

Second Session of the 53rd Synod

Daily Papers

18 September 2024

Business Paper

Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney

Bible passage: Wednesday 18 September 2024

Jeremiah 27: 1 – 22

Mrs Stacie Pakula

¹ In the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD. ² Thus the LORD said to me: “Make yourself straps and yoke-bars, and put them on your neck. ³ Send word to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of the sons of Ammon, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon by the hand of the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah. ⁴ Give them this charge for their masters: ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: This is what you shall say to your masters: ⁵ “It is I who by my great power and my outstretched arm have made the earth, with the men and animals that are on the earth, and I give it to whomever it seems right to me. ⁶ Now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant, and I have given him also the beasts of the field to serve him. ⁷ All the nations shall serve him and his son and his grandson, until the time of his own land comes. Then many nations and great kings shall make him their slave.

⁸ ““But if any nation or kingdom will not serve this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, I will punish that nation with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence, declares the LORD, until I have consumed it by his hand. ⁹ So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your fortune-tellers, or your sorcerers, who are saying to you, ‘You shall not serve the king of Babylon.’ ¹⁰ For it is a lie that they are prophesying to you, with the result that you will be removed far from your land, and I will drive you out, and you will perish. ¹¹ But any nation that will bring its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will leave on its own land, to work it and dwell there, declares the LORD.””

¹² To Zedekiah king of Judah I spoke in like manner: “Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people and live. ¹³ Why will you and your people die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, as the LORD has spoken concerning any nation that will not serve the king of Babylon? ¹⁴ Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are saying to you, ‘You shall not serve the king of Babylon,’ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you. ¹⁵ I have not sent them, declares the LORD, but they are prophesying falsely in my name, with the result that I will drive you out and you will perish, you and the prophets who are prophesying to you.”

¹⁶ Then I spoke to the priests and to all this people, saying, “Thus says the LORD: Do not listen to the words of your prophets who are prophesying to you, saying, ‘Behold, the vessels of the LORD’s house will now shortly be brought back from Babylon,’ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you. ¹⁷ Do not listen to them; serve the king of Babylon and live. Why should this city become a desolation? ¹⁸ If they are prophets, and if the word of the LORD is with them, then let them intercede with the LORD of hosts, that the vessels that are left in the house of the LORD, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem may not go to Babylon. ¹⁹ For thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the pillars, the sea, the stands, and the rest of the vessels that are left in this city, ²⁰ which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon did not take away, when he took into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem— ²¹ thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels that are left in the house of the LORD, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem: ²² They shall be carried to Babylon and remain there until the day when I visit them, declares the LORD. Then I will bring them back and restore them to this place.”

Song: *He Will Hold Me Fast*

(Words: Ada Habershon & Matt Merker; Music: Matt Merker)

Second Session of the 53rd Synod

Business Paper: Wednesday 18 September 2024

- 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 369 in Book 3: the Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019. See Part 5 of the Synod Standing Orders for ordinance procedures.

1. The President or a person appointed by him is to pray.

2. Bible study is led by the Rev Kevin Kim.

3. Minutes of 17 September 2024

The minutes of the previous day are to be signed by the President, or otherwise dealt with.

4. Answers to questions

4.1 Breaches of Faithfulness in Service

Miss Jan Syme asked the following question –

- (a) How many clergy and lay workers have been investigated by the Professional Standards Committee over the last 6 years?
- (b) How many of these were found to have breached one of the Faithfulness in Service conditions?
 - (i) How many of these were stood down?
 - (ii) How many of the breached conditions were about bullying?
- (c) How many breached two or more of the Faithfulness in Service conditions?
 - (i) How many of these were stood down?
 - (ii) How many of these included bullying as at least one of the breaches?
- (d) The Archbishop in the latest Southern Cross has written “no place for misconduct and abuse”. Does this apply to bullying?

4.2 Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre

Miss Jan Syme asked the following question –

What steps have been taken for finding a replacement Diocesan conference centre, after Gilbulla was sold about 20 years ago? Are the monies from the Gilbulla sale still set aside for this purpose?

4.3 Standing Committee circular 15 December 2023

The Rev David Clarke asked the following question –

With respect to the Circular of 15 December 2023 sent by SDS on behalf of Standing Committee to Rectors, Wardens and Treasurers, “Minister’s Discretionary Benefits Accounts – Limitations on GST Input Tax Credits” –

- (a) Was there a subcommittee of Standing Committee formed to investigate this matter?
- (b) If there was a subcommittee who were the members of this committee?
- (c) From whom was professional tax advice sought
- (d) Did Standing Committee see a copy of any professional advice given upon which it appears the Circular and advice was based?

- (e) Were dissenting or differing opinions considered?
- (f) Are there changes in tax law that parishes should be aware of since the Diocesan presentations regarding the change from MEAs to MDBAs in 2022?
- (g) Is there a Non Disclosure Agreement regarding how the Standing Committee reached a decision that effectively cuts the take home pay of clergy that this circular describes with the words *“Implementing the changes recommended in this circular will lead to a reduction in the amount available”*?
- (h) What efforts are made to ensure the clarity and intelligibility of Diocesan circulars for those who are not taxation experts?
- (i) In light of parishes being sent a circular stating *“this guidance is not definitive without a tax ruling”*, is SDS aware of any parishes seeking their own tax ruling?
- (j) After the sending out of the circular, did the Standing Committee or any subcommittees receive feedback given to SDS staff regarding –
 - (i) the impact on clergy of a decision by Standing Committee to effectively cut take home pay of ministers during a time of high inflation?
 - (ii) the impact the timing chosen to communicate these financial changes a week before Christmas?
 - (iii) the impression such changes and the manner in which they were undertaken communicates about the value and care of clergy in this Diocese?

4.4 Synod voting processes

Dr Robert Pryor asked the following question –

Considering the urgency of being efficient in time use in Synod and the large amounts of time devoted to the process of voting, counting and reporting results, has consideration been given to replacing cumbersome paper procedures with digitalized methods using apps on mobile phones or other less unwieldy methods?

4.5 Historical stipend recommendation

Mr Jonathan Miller asked the following question –

What is the historical stipend recommendation for rectors for the last 20 years (if possible) including year on year % increase?

4.6 Decline in attendance

The Rev David Lanham asked the following question –

Acknowledging God’s sovereignty, and reflecting upon the ‘64/23 Attendance Patterns’ report identifying decline in attendance generally and in ‘newcomers’ specifically; how do we discern if –

- (a) decline is acceptable so long as we are ‘faithful’ or if
- (b) the decline is an indication of our lack of zeal and innovation for the gospel, and so a sign of our lack of faithfulness?

4.7 Ministry leadership

The Rev David Lanham asked the following question –

The 2011 report ‘2/10 Towards 2050’ stated that –
 ‘Humanly speaking, leadership in our parochial units is the single greatest determining factor as to whether our churches are growing or not’.

In the light of the ‘64/23 Attendance Patterns’ report –

- (a) Do we affirm this statement is still an accurate observation of ministry leadership today?
- (b) If so, what actions are and can be taken to better equip our parish leaders to be more effective in facilitating numeric growth within our churches?

4.8 Young adult attendance patterns

The Rev David Lanham asked the following question –

The 2013 review of Mission (31/12 Review of the Diocesan Mission), identified that: ‘a slight increase in the proportion of newcomers in Sydney Anglican congregations from 1991 to 2001 has been replaced by a decrease since 2001. This is a very significant trend which, if it was to continue, would be expected to impact on the numbers of young adults in the Sydney Diocese... and ultimately upon church growth trends.’

Given the observations within the ‘64/23 Attendance Patterns’ report showing a continuing decline in ‘Newcomers’ to 2023 –

- (a) What are the specific numbers of young adult attenders in our churches between 2013-2023?
- (b) Does this data identify declining effectiveness of ministry to young adults?
- (c) Is the decline in ‘newcomers’ an indication of decreasing effectiveness in evangelism generally?

4.9 Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF)

Mr Matthew Robson asked the following question –

Noting that this week Housing Australia announced it had notified applicants of the outcomes of the first funding round for the HAFF program –

- (a) Did the Diocese participate in the process?
- (b) Approximately how many applications were made?
- (c) What was our success rate?

4.10 The Attendance Patterns Report

Mr Michael Doran asked the following question –

Questions to Standing Committee and the Attendance Patterns Committee about the content, recommendations, inferences and implications of the Attendance Patterns Report –

- (a) The NCLS indicator, ‘a strong sense of belonging’: What do the committees believe are the characteristics of leaders that foster a ‘strong sense of belonging?’
- (b) Declines in large churches: What congregational, diocesan and local factors have the committees identified regarding the decline in attendance within large churches, and the reduction in the number of large churches?
- (c) The correlation between large churches, and a sense of belonging: How do large churches foster a strong sense of belonging?
- (d) Characteristics and availability of senior ministers fitted for large church leadership: What do the committees believe are the specific characteristics of senior ministers who are suited for leadership of large churches, and does the Diocese have enough of such ministers in the pipeline?
- (e) Training senior ministers for large church ministry: What is the pathway for ministers in readiness for leadership of large churches, and how is the Diocese growing these capabilities?
- (f) The desire to build large church buildings in the greenfields: Given the observations about decline in attendance within large churches, what lessons can the Diocese learn, especially when the churches being hoped for, designed and built in the greenfields areas are often large scale (e.g. auditoriums of 500+ seats)?
- (g) About ‘fresh priorities’: What would ‘a fresh priority on winning newcomers/converts’ to Jesus look like in contrast to what is true today?
- (h) About apparent complacency in outreach: How would the committee respond to the suggestion that some of the recommendations imply that many of our ministers are complacent about reaching unchurched people in the community? In the opinion of the committees, what more should they be doing?

- (i) About patterns of church members who are occasional in attendance (e.g., 3 weeks in 5, or 25 turn-ups per year): Though not the focus of the report, what observations has the committee made about the attendance patterns of committed Christian members of congregations who are in a pattern of only occasional attendance. How widespread is this pattern, is it new, does it matter, and what are your suggested approaches to address this?

4.11 Attendance patterns and the South Western Region Draft Buildings and Property Strategy

The Rev Dr Stephen Anderson asked the following question –

Given the contrast between –

- (a) the statistical findings detailed in Appendix C of this year's Attendance Patterns Report, and
- (b) the target capacity explicitly presupposed for each parish in last year's South Western Region Draft Buildings and Property Strategy (p. 21) –

are there plans for the strategic presuppositions of the latter document (and its wider family of documents) to be reviewed in light of the findings of the former?

4.12 Higher Education Loan Program (HELP)

The Rev Dr Stephen Anderson asked the following question –

- (a) What planning has commenced around the impact of –
 - (i) the renewable HELP loan limit and
 - (ii) the 7-year HELP entitlement limit (introduced respectively in 2020 and 2022) upon those pursuing formal theological training?
- (b) Is there some suitably qualified group designing a pathway to ameliorate the foreseeable financial impediments to theological training, and especially the track towards ordination?
- (c) If so, what is the envisaged timeline until this is reflected in Synod's Allocations and Appropriations Bill?

4.13 Anglicare research funding

Mr Gavin Jones asked the following question –

Can you please give a rationale for why Anglicare Research is proposed to be defunded in the next triennium?

4.14 Diocesan Governance Policy and Corporation Schools

The Rev Andrew Schmidt asked the following question –

Reference is made to the Diocesan Governance Policy, Appendix 1 (page 215). Questions –

- (a) Which category of organisation is an individual Corporation School (as distinct from the Schools Corporation itself)?
- (b) Consequently, will Corporation School heads be required to sign the Statement of Organisational Faithfulness?

4.15 Confirmation statistics

The Rev Andrew Schmidt asked the following question –

- (a) How many individuals were confirmed in the Diocese in 2023?
- (b) How many parishes have not held a confirmation service in the last 5 years?
- (c) What is the episcopal team's pastoral response to any parishes which appear to be "not doing confirmation" anymore?

4.16 Age demographic data

The Rev Andrew Schmidt asked the following question –

In reference to the excellent "Attendance Patterns" report –

- (a) Is information available to show in detail the age distribution by decades of the members of our churches? That is, the number of members aged 0-9, the number aged 10-19, the number aged 20-29 and so on?
- (b) If not, would the authors of the report consider the collection of such information to be useful and feasible?

4.17 Network Costs

Mr Mark Robinson asked the following question –

The *Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance* report shows that Network Costs have increased from \$5.2m in 2016 to \$11.3m in 2025. (Book 1 p235). That is an increase of 117% over a decade whereas church operating receipts have only increased by 36% over the same period.

- (a) Since 2016, what additional costs have been included in Network Costs which were not included in 2016?
- (b) What is the amount of those additional costs included in the 2025 total of Network Costs?

4.18 Moore Theological 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?

4.19 Counselling related to the Confidential Lifestyle Questionnaire

Mrs Nicola Fortescue asked the following question –

- (a) How many people who have completed the Confidential Lifestyle Questionnaire have taken up the offer of follow-up counselling or support paid for by the Diocese?
- (b) Has the offer of counselling or support ever been offered to people for the purpose of support during the completion of the questionnaire?

5. The President invites members to give notice of questions.

6. The President invites members to give notice of motions.

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

8. Procedural motions

8.1 Recommendations from the Order of Business Committee

Synod agrees –

- (a) to reschedule items of business as shown in marked form on the Timetable for Synod Business, and

(b) to commence consideration of B1 Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982 Amendment Ordinance 2024 following the formal matters today (Wednesday 18 September 2024), noting that it may occur prior to 4.30 pm, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.

(Mrs Briony Bounds / Archdeacon Simon Flinders)

8.2 Arrangements for consideration of M48 Variable Parochial Cost Recoveries percentage



Synod agrees to schedule consideration of the motion for which notice was given yesterday, regarding a cap on parish cost recoveries, for Monday 23 September 2024 immediately following consideration of the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2024.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett / Mr Mark Robinson)

9. 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).

18 September 2024

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

-  **B1 Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982 Amendment Ordinance 2024**
Wednesday 18th (afternoon session), following formal matters

Synod will be asked to consider the Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982 Amendment Ordinance 2024.

(Bk 1 p.281)

(Archdeacon Anthony Douglas / Dr Claire Smith)

Proposed amendments to the text of the Bill in committee

- (1) In subparagraph 2(b), omit the matter, ‘a person who is a presbyter in the Diocese, or a person’, and insert instead the matter, ‘a person, aged between 30 and 65 years of age, who is a presbyter in the Diocese or’.

(Mr Samuel Doherty)


-  **B2 Consecration of the Archbishop of Sydney Ordinance 2021 Amendment Ordinance 2024**
Wednesday 18th (afternoon session), following B1

Synod will be asked to consider the Consecration of the Archbishop of Sydney Ordinance 2021 Amendment Ordinance 2024 in a form incorporating the following amendment –

‘In clause 2, following the matter “a pool of suitable”, insert the matter, “diocesan”.’

(Bk 1 p.281)

(Archdeacon Anthony Douglas / Dr Claire Smith)

-  **B4 Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese Amendment Ordinance 2024**
To be considered immediately following M10

Synod will be asked to consider the Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese Amendment Ordinance 2024 in a form incorporating the following amendment –

‘Omit all the matter at paragraph 3 and insert instead the following matter –

“3. Amendment to the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995

The *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* is amended as follows –

- (a) insert the matter ‘, 8A’ after the number ‘6’ in clauses 33(b), 35(e), 43(b) and 46(2)(d), and
- (b) insert the following matter at the end of clause 50A before the full-stop –
‘,
or the person is the Director of Indigenous Ministry’, and
- (c) insert a new clause 50BA as follows –
‘50BA. Additional Nominated Indigenous Representative
(1) The Director of Indigenous Ministry is an additional Nominated Indigenous Representative, ex officio and must be summoned to each session of Synod convened while they hold that office.
(2) If a person is summoned to a session of Synod under subclause 50BA(1), and before the first day of that session the person ceases to hold office as the Director of Indigenous Ministry, the summons is void.
(3) Divisions 2 and 3 of this Part 8A do not apply to a person who is a member of Synod under subclause 50BA(1).’, and
- (d) in the Dictionary substitute the definition of ‘Indigenous Person’ with the following –
“‘Indigenous Person’ means a person who –
 - (a) is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, and
 - (b) identifies as an Aboriginal Person or Torres Strait Islander, and
 - (c) is accepted as such by the community in which they live or formerly lived.””

(Bk 1 p.298)

(The Rev Nigel Fortescue / Bishop Michael Stead)



B5 Diocesan Governance Policy

Wednesday 18th (afternoon session), following formal matters

A revised form of B5, reflecting the outcome of M11 – M13 and marked to show further changes proposed by the mover, is available on the SDS website.

That the Diocesan Governance Policy be approved in principle.

(Bk 1 p.185)

(Mr Greg Hammond OAM / Bishop Chris Edwards)

Proposed amendments to the text of the Policy in committee

- (1) In Appendix 2, Part 2, section C, paragraph (i), omit the matter “12” and insert instead the matter “14”, and consequentially amend Footnote 33.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett)

- (2) In Appendix 2, Part 2, Footnote 33, omit the matter, “and the Archbishop-in-Council” and insert instead the matter, ‘and the prior approval of the Standing Committee’.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett)

- (3) In Appendix 2, Part 2, section C, omit paragraph (j), and consequentially omit Footnote 34.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett)

- (4) In Appendix 2, Part 3, section I, paragraph (k), following the matter, ‘The governing board of a’, insert the matter, ‘Level A and’, and consequentially amend the list of paragraphs applicable to Level A organisations outlined at Appendix 1.

(Dr Karin Sowada)

 **B6 Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2024**

Monday 23rd (evening session), following M41

Synod will be asked to consider the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2024.

(Bk 1 p.250)

(Canon Phillip Colgan / Mr John Pascoe)

 **B7 Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2024**

Monday 23rd (evening session), following B6

Synod will be asked to consider the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2024 in a form incorporating the following amendment –

‘In clause 2 of the Schedule –

- (a) in the definition of “minister and assistant minister charge”, omit the existing paragraph (a) and insert instead the matter –

“(a) the costs of the contribution or contributions to a complying superannuation fund nominated by the minister or assistant minister at the rate or in the amount determined by the Standing Committee from time to time, and”, and

- (b) insert the following new definition in alphabetical order –

“‘complying superannuation fund’ has the meaning given to that term in sections 42 and 42A of the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993*.”

(Bk 1 p.232)

(Canon Phillip Colgan / Mr John Pascoe)

 **B10 Parish Governance Policy**

Not to be considered before B5

A revised form of B10 is expected to be circulated on a day subsequent to the consideration of B5, marked to show changes proposed by the mover.

That the Parish Governance Policy be approved in principle.

(Bk 2 p.345)

(Mr Greg Hammond OAM / Bishop Chris Edwards)

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



M1 Use of Non-Disclosure Agreements in the Diocese

Monday 23rd (afternoon session), following formal matters

Archdeacon Simon Flinders will move the motion in the following form (marked to show changes) –

‘Synod, noting the report ‘Use of Non-Disclosure Agreements in the Diocese’ –

- (a) endorses the principles articulated by the Report,
- (b) endorses the recommendations made at paragraphs 36, 37, and 38 of the Report,
- (c) encourages all parishes, diocesan organisations, and schools to:
 - (i) adopt a policy in relation to the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements (**NDAs**) which reflects the principles of the Report and the recommendations made at paragraphs 36, 37, and 38, or
 - (ii) make a public “pledge” in relation to the use of NDAs which reflects the principles of the Report and the recommendations made at paragraphs 36, 37, and 38,
- (d) encourages all parishes, diocesan organisations, and schools to consider whether they have used NDAs in the past which contravene the principles and recommendations of the Report, and, if they have done so, to welcome approaches from those who may have been subject to such NDAs (or their representative) with a view to considering the offer of an apology for the use of such NDAs, and, the offer of a formal (written) release from the terms of the NDA, and
- (e) agrees to consider a motion at the next session of Synod by which the Synod will apologise to all those who have, historically, been subject to NDAs which contravene the principles and recommendations of the Report.’

(Bk 1 p.177)

(Archdeacon Simon Flinders / Mrs Stacey Chapman)

Proposed amendments

- (1) Insert new paragraphs (c) and (d) as follows, with consequential re-lettering –
 - ‘(c) laments and condemns non-disclosure agreements that may be used to cover up sin, silence victims, or avoid accountability,
 - (d) calls to repentance anyone who has knowingly and intentionally used non-disclosure agreements for the purpose of covering up sin, silencing victims or avoiding accountability,’

(The Rev Michael Doyle / Canon Alistair Seabrook)

- (2) Insert a new paragraph (d) as follows, with consequential re-lettering –
 - ‘(d) requests the Standing Committee to develop and publish a model policy and a model pledge in relation to the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) which reflects the principles of the Report and the recommendations made at paragraphs 36, 37, and 38 and to circulate this policy and pledge to all parishes, diocesan organisations and schools with an encouragement to consider adopting one or the other,’

(Canon Alistair Seabrook / The Rev Michael Doyle)



M4 Sussex Inlet: Classification as a Parish

Monday 23rd (afternoon session), immediately prior to the dinner break

Synod assents to the classification of Sussex Inlet as a parish with effect from 1 January 2025.

(Bk 1 p.67)

(The Rev Martyn Davis / Bishop Peter Hayward)



M10 Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese

Monday 23rd (afternoon session), following M1

Synod, noting the report 'Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese' –

- (a) agrees to the creation of a position known as the Director of Indigenous Ministry, to be appointed by the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee with the concurrence of the Archbishop,
- (b) agrees that the role of the Director of Indigenous Ministry should be funded through an increase from 1% to 1.5% in the amount of the total available income for Synod that is applied to the Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Trust Fund,
- (c) agrees that the Director of Indigenous Ministry should be an ex officio member of the Synod as an additional Nominated Indigenous Representative, and an ex officio member of the Standing Committee, and
- (d) requests the Standing Committee amend the *Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Ordinance 2002* as required to give effect to the creation of the Director of Indigenous Ministry.

(Bk 1 p.298)

(The Rev Nigel Fortescue / Dr Karin Sowada)



M14 Diocesan Governance Policy – implementation

Wednesday 18th (afternoon session), following B5

Synod, noting the *Accounts Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995* includes an obligation for diocesan organisations to report to the Synod every three years on their conformity to the Diocesan Governance Policy and explain any areas of non-conformance –

- (a) repeals the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations made by the Synod on 20 October 2014, as amended from time to time,
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to amend the *Interpretations Ordinance 1985* to provide that –
 - (i) any reference in an ordinance to the 'Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations made by the Synod on 20 October 2014, as amended from time to time', be taken to be a reference to the Diocesan Governance Policy, as adopted by the Synod at this session,
 - (ii) any reference in an ordinance to the 'Statement of Personal Faith set out in the Synod Governance Policy' or a similar expression, be taken to be a reference to Appendix 3 of the Diocesan Governance Policy as adopted by the Synod at this session, and
 - (iii) prior to July 2026 a person may sign a statement in the form of Appendix 3 to the Diocesan Governance Policy rather than a 'Statement of Personal Faith' annexed to an ordinance constituting an organisation to which the person is to be elected or appointed as a member of the governing body,
- (c) requests the Standing Committee make arrangements for an outline of, and references to, the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Sydney to be made available on the Sydney Anglicans website,
- (d) requests each Diocesan organisation to promote amendments to its constituting ordinance by July 2026 to achieve conformity with the Diocesan Governance Policy noting that where appropriate, provisions of the Diocesan Governance Policy may be included in a charter (or similar document),
- (e) requests the Standing Committee to –
 - (i) review the *Accounts, Audits, and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*, the *Synod Elections Ordinance 2000*, and other relevant ordinances with a view to amending them to ensure conformity with the Diocesan Governance Policy, noting that it may

- not be appropriate for a particular ordinance to conform to the Diocesan Governance Policy in all respects,
- (ii) consult with each Diocesan organisation before any amendments are made to the ordinance by which the Diocesan organisation is constituted, and
 - (iii) report progress to the next session of the Synod,
- (f) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the Diocesan Governance Policy, with the exception of Appendix 3, unless before such amendment is made, any 3 members of the Standing Committee request in writing that the amendment be referred to the Synod, and provided any amendment made by the Standing Committee is reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

(Bk 1 p.185)

(Bishop Chris Edwards / Mr Greg Hammond OAM)



M15 Diocesan Governance Policy – acknowledgements and thanks

Wednesday 18th (afternoon session), following M14

Synod –

- (a) acknowledges and gives thanks for the persons responsible for governing Diocesan organisations, who give generously of their time, energy and skills to exercise the responsibilities with which they have been entrusted,
- (b) encourages the persons responsible for governing Diocesan organisations, to work in partnership with the Synod in seeking standards of governance appropriate to their context. Such standards are to be underpinned by prayer, sacrificial service, a dependence upon God for wisdom and a proper regard to best practice so that decisions made will enhance the effectiveness of each Diocesan organisation in proclaiming and commending Jesus Christ as Lord and pursuing their purposes,
- (c) commits to having due regard to the principles set out in the Diocesan Governance Policy in formulating rules and policies for the conduct of its own affairs and business, and
- (d) commits to working in partnership with Diocesan organisations, seeking to be informed of both their purposes and contexts to communicate and collaborate with them in the pursuit of their purposes and the furtherance of the purposes and priorities of the Diocese.

(Bk 1 p.185)

(Bishop Chris Edwards / Mr Greg Hammond OAM)



M16 Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese

Wednesday 18th (evening session)

Synod, noting the report '64/23 Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese', asks the Standing Committee to consider the recommendations of the report (paragraphs 111-129), to take appropriate steps to enact those recommendations it chooses to prioritise, and to bring a report to the next session of the Synod with an update on progress.

(Bk 1 p.70)

(The Rev Dominic Steele / The Rev Geoff Bates)

Proposed amendments

- (1) Amend the motion by forming the request of the motion (“asks the Standing Committee...”) into a subparagraph, and insert the following as an additional subparagraph, suitably ordered –
 - ‘(#) gives thanks to God for the recent “partial post-Covid recovery” and calls for confession and humble repentance, where we have fallen short in not giving sufficient priority, attention, reflection and resources to seeing the lost of Sydney and the Illawarra saved by Jesus’.

(The Rev Robin Kinstead / The Rev Michael Turner)

- (2) Amend the motion by forming the request of the motion into a subparagraph, and insert the following as an additional subparagraph, suitably ordered –

- ‘(#) asks the Standing Committee to review how we collect our attendance and mission data (for all ages) and to schedule a detailed attendance report (by region and mission area) for the first session of each subsequent synod (including where possible correlation with NCLS church health and leadership statistics)’.

(The Rev David Lanham / The Rev Ben Molyneux)

- (3) Amend the motion by forming the request of the motion into a subparagraph, and insert the following as an additional subparagraph, suitably ordered –

- ‘(#) recommits to our diocesan purpose of multiplying Christians, churches and leaders, and invites our Archbishop, Bishops, Regional Councils, Mission Area Leaders and Rectors to give a special five year focus to turn around our attendance decline, making multiplication our chief priority’.

(The Rev Toby Neal / The Rev Peter Stedman)

- (4) Omit all the matter following the words ‘asks the’, and insert instead the matter, ‘parishes and mission areas of the Diocese to prayerfully consider the recommendations of the report, and take appropriate steps to prioritise and implement the recommendations in their parish contexts.’

(Mrs Tara Sing / Bishop Peter Lin)



M18 Parish Governance Policy – implementation

To be considered immediately following B10

Synod –

- (a) requests the Standing Committee to review the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*, other ordinances relating to the financial and property affairs of parishes, and other ordinances (as applicable) with a view to amending them to achieve conformity with the Parish Governance Policy by or at the next session of the Synod,
- (b) authorises the Standing Committee to make amendments to the Parish Governance Policy, unless before such amendment is made, any 3 members of the Standing Committee request in writing that the amendment be referred to the Synod, and provided any amendment made by the Standing Committee is reported to the next ordinary session of the Synod,
- (c) acknowledges and gives thanks for the persons responsible for the financial and property affairs of parishes who give generously of their time, energy and skills to exercise the responsibilities with which they have been entrusted.

(Bk 2 p.345)

(Bishop Chris Edwards / Mr Greg Hammond OAM)

IV. Motions by request of a Regional Council

There are no motions under this heading.

V. Motions deferred by the previous ordinary session of Synod

There are no motions under this heading.

VI. Motions received by the Secretary of the Synod

M24 40th anniversary of the establishment of Sports & Leisure Ministries

Wednesday 18th (afternoon session), from 5.15pm

Synod thanks God for –

- (a) the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Sports & Leisure Ministries,
 - (b) for the tenacity of clergymen from several denominations, including Sydney's the Rev David Tyndall, in the establishment and development of this ministry,
 - (c) the sports chaplaincy organisations that grew from this root, including Sports Chaplaincy Australia, Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy, Life Saving Chaplaincy Australia and Motor Racing Chaplaincy, and
 - (d) the over 500 people involved in sports chaplaincy across Australia who continue to show the love of Jesus in the sporting arena of our land,
- and commits to pray for this vital ministry.

(The Rev Dr Richard Wenden / Dr Karin Sowada)

M28 SRE and the Office of the Children's Guardian

Synod –

- (a) thanks God for the privilege of Special Religious Education (**SRE**) in New South Wales public schools that empowers parents with the dignity of choice in the faith education of their child/ren,
- (b) notes that SRE teachers and helpers comprise Australia's largest weekly volunteer labour force and contribute to the spiritual and psychological wellbeing of students, strengthen the multicultural fabric of local school communities, and deliver other societal benefits,
- (c) notes –
 - (i) that the New South Wales Education Department requires each parish SRE Coordinator to declare in writing that they will immediately notify the Department of Education if they receive advice from the Office of the Children's Guardian (**OCG**) that one of our SRE teachers' or helpers' Working With Children Check (**WWCC**) clearance expires, has been closed or becomes barred from working with children, and
 - (ii) there is a reasonable expectation that the OCG will communicate information about the WWCC clearance status of any SRE teacher or helper via the two Contacts supplied by the parish to the OCG, which may or may not include the parish SRE Coordinator, and
- (d) requests the Youthworks SRE Office to ensure that each Rector makes a written commitment when appointing his parish SRE Coordinator, or undertaking the role of SRE coordinator himself, that he will ensure that –
 - (i) all persons who answer the parish phone during business hours, who are authorised to speak to the OCG about WWCC matters and can respond to a WWCC bar, can recognise the WWCC names of SRE teachers and helpers (it being noted that a person's common name may differ from his/her WWCC name),
 - (ii) the parish Contacts supplied to the OCG either –
 - (A) during any time of absence, automatically forward emails from compliance@ocg.nsw.gov.au to the person(s) acting as their replacement, or
 - (B) just prior to their absence, log in to the OCG to update the parish Contact and contact details to the person(s) acting as their replacement, and change the Contact back when they return from leave, and
 - (iii) as and when any communication from the OCG is received by the parish concerning the WWCC clearance status of any SRE teacher or helper, he (or, in his absence, any person answering the parish phone) will immediately –
 - (A) notify all schools at which that SRE teacher or helper is authorised, on behalf of the SRE Coordinator, and
 - (B) confirm to the SRE Coordinator that such notification has been made.

(Ms Polly Seidler / ~~Canon Craig Roberts~~ Mr James Flavin)

Proposed amendments

- (1) Omit all the text in paragraph (d) and insert instead the matter –
- (d) encourages rectors to be aware of these requirements and to ensure that they are met with expediency.’

(The Rev Joe Wiltshire / The Rev Joshua Johnson)

M30 Spirit-led evolution of the pathway to ordination of women

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for healing across the worldwide Anglican Communion, and specifically across the Anglican Church of Australia as passionately-held differences on biblical interpretation held in the 1980s have transitioned to the recognition of ‘God-given diversity’ as described in the Jerusalem Declaration,
- (b) recognises that national Anglican churches within GAFCON ordain women as priests, in common with many national Anglican churches identified as aligned with the See of Canterbury,
- (c) acknowledges that, forty years or more ago, difference in biblical interpretation between certain Australia Dioceses were marked, with Sydney Synod receiving multiple assessments by the Doctrine Commission including (8/87; 1988) ‘a woman may not take the responsibility for the teaching of the faith in the family congregation’,
- (d) notes that, where once there was declared impaired fellowship with one Diocese which pursued women’s ordination in the absence of national consensus,
- (e) now, as the Archbishop has advised Synod (2023), such impaired fellowship with any Diocese is no longer recognised,
- (f) affirms the view (Bishop Glenn Davies, 2016) that each member’s assessment of women’s ordination to the presbyterate is the only basis for any further decision making, with diversity of opinion also recognised, and
- (g) in considering such ordination, gives thanks to God for the ministry of women variously appointed bishops, priests and deacons across the Anglican Church of Australia and prays for continuing outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all women who are ordained.

(Professor Bernard Stewart AM / Mr Tony Brownlow)

M31 Pastoral care of women called to the priesthood

Synod –

- (a) acknowledges that since the 1980’s, some individual women from within this Diocese experiencing a call to the priesthood have sought to test whether such a call is through the Holy Spirit by praying and consulting with clergy from other Anglican dioceses in Australia,
- (b) likewise acknowledges that exclusion of women from teaching and from exercising authority over men was seen early on to epitomize submission to biblical authority and thus contribute to the character of the Diocese. In Synod the role of secular feminism in motivating women toward ordination was described,
- (c) is now able to advise women experiencing a call to ordination that the principles and practice in this Diocese concerning women as priests is transitioning from comprehensive prohibitions once in practice, as shown by recognition of the authority that women priests and bishops variously exercise in General Synod and the Archbishop of Perth being authorized to preach in Sydney in 2023,
- (d) gives thanks to God concerning women clergy in this Diocese, for the wide teaching ministries exercised through publication and discharge parochial responsibilities in a manner indistinguishable from that of rector,
- (e) likewise gives thanks for wives and mothers of Sydney clergy who have been ordained as priests in other Dioceses, and
- (f) therefore urges women from our Diocese who experience a call to priesthood to consider their future here rather than elsewhere and to discuss their situation with, among others,

their rector and their regional bishop, knowing that through the same Spirit, circumstances in this Diocese are in transition.

(Professor Bernard Stewart AM / Ms Linda Davies)

M32 Prioritisation of ministry to youth and children

To be considered immediately following M16

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to the Lord for the faithful ministry efforts of both laity and clergy in the Diocese of Sydney since 1788, the crucial work of Moore Theological College, Anglicare, Youthworks, Anglican schools and other ministry organisations in supporting the ministry of the Diocese's churches, the visionary and theological leadership of Archbishops and other leaders, and the property and financial resources which facilitate the ministry of the Word,
- (b) laments the decline in attendance throughout the Diocese as a whole over the last decade, and
- (c) therefore requests the Standing Committee, as it considers the recommendations contained in the 'Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese' report, to also consider–
 - (i) what might be the possible operational, clergy recruitment and training, property and financial consequences for the whole diocesan fellowship, if the rate of church attendance decline continues for another decade,
 - (ii) what measures could be taken by parishes and other diocesan organisations and leaders to address the possible operational consequences identified in paragraph (c)(i), and
 - (iii) how might parishes be encouraged to strategically allocate financial, property and human resources so that ministry to children and youth is prioritised, even over other important ministries, for the future health of our churches.

(The Rev Zac Veron / Archdeacon Simon Flinders)

M33 Significant challenges to Religious Freedom (NSW)

Bishop Michael Stead will move the motion in the following form (marked to show changes) –

'Synod –

- (a) notes the increasing number of laws in NSW that inhibit religious freedom, including –
 - (i) the *Abortion Law Reform Act 2019*, which forces doctors with a conscientious objection to abortion to refer their patients to another doctor to perform those practices,
 - (ii) the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022*, which requires faith-based providers to facilitate euthanasia on their premises,
 - ~~(iii) the *Conversion Practices Ban Act 2024 (NSW)*,~~
 - ~~(iv)~~(iii) the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Bill 2023, which if passed will significantly erode the rights of religious institutions to act and employ consist with their religious ethos,
- (b) notes that it continues to be lawful in NSW to discriminate against people on the basis of their religious belief, and that the NSW Government has deferred addressing this until it received a report from the New South Wales Law Reform Commission,
- (c) commends the recommendations of the bipartisan NSW Parliament Joint Select Committee in support of the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 which proposed protections against ~~for~~ religious discrimination within NSW,
- (d) asks all churches to consider informing their members of these issues, ~~and to encourage~~encouraging them to write to their local State Member of Parliament commending the recommendations of the bipartisan NSW

(Bishop Michael Stead / Mr Gavin Jones)

○○ M34 **Significant challenges to Religious Freedom (Federal)**

Bishop Michael Stead will move the motion in the following form (marked to show changes) –

'Synod –

- (a) expresses its disappointment that the Albanese Government has indicated that it does not intend to honour its election commitments to pass a Religious Discrimination Act and to maintain the ability of faith-based schools to preference people of their faith in the selection of staff under the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth),
- (b) calls on the Government and the Opposition to recommit to passing a Religious Discrimination Act to protect individuals against discrimination, and also to commit to introducing a positive right for religious individuals and organisations to conduct their affairs in accordance with their religious beliefs, and
- (c) asks all churches to consider informing their members of these issues, ~~and to encourage encouraging~~ them to write to their Federal Member of Parliament to seek these commitments for a Religious Discrimination Act and positive protections to conduct one's affairs in accordance with religious beliefs.'

(Bishop Michael Stead / Mr Gavin Jones)

○○ M35 **Dinner for younger members of Synod**

Synod notes that there will be a dinner for its younger members on Wednesday 18 September 2024 for the purposes of encouragement and nourishment. The dinner group will meet at the Pitt St entrance of the Wesley Theatre at the conclusion of the evening session, with the intention of dining in Centrepoint Westfield food court.

All Synod members feeling their youth places them in a minority, or otherwise feeling the weight of their inexperience, are warmly invited to attend.

(Mr Tristan Anlezark / Mr Robert Gifford)

○○ M36 **Notice of proposed ordinances required by the *Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019***

Mr Samuel Doherty will move the motion in the following form (marked to show changes) –

'Synod, noting that –

- ~~(a)~~—rule 6.5 of the *Synod Standing Orders Ordinance 2019* (**the Ordinance**) could be used to override rule 5.2 of the Ordinance, ~~and~~
 - ~~(a)~~—~~it is not desirable for rule 5.2 to be overridden by rule 6.5,~~
- requests the Standing Committee to consider whether the Ordinance should be amended, and if so, to bring any amendment to a forthcoming Synod.

(Mr Samuel Doherty)

○○ M37 **Declarations regarding disqualifying offences**

Synod, noting –

- (i) the "Declaration" in clause 6 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* in which the declarant affirms, *inter alia*, that they have not been convicted of a disqualifying offence listed in Schedule 2 of the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*,
- (ii) the equivalent declarations made by persons nominated or appointed as a parish councillor or warden in the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*, and

- (iii) that the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 (the Act)* states in section 18 that Working With Children Check clearances must not be granted to “disqualified persons”, defined (in part) as a person convicted of an offence specified in Schedule 2, “if the offence was committed as an adult” (emphasis added),

requests the Standing Committee to –

- (a) examine (or ask a suitable body to examine) the wording of these declarations in the light of the qualification contained in the Act,
- (b) consider whether the ordinance declarations should be amended to bring them in line with the Act, and
- (c) report and, if necessary, bring a suitable bill, to the next session of the Synod.

(Mr Samuel Doherty)

○○ M38 Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

Synod, noting the defunding of the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (**TEMOC**) in the 2025-2027 Diocesan budget, cutting TEMOC funding from \$107k in 2024 to zero –

- (a) gives thanks for the work of TEMOC since 2010 in supporting and encouraging ministry among Tertiary students, including the distribution \$1.5 million of Synod funding used to leverage growth of a wide range of tertiary ministries and the training of Ministry Apprentices,
- (b) gives thanks for the way TEMOC has helped fund 32 theologically trained gospel workers and 185 Ministry Apprentices over this time, focusing on providing seed funding for new trained worker positions with a special emphasis on Western Sydney University, cross-cultural workers and female workers,
- (c) asks TEMOC to continue its work to encourage Tertiary Education Ministries in whatever way possible despite the current lack of funding, and
- (d) asks the Diocesan Resources Committee to restore the allocation of funding to TEMOC as soon as possible.

(The Rev Richard Blight / The Rev Mark Williamson)

Proposed amendments

- (1) Omit all the text in paragraph (d) and insert instead the matter –

‘(d) requests the Standing Committee to continue to consider how funding for TEMOC might be possible in the production of future Synod funding Ordinances.’

(Canon Phillip Colgan)

○○ M39 Retirement of Canon Daniel Willis as Gafcon Global Operations Manager

Synod gives thanks to God for the work and ministry of Canon Daniel Willis, formerly the Rector of Frenchs Forest, an Assistant Minister of St Andrew’s Cathedral and the Chief Executive Officer of the Bible Society, who will soon retire as the Gafcon Global Operations Manager.

Daniel previously served as the Conference Director of GAFCON III, which was held in Jerusalem in 2018, before taking on the role of Gafcon Global Operations Manager in 2020. Daniel brought very strong administrative, organisational and strategic planning skills to this role, and in particular led the Gafcon Global Secretariat with composure through the COVID years when travel was difficult and, as a result, relationships strained. Yet in all he has done Daniel has sought to honour God and the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in and beyond this Diocese. In all this Daniel was, and is still, supported by his loving wife, Karen.

Synod recognises that Daniel and Karen will continue to contribute fruitfully to gospel ministry and prays for God's ongoing blessings on them.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett / The Rev Jodie McNeill)

 **M40 Appointment of the Rev Jodie McNeill as Gafcon Global Operations Manager**
Monday 23rd (evening session), following Mission Hour

Synod congratulates the Rev Jodie McNeill, currently the Rector of Jamberoo, on his appointment as the new Gafcon Global Operations Manager, commencing part-time from 1 September and then full-time on 1 January 2025.

Jodie has extensive executive-level ministry experience, as well as gifts in preaching and pastoral ministry, and is a passionate supporter of Gafcon. He served on the organizing committee for the GAFCON III Conference in Jerusalem in 2018 and the GAFCON IV conference held in Kigali in 2023. He has also chaired the organising committees for the Gafcon Australasia conferences held in Canberra in 2022 and Brisbane in 2024. Jodie will bring significant administrative and strategic planning skills to the role, while his generosity of spirit will serve the Gafcon Secretariat well. Through all this Jodie has been, and will continue to be, supported by his wife Mandy, who has enthusiastically served alongside him in Gafcon ministries and who continues to share with him a deep passion for this movement that they love.

Synod prays for God's blessings on Jodie and Mandy as Jodie takes up this new international role.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett / Bishop Malcolm Richards)

 **M41 Thanksgiving for the Rev Jodie McNeill's service to Synod**
To be considered immediately following M40

The Rev Andrew Lim will move the motion in the following form (marked to show changes) –


~~'Synod, with a mixture of sadness and gratitude, acknowledges this as Rev Jodie McNeill's final session with us for the foreseeable future. We extend our heartfelt thanks to God for Jodie's dedicated service to Synod over many years, particularly for his enthusiastic and capable leadership in our worship through song.'~~

We recognises with profound gratitude the evident blessings God has bestowed upon the parish of Jamberoo under Jodie's guidance. The flourishing of this community stands as a testament to his pastoral care and joyful leadership. Jodie's impact on the spiritual life of this church has been significant, and his ministry there will be remembered fondly.

As Jodie and his wife Mandy prepare to bid farewell to their beloved church family, we lift them up in prayer. We ask for God's grace to smooth their transition in both work and family life as they embark on this new chapter together.

May God's wisdom guide Jodie in his new role, and may His presence comfort the Jamberoo parish as they navigate this change. May God uphold unity within the congregation, binding them together in love, purpose, and vision. And may He grant wisdom and discernment to the ~~parish council~~ nominators and all those involved as they seek a new under-shepherd, someone with a pastor's heart, sound doctrine, and a passion for Your Word and Your people.'

(The Rev Andrew Lim / The Rev Tom Hargreaves)

 **M42 Ministry Planning and use of Church Life Surveys**
Not to be considered before Monday 23 September

Synod encourages –

- (a) churches to engage in ministry planning on a regular basis, noting that a planning horizon of 2-3 years is a commendable common practice, and

- (b) churches to utilise an additional National Church Life Survey (**NCLS**) at the beginning of such planning cycles to gather information to be used as part of this process, even though this may be out of sync with the 5 yearly census and historical NCLS rhythm.

(Mr Peter Mayrick / The Rev Dr Raj Gupta)

M43 90th Anniversary of founding of the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid

Synod –

- (a) celebrates with thanks the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid, founded originally as the Archbishop of Sydney's Winter Appeal in 1934 by Archbishop Howard Mowll,
- (b) notes the addition in 1971 of the Archbishop's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund by Archbishop Marcus Loane, the addition in 2000 of the Archbishop's Overseas Ministry Fund by Archbishop Harry Goodhew, and the amalgamation of the three funds under the umbrella name of The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid by Archbishop Peter Jensen in 2010, and
- (c) rejoices at the tens of thousands of needy people helped, and is grateful for the widespread ongoing support for Anglican Aid from across the Diocese.

(Canon Tim Swan / Dean Sandy Grant)

M44 Nepali Church Plant in ~~Georges River~~ South Western Area and beyond

Monday 23rd (afternoon session), following B4

Canon Brian Tung will move the motion in the following form (marked to show changes) –

'Synod, noting –

- (i) the increasing number of Nepalis moving into Australia, particularly in the Liverpool and ~~Georges River~~ South Western area,
- (ii) that the Nepali community remains largely unreached by the Gospel, with the vast majority identifying as Hindu (84%) or Buddhist (8.5%), and
- (iii) that as the Nepali population continues to grow, so does the opportunity to reach them with the hope of Christ,
- (a) gives thanks to God for the Evangelism and New Churches (**ENC**) church plant in partnership with St George's Hurstville, St Luke's Liverpool, ~~and the Georges River St George and George's River St George~~ West Mission Areas and the South Western Regional Council, under the leadership of Bijaya and Kate Shrestha, who have faithfully responded to the growing spiritual need among the Nepali community in Sydney,
- (b) commends the vision of this church plant to establish a vibrant Nepali-speaking congregation where none currently exist, which seeks to mobilise existing Nepali believers and foster partnerships with other local churches to make Christ known in their community, the goal of which is to plant a sustainable church within two years and lay the foundation for further church plants in other areas,
- (c) encourages the churches in the Diocese to commit this work to prayer and support, asking God to bring about lasting Gospel transformation within the Nepali community, and
- (d) invites churches to partner in prayer and financially with this strategic church planting effort, recognising the immense opportunity to reach an unreached people group here in Australia.'

(Canon Brian Tung / The Rev Tim Booker)

M45 New Ministry to Sex Workers

Synod –

- (a) acknowledges the new ministry to sex workers involving team members from four churches who are part of Together for Canterbury Bankstown: St Paul's Canterbury, Embassy Church, Marrickville Road Church and St Alban's Belmore,
- (b) is reminded of God's love for the poor and oppressed and gives glory to Him for opening the door for this ministry, and
- (c) prays for the team and for the women they seek to reach.

(Mrs Greta Morris / The Rev Stephen Gardner)



Notice of the following motions was given on 17 September 2024 and as such under rule 4.5(1)(c) these motions cannot be called over on 18 September 2024.

M46 Confidential Lifestyle Questionnaire

Synod requests a review of the Confidential Lifestyle Questionnaire (CLQ) by the ODSM to –

- (a) consider the purpose and necessity of every question for individuals who have experienced significant trauma in their past,
- (b) consider extending the offer of professional support to people who fear the experience of completing the CLQ in case it is experienced as a re-traumatising event, and
- (c) consider including a space to testify to the work of Christ in their life.

(Mrs Nicky Fortescue / Mrs Sarah Manning)

M47 Merger of Church@thepeak and Christ Church Mortdale

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the 16 years of ministry and mission of Church@thepeak that was originally planted out of Beverly Hills with Kingsgrove Anglican in 2008 at Peakhurst South Public School as an initiative of the then rector, Bishop Peter Hayward, and then went on to become an independent parish in 2018, and under God grew to be a church of 200 across two services,
- (b) thanks God for the many years of sustained ministry and mission by Christ Church Mortdale and its predecessor churches, noting that under God, in 2023 these churches entered into a ministry partnership which resulted in the congregations of the two churches formally coming together in January this year under the new name Crosslight Anglican Church,
- (c) looks forward to seeing God at work in and through Crosslight for his glory in the years to come.

(The Rev Stuart Maze / Mr Richard Graves)

M48 Variable Parochial Cost Recoveries percentage

Synod, noting that the variable Parochial Cost Recoveries (**PCR**) percentage payable by parishes with property has increased from 5.2% to 8.3% over the last 10 years, requests the Standing Committee to bring to the 2025 Synod –

- (a) a report on the feasibility of putting a maximum cap on the variable PCR percentage payable by parishes with property, after seeking feedback from parishes about the effect on them of the seemingly ever-increasing variable PCR percentage;
- (b) a draft amendment ordinance to include the concept of a maximum cap on the variable PCR percentage payable by parishes with property into the Parish Cost Recoveries Ordinance (and/or any other relevant ordinance);
- (c) a recommendation of what the long-term maximum cap on the variable PCR percentage payable by parishes with property might be; and
- (d) any other relevant recommendations.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett / Mr Mark Robinson)



M49 Christian sexual ethics and Anglican schools

Not to be taken on Wednesday 18th September

Synod –

- (a) notes that the earnest request of our school heads, that “Paragraph 3” of the Statement of Faith not be passed, has been met by Synod,
- (b) affirms that the Christian sexual ethic, in which sex is reserved for a husband and wife in the covenant relationship of marriage, is indeed a crucial part of the law of Christ, and not peripheral to the gospel,
- (c) expresses its desire that every student in Anglican Schools should, in an age-appropriate way, come to understand (even though not all will accept it) the Christian sexual ethic taught in a positive, factual, winsome and hopeful fashion by individuals who themselves believe it,
- (d) gives thanks for our Anglican Schools and prays for them in the immensely challenging task of presenting this part of the gospel in today’s culture.

(The Rev Andrew Schmidt / The Rev Dr David Doran)



M50 Giving thanks to God for the life and ministry of the Right Reverend Timothy Dudley-Smith OBE

Synod –

- (a) notes that the Right Reverend Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024) passed away on 12 August 2024,
- (b) gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of the Right Reverend Timothy Dudley-Smith, who served as –
 - (i) Archdeacon of Norwich, Diocese of Norwich, UK (1973 –1981),
 - (ii) Bishop of Thetford, Diocese of Norwich, UK (1981 – 1992),
 - (iii) Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Salisbury, UK (1992 – 2024),
- (c) gives thanks to God for the hymns written by the Right Reverend Timothy Dudley-Smith, who wrote approximately 450 hymns in a career spanning almost six-decades
- (d) prays that God would raise up, illuminate and inspire a new generation of hymn-writers who will equip us to “proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light (1 Peter 2:9).

(Mr Sherwin Titus / Dr Peter Neal)



M51 90 years of ministry of Church Army and its closure this year

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the work of Church Army Australia across the past 90 years, working specifically to raise up Evangelists for the Anglican Church of Australia,
- (b) rejoices that Church Army-trained Evangelists have been used by God across the decades to bring many people to faith in Christ, including in our Diocese, and that many of our diocesan Clergy have benefited from Church Army’s training,
- (c) notes that Church Army Australia formally ceased its evangelistic and training ministries in May 2024,
- (d) prays that the Lord of the Harvest would continue to raise up workers for His harvest fields, and that new organisations and initiatives in Sydney would continue the essential work of training Evangelists for the church,
- (e) notes that the work and ministry of Church Army Australia has been chronicled and digitally archived; and is available at churcharmy.com.au.

(Mr Robert Gifford / Mr Tristan Anlezark)

Timetable for Synod Business

A notation “B#” refers to Bills and “M#” refers to motions per the attached schedule. A ‘suite’ refers to a series of Bills and/or Motions which are intended to be considered sequentially.

Wednesday 18 September 2024	
3.15 – 5.25 pm	Bible Study/prayer and Formal matters <u>B1: Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982 Amendment Ordinance 2024</u> <u>B2: Consecration of the Archbishop of Sydney Ordinance 2021 Amendment Ordinance 2024</u> Diocesan Governance Policy suite (B5, M14, M15) B5: Diocesan Governance Policy M14: Diocesan Governance Policy – implementation M15: Diocesan Governance Policy – acknowledgements and thanks <i>Thereafter, other business as per the business paper</i>
5.15 – 5.45 pm	M24: 40th anniversary of the establishment of Sports & Leisure Ministries Presentation: Moore Theological College Presentation: Parish of Woollahra
5.45 – 7.00 pm	<i>Dinner break</i>
7.00 pm +	<i>(If required) Resumption of Diocesan Governance Policy suite</i> M16: Attendance Patterns and Mission in the Diocese M32: Prioritisation of ministry to youth and children <i>Thereafter, reserved for business commenced but not yet completed</i>

Monday 23 September 2024	
3.15 – 5.30 pm	Bible Study/prayer and Formal matters M1: Use of Non-Disclosure Agreements in the Diocese M10: Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese B4: Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese Amendment Ordinance 2024 M44: Nepali Church Plant in South Western Area <i>Thereafter, other business as per the business paper</i>
5.30 – 5.45 pm	M4: Sussex Inlet: Classification as a Parish
5.45 – 7.00 pm	<i>Dinner break</i>
7.00 – 8.00 pm	<i>Mission hour</i>
8.00 pm +	M40: Appointment of the Rev Jodie McNeill as Gafcon Global Operations Manager M41: Thanksgiving for the Rev Jodie McNeill's service to Synod B6: Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2024 B7: Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2024 <i>Thereafter, other business as per the business paper</i>

Tuesday 24 September 2024	
3.15 – 5.45 pm	Bible Study/prayer and Formal matters Presentation: Synod in the Greenfields <i>Thereafter, other business as per the business paper</i>
5.45 – 7.00 pm	<i>Dinner break</i>
7.00 pm +	<i>Thereafter, other business as per the business paper</i>