

52nd Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

Third Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Wednesday 14 September 2022

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Prayers

Prayers were read by Archdeacon Simon Flinders.

3. Bible study

Bishop Jay Behan led the Bible study.

4. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Tuesday 13 September 2022.

5. Further answer to a question asked in accordance with Standing Order 6.3(2)(a)

5.1 Long leases of Real Property

Mr Peter M G Young asked the following question –

- (a) How many long leases of real property of twenty-five (25) years or more have been granted by the Anglican Church Property Trust of Sydney in the past ten (10) years?
- (b) Where are they located?
- (c) To whom have they been granted?

To which the President replied –

In addition to the answer given yesterday, I am informed that there is an additional long term lease between ACPT as trustee for St Andrew's Cathedral and St Andrew's Cathedral School over the ground floor and mezzanine level of the Chapter House, and the atrium between the Chapter House and the Cathedral that was granted in 2019 and concludes in 2059 (assuming two 5 year options at the tail of the lease are exercised by the School).

Under the arrangement, there is a licence back which permits the Cathedral to use the premises from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm every Sunday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and other times agreed in writing between SACS and the Cathedral.

6. Answers to Questions

6.1 Parish statistics for 2010 to 2021

The Rev Dr Raj Gupta asked the following question –

For each year, 2010-2021, what is –

- (a) Total parish adjusted net operating receipts

- (b) Total parish offertories
- (c) Total average attendance
- (d) Total number of licensed clergy

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The answer is shown in tabular form and will be available on the notice board in the foyer.

	(a) NOR	(b) Offertories	(c) Attendance	(d) Licensed clergy
2021	\$122.8m	\$114.4m	Not available*	723
2020	\$136.6m	\$108.9m	46031	714
2019	\$122.9m	\$111.2m	45853	695
2018	\$116.9m	\$107.5m	46608	697
2017	\$112.5m	\$108.7m	47063	710
2016	\$110.0m	\$103.4m	47023	678
2015	\$104.2m	\$97.3m	48554	684
2014	\$101.2m	\$93.0m	47868	713
2013	\$95.4m	\$87.6m	46896	649
2012	\$92.8m	\$88.1m	47221	618
2011	\$88.8m	\$80.9m	46983	612
2010	\$83.2m	\$74.7m	47256	656

* 48 parishes have not submitted their data and are being followed up.

6.2 Office bearers of the Diocese of the Southern Cross

Mrs Paula Turner asked the following question –

Clause 6(1) of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995, states that: Each Parochial Representative, alternate for a Parochial Representative, Nominated Layperson and lay Nominated Indigenous Representative must sign the following declaration prior to notice of his or her election or appointment being given under this Ordinance to the Registrar – “I, the undersigned A.B., do declare that I am a communicant member of the Anglican Church of Australia and not a member of any other Church.”

Noting the requirement to not be a member of any other church, and that a member of the synod must be a member of the Anglican Church of Australia; and that GAFCON Australia, the primate and our Archbishop of Sydney have all acknowledged that the Diocese of the Southern Cross is not part of the Anglican Church of Australia, will the President confirm that any persons who are listed as Directors, Board Members, Secretaries and Employees of the Diocese of the Southern Cross, have been advised that they are ineligible to be a Parochial Representative, alternate for a Parochial Representative, Nominated Layperson and lay Nominated Indigenous Representative in the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney, Anglican Church of Australia? If not, why not?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The question is out of order under rule 6.3(4) of the Synod standing orders as it seeks a legal opinion.

Nevertheless, it may be helpful to point out that holding a position of employment or an office in a body of another church does not make a person a member of that church.

6.3 Palliative Care

Professor Penelope Coombes asked the following question –

We have left no stone unturned in broadcasting our opposition to voluntary assisted dying and made it clear to all we are not for turning.

But what for palliative care?

I was delighted to read in Book 2 page 118

“We must be vigilant to maintain an emphasis on palliative care so that people can have quality to the end of their lives.”

But is there a compelling plan and vision for palliative care?

To which the President replied –

The answer to this question is still being worked on and will be provided to Synod next week.

6.4 **Timetable for Synod Business**

Professor Bernard Stewart asked the following question –

Given my understanding of advice provided, that the ‘Timetable for Synod Business’ is not a summation of the outcome from relevant procedural motions, but replaces the need for such procedural motions, is it appropriate, and in keeping with Standing Orders, that a procedural motion to adopt the Timetable be considered on the first day of business of any Synod session?

In respect of current practice of according priority to certain motions via the Timetable, who determines which motions are so listed and are determinations in relation to particular motions (a) explained and justified, and (b) subject to challenge under current practice?

If the answer to either (a) or (b) is ‘No’, please outline whether a change in current practice could be considered.

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

This question is out of order under rule 6.3(4) of the Synod standing orders as it contains an assertion.

Nevertheless, I am able to advise Synod that the Standing Committee of the Synod is tasked under clause 4(1) of the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897*, among other things, to "make arrangements for the sessions of the Synod, and to prepare the business to be brought before the Synod, with power to propose such business as may appear to the Committee to be necessary or desirable to be brought before the Synod".

In this capacity the Standing Committee typically approves a draft business paper including the timetable and presentations at its last meeting prior to Synod, noting that the final form is settled by the Archbishop and the Diocesan Secretary.

The Synod is typically asked to consider a procedural motion on its first day noting the arrangements made by the Standing Committee as shown on the business paper including the timetable, and to agree further scheduling matters as needed. In this way, the timetable for Synod business on the first day's business paper works with relevant procedural motions to arrange and prepare the business to be brought before the Synod, which Synod may accept, amend or reject.

In the case of the current session, the Synod considered a motion at 16.2 on the business paper and amendment sheet for 12 September 2022, which noted the timetable, and agreed several other matters relating to the scheduling of Synod business as prepared by the Standing Committee at its meeting of 22 August 2022.

Synod members who wish to make changes to the proposed arrangements may seek to do so through a procedural motion or amendment to the procedural motion regarding the scheduling of business. The specific circumstances of the desired change will inform which approach is best.

6.5 Doctrine Statement on Gender Identity

The Rev Michael Turner asked the following question –

Noting the Synod resolutions of 2017, 2018 and 2019, and the Archbishop's Advice to Anglican Schools regarding matters concerning Gender Identity:

- (a) How many Anglican schools have not affirmed the Doctrine Statement AND developed publicly accessible policies consistent with the Doctrine Statement?
- (b) Where schools have not affirmed the Doctrine Statement AND not developed policies consistent with the Doctrine Statement, what is being done, and why is Synod uninformed on this matter?
- (c) Where a school or schools have developed policies and acted on those policies in direct contravention of the Synod resolutions and/or the Archbishop's Advice, what is being done, and why is Synod uninformed on this matter?
- (d) Has consideration been given to disbanding Boards where they have made policies in contravention of the Synod resolutions and Archbishop's advice? If not, why not?

To which the President replied –

The answer to this question is still being worked on and will be provided to Synod next week.

6.6 Fit-out of St Andrew's House

The Rev James Warren asked the following question –

- (a) What are the major changes?
- (b) What are the benefits to the Diocese?
- (c) When is the fit out expected to be finished?
- (d) How do the new arrangements effect members of parishes interacting with this 'new hub'?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The current fit-out of the level 2 diocesan offices differs in a number of significant respects to the previous fit-out of 15 years ago. It has been particularly impacted by the significant changes in work practices arising from the COVID-19 pandemic over the last 2 years.

The main differences are as follows –

- (i) The overall area of the diocesan offices has been compressed by about 20%, which will result in a more cost efficient use of diocesan office floorspace. In order to compress to this size, arrangements have been put in place between the organisations on level 2 to maximise the shared use of meeting rooms, storage and breakout facilities, and workstations.
- (ii) More flexible meeting rooms, including operable walls in some, allow a wider range of meetings and other gatherings to be accommodated in the offices – ranging from small meetings of 2 or 3 people up to large functions of up to 100 people, reducing external hiring expenses.
- (iii) The staff breakout area in the offices is designed to serve as a "diocesan hub" which rectors, members of diocesan organisations and, in due course, others will be welcome to use as a place in the CBD to meet others, have a cup of coffee, use recharge points and take a break between meetings. It is expected that the diocesan hub will be formally launched at the beginning of next year.
- (iv) Meeting rooms will also be made available to be booked at significantly discounted rates for use by diocesan and affiliated organisations to ensure any excess capacity of these facilities is well used.
- (v) In conjunction with the physical fit-out, a significant amount of work has been undertaken to bring the diocesan offices together under the "Sydney Anglicans" banner. This is a work in progress but is intended to present to diocesan staff a common purpose for their work and to present to those served by diocesan staff a more seamless experience of their interactions with them. Initiatives to this end

include joint staff events and training, a joint values statement, and a move to adopt joint HR and other operational policies across level 2.

- (b) The principal benefits for the diocese of the new fit-out are largely an outworking of the matters mentioned in part (a) of this answer.
- (c) The fit-out is expected to largely be completed by the end of September.
- (d) The Diocesan hub (mentioned in part (a)(iii) of this answer) will initially be open to rectors of parishes and their guests (who will often be others from their parish). It is desired to extend “hub membership” to other parish officers in their own right, once capacity issues and usage are assessed.

6.7 Comparative statistics on parishes

Mr James Flavin asked the following question –

- (a) For the most recent year where this data is available, and for a year around 2000 where this data is similarly available:
 - (i) How many people hold a licence from the Archbishop for parochial ministry within our Diocese?
 - (ii) How many people attend Sydney Anglican Churches?
 - (iii) The sum of net receipts of parochial units across the Diocese?
- (b) For the two years selected, is there any factor that would make the data atypical, such as the Pandemic?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) There is data available for the year 2008 and 2020:
 - (i) Licensed clergy were 642 in 2008 and 712 in 2020.
 - (ii) Licensed or authorised lay people were 240 in 2008 and 492 in 2020.
 - (iii) Church attendance in 2008 was 45,695 and in 2020 was 46,031.
 - (iv) Net operating receipts were \$75.1m in 2008 and \$122.8m in 2020.
- (b) The data was atypical in 2008 due to the Global Financial Crisis. It was also atypical in 2020 for reason of the COVID-19 pandemic and not the average of four dates as in 2008.

6.8 Ministry Standards Ordinance

The Rev Mike Doyle asked the following question –

- (a) When was the Ministry Standards Ordinance introduced, and how many times, and when, has it been reviewed?
- (b) Who was the chair, and who were the committee members who served on each of these occasions?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The ordinance commenced on 1 November 2017. It was reviewed in 2018, 2019 and also in the lead up to this 2022 session of Synod.
- (b) The Committee for these reviews was composed of Mr Michael Easton (Chair), Mr Garth Blake AM SC AO, Mr Lachlan Bryant, the Rev Mark Charleston, Mr Doug Marr, the Rev Tom Hargreaves, the Rev Craig Schafer and the Rev Mamie Long.

Ms Vikki Napier and I became members of the Committee in the middle of 2020. Mr Doug Marr resigned from the Committee upon his retirement as Diocesan Registrar towards the end of 2021.

The Committee has been assisted at various times by the Rev Jennie Everist and Ms Elenne Ford.

6.9 Preparation for ordination

The Rev Mike Doyle asked the following question –

What is the estimated typical financial cost born by the diocese and the candidate to prepare someone for ordination? Please include the opportunity cost in lost wages.

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

There are too many variables to give an accurate figure on the cost of preparing someone for ordination as a deacon (especially with opportunity costs). However, the costs involved in the discernment and development process for ordination as a deacon include:

Firstly, the cost of the candidate comprises theological education at Moore or Youthworks College (offset by AUSTUDY benefits). Moore College tuition is approximately \$22,000 per annum and accommodation \$15,000 – 20,000 per annum.

Secondly, the cost to the Diocese include:

- (a) Ministry Training & Development staffing, which is 2.3 full time equivalent staff
- (b) Moore College candidates' conferences, run in the final two years of college at approximately \$400 per person.
- (c) Deacon's retreat prior to ordination at approximately \$200 per person.
- (d) Psychological assessment at \$990 per assessment
- (e) Ordination Panel's time in preparing and conducting interviews
- (f) Ordination chaplain's time in meeting with candidates
- (g) Rectors (or supervising ministers) time in training and developing the candidate

6.10 People in Holy Orders

The Rev Mike Doyle asked the following question –

- (a) How many people have left Holy Orders in the last 5 years?
- (b) Of those, how many have been deposed from the exercise of their Holy Orders?
 - (i) Of those deposed, how many were deposed following allegations of sexual misconduct involving a minor?
 - (ii) Of those deposed, how many were deposed following allegations of sexual misconduct not involving a minor?
 - (iii) Of those deposed, how many were deposed following allegations of bullying or similar behaviour?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) 6.
- (b) None. The Holy Orders were relinquished in each instance.

6.11 Parochial Team Ministry

The Rev Mike Doyle asked the following question –

Over the last 5 years, after hearing allegations of sexual misconduct not involving a minor or bullying (or similar) by ordained clergy:

- (a) Has any Bishop suggested or encouraged the subject of the complaint to resign from their position?
- (b) If so, how many times has this occurred?
- (c) How many clergy members have resigned following such an encouragement?
- (d) Where the clergy member resigned, were they removed from Holy Orders? If not, why not?

- (e) If the clergy member resigned, was the matter reported to the PSU?
- (f) If the matter was not reported to the PSU, why not?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Yes
- (b) Once
- (c) None
- (d) Not applicable
- (e) Not applicable
- (f) Not applicable

6.12 Stipend Continuance plan for Assistant Ministers

The Rev Mike Doyle asked the following question –

In the Report of the Standing Committee (item 3.14), the Standing Committee has reduced Stipend Continuance plan for assistant ministers to only 5 years of coverage, whilst continuing to cover Senior Ministers until they are 65 –

- (a) Other than financial, what other things were considered in making this decision?
- (b) How many Assistant Ministers have made claims on this insurance over the last 5 years?
- (c) How many Senior Ministers have made claims on this insurance over the last 5 years?
- (d) Are Assistant Ministers less likely to suffer a workplace injury than Senior Ministers?
- (e) Other than financial, on what basis was it decided that Assistant Ministers need less coverage than Senior Ministers?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Other than financial, the other consideration for a difference between the benefit period applying for a rector compared with that for an assistant minister is the different terms of each type of licence.

A rector's licence is open ended, meaning he has tenure.

By comparison the Assistant Ministers Ordinance 2017 provides a mechanism by which an assistant minister's appointment can be ceased even before the expiry of the licence, which itself is usually for a term less than 5 years.

- (b) 18
- (c) 16
- (d) No answer can be given to this question. It would require an assessment of the claims history by an actuary.
- (e) The financial impact was the only driver in the decision for the changes to the Stipend Continuance Plan.

6.13 Survey regarding the ACPT

Canon Alistair Seabrook asked the following question –

- (a) When did the SDS or Standing Committee last conduct a survey of parishes and organisations regarding their experience of working with ACPT?
- (b) Where are the results of that survey available for members of Synod to view?
- (c) Are there any plans to conduct such a survey in the near future?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) As far as can be ascertained, neither SDS nor the Standing Committee has ever surveyed parishes or organisations specifically about their experience of working with the ACPT.

However, in 2019 SDS conducted an extensive “parish pain-points” survey which asked parishes to identify those areas of administration which cause them greatest difficulty and to make suggestions for what might be done to address those issues.

- (b) Any Synod member who wishes to see the feedback from the 2019 “parish pain-points” survey can do so by contacting the SDS CEO.
- (c) There are no plans to conduct in the near future a survey specifically about the experience of parishes and organisations of working with the ACPT.

However, SDS intends surveying a sample of parishes annually over the next 3 years as a means of assessing progress in achieving its strategic goal of increasing parish engagement with SDS as a valued partner in mission.

6.14 **Anglican Church Property Trust**

Canon Alistair Seabrook asked the following question –

In the past two years how many parishes and organisations have raised concerns with the Archbishop, bishops or archdeacons regarding the work of the ACPT?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

There have been three complaints, although from time to time parishes have expressed frustration regarding their dealings with the ACPT.

Of course, this needs to be balanced with the parishes who have reported their appreciation in their dealings with the ACPT.

6.15 **Synod questions**

Mr Chris Pettett asked the following question –

My question concerns the purpose and intent of Synod members asking questions as per standing order 6.3.

Can the Archbishop please issue a memorandum to diocesan organisations to assist them around the purpose, intent, responsibilities, and procedures Synod members have in asking questions through the Synod of these organisations, especially in light of his encouraging remarks around questions asked by members of Synod?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The question is out of order under rule 6.3(4) of the Synod standing orders as it contains inferences and imputations.

The rules and procedures for asking and answering questions are set out in rule 6.3 of the Synod standing orders. The CEOs of a number of diocesan organisations are members of the Synod and are familiar with this aspect of the Synod’s business. Furthermore, the staff of SDS who manage the process will often provide an explanation when seeking information from representatives of diocesan organisations.

However, if the Synod considers more is required and was to ask the Archbishop to take any particular action, I anticipate he would give the Synod’s request due consideration.

6.16 **The King’s School**

Mr Chris Pettett asked the following question –

My question relates to the circumstances surrounding the Department of Educations' (both Commonwealth and NSW) recent correspondence to The King's School about their concerns of recurrent use of government funding under the Education Act and it is in a number of parts –

- (a) When did the Commonwealth Department of Education communicate to the School regarding the Department's concerns of recurrent use of government funding under the Education Act? What was the date?
- (b) When did the NSW Department of Education to the School regarding similar concerns? What was the date?
- (c) Could the School please disclose to the Synod the contents of the letter sent by the Commonwealth Department of Education?
- (d) Could the School please disclose to the Synod the contents of the letter sent by the NSW Department of Education?
- (e) Are these correspondences referred to previously either privileged or confidential?
- (f) What has been the lessons learnt for the School and the School's Council in responding to this matter that could benefit and edify the Synod and other Diocesan organisations?
- (g) Was there anything reported publicly, whether through the media or other channels, that the School wish to correct the record on regarding this and related matters?
- (h) Does the Headmaster retain the confidence of the School's Council?
- (i) Does the School's Council retain the confidence of the Archbishop?
- (j) What could members of Synod pray for The King's School with regard to it ministry?

To which the President replied –

The answer to this question is still being worked on and will be provided to the Synod next week.

6.17 Lessons from the New Capital Project

The Rev David Clarke asked the following question –

As we seek to identify surplus ministry assets to fund the purchase of new ministry sites in South West Sydney –

- (a) Which committees, task forces or other bodies have reviewed the failures of the New Capital Project undertaken 2004-2006 which according to synod reports cost \$833,576 but raised negligible funds for new sites?
- (b) What lessons have been learnt so we do not repeat these mistakes?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The question is out of order under rule 6.3(4) of the Synod standing orders as it contains assertions.

Nevertheless:

- (a) No reviews have been undertaken.
- (b) Not applicable.

The Synod received a final report on the New Capital Project in 2006 which outlines the key lessons learned from the project. This report is available in the Supplementary Report of the Standing for the 2006 session of Synod which is accessible on the SDS website.

6.18 Average church attendance

The Rev Zac Veron asked the following question –

- (a) How many people in total attended a Sydney Anglican church on any one Sunday, as an average expressed over a calendar year of attendance, and excluding periods of lock-down of society, in 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, and 2005?
- (b) If any figure for any one of these years is unknown, why is that so?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The answer to part (a) of the question (excluding 2007 and prior years) is shown in tabular form and will be available on the notice board in the foyer.

	ADULT ATTENDANCE ON A SUNDAY
2008	4,3231
2009	4,4461
2010	4,4959
2011	4,4487
2012	4,4508
2013	4,4440
2014	4,5362
2015	4,5946
2016	3,3456
2017	4,4493
2018	3,8014
2019	4,3885
2020	4,4059

- (b) The figures from 2008 onwards are easily accessible. Data for 2007, 2006 and 2005 is not easily accessible within the timeframe. Data for 2021 is not available as 48 parishes have not submitted their attendances and are still being followed up.

6.19 Translation of Safe Ministry material

The Rev Dr Brian Tung asked the following question –

- (a) What steps have been taken to translate the safe ministry essential and safe ministry refresher online material into languages other than English?
- (b) If the material has not been translated, what are the plans to translate the material and to support Anglican congregations and ministries that use languages other than English?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Some steps have been taken to translate the safe ministry training course materials and different approaches have been attempted, including self-paced training, spoken assistance and closed captions.

However, there are challenges: a lack of resources to fund the work; the need to regularly maintain the course materials due to changes in law, ordinance or church processes; and the difficulty of finding appropriately skilled people to translate and present the material.

- (b) The Professional Standards Unit is aware of the need to make the safe ministry training course materials more accessible to those who speak a language other than English (as well as others who may have learning difficulties with the current material).

However, working out the best solution is not easy given the challenges, and a one-size-fits all approach may not be effective. Further progress may require a conversation with the relevant parties but the current lack of resources will make it difficult to take additional steps.

7. Questions

Questions were asked by the following members –

- (1) The Rev Dr Raj Gupta
- (2) The Rev Dr Raj Gupta
- (3) The Rev Dr Matthew Wilcoxon
- (4) Mr Robert Gifford
- (5) Mr Craig Moore
- (6) The Rev Dr Michael Jensen

- (7) Mrs Kim Hinkley
- (8) The Rev Martyn Davis
- (9) The Rev Dr Rich Wenden

8. Notices of Motions

Notices of motions were given by the following members –

- (1) The Rev Chris Braga
- (2) The Rev Andrew Barry
- (3) Mr Tristan Anlezark
- (4) Mrs Nicky Fortescue
- (5) The Rev Craig Hooper
- (6) The Rev Jason Veitch
- (7) The Rev Jason Veitch
- (8) Dean Sandy Grant

9. Procedural motions from members

9.1 Arrangements for the consideration of the motion concerning First Nations Voice

Having been granted leave, Mr Daniel Glynn moved as a procedural motion –

‘Synod agrees to consider the motion at M50 (First Nations Voice) immediately following the motion at M18 (Financial support for the Diocese of Bathurst), during this evening’s session.’

Seconded and carried

10. Calling of motions

The President called the motions in the order in which they appeared on the business paper, except those motions about a proposed ordinance or those motions to be considered at a time determined by the President.

10.1 Arrangements for consideration of business from the Order of Business Committee

Mr Daniel Glynn moved –

‘Synod agrees to schedule the following matters for consideration on Tuesday 20 September 2022 as shown on the timetable, unless passed previously during the calling of motions –

- (a) M40: Review of governance principles in diocesan schools,
 - (b) M41: Support and encouragement for the Heads of schools,
 - (c) M42: Diocesan support for the development of missional leaders and excellent educators in Anglican Schools,
 - (d) M48: Request to appoint a diocesan educational representative,
 - (e) M49: Establishment of an Education Committee, and
- and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.’

Seconded and carried

10.2 Holding surplus ministry assets in trust for the purposes of the Diocese

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

‘Synod, noting the report “Holding surplus ministry assets in trust for the purposes of the Diocese”, endorses the Standing Committee policy on Variations of Trusts after Parish Amalgamation, subject to paragraph 3 of the draft policy being changed to read –

“For all proposed amalgamations, parishes should prepare a ‘ministry and evangelism plan’ (MEP). The MEP should articulate how the church / residences / other property of the combined parish will be used to support the ministry of the parish. In addition, where the ministry activity in one or more of the ministry sites had declined such that the local offertories are below the Net Operating Receipts threshold for ongoing viability, the ministry and evangelism plan must include measures which have the potential to revitalise ministry, including a weekly service, at the site/in the former parish, unless scenario 4 below is considered the appropriate path forward. The ACGC should also prepare a report considering the reasonable property needs of the area weighed against the reasonable property needs elsewhere in the Diocese. The Regional Council should not proceed with an amalgamation unless the MEP is approved by the Regional Bishop.”.

Seconded and carried

11. Procedural motions from members

11.1 Arrangements concerning a video presentation regarding the Synod in the Greenfields

Having been granted leave, Bishop Michael Stead moved as a procedural motion –

‘Synod agrees that, immediately following the calling of motions, a video presentation of 3 minutes duration be given regarding the Synod in the Greenfields event held on 10 September 2022.’

Seconded and carried

12. Calling of motions

The calling of the motions continued.

12.1 Charity between Anglicans

Professor Bernard Stewart AM moved –

‘As Anglicans in Australia continue to be tragically divided over the biblical teaching on marriage, gender, and sexuality, Synod calls on all Sydney Anglicans to seek at all times to strive to speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15) in all contexts, especially in the present circumstances within the Anglican Church of Australia.’

Seconded and carried

12.2 Review of governance principles in diocesan schools

The Rev Roger Fitzhardinge moved –

‘Synod gives thanks for the Archbishop’s confidence in the SHORE School Council, the Council’s governance review, and commends the ongoing work of the Governance Policy Review Committee.’

Seconded and carried

12.3 Diocesan support for the development of missional leaders and excellent educators in Anglican Schools

Mrs Nicola Fortescue moved –

‘Acknowledging the enormous missional task before us, the increasing population of our Diocese, and the need for even more schools in the coming generations, Synod requests

the Standing Committee to prepare a report for the next Synod, outlining ways the Diocese can support the recruitment and development of outstanding Christian missional leaders who are excellent educators.'

Seconded and carried

12.4 **Synod in the Greenfields of the Northwest of Sydney**

Mrs Patricia Jackson moved –

'Given the great success of the Greenfields visit on the first day of Synod 2022 in moving us to see what is happening in the Southwest, Synod requests that we duplicate this visit next year for the Greenfields of the Northwest of Sydney.'

Seconded and carried

12.5 **Request to appoint a diocesan educational advisor**

Bishop Chris Edwards moved –

'This Synod requests the Standing Committee to take whatever steps may be necessary to ensure the appointment of a suitable person who is qualified in –

- (a) educational philosophy,
- (b) educational practice, and
- (c) educational leadership,

to advise and represent the Diocese in matters relating to education and to provide annual reports to the Synod on the status of Anglican Education in the Diocese.'

Seconded and carried

12.6 **Establishment of an Education Committee**

Having been granted leave, Mr Peter Fowler moved –

'In light of the termination of EdComm and in the absence of any diocesan body to undertake the important work of resourcing and advocacy for and oversight of education in the Diocese, this Synod requests the Standing Committee to establish a suitably qualified committee to bring to the next Synod –

- (a) a clear diocesan statement on what Reformed Anglican Education,
- (b) a report on what initial and ongoing training in the fundamentals of Anglican Education is currently available for school governors,
- (c) recommendations for a specific program for school chaplains and Religious Education teachers, and
- (d) recommendations for ongoing in-service programs on the application of Christian principles to education as a requisite for practicing teachers (which may form part of teacher registration).'

Seconded and carried

13. **Presentation regarding Synod in the Greenfields**

A video presentation was given regarding the Synod in the Greenfields event held on 10 September 2022.

14. **Procedural motions from members**

14.1 **Arrangements for the display of a web address**

Having been granted leave, the Rev Dominic Steele moved the following procedural motion –

'Synod agrees that the web address, at which Synod members may download the video just presented, may be displayed on the screen.'

Seconded and carried

15. Motions

15.1 Withdrawal from fellowship in national or provincial contexts

The Rev Dr Mark Earngey moved –

'The Synod of the Diocese of Sydney notes with godly grief the deep breach of fellowship in our church exposed at the eighteenth session of General Synod on matters of doctrine and human sexuality, and –

- (a) recognises that as a consequence the Archbishop of Sydney, along with the assistant bishops, may choose to withdraw from fellowship in particular national or provincial church contexts, and
- (b) recommends that the Archbishop, with the assistant bishops, engage other orthodox bishops and convene a meeting with a view to how they may act in concert with one another in response to the broken fellowship.'

Seconded

The Rev Michael Armstrong moved as an amendment –

'Amend the motion as follows –

- (a) in the opening stanza –
 - (i) omit the words "breach of fellowship" and insert instead the words "theological differences", and
 - (ii) omit the words "our church" and insert instead the words "the Anglican Church of Australia",
- (b) in paragraph (a) –
 - (i) omit the words "recognises that as a consequence" and insert instead "encourages",
 - (ii) omit "may choose to withdraw from fellowship in" and insert instead "to continue in godly conversations and engagements that reveal the costly and sacrificial love of our Lord as they continue to raise deep theological concerns in", and
- (c) in paragraph (b) –
 - (i) insert "of the Anglican Church of Australia" after "orthodox Bishops", and
 - (ii) omit "in response to the broken fellowship".'

Seconded

The Rev Chris Braga moved as a procedural motion –

'That subparagraph (a)(ii) of Mr Armstrong's amendment be put separately.'

Seconded and carried

The President asked if the matter had been sufficiently debated, and the majority answered in the affirmative.

Subparagraph (a)(ii) of Mr Armstrong's amendment was put and carried.

The remainder of Mr Armstrong's amendment was put and was not carried.

Mr Armstrong moved as a procedural motion –

'That a secret ballot by Houses be taken on Dr Earngey's motion'.

8 members stood in their place to request the vote be taken by secret ballot by Houses.

Dr Earngey's motion, as amended, was taken by secret ballot by Houses.

Prior to the notice of the result of the vote by secret ballot by Houses, the Synod adjourned this matter.

Adjournment

At 5.46 pm, Archdeacon Simon Flinders moved –

'That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.00 pm tonight.'

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.00 pm.

16. Mission Hour

Bishop Malcolm Richards and the Rev Alan Lukabyo led Mission Hour.

The presentation included the following –

- Mr Lukabyo shared reflections and videos regarding the Sydney Diocese's partnership with the Anglican Church in Madagascar through Anglican Aid, the Work Outside the Diocese Committee and the Centre for Global Mission (Moore College)
- Mr Lukabyo introduced a video of the Rev Berthier Lainirina who addressed Synod in 2019 and is now the Principal of St Patrick's Bible College in the Diocese of Toliara
- Bishop Richards introduced and interviewed the Rev Wilston Trin from the Diocese of Kuching, Malaysia. Bishop Richards led the Synod in prayer for Mr Trin
- The Rev Dr Bill Salier shared about the work of the Gafcon Theological Education Network
- Bishop Richards introduced a video of Bishop Alfred Olwa, from the Diocese of Lango, Uganda.

Following the presentations, Bishop Richards led the Synod in prayer for the continuing mission of the gospel.

17. Results of vote by secret ballot

17.1 Withdrawal from fellowship in national or provincial contexts

The results of the secret ballot were announced as follows –

	Lay	Clergy	Total
For	269	186	455
Against	65	16	81
Informal	2	1	3

Dr Earngey's motion was therefore carried, as amended, in the following form –

'The Synod of the Diocese of Sydney notes with godly grief the deep breach of fellowship in the Anglican Church of Australia exposed at the eighteenth session of General Synod on matters of doctrine and human sexuality, and –

- (a) recognises that as a consequence the Archbishop of Sydney, along with the assistant bishops, may choose to withdraw from fellowship in particular national or provincial church contexts, and
- (b) recommends that the Archbishop, with the assistant bishops, engage other orthodox bishops and convene a meeting with a view to how they may act in concert with one another in response to the broken fellowship.'

18. Presentation regarding Diocese of Bathurst

The President welcomed the Bishop of Bathurst, the Rt Rev Mark Calder.

Bishop Calder gave a presentation, and introduced a video, regarding the Diocese of Bathurst.

Bishop Chris Edwards led the Synod in prayer for the work of Bishop Mark Calder and the Diocese of Bathurst.

19. Motions

19.1 Financial support for the Diocese of Bathurst

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

'Synod agrees in principle to provide financial support of \$250,000 per year towards the costs of a Bishop and his registrar for the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst for a period of six years from 2025, subject to the Bishop of Bathurst during that time having the written support of the Archbishop of Sydney.'

Seconded and carried by acclamation

20. Procedural motions from members

20.1 Notice of procedural motion to recommit the motion concerning Synod in the Greenfields of the Northwest of Sydney

Having been granted leave, Bishop Michael Stead gave notice of the following procedural motion –

'That the Synod agree to recommit consideration of the motion regarding Synod in the Greenfields of the Northwest of Sydney, passed in the calling of motions on 14 September 2022, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as may prevent this.'

Seconded and carried

20.2 Further arrangements for consideration of motion concerning First Nations Voice

Archdeacon Simon Flinders moved as a procedural motion -

'Synod, noting the goodwill of the mover of the motion at M50 (First Nations Voice), Ms Larissa Minniecon, agrees to consider that motion in the following amended form (with amendments shown in tracked form on the screen) –

"Synod of the Diocese of Sydney, perceiving the opportunity for all Australians to contribute to a matter of national importance –

- (a) welcomes the conversation regarding the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution, recognising this conversation to be an essential step in reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, perceiving this conversation to relate to the social, spiritual, and economic wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and believing this conversation will empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to create a better future for their communities to flourish,

- (b) commits to learning more, and educating all Anglicans, about the Voice '*From the Heart*', and
- (c) encourages church members to give generous consideration to the case to vote 'Yes' to the referendum question of whether the Constitution should establish a First Nations Voice, once the details have been made clear."

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

Seconded and carried

21. Motions

21.1 First Nations Voice

Ms Larissa Minniecon moved –

'Synod of the Diocese of Sydney, perceiving the opportunity for all Australians to contribute to a matter of national importance –

- (a) welcomes the conversation regarding the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution, recognising this conversation to be an essential step in reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, perceiving this conversation to relate to the social, spiritual, and economic wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and believing this conversation will empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to create a better future for their communities to flourish,
- (b) commits to learning more, and educating all Anglicans, about the Voice '*From the Heart*', and
- (c) encourages church members to give generous consideration to the case to vote 'Yes' to the referendum question of whether the Constitution should establish a First Nations Voice, once the details have been made clear.'

Seconded

The Rev David Clarke moved as an amendment –

Omit all the matter in paragraph (c) and insert instead the matter –

- '(c) respectfully requests the Sydney Anglican Indigenous People's Ministry Committee, in dialogue with the Social Issues Committee, to –
 - (i) discuss as a matter of urgency the question of a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament and the establishment of a Makarrata Commission, and
 - (ii) report back their reflections and recommendations to Synod members in the first half of 2023, prior to the Federal Government's referendum,
 and requests the Synod Secretary to facilitate the distribution of this material in a timely manner.'

Seconded

The amendment of Mr Clarke was not carried.

The motion was carried without amendment.

22. Presentation regarding Anglicare Sydney

Mr Simon Miller gave a presentation regarding the work of Anglicare Sydney.

Mr Miller led the Synod in prayer for Anglicare Sydney.

Adjournment

At 9.31 pm, Archdeacon Simon Flinders moved –

‘That the Synod adjourn and resume at 3.15 pm Monday 19 September 2022.’

Seconded and carried

We certify that, to the best of our recollection, these minutes are a correct record of the Synod's proceedings.

Two Members of the)
Minute Reading Committee)

Signed by the President

19 September 2022