asked the following question –

When may Synod members expect to receive the report of the Doctrine Commission following the passing of M52 at the 2022 Synod?

#### **5.13 Preschool material**

Mr Chris Hamam asked the following question –

For interested Synod members, what are all the preschool related material we should be aware of? (policies, procedures, motions, ordinances, legislation, court rulings, etc.)

#### **5.14 Government preschool material**

Mr Chris Hamam asked the following question –

For interested Synod members, what are all the *government* preschool related material (Federal/State/Local) we should be aware of? (policies, procedures, legislation, court rulings, etc.)

#### **5.15 Glebe lands**

Mr Chris Hamam asked the following question –

When was the last time a glebe of property or land was received? What was it?

#### **5.16 Lay Community Chaplains**

Mr Glen Smith asked the following question –

How many approved Lay Community Chaplains are currently operating in the Diocese, and what is being done to promote, recruit and train appropriate people as Lay Community Chaplains?

#### **5.17 Anglican Church Property Trust**

Canon Alistair Seabrook asked the following question –

In each of the past five calendar years –

- (a) How many parishes and organisations have written (emails or letters) to the Archbishop, Bishops, Archdeacons and Executive Assistants to the Bishops to express minor frustrations regarding the work of the ACPT?
- (b) How many parishes and organisations have written (emails or letters) to the Archbishop, Bishops, Archdeacons and Executive Assistant to the Bishops to express serious concerns or complaints regarding the work of the ACPT?
- (c) How many parishes and organisations have written (emails or letters) to the Archbishop, Bishops, Archdeacons and Executive Assistants to the Bishops to express satisfaction regarding the work of the ACPT?
- (d) How many parishes or organisations have received written apologies (emails or letters) from the ACPT board for issues identified in (a) or (b)?
- (e) How many parishes or organisations have received financial compensation from the ACPT board for issues identified in (a) or (b)?

**6. The President invites members to give notice of questions.**

**7. The President invites members to give notice of motions.**

**8. Calling of motions (including procedural motions) on the business paper.**

**9. Procedural motions**

**9.1 Recommendations from the Order of Business Committee**

Synod agrees to reschedule items of business as shown in marked form on the Timetable for Synod Business.

(Mrs Briony Bounds / Archdeacon Anthony Douglas)

**9.2 Publication of answer to question**

Synod agrees to redact from the minutes of proceedings of the Synod for Tuesday 12 September 2023 the answer to question 18, which was tabled on Monday 11 September, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.

(Mrs Briony Bounds / Bishop Michael Stead)

**10. Motions for consideration by the Synod**

*Motions for consideration by the Synod are printed in the Schedule attached to this business paper.*



## Bills and motions for the consideration of the Synod

- A notation “B#” refers to Bills and “M#” refers to motions. These reference numbers and associated motions will remain consistent throughout this session of Synod.
- *Italicised text under motion headings indicates the arrangements as proposed in the procedural motions on the business paper.*
- *Any amendments to motions listed below, unless otherwise indicated, have not yet been moved. Accordingly, the motion may be put on the callover, and a member must call ‘amendment’ to prevent the motion being passed.*
- Legend –
  - ○ an unscheduled motion, or a scheduled motion which may be taken on the callover
  - ○ cannot be taken on the callover (being a bill for an ordinance, a proposed policy, or a matter which is scheduled for consideration at a particular time)
  - ● a motion that has been withdrawn.

### 13 September 2023

#### I. Motions for ordinances and policies by request of the Standing Committee

- 
- ○ **B4 Pastoral Supervision Ordinance 2023**  
*Monday 18<sup>th</sup>, from 8.00pm (evening session); or from 4.30pm if time permits. Following this matter, M16 is to be considered.*

Synod will be asked to consider the Pastoral Supervision Ordinance 2023.

(Bk 1 p.193)

(Bishop Peter Lin / Archdeacon Kara Hartley)

---

***Proposed amendments to the text of the Bill in committee***

- (1) Amend the Bill as follows –
- omit clause 3, and
  - omit subclause 4(a),
- with consequential renumbering.

(Bk 1 p.196, line 16; line 25)

(The Rev Gavin Poole /  
The Rev Jason Veitch)

- 
- ○ **B9 Responding to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Good Practice Guidelines**  
*Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> (afternoon session), following formal matters. Following this matter, M27 is to be considered.*

Synod will be asked to consider the updated *Responding to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Good Practice Guidelines*.

(Bk 2 p.312)

(Dean Sandy Grant / Archdeacon Kara Hartley)

## II. Motions for ordinances and policies by request of a Regional Council

*There are no proposed ordinances or policies under this heading.*

## III. Other motions by request of the Standing Committee



### **M7 Archdeacon Narelle Jarrett**

*Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> (afternoon session), following formal matters*

Synod gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Archdeacon Narelle Jarrett, who went home to be with the Lord on Friday 4 November 2022.

After graduating from the University of New South Wales (BA and Dip Ed), Narelle started teaching at Sydney Girls High School. There, she was led to Christ by another teacher and began attending St John's, Darlinghurst. After teaching, Narelle studied at Deaconess House, completing her ThL (Hons) in 1969 and London BD in 1970. She was active in ministry within the Sydney Diocese before she was admitted as a deaconess in 1985 upon her appointment as Principal of Mary Andrews College (formerly Deaconess House). She was ordained Deacon in 1989, among the first cohort of female deacons. As Principal of Mary Andrews College, Narelle had a significant role in training and development of the female students at Moore Theological College, as well as serving as a lecturer in Church History and Pastoral Care and training lay women across the Diocese. In 2002, she was appointed Archdeacon for Women's Ministry, while continuing as Principal of Mary Andrews College.

In 2008 she became Archdeacon full time and held this position until her retirement in 2012. Narelle also served on various boards such as the Council of Ministry Training & Development, the Mission Task Force, the Standing Committee and Synod of the Sydney Diocese as well as General Synod. She was active in the governance of the Archbishop's Overseas Mission Fund and Anglican Deaconess Ministries. She also served as an Honorary Minister at South Coogee. Synod gives thanks to God for Narelle's valuable contribution to the life of our Diocese, her passion for advancing the ministries of women and her commitment to biblical truth and making Christ known.

(Archdeacon Kara Hartley / Dr Karin Sowada)



### **M11 Grace City Church**

*Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> (afternoon session), following formal matters*

Synod notes that Grace City Church, Waterloo, has been declared to be a recognised church by the South Sydney Regional Council from 1 January 2021 under clause 8 of the *Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000*. Grace City began as an initiative of Evangelism and New Churches, and held its first public service in May 2015. Synod thanks God that from small beginnings, Grace City has grown both numerically and spiritually, and joins in praising God as it celebrates its 8<sup>th</sup> year of ministry.

(The Rev Tim Clemens / Bishop Michael Stead)



### **M12 Review of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations**

*Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> (evening session)*

---

#### ***Procedural motions***

- (1) Synod agrees that –
  - (c) the motions at M24, M25 and M26 not be debated or voted on, and
  - (d) Synod members may provide their initial feedback on the Exposure Draft of the revised Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations during the debate of the motion at M12,

and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.

(Dean Sandy Grant)

---

Synod, noting the report 'Review of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations' –

- (a) affirms that churches, schools and organisations to which the policy is proposed to apply, in pursuing their individual charitable purpose(s), are partners in our shared ministry, and part of a network collectively seeking to advance the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese while maintaining high standards of governance,
- (b) confirms the importance of churches, schools and organisations to which the policy is proposed to apply pursuing their individual charitable purpose(s) in a manner which is consistent with the doctrines, tenets and beliefs of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney,
- (c) requests Synod members, churches, schools and organisations to which the policy is proposed to apply, to review the Exposure Draft and provide feedback to the Governance Policy Review Committee by 31 December 2023, and
- (d) requests that a further revised form of the Governance Policy be brought back to the Synod in 2024 incorporating, as appropriate, comments and feedback from Synod members, churches, schools and organisations to which the policy is proposed to apply.

(Bk 2 p.273)

(Bishop Chris Edwards / Mr Greg Hammond OAM)



### **M13 Partnership with Anglican Schools**

*Monday 18<sup>th</sup> (afternoon session), following formal matters*

*The following form of motion was shown on the Amendment Sheet on Day 1.*

The Rev Dr Michael Jensen will move the motion in the following form (marked to show changes) –

'Synod, noting the report 'Recommendations from the Education Committee' –

- (a) acknowledges and thanks Anglican Schools for their work as partners in the mission and ministry of the Diocese,
- (b) requests the draft statement on Reformed Anglican Education be presented to School Principals for their consideration and comment, ~~including at the next Ascension Day meeting of Principals, with a view to adoption as a policy of the Synod in 2024~~ particularly with reference to the nature and purposes of Anglican Schools within the larger context of Reformed Anglican Education,
- ~~(b)~~(c) requests the Standing Committee to form a suitably qualified committee, including current Anglican School principals, to finalise the draft statement for adoption by the Synod in due course, and
- ~~(e)~~(d) encourages participation by Anglican School staff in mentoring, professional development and networking through diocesan associations and professional bodies.'

(Bk 2 p.259)

(The Rev Dr Michael Jensen / Bishop Chris Edwards)



### **M14 Archbishop's Education Advisor**

*Monday 18<sup>th</sup> (afternoon session), following M13*

*The following form of motion was shown on the Amendment Sheet on Day 1.*

Bishop Chris Edwards will move the motion in the following form (marked to show changes) –

'Synod requests –

- (a) the Archbishop, in consultation with Anglican School principals, to consider appointing a suitably qualified education advisor to support his advocacy

- on behalf of Anglican Schools and to assist the Synod and schools to form an effective partnership towards their shared ministry goals, and
- (b) the Standing Committee to consider ways to fund such a role.’

(Bk 2 p.259)

(Bishop Chris Edwards / Canon Craig Roberts)


---

***Proposed amendments***

- (1) In paragraph (b), omit all the text, and insert instead the matter ‘the Archbishop to consult with the Anglican Schools in order to determine how such a role might be funded’.

(The Rev Andrew Bruce / Mr John Pascoe)

---

 **M15 Training opportunities for Anglican educators**

*Monday 18<sup>th</sup> (afternoon session), following M14*

*The following form of motion was shown on the Amendment Sheet on Day 1.*

The Rev Dr Gavin Perkins will move the motion in the following form (marked to show changes) –

‘Synod recommends that the Standing Committee –

- (a) request SDS to include instructional training that provides contextual information about the Diocese and its structures in conjunction with SDS supported AICD governance courses, and to offer this training or an alternate version to diocesan school staff (possibly using a similar online platform as is currently operating for safe ministry training),
- (b) request the education advisor (or, in the absence of an education advisor, the Archbishop’s delegate) to report to the Standing Committee on the creation of tertiary training programs for school chaplains, assistant chaplains, and Christian Studies teachers, including the development of a sample K-12 Christian Studies curriculum,
- (c) request Youthworks to develop training units to support the teaching of the Bible in primary schools, and distinctive Christian teaching, and
- (d) consider ways to fund such requests.’

(Bk 2 p.259)

(The Rev Dr Gavin Perkins / Bishop Chris Edwards)

---

***Proposed amendments***

- (1) In paragraph (d), omit all the text, and insert instead the matter ‘consult with the Anglican Schools in order to determine how such initiatives might be funded’.


(The Rev Andrew Bruce / Mr John Pascoe)

- (2) Insert a new paragraph (c), with consequential re-lettering –

‘(c) request the education advisor (or, in the absence of an education advisor, the Archbishop’s delegate) to develop partnerships with university Christian fellowships in order to promote training opportunities and access to tertiary courses with cross-institutional credit which train teacher education students in distinctively Christian teaching.’

(Mr Lachlan Field / The Rev Graeme Howells)

---

 **M16 Pastoral Supervision in the Diocese of Sydney**

*Monday 18<sup>th</sup> (evening session), following B4*


Synod, noting the report 'Pastoral Supervision in the Diocese of Sydney' –

- (a) affirms the importance of Pastoral Supervision, both as a measure to enhance the ministry wellbeing and development of church workers in the Diocese, and to implement a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and
- (b) requests the Archbishop-in-Council to approve a Pastoral Supervision Policy as provided for by the Pastoral Supervision Ordinance 2023.

(Bk 2 p.237)

(Bishop Peter Lin / Archdeacon Kara Hartley)

---

 **M17 Performance Appraisals of Ministry Workers**


Synod, noting the report 'Performance Appraisals of Ministry Workers' –

- (a) invites members of the Synod to provide feedback to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2023 on the proposed arrangements for all ministry workers in the Diocese to undergo regular performance appraisals as contemplated in the report, and
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to implement arrangements for regular performance appraisals for all ministry workers in light of feedback received.

(Bk 2 p.243)

(The Rev Dr Raj Gupta / Bishop Michael Stead)

---


 **M22 Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy**

*Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> (afternoon session), immediately prior to the dinner break*

Synod thanks God for twenty years of faithful service by Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy, encourages it to continue to share the love of God with the 160,000 people who work or are volunteers in the Racing Industry, and assures them of our prayers.

(Mr James Flavin / Mrs Wendy Slee)

---

 **M24 Diocesan Governance Policy – tiered model of governance**


*Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> (evening session), following M12*

Synod endorses the approach of creating a tiered model of governance as outlined in the Exposure Draft of the revised Diocesan Governance Policy, noting that feedback has been requested regarding the churches, schools and organisations to be included in each tier.

(Bk 2 p.273)

(Mr Greg Hammond OAM / Ms Anne Robinson AM)

---

 **M25 Diocesan Governance Policy – Christian faith and character**


*Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> (evening session), following M24*

Synod endorses the approach of requiring governors and leaders to be of Christian faith and character, as outlined in the Exposure Draft of the revised Diocesan Governance Policy, noting that feedback has been requested on the definition of "Christian faith and character" included in the Exposure Draft, and how this requirement can be best ensured.

(Bk 2 p.273)

(Bishop Chris Edwards / Mr Greg Hammond OAM)

---

 **M26 Diocesan Governance Policy – Statement of Personal Commitment to Organisational Faithfulness**

*Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> (evening session), following M25*

Synod endorses the approach of requiring governors and leaders to provide a signed Statement of Personal Commitment to Organisational Faithfulness substantially as proposed in the Exposure Draft, noting that this requirement is not intended to be a substitute for


---

requiring that governors and leaders be of Christian faith and character, and that feedback has been requested on this approach.

(Bk 2 p.273)

(Ms Anne Robinson AM / Mr Greg Hammond OAM)

---

 **M27 Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Policy**

*Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> (afternoon session), following B9*


Synod respectfully encourages parish councils to –

- (a) familiarise themselves with the newly revised Diocesan Domestic Abuse Policy,
- (b) adopt the revised model parish domestic abuse policy (Appendix 7),
- (c) display and otherwise utilise resources such as –
  - (i) posters from the Office of the Director of Safe Ministry (**ODSM**),
  - (ii) the Policy’s flow chart and table of contacts,
  - (iii) “The Use and Misuse of Scripture with Regard to Domestic Abuse” (Appendix 2), and
  - (iv) other language resources of the same, where available from the ODSM,
- (d) make links to local domestic violence services,
- (e) appoint a domestic abuse contact person within the parish, and
- (f) request their rector to –
  - (i) teach clearly and periodically in this area in line with the policy,
  - (i) ensure training for parish clergy and church workers in the area of domestic abuse response is ongoing and refreshed,
  - (ii) consider primary prevention programs such as “Before It Starts” for youth groups,
  - (iii) review the approach used by parish clergy to marriage preparation and enrichment for sensitivity to domestic abuse dynamics (noting Appendix 9), and
  - (iv) consider training in the dynamics of trauma, with resources from Anglican Deaconess Ministries’ Mental Health & Pastoral Care Institute providing a possible starting point.

(Bk 2 p.312)

(Archdeacon Kara Hartley / Dean Sandy Grant)

---


 **M31 Box Hill**

*Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> (afternoon session), following formal matters*

Synod praises God for the acquisition of the property at 158 Boundary Rd, Oakville for the establishment of a new church in the Box Hill area. We thank God for the partnership of the parishes of Pitt Town and Rouse Hill, the Anglican Growth Corporation and Evangelism and New Churches, and for the appointment of the Reverend Chris Mann as the church planter.

(Bishop Gary Koo / The Rev Philip Wheeler)

---

 **M37 Conversion Practices Legislation**

Synod –

- (a) reaffirms Synod Resolution 31 of 2018, in particular that –
  - (i) “the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney does not practise, recommend or endorse ‘gay conversion therapy’”, defined as practices that “seek to re-orient sexual attraction to heterosexuality”, and that
  - (ii) Synod “values prayer for same-sex attracted Christians who wish to live celibate lives, noting that prayer is not a form of ‘gay conversion therapy’”,
- (b) notes that the *Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2023* (NSW), introduced by Mr Alex Greenwich, has been closely modelled on the Victorian *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021*, and adopts its expansive redefinition of Conversion Practices by including the broad and vague concept of suppression, according to which the following are illegal –

- (i) a religious leader meeting one-on-one with a member of their congregation to encourage them not to act on same-sex attraction by practising celibacy,
  - (ii) religious teaching that someone is “broken” because of their sexual orientation or gender identity,
  - (iii) the provision of support through group prayer to a young person to help them fight a desire to act on their feelings of same-sex attraction,
  - (iv) a religious leader telling a member of their congregation that they will be excommunicated if they continue their same-sex relationship,
  - (v) parents declining to support their child’s request for puberty blockers if a health professional recommends it, or otherwise restricting their child access to any health care services that would affirm their child’s gender identity, and
  - (vi) a teacher telling a student that God does not accept them unless they keep the sex they were assigned at birth and dress accordingly  
(All examples from <https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/change-or-suppression-practices/have-you-experienced-a-change-or-suppression-practice/> ),
- (c) notes the pre-election commitments of the Premier and other members of the ALP that its legislation would prohibit ‘dangerous and damaging’ conversion practices, but that it would not ban a consenting individual seeking prayer or other advice and assistance, nor would it ban the expression of religious belief through religious teaching,
- (d) notes that the government’s Consultation Paper on Banning Conversion Practices has proposed an approach that is very similar to the Victorian legislation and the Bill introduced by Mr Greenwich, which is inconsistent with the ALP’s pre-election commitments,
- (e) calls on the Minns Labor Government to uphold its commitments regarding LGBTQ conversion therapy by introducing legislation that –
- (i) bans dangerous and damaging practices that seek or promise to *change sexual orientation*, but does not use the broad and vague concept of “suppression”,
  - (ii) does not prohibit a consenting individual from seeking the support and assistance that they consider appropriate for themselves,
  - (iii) does not prohibit religious instruction and guidance that encourages church members to live in conformity with the ethical teaching of the Scriptures by not acting on desires that are contrary to this teaching,
  - (iv) does not expose parents to prosecution for failing to affirm and support their child’s sexual orientation or gender identity, and
  - (v) does not introduce a bias towards gender-affirming treatment and the threat of prosecution for health professionals who recommend a different treatment approach, and
- (f) encourages Sydney Anglicans to meet with, or write to, their local MP to express their concerns and requests, and notes that Freedom for Faith has developed resources to assist in organising meetings and writing letters (<https://contactyourmp.org.au>).

(Bishop Michael Stead / Mr Michael Southon)

---

**Proposed amendments**

- (1) Omit paragraph (a).

(The Rev Andrew Barry / Mr Craig Stevens)

- (2) Amend the motion as follows –

- (a) in subparagraph (e)(i), omit the matter ‘but does not use the broad and vague concept of “suppression”,’,
- (b) insert a new subparagraph (e)(ii) as follows, with consequential re-lettering –
  - ‘(ii) clarifies that prayer for same-sex attracted Christians who wish to live celibate lives, if offered in a genuinely non-

coercive and ethically acceptable manner, would not constitute a change or suppression practice within the scope of the legislation,’

- (c) in re-lettered subparagraph (e)(iii), following the matter ‘appropriate for themselves,’, insert the matter ‘but includes a requirement that religious organisations and leaders in religious communities are not to withhold from such an individual access to broader sources of support and full information as to the documented long-term risks and harms associated with change and suppression practices,’, and
- (d) in re-lettered subparagraph (e)(vi), omit all the text, and insert instead the matter ‘takes account of relevant health professionals’ ethical guidelines and codes of conduct, and’.

(Ms Elise Christian / Professor Bernard Stewart AM)



### **M39 Archdeacon Neil Atwood**

*Tuesday 19th (afternoon session), following formal matters*

Synod, noting that Archdeacon Neil Atwood begins leave on the 23 September 2023 and will officially retire in March 2024, gives thanks to God for Neil and his wife Robyn’s service of the gospel for over 45 years. Having served in the parishes of Dapto, Normanhurst, Willoughby, Tregear, Mt Druitt, Toongabbie and Springwood before taking up his current role in the Western Region from 2011 first as the Assistant to the Bishop and most recently as Archdeacon, Neil has demonstrated a great love for the people of the Western Region with its great number of communities, cultures and churches. We are also thankful to God for the additional responsibilities he assumed in support of Bishop Ivan Lee, Bishop of Western Sydney, during his sustained illness. Further, we note that since 2014 Neil has combined his regional role with that of ODSM Parish Consultant, leading the production of online Safe Ministry Training, and supporting parish Safe Ministry Representatives.

As Neil and Robyn retire, Synod prays that the Lord would continue to use them to his honour and glory.

(The Rev Roger Cunningham / Bishop Gary Koo)



### **M46 Questions during debates on motions**

Synod, noting that –

- (a) Part 4 – Resolutions of the *Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019 (the Ordinance)* provides no clear permission for questions to be asked during debate on motions, and
- (b) it is often desirable for questions to be asked during debate on motions, and

requests Standing Committee to consider whether the Ordinance should be amended, and if so, to bring any amendment to a forthcoming Synod.

(The Rev Nigel Fortescue / Dr Claire Smith)



### **M47 Doctrine Commission Report: The Doctrine of Concupiscence and its Relevance to the Experience of Same-Sex Attraction**

Synod, having received the Doctrine Commission Report: The Doctrine of Concupiscence and its Relevance to the Experience of Same-sex Attraction, in the context of provision for ‘Tabling and reception of accounts and reports etc’ is aware that such procedure does not provide any opportunity for Synod members to be aware of why any particular publication was sought, be informed of its content, or alerted to its availability as a resource in particular circumstances.

In respect of the Doctrine Commission report in question, Synod acknowledges misgivings of some members concerning specific matters including –



At 1.2, when identifying ‘one of the most contentious issues facing the Christian churches at this moment’, the report does not provide contextual information to the effect that even within the Anglican Church of Australia, bible-believing Christians contend with God-given diversity as to whether a legally-affirmed life-long exclusive and voluntary commitment between two adults of the same gender is inherently and necessarily sin in every instance and indicate that this report is premised on one interpretation of scripture in relation to this matter.


At 3.7, Jesus’ statement at Mat 5:28 addressing adultery should be specified in scripture as immediately following Christ’s teaching about murder (Mat 5 5:21-22), and other sins, as introduced by the words ‘You have heard that it was said...’. The report might acknowledge that the primary teaching from this scripture involves the futility of relying on compliance with the law as a means of achieving salvation any other consideration is secondary.

At 4.4, where concupiscence is recognized as an ‘infection of nature’ and much more than sexual lust, the report should warn that a sense of desire is inherent in all sin involving gratification including the sin about which Jesus explicitly warned most, namely the self-focused accrual of personal financial wealth.

At 6.5, although the report specifies that actual sin only occurs when we fail to resist temptation and allow ourselves to be enticed - an interpretation re-affirmed at 6.6, such a determination is not consistent with Mat 5:29 and the specification at 4.4 that concupiscence is not only on sin, and inclines to sin, but is sin itself.

(Prof Bernard Stewart AM / The Rev Dr James Collins OAM)

---


 **M48 Prayer for the Brisbane 2024 Gafcon Australasia Conference**

This Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for his work in and through the Gafcon movement to promote the gospel, uphold mission and welcome orthodox Anglicans wherever and wherever they are,
- (b) recognises the importance of the next Gafcon Australasia conference in Brisbane next July and encourages each parish and diocesan organisation to send delegates,
- (c) delights in the choice of the Reverend Mike Dicker, Principal of Youthworks College, as the keynote Bible speaker, and encourages prayer for him and the conference that they may sit humbly under the word of God and grow in their confidence in the power, clarity and goodness of his word, and
- (d) commits to pray that this conference will strengthen faithful Anglican ministry throughout Australasia, so that the gospel will go forward, the church will be built and the Lord will be honoured.

(The Rev Jodie McNeill / Bishop Malcolm Richards)


---

 **M49 Indigenous Governor General**

Synod, recognising that in our nation’s system of government, the primary voice to Parliament is our Governor General, respectfully requests that our Indigenous brother Rev Neville Naden be endorsed by this Synod to be appointed to stand as a future Governor General of this nation.

(Mr Chris Hamam)

---

 **M50 Foster Carer and Kinship Week**

The Rev Dr Matthew Wilcoxon will move the motion in the following form (marked to show changes) –

~~‘Synod, on the occasion of “Foster Carer and Kinship Week” (September 10-16), Synod~~

- (a) notes with grave concern the dire shortage of residential foster carers in New South Wales, resulting in an alarming number of children being placed in alternative emergency housing such as hotels, motels, and various sorts of group homes (<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/no-safe-place-to-call-home-vulnerable-children-housed-in-hotels-amid-foster-carer-crisis-20230908-p5e35f.html>), and therefore
- (b) exhorts all ~~diocesan~~ rectors to –
- (i) inform their parishioners about the current need for foster carers;<sup>2</sup>
  - (ii) ask their parishioners to consider prayerfully whether foster care might be a way that they are called to fulfill the biblical injunction to care for children in need (cf. James 1:27);<sup>2</sup>
  - (iii) connect their parishioners to Anglicare’s excellent foster care information and resources (available at: <https://www.anglicare.org.au/what-we-offer/foster-care-adoption/foster-care/> and <https://fostercare.anglicare.org.au>);<sup>2</sup>
  - (iv) encourage all parishioners to pray for, and to support practically, other Christians who serve as foster carers, and
  - (v) consider making “Foster Carer and Kinship Week” each September something that their parish notes, celebrates, and prays for.’

(The Rev Dr Matthew Wilcoxon / The Rev Tom Hargreaves)



# Timetable for Synod Business

A notation "B#" refers to Bills and "M#" refers to motions per the attached schedule.

<b>Wednesday 13 September 2023</b>	
3.15 – 5.20 pm	Bible Study/prayer and Formal matters B9: Responding to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Good Practice Guidelines M27: Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Policy <i>Thereafter, other business as per the business paper</i>
5.20 – 5.45 pm	Presentation: Anglicare M22: Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy
7.00 pm +	M12: Review of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations M24: Diocesan Governance Policy – tiered model of governance M25: Diocesan Governance Policy – Christian faith and character M26: Diocesan Governance Policy – Statement of Personal Commitment to Organisational Faithfulness <i>Thereafter, reserved for business commenced but not yet completed</i>

<b>Monday 18 September 2023</b>	
3.15 – 5.45 pm	Bible Study/prayer and Formal matters Presentation: Anglican Schools in the Diocese M13: Partnership with Anglican Schools M14: Archbishop's Education Advisor M15: Training opportunities for Anglican educators <i>Thereafter, other business as per the business paper</i>
5.40 – 5.45 pm	Presentation: Defence Force Chaplaincy
7.00 – 8.00 pm	<i>Mission hour</i>
8.00 pm +	B4: Pastoral Supervision Ordinance 2023 <i>(May commence anytime from 4.30pm if time permits)</i> M16: Pastoral Supervision in the Diocese of Sydney <del>M17: Performance Appraisals of Ministry Workers</del> <i>Thereafter, other business as per the business paper</i>

<b>Tuesday 19 September 2023</b>	
3.15 – 5.45 pm	Bible Study/prayer and Formal matters M7: Archdeacon Narelle Jarrett M11: Grace City Church M31: Box Hill M39: Archdeacon Neil Atwood <del>Tabling and reception of accounts and reports etc – Standing Committee and other special reports (if not passed on the callover)</del> <i>Thereafter, other business as per the business paper</i>
7.00 pm +	<i>Thereafter, other business as per the business paper</i>