

## 12/10 General Synod Assessments Consultation with the General Synod Standing Committee

### Background

1. By resolution 12/10, the Synod –
  - (a) noted with concern a number of financial decisions of the recent General Synod and the General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC), including a 23% increase in the rate of the Statutory Fund assessment between the 2010 and 2011 financial years, and
  - (b) requested the Standing Committee to enter into urgent consultation with the GSSC to negotiate a more equitable financial outcome for the dioceses of the Australian Church, and
  - (c) requested the Standing Committee to consider whether it should report on these matters to the 2011 session of Synod before arranging for payments of assessment to the General Synod in 2011.

The full text of resolution 12/10 is set out in Attachment 1.

2. At its meeting on 15 November 2010, the Standing Committee –
  - (a) reappointed Mr Neil Cameron, Mr Robert Tong, the Rev Gavin Poole, Canon Rick Smith and the Rev Dr Mark Thompson together with Mr Doug Marr, to undertake the consultation referred to in resolution 12/10 and to continue the discussion on the matters previously raised in earlier correspondence in relation to which the GSSC had, at that time, not responded, and
  - (b) requested the above group to consult with the General Synod representatives with goodwill with the aim of achieving a result that is both fair and equitable to this Diocese and the other dioceses of the Church.

3. The “matters previously raised in earlier correspondence” include the matters raised by the consultation group at their meeting with representatives of the GSSC in North Sydney on 12 June 2009. Unfortunately the GSSC representatives refused to meet again with the consultation group to discuss these matters. The previously raised matters also include a number of bills for canons supported by the Standing Committee at its meeting on 29 March 2010 for promotion to the General Synod at its session in September 2010 but which were not considered by the General Synod.

4. A detailed chronology of the key events and exchanges of correspondence since May 2008 relevant to resolution 12/10 and the “matters previously raised” is set out in Attachment 2.

5. The purpose of this report is to –
  - (a) inform the Synod about the attempts made over an extended period of time to consult with the GSSC on matters of concern, and
  - (b) report recent progress to the Synod on the consultation with the GSSC, particularly in relation to the financial matters referred to in resolution 12/10, and
  - (c) inform the Synod about the status of payments made by this Diocese on account of general assessments for 2011, and
  - (d) enable the Synod to consider whether it wishes to support certain principles in respect of General Synod finances, and
  - (e) foreshadow the promotion of a motion to the Synod to enable the Synod to consider the matters raised in this report, including the payment of general assessments in 2011 and future years.

### Progress in consultation following resolution 12/10

6. The Standing Committee informed the GSSC about resolution 12/10 in late October 2010. In mid-November the Standing Committee informed the GSSC about the reappointment of the consultation group to undertake the urgent consultation referred to in resolution 12/10 and requested an early response to arrange a time to recommence the consultation process.

7. In December 2010 the GSSC informed the Standing Committee about the establishment of the National Unity Task Force, chaired by Mr Justice Peter Young, and the Financial Principles and Policies Task Force, chaired by Mr John McKenzie.

8. In February 2011, the Standing Committee repeated its request that the consultation group meet with representatives of the GSSC to discuss matters of financial concern and agreed to undertake consultation on broader matters of concern with the National Unity Task Force.

9. In April 2011, the GSSC informed the Standing Committee that –
  - (a) the GSSC had requested Justice Young to facilitate discussions with the consultation group, and
  - (b) it was anticipated that the Financial Principles and Policies Task Force will address many of the financial issues raised in the Standing Committee’s correspondence.

10. In view of the apparent lack of urgency displayed by the GSSC and its Task Forces to meet with the consultation group, in early May 2011, the Standing Committee urged the chairmen of the Task Forces to initiate

discussions with the consultation group as a matter of urgency. A letter from the chairman of the National Unity Task Force offering to meet at a mutually convenient time was received shortly thereafter. Following a telephone call to the chairman of the Financial Principles and Policies Task Force, an agreement was reached on a meeting with the chairman but not with the other members of the Task Force since they had not held their first meeting at that time.

*Financial Principles and Policies Task Force*

11. The meeting between members of the consultation group and the chairman of the Financial Principles and Policies Task Force, Mr John McKenzie, was held on 30 May 2011.

12. The matters raised with Mr McKenzie at the meeting were largely drawn from a letter expanding on the financial concerns expressed in resolution 12/10 sent to the GSSC on 24 February 2011. A copy of this letter is reproduced in Attachment 3.

13. Notes from the meeting with Mr McKenzie are set out in Attachment 4. These notes were reviewed and accepted as generally conveying the substance of the discussion at the meeting by both the consultation group and the General Secretary, who reviewed the notes at the request and on behalf of Mr McKenzie. In relation to paragraph 7 of the notes, the General Secretary asked the Standing Committee to note that what was said was proffered by way of explanation for certain attitudes and actions and was received in that spirit. It was not an occasion for debating what was said at that point.

14. The consultation group considers that the meeting with Mr McKenzie was cordial and constructive however Mr McKenzie could not commit the GSSC to any course of action.

15. On 15 August 2011, Mr McKenzie circulated a letter to Diocesan Registrars seeking comment from dioceses by 30 September 2011 on various principles bearing on the finances of the General Synod, including a number of the issues raised in resolution 12/10. In response, the Standing Committee at its meeting on 22 August 2011 –

- (a) indicated to Mr McKenzie that the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney will be asked to express its position on the matters raised in his letter at its session which commences on 10 October 2011, and
- (b) requested that the period in which responses to the matters raised in the letter can be made on behalf of the Diocese of Sydney therefore be extended to 14 October 2011.

16. Mr McKenzie has responded to the request for an extension by acknowledging the request and noting the proposed date for a response on behalf of the Diocese of Sydney.

*National Church Unity Task Force*

17. A meeting between the consultation group and members of the National Unity Task Force was held on 1 June 2011.

18. Before the meeting, the consultation group identified the following primary matters for discussion with the National Unity Task Force –

- (i) Differing concepts of Church and Unity.
- (ii) Order and good government (references to the Appellate Tribunal under section 30 of the Constitution).
- (iii) Appellate Tribunal's advisory jurisdiction (section 63 of the Constitution).
- (iv) Use of general assessments to fund structures beyond those necessary to maintain the Constitution (section 32(2)(b) of the Constitution).
- (v) Financial matters (to the extent not dealt with by the Financial Principles and Policy Task Force).

The consultation group also identified the following further matters for discussion –

- (vi) Composition of the General Synod Standing Committee.
- (vii) Cost of the General Synod.
- (viii) Appropriate levels of evangelical representation on General Synod Commissions and Anglican representative bodies.
- (ix) How Primates represent the diversity of views within the Australian Church.

The chairman of the National Unity Task Force expressed a desire to discuss (on behalf of the GSSC) –

- (x) How we can best minister to the Aboriginal population.
- (xi) How we can best support ministry in outback Australia.

19. While it was not possible to discuss all these matters at the meeting on 2 May 2011, considerable time was spent discussing the matters at 18(i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) with the matters at 18(ix), (x) and (xi) being discussed briefly.

20. Although the meeting was cordial, as far as the consultation group is aware, no developments have occurred since the meeting.

### Status concerning payment of 2011 assessments

21. The total amount of general assessment levied on the Diocese of Sydney in 2011 is \$324,107. This compares to the 2010 amount of \$253,028.
22. As at 8 August 2011, the General Synod office had issued invoices for the first, second and third quarterly instalments of the 2011 general assessment for \$76,683, \$81,808 and \$81,808 respectively.
23. In view of the progress (little as it has been) on the discussions and as a gesture of goodwill, the Standing Committee authorised a payment of \$50,000 on 30 May 2011, a second payment of \$50,000 on 25 July 2011 and a third payment of \$50,000 on 22 August 2011 on account of the first, second and third quarterly instalments for the 2011 general assessment respectively.
24. The amounts authorised by the Standing Committee to date reflect the total amount of \$199,000 allocated by the Synod for payment of General Synod assessments in 2011 under the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2009.

### Principles in respect of General Synod finances

25. Having regard to the concerns expressed by the Synod in resolution 12/10 (see Attachment 1), the matters raised in the letter to the GSSC of 24 February 2011 (see Attachment 3) and the matters discussed with the chairman of the Financial Principles and Policies Task Force (see Attachment 4), the consultation group considers that the Synod should be asked to express its view on the following principles –
- A. Surpluses from business activities undertaken by the General Synod across the whole of the Anglican Church of Australia (eg Telstra and Long Service Leave surpluses generated in the Shared Services Fund) should be used to subsidise the constitutional functions of the General Synod as funded through the general assessment.
  - B. Existing surpluses in the Special Fund should be used to reduce the amount of special assessment payable by those dioceses who choose to pay the special assessment.
  - C. No surpluses should be accumulated in the Special Fund in the future.
  - D. Income from the General Synod reserve should be used to fund the General Secretary's office.
  - E. Royalties should be paid from the sale of liturgical resources back to the General Synod reserve.
26. The principles articulated above, particularly in B and C, are proposed by the consultation group mindful of the Standing Committee's request to consult with the GSSC with the aim of achieving a result that is both fair and equitable to this Diocese and the other dioceses of the Church (see paragraph 2(b) above).

### Standing Committee's response

27. The Standing Committee considers that for the purposes of the Synod considering the matters raised in this report, the following motion should be moved at the Synod "by request of the Standing Committee" –
- "Synod, noting the report on 12/10 General Synod Assessments and Consultation with the General Synod Standing Committee –
- (a) supports the adoption of the following principles in respect of the finances of the General Synod –
    - (i) surpluses from business activities undertaken by the General Synod across the whole of the Anglican Church of Australia (eg Telstra and Long Service Leave surpluses generated in the Shared Services Fund) should be used to subsidise the constitutional functions of the General Synod as funded through the general assessment,
    - (ii) existing surpluses in the Special Fund should be used to reduce the amount of special assessment payable by those dioceses who choose to pay the special assessment,
    - (iii) no surpluses should be accumulated in the Special Fund in the future,
    - (iv) income from the General Synod reserve should be used to fund the General Secretary's office,
    - (v) royalties should be paid from the sale of liturgical resources back to the General Synod reserve, and
  - (b) notes that 3 bills for canons promoted by representatives of this Diocese at the last session of the General Synod with the support of the Standing Committee, namely –
    - (i) the bill to amend section 30 of the Constitution so as to make a declaration by the synod of a diocese that a canon affects the order and good government of the church within a diocese or the church trust property of the diocese conclusive, and
    - (ii) the bill to amend section 32(2) of the Constitution so as to ensure a financial liability imposed on a diocese is limited to the costs, charges and expenses necessary to maintain the Constitution, and
    - (iii) the bill to amend section 63 of the Constitution so as to bring to an end the advisory opinion jurisdiction of the Appellate Tribunal,
 were not debated or considered by the General Synod, and

- (iv) records its view that these amendments are critical to the maintenance of harmonious relationships within the Anglican Church of Australia, and
  - (v) requests the Diocesan Secretary to pass these views on to the Standing Committee of the General Synod and to the National Unity Task Force established by that body, and
  - (vi) further requests that these amendments, in the same or modified form be promoted to the next session of the General Synod by its representatives on that body, and
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to consider the amount for general assessment in 2012 in the light of these factors and the need for their resolution and continued consultation.”

28. Copies of the bills for the canons referred to in paragraph (b) of the motion are set out in attachments 5, 6 and 7 of this report respectively.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

ROBERT WICKS  
*Diocesan Secretary*

21 September 2011

## **12/10 General Synod Assessments**

Synod notes with concern the following financial decisions of the recent General Synod and the General Synod Standing Committee –

- (a) the 23% increase in the rate of Statutory Fund assessment between the 2010 and 2011 financial years;
- (b) the allocation of substantial funds in 2011, with expected similar allocations in future years, to cover the costs of the Episcopal Standards Commission investigations concerning the Bishop of Ballarat and the Bishop of The Murray without any requirement that the dioceses concerned pay any of the costs involved except as part of the normal General Synod assessment process;
- (c) implementation of changes in policy on the use of General Synod reserves without the issues being discussed by the General Synod;
- (d) the transfer of all royalties and profits from sales of liturgical texts to a separate company (Broughton Publishing Pty Limited) even though the costs associated with producing these texts are fully funded from the Statutory Fund;
- (e) the use of surpluses generated by the administration of the Long Service Leave Fund and surpluses from Telstra commissions to pay for the Primate's Assistant and to offset payments from the Special Fund rather than use these surpluses to reduce Statutory Fund assessments;
- (f) the changed arrangement whereby grants to various Australian and international bodies from the Special Fund are no longer fully covered by Special Fund assessments but instead other financial resources of the General Synod are used for these purposes.

Synod asks the Sydney Standing Committee to enter into urgent consultation with the General Synod Standing Committee to negotiate a more equitable financial outcome for the dioceses of the Australian Church.

Synod further asks the Sydney Standing Committee to consider whether it should report on these matters to the 2011 session of Synod before arranging for payments to the General Synod in 2011.

**Chronology concerning resolution 12/10 and matters previously raised**

Date	Event
26/5/08	Standing Committee (SC) receives a report about 2008 general assessments and resolves – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to pay \$249,311 for 2008 general assessment being the assessed amount less the share attributed to the Diocese of Sydney for the cost of the Primate's assistant, and</li> <li>• to inform the Acting General Secretary that further consideration is being given as to whether it is proper for a diocese to pay an assessment to fund an assistant to the Primate in the absence of an ordinance of its diocesan synod.</li> </ul>
6/6/08	Letter from Manager, Diocesan and Policy Services to the General Secretary (GS) advises of the SC's decision of 26/5/08.
12/11/08	Letter from GS to Manager, Diocesan and Policy Services advises that the Church Law Commission is looking at scope of s32 of the Constitution in respect of paying for the costs of the Primate's assistant.
9/2/09	Letter from GS to Diocesan Secretary (DS) conveys view of a majority of the Church Law Commission that the cost of the Primate's research assistant can properly be met under s32.
19/3/09	Finance Committee authorises payment of \$256,790 to the General Synod for 2009 general assessments, being the amount assessed less the share attributed to the Diocese of Sydney for the cost of the Primate's research assistant.
30/3/09	Letter from Manager, Diocesan and Policy Services to the GS advises of the Finance Committee's decision of 19/3/09.
27/4/09	SC authorises payment from 2009 Synod Fund Contingencies of an amount to meet the Sydney proportion of the costs of the Assistant to the Primate for the period up to her resignation in mid June on the basis that – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• this payment is made without agreeing that there is any ground for the position of Assistant to the Primate to be paid as part of the General Assessment, and</li> <li>• no consideration will be given to paying for a replacement Assistant until consultations have been had between the SC and the General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC).</li> </ul>
28/4/09	Letter from DS to GS advises SC's decision of 27/4/09.
1/5/09	Letter from GS to DS asks for grounds on which the cost of the Primate's assistant cannot be met under s32 and notes Executive of GSSC will consider participating in consultation.
7/5/09	Letter from DS to GS confirms that the SC wishes to consult with the GSSC and foreshadows appointment of representatives to participate in consultation at its next meeting on 25/5/09.
25/5/09	SC appoints a group (the consultation groups) comprising Neil Cameron, Gavin Poole, Rick Smith, Mark Thompson and Robert Tong as its representatives to consult with the General Synod Standing Committee for the purpose of the resolution carried at the meeting on 27/4/09 in relation to the General Synod General Assessment.
12/6/09	Meeting between consultation group and representatives of GSSC.
29/6/09	SC receives summary of meeting of 12/6/09 and asks the consultation group to continue in dialogue with the GSSC on the matters raised in that meeting and related matters.
3/7/09	Letter from DS to GS states that "it would be good to discuss in due course the possible content and format of the next meeting".
8/7/09	Letter from GS to DS states that the letter of 3/7/09 has been referred "for consideration by those with direct responsibility".
10/8/09	SC requests the GSSC to bring a budget to General Synod in 2010 which recognises the present serious constraints consequent on the state of the Australian economy and, in particular, reduces the amount to be raised by assessments by 25% of the amount payable in 2009.
17/8/09	Letter from DS to GS advises SC's request concerning the General Synod's budget. The letter also proposes a second meeting and suggests matters for discussion (from the meeting on 12/6/09) including – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• achieving an overall reduction in the General Synod budget;</li> <li>• reducing the cost of the General Synod itself;</li> <li>• funding from the Statutory Fund only those activities of the Primate which are expressly authorised by the Constitution (including the concern in respect of the Primate's Assistant);</li> <li>• clarifying the value that dioceses obtain from general assessments;</li> <li>• taking meaningful steps to implement a program of rationalisation in respect of financially unviable dioceses;</li> <li>• achieving appropriate levels of evangelical representation on General Synod Commissions and representative bodies;</li> <li>• concerns about how the Primate represents within the Anglican Communion the diversity of views within the Australian Church;</li> <li>• concerns about inherently political matters being referred to the Appellate Tribunal rather than being resolved by the General Synod (included in this is the increasing practice of not including in General Synod canons a provision which declares that the canon affects the order and good government of the Church in a diocese).</li> </ul>

Date	Event
19/11/09	Letter from GS to DS raises with the SC "some concerns which have recently arisen" (relating to the national professional disciplinary regime, general assessments, constitutional amendments) and invites the SC "to engage in a cordial and frank discussion to resolve the concerns which have been expressed in this letter".
7/12/09	<p>SC receives GS letter of 19/11/09 and asks the group appointed to consult with representatives of GSSC about payment of the General Assessment and related matters to respond to the letter on the basis that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the consultation group keep the Standing Committee informed, and</li> <li>• the consultation group has no authority to bind the SC to any particular course of action but will take recommendations back to the SC for approval at the appropriate time.</li> </ul>
15/2/10	SC authorises payment of \$227,684 to the General Synod for 2010 general assessments, being the annual assessment less the share attributed to the Diocese of Sydney for the cost of the Primate's assistant.
22/2/10	Letter from Manager, Diocesan and Policy Services to General Synod Business Manager advises of SC's decision of 15/2/10.
23/2/10	Letter from consultation group sent to GS responding to the concerns raised in the GS's letter of 19/11/09 and states that "we would like to continue the consultation to resolve the concerns that we mentioned at the meeting on 12 June 2009" and notes that these have not been addressed in the GS's letter.
19/3/10	<p>DS sends 8 bills and explanatory statements in respect of the following matters to the GS with the request that they be promoted to the General Synod by request of the GSSC –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part V of the Constitution (circular canons)</li> <li>• Section 30 of the Constitution (when canons come into force in a diocese)</li> <li>• Section 32 of the Constitution (limit general assessment to Constitutional costs)</li> <li>• Section 63 of the Constitution (remove advisory jurisdiction of Appellate Tribunal)</li> <li>• Special Tribunal Canon 2007 (role of the Episcopal Standards Commission)</li> <li>• Rule II (membership of the General Synod Standing Committee – 2 versions)</li> <li>• Rule III (publication of election results)</li> </ul>
29/3/10	<p>SC notes the letter of the consultation group of 23/2/10.</p> <p>SC –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supports the referral of the 8 bills to the General Synod, and</li> <li>• regards the making of the amendments to sections 30 and 32 proposed by the consultation group and the re-constitution of the GSSC as critical to future harmonious relationships within the Anglican Church of Australia and requests the DS to make the members of the GSSC aware of this view.</li> </ul>
1/4/10	Letter from DS to GS informs of SC's support for referral of the 8 bills to the General Synod and the view that making amendments to sections 30 and 32 and the reconstitution of GSSC are critical to future harmonious relationships.
5/5/10	<p>Letter from GS to DS deals with various matters.</p> <p>In respect of the bills supported by the SC for referral to the General Synod, the GS advises that bills in respect of Part V of the Constitution (circular canons) and Rule III (publication of election results) are to be promoted by request of the GSSC. The other bills are to be treated as private member's bills.</p> <p>In respect of the consultation group's letter of 23/2/10, the GS states –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "... in the absence of detailed proposals for discussion and in view of the tone and some of the content of the letter of 23 February 2010, the [GSSC] believes that it is not able to advance productively consultation of the kind sought by the SC. Rather the [GSSC] believes that greater good is likely to be achieved by engaging in discussion of relevant issues in the context of considering specific proposals such as that suggested above to amend Rule II."; and</li> <li>• "The coming session of the General Synod will be asked to approve estimates for 2011 and a forecast for 2012 and 2013 in which there will be no call on the Statutory Fund for the cost of the Primate's Executive/Research Assistant."</li> </ul> <p>GS requests SC to authorise payment of each instalment of the Diocese of Sydney's General Assessment for 2009 and 2010 in full.</p>
28/6/10	SC receives GS's letter of 5/5/10 and requests the GS to advise whether any parishes or other Anglican organisations in the Diocese of Sydney receive telephone services under the General Synod's plan with Telstra and, if so, the number of such parishes and organisations and the proportion of the amount spent by such parishes and organisations under the plan compared to the total amount spent under the plan.
2/7/10	Letter from DS to GS requests information about participation of Sydney parishes and organisations in the General Synod's telephone plan with Telstra.
22/7/10	Letter from GS to DS about participation of Sydney parishes and organisations in General Synod's Telstra plan. The letter states that "Telstra has shown a reluctance to provide that information".
26/7/10	<p>SC receives GS's letter of 22/7/10.</p> <p>SC refuses to pay the balance of the funds sought for the Primate's assistant as no Primate needs a research assistant to perform the duties required of him by the Constitution.</p>

Date	Event
18-23/9/10	<p>General Synod session.</p> <p>Canons made from bills supported by the SC in respect of the following matters –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part V of the Constitution (circular canons)</li> <li>• Special Tribunal Canon 2007 (role of the Episcopal Standards Commission)</li> <li>• Rule III (publication of election results)</li> </ul> <p>The other bills supported by the SC are not considered.</p> <p>Resolutions passed in respect of –</p> <p><b>Budget Resolution re amendment and adoption of budget</b></p> <p>Mr Martin Drevikovsky moved, Ms Leigh Haywood seconding</p> <p>That Synod approves the aggregate of the estimate of the costs, charges and expenses for the subsequent year (2011) in respect of matters referred to in paragraphs 32(2)(a), (b1), (c) and (e) of the Constitution with the following amendments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the grant from the Statutory Fund to the Defence Force Board be increased by \$15,000 for 2011 with a corresponding increase in the Statutory Assessment;</li> <li>2. That \$20,000 be collected in 2011 to commence the process of recovering expenses incurred by the Episcopal Standards Commission and the Special Tribunal over and above the Commission's budget with a corresponding increase in the Statutory Assessment; and</li> <li>3. That \$2,500 be transferred from the budget of the Doctrine Commission in the Statutory Fund to the budget in the Statutory Fund for the Liturgy Commission for 2011, 2012 and 2013 without amendment to the Statutory Assessments.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(147/10, 23 September 2010)</b></p> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>Justice David Bleby moved, the Reverend Dane Courtney seconding,</p> <p>That the proposals of Mr Marr made in Committee for the structural amendments to the budget be referred to the Standing Committee for further consideration and, if it considers it appropriate, for implementation in budgets it adopts in future years and that Standing Committee give consideration, when the Budget discussions take place in General Synod, to ensure the availability of information and amendments so that good and right decisions can be made.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(150/10, 23 September 2010)</b></p> <p><b>Unity of The Anglican Church of Australia</b></p> <p>The Reverend Canon Bruce Ballantine-Jones moved, The Reverend Dr John Davis seconding,</p> <p>Noting that this Session of General Synod is the closest scheduled meeting to the fiftieth anniversary of the commencement of the 1962 Constitution of The Anglican Church of Australia expresses its gratitude for the benefits that independence from the Church of England have brought.</p> <p>It also acknowledges the serious stresses to the unity of the ACA that have developed over these 50 years and requests Standing Committee to appoint a representative commission to examine how the dioceses might better live together as a national body and bring to the next Session of Synod proposals, including constitutional amendments, which will allow the ACA to better express its unity and fellowship into its second 50 years.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(155/10, 23 September 2010)</b></p>
11-13, 18-19/10/10	<p>Sydney Synod.</p> <p>Resolution 12/10 on General Synod Assessments passed.</p>
27/10/10	<p>Letter from DS to GS advises about resolution 12/10.</p>
15/11/10	<p>SC –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reappoints consultation group (including Doug Marr) to undertake consultation referred to in resolution 12/10 and to continue the discussions on the matters previously raised in earlier correspondence in relation to which the GSSC has, as yet, not responded, and</li> <li>• requests that a progress report on the consultation with the General Synod Standing Committee be provided after each meeting of the General Synod Standing Committee and in any event after the first invoice for the 2011 general assessment is received from the General Synod office, and</li> <li>• requests the above group to consult with the General Synod representatives with good will with the aim of achieving a result that is both fair and equitable to this Diocese and the other dioceses of the Church.</li> </ul>
18/11/10	<p>Letter from DS to GS advises about SC's reappointment of the consultation group etc. and looks forward to "your early response in this matter with a view to arranging a time to recommence the consultation process".</p>
2/12/10	<p>Letter from GS to DS advises of establishment of National Church Unity Task Force (chaired by Peter Young) and the Financial Principles and Policies Task Force chaired by John McKenzie.</p>
6/12/10	<p>SC receives the letter from GS of 2/12/10 and requests the consultation group to consider developments and bring its recommendations to the meeting on 21/2/11.</p>

Date	Event
1/2/11	First quarterly invoice for \$76,683 for Sydney's 2011 general assessment issued.
21/2/11	SC approves 2 letters to be sent to GS in respect of – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Synod finances, and</li> <li>• Consultation on various matters.</li> </ul>
24/2/11	Letter sent from DS to GS in respect of General Synod finances (and copied to all Diocesan Bishops and Registrars) concludes with "I repeat that the [SC] would like its representatives to meet with representatives of the GSSC in a spirit of goodwill to agree upon financial policies based on sound, fair and equitable principles which all dioceses of the Australian Church will willingly support."  Letter sent from DS to GS in respect of consultation on various matters (and copied to all Diocesan Bishops and Registrars) raises the following issues for discussion – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposals raised for consideration by the General Synod in September 2010 (but in respect of which there has been limited opportunity for discussion),</li> <li>• Achieving a more equitable representation on the GSSC for dioceses, particularly those which are rarely if ever represented,</li> <li>• Reducing the cost of the General Synod by returning to a 4-yearly cycle for sessions and reducing the length of the sessions,</li> <li>• How to achieve appropriate levels of evangelical representation on General Synod's Commission's and representative bodies,</li> <li>• Concerns about how the Primate represents with the Anglican Communion the diversity of views within the Australian Church,</li> <li>• Concerns about inherently political matters being referred to the Appellate Tribunal rather than being resolved by the General Synod (included in this is the increasing practice of not including in General Synod legislation a provision which declares that the legislation affects the order and good government of the Church in a diocese), and</li> <li>• Appropriate means by which the views of General Synod members can be exchanged with one another directly when the General Synod is not in session.</li> <li>• The letter states that the SC "would be happy for consultation with its representatives on the above issues to be undertaken through [the Church Unity Task Force]."</li> </ul>
11/4/11	Letter from GS to DS welcomes the SC's commitment to consultation and – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notes that the GSSC has requested the chairman of the National Church Unity Task Force to facilitate such consultation,</li> <li>• anticipates that the Financial Principles and Policies Task Force will address many of the financial issues raised in the SC's correspondence,</li> <li>• expresses great concern that that SC has not yet decided whether it would report to the Sydney Synod in October 2011 before paying the general assessment for this year, and</li> <li>• requests the SC to expedite further consideration of this matter with a view to a prompt payment of general assessments.</li> </ul>
1/5/11	Second quarterly invoice for \$81,808 for Sydney's 2011 general assessment issued.
2/5/11	SC approves letter in response to letter from GS of 11/4/11.
4/5/11	Letter from DS to GS indicates that the SC "regards the willingness of the GSSC to recommence discussions as a positive step forward in addressing the financial and non-financial concerns raised in the two letters of 24 February 2011" and – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• indicates that the SC is not in a position to decide whether it is necessary to report to the Synod in October this year before any payment is made unless concrete steps are taken before Synod to address these concerns, and</li> <li>• urges the chairs of the Unity Task Force and the Financial Principles and Policies Task Force to initiate discussions with the representatives of the SC as a matter of urgency.</li> </ul>
6/5/11	Letter received from Chairman of Unity Task Force (dated 3/5/11) offers to meet with Sydney delegates at any mutually convenient time and place in the near future.
30/5/11	Meeting held between consultation group and Chairman of the Financial Principles and Policies Task Force.  SC authorises payment of \$50,000 on account of first quarterly invoice for Sydney's 2011 general assessment.
1/6/11	Meeting between consultation group and members of the Unity Task Force.
27/6/11	SC requests – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the consultation group –               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) to prepare a report for the next session of Synod about the progress in consulting with the GSSC on various matters of concern, including the matters referred to in resolution 12/10, and</li> <li>(ii) to prepare a form of motion to enable the Synod to appropriately engage in this matter with a view to the motion being moved "by request of the Standing Committee", and</li> </ol> </li> <li>(b) the Finance Committee to review the costs associated with the General Synod and to bring a report to the Standing Committee by its meeting on 22 August 2011 which identifies potential cost savings in this area.</li> </ol>

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
25/7/11	SC authorises payment of \$50,000 on account of second quarterly invoice for Sydney's 2011 general assessment.
1/8/11	Third quarterly invoice for \$81,808 for Sydney's 2011 general assessment issued.
22/8/11	SC – (a) approved the printing of a report about this matter for the Synod, and (b) authorises payment of \$50,000 on account of third quarterly invoice for Sydney's 2011 general assessment, and (c) receives a letter from the Chairman of the Financial Principles and Policies Task Force (dated 15 August 2011) seeking comment from dioceses by 30 September 2011 on various principles bearing on the finances of the General Synod, and (d) requested the Chairman to give an extension to 14 October 2011 for comments in response to the letter to be provided on behalf of the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney (on the basis that Synod will consider this matter at its session which commences on 10 October 2011).
19/9/11	SC requests that a motion be moved at the Synod to enable the Synod to consider the matters raised in the Standing Committee's report.

## COPY

24 February 2011

Mr Martin Drevikovsky  
General Secretary  
General Synod of Australia  
Suite 2, Level 9  
51 Druitt Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Martin

### **General Synod finances**

I write on behalf of the Sydney Standing Committee (SSC) and ask you to include this letter on the agenda for the next meeting of the General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC). The SSC has a number of concerns about General Synod matters but this letter deals solely with financial issues. Other matters will be addressed separately.

The purpose of this letter is to document our concerns about General Synod finances and to establish a procedure for resolving these concerns. The SSC has established a small group with relevant expertise to consult with General Synod representatives with goodwill with the aim of achieving a result that is both fair and equitable to Sydney diocese and the other dioceses of the Church. We ask the GSSC to appoint a similar group to represent its interests.

#### *Apportioning of Assessments*

The SSC supports the long standing arrangement whereby assessments are apportioned between dioceses in accordance with their respective representation at the most recent session of General Synod. The SSC notes the increased representation of the Diocese of Sydney at the 2010 session of General Synod and agrees the Diocese of Sydney should pay a 56/218 proportion of the appropriate total amount. It should be noted that the SSC does not agree with the total amount currently being used in this calculation.

#### *Authority of General Synod Standing Committee on Financial Matters*

The SSC knows the 2011 assessments have been fixed by the 2010 session of General Synod and the GSSC does not have authority to change these assessments. The SSC notes the GSSC has authority to determine assessments for the 2012 and subsequent years. The SSC believes the 2012 budget of the General Synod should be prepared in a way that ensures that the total amounts for the two years (2011 and 2012) together reflect a more equitable and appropriate assessment. The SSC notes such action would be consistent with the decision of General Synod when it carried the motion of Justice David Bleby *that the proposals of Mr Marr made in Committee for the structural amendments to the budget be referred to the Standing Committee for further consideration and, if it considers it appropriate, for implementation in budgets it adopts in future years . . .*

#### *Sydney Synod Resolution*

On 27 October 2010 I wrote and advised the Sydney Synod had approved a motion concerning General Synod financial matters. The full text of this motion is attached as Attachment 1.

#### *Financial Transparency*

Thank you for your letter dated 24 November. The SSC welcomes paragraph 5 of the SCGS Communications Policy which states: *Budgets approved by the Standing Committee are to be published on the General Synod website. Variations to budgets and expenditure authorised to be made outside budgets are to be published once approved by the Standing Committee. Audited financial statements are to be published.* There are a number of bodies which are subject to the ultimate control of General Synod and which submit financial statements to each session of General Synod. Please confirm the audited financial statements of these bodies will also be published on the General Synod web site and this will be done promptly after the signing of the relevant audit reports.

#### *Shared Services Fund*

The Shared Services Fund is a new fund established in 2010. This fund has two items of income –

- Administration fee charged to the Long Service Leave Fund (2011 budget \$290,000)
- Telstra commissions (2011 budget \$228,000)

The expenses being charged against this income are the direct costs associated with generating the income. The financial report to General Synod states *The bulk of the surplus from the Shared Services Fund in 2010 is used to*

*subsidise the Statutory Fund. This subsidy is \$150,000.* The SSC strongly supports this use of the surplus generated by the Shared Services Fund. It is proper that surpluses generated from business activities across the whole Australian Church should be used to reduce statutory assessments payable by the whole Church. The SSC strongly rejects the changed arrangement for 2011 whereby the expected surplus of \$155,000 is not used to subsidise the Statutory Fund but is used for other (non statutory) purposes.

In particular the SSC rejects the use of the surplus generated by the Shared Services Fund to pay for a Research Assistant for the Primate. The SSC remains of the view that the Primate does not need a Research Assistant to undertake the functions required to be performed by the Primate under the Constitution. It is therefore inappropriate to use funds generated from across the whole Australian Church to meet such non-statutory expenses.

#### *Special Fund*

The Special Fund represents a series of grants and membership fees paid to a variety of Australian and international bodies. Essentially it is a clearing fund where the amounts received from dioceses are banked and then paid out. There are two concerns about this fund –

- The total amount planned to be paid in 2011 is well above the assessments being raised. The shortfall is being funded by a transfer from the Shared Services Fund. This is a significant change of policy which is not appropriate. As stated above, surpluses from the Shared Services Fund should be used to reduce Statutory Assessments. Payments from the Special Fund should be funded by Special Fund assessments.
- Prior to 2011 the long standing practice was for the Special Fund to be a “cash in and cash out” fund. The assessments charged each year were set to cover the amounts to be paid. It seems, however, that this has not been the practice in recent years. The audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2009 shows the Special Fund has accumulated surpluses of \$167,183. The papers presented to General Synod indicate this accumulated surplus will continue to grow over the years 2010 to 2013. The Special Fund assessments in recent years have been set at a level much higher than necessary. The surpluses in this fund for the 2007 to 2009 years were –

2007	\$24,551
2008	\$43,879
2009	\$61,116

The accumulated surpluses from previous years should be used to reduce Special Fund assessments. This amount covers more than two years of the proposed transfer from the Shared Services Fund.

#### *Income from sale of liturgical resources*

The sale of copies of *An Australian Prayer Book* and *A Prayer Book for Australia* generated very substantial income for the General Synod. Income continues to flow from these and similar resources, although at a much lesser rate. It is of great concern that the dioceses of the Church, through Statutory Fund assessments, were made to pay for the direct costs of writing and administrative costs of producing these works but none of the subsequent considerable income was credited to the Statutory Fund. It is not appropriate that these sources of income are now paid to Broughton Publishing rather than the General Synod. The SSC considers that, at the very least, the Broughton Publishing company should repay the loan from General Synod which has been, reportedly, written off. Surplus income from liturgical resources, after paying all appropriate costs, should be credited to the Statutory Fund.

#### *General Synod Reserves*

The funding of the General Synod is designed for the appropriate activities of the National Church to be funded by annual assessments on the dioceses. This properly reflects the fact that the General Synod Office and the bodies which work with it are service organisations and depend on the financial support of the members of the Church, through each diocese.

A series of windfall financial gains has meant that the General Synod has accumulated funds in excess of \$3 million. These surpluses should be used to reduce the heavy financial burden imposed each year on dioceses. Almost every part of the Australian Church is currently experiencing considerable financial difficulties and at least the annual income, if not part of the accumulated surpluses themselves, should be used to reduce Statutory Assessments. An immediate 10% reduction in assessments could easily be afforded and over time assessments should be reduced even further.

#### *Large increase in Statutory Assessments*

The Statutory assessments for the 2011 year are 23% greater than the assessments for the 2010 year. This was documented in the letter Doug Marr wrote to you on 14 October last year. Attachment 2 is an extract of the relevant part of that letter. The SSC regards as unacceptable the 23% increase in total Statutory Fund assessments.

*Operating costs of General Synod*

In addition to the other matters raised in this letter, the SSC still holds the view that considerable savings could be made in the operating costs of General Synod without a significant negative impact. Some of these savings could be achieved in the General Synod Office and other savings could be made by changing arrangements for sessions of General Synod.

*Episcopal Standards Commission*

Concern was expressed at the last session of General Synod about costs associated with the Episcopal Standards Commission. It would be good for all dioceses to receive an update on this financial issue as soon as possible. If any amount is to be paid from the resources of the General Synod then it should come from the Reserve Fund.

*Payment of 2011 Statutory Assessments*

The Sydney Diocesan Secretariat has recently received an invoice from the General Synod Office seeking payment of \$78,000 being the first instalment of 2011 statutory assessments as determined by General Synod last year. Last October the Sydney Synod asked the SSC "to consider whether it should report on these matters to the 2011 session of Synod before arranging for payments to the General Synod in 2011" (see Attachment 1). The SSC has not yet formed a view on whether it should report to Synod before making payment. Please note that no payment of the recent or future invoices will be made until the SSC has made a decision.

In conclusion, I repeat that the SSC would like its representatives to meet with representatives of the GSSC in a spirit of goodwill to agree upon financial policies based on sound, fair and equitable principles which all dioceses of the Australian Church will willingly support.

Yours sincerely



ROBERT WICKS  
**Diocesan Secretary**

cc. Diocesan Bishops and Registrars

**ATTACHMENT 1**

*Sydney Synod 13 October 2010*

Synod notes with concern the following financial decisions of the recent General Synod and the General Synod Standing Committee –

- (a) The 23% increase in the rate of Statutory Fund assessment between the 2010 and 2011 financial years;
- (b) the allocation of substantial funds in 2011, with expected similar allocations in future years, to cover the costs of the Episcopal Standards Commission investigations concerning the Bishop of Ballarat and the Bishop of The Murray without any requirement that the dioceses concerned pay any of the costs involved except as part of the normal General Synod assessment process;
- (c) implementation of changes in policy on the use of General Synod reserves without the issues being discussed by the General Synod;
- (d) the transfer of all royalties and profits from sales of liturgical texts to a separate company (Broughton Publishing Pty Limited) even though the costs associated with producing these texts are fully funded from the Statutory Fund;
- (e) the use of surpluses generated by the administration of the Long Service Leave Fund and surpluses from Telstra commissions to pay for the Primate's Assistant and to offset payments from the Special Fund rather than use these surpluses to reduce Statutory Fund assessments;
- (f) the changed arrangement whereby grants to various Australian and international bodies from the Special Fund are no longer fully covered by Special Fund assessments but instead other financial resources of the General Synod are used for these purposes.

Synod asks the Sydney Standing Committee to enter into urgent consultation with the General Synod Standing Committee to negotiate a more equitable financial outcome for the dioceses of the Australian Church.

Synod further asks the Sydney Standing Committee to consider whether it should report on these matters to the 2011 session of Synod before arranging for payments to the General Synod in 2011.

**ATTACHMENT 2**

*Extract of letter from Doug Marr to Martin Drevikovsky dated 14 October 2010*

Set out below are the total assessment amounts as found on pages 4-080 to 4-082 with the Statutory Fund and Consolidated amounts adjusted to reflect the \$35,000 change made on the last day.

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Consolidated</b>	\$1,307,900	\$1,448,000	11% increase
<b>Statutory</b>	\$985,000	\$1,210,000	23% increase
<b>Special</b>	\$322,900	\$238,000	26% decrease

The 11% increase in Consolidated, although high, reflects inflation, the \$35,000 adjustment on the last day and some other items.

The 23% increase in Statutory and the 26% decrease in Special obviously reflect some changes in principle. This is one example of significant changes in assessment principles which were not discussed by the General Synod. There are other examples including use of surpluses from the Reserve Fund and the Shared Services Fund.

For 22 of the 23 dioceses the assessment increase from 2010 to 2011 will be 11% (ignoring the consequences resulting from changes in member numbers of General Synod). For 1 diocese (Sydney) the assessment will increase by 23% (plus an additional amount because of increased membership).

There are two possible views on the reasons behind the changes in assessment principles and in particular how these changes impact on the Diocese of Sydney. A charitable view is that the massive increase in the assessment charge on Sydney is an unintended consequence of various changes made for valid reasons. A less charitable view is that the former Standing Committee members were actively seeking to make Sydney pay more, perhaps because of the concern/ alarm/outrage mentioned above.

## Notes from a meeting with the Chairman of the Financial Principles and Policies Task Force

### Background

1. On 30 May 2011, members of the consultation group appointed by the Sydney Standing Committee, namely Mr Neil Cameron, Mr Robert Tong, the Rev Gavin Poole and Mr Doug Marr met with Mr John McKenzie, chairman of the General Synod Standing Committee's Financial Principles and Policies Task Force. The purpose of the meeting was principally to discuss the extent to which the Financial Task Force intends to consider the matters raised in a letter from the Diocesan Secretary to the General Secretary dated 24 February 2011 in relation to General Synod finances.
2. Mr Robert Wicks and Mr Martin Drevikovskiy were also in attendance at the meeting.
3. In view of the size and composition of this meeting, the other members of the Sydney group, Rev Rick Smith and the Rev Dr Mark Thompson, did not attend.

### Preliminary comments

4. Robert Wicks provided a brief summary of the process and circumstances which have led to the current meeting.
5. John McKenzie indicated that the Financial Task Force will approach this matter on a whole of church basis. Having said that, he acknowledged that the issues raised by Doug Marr at the General Synod last year and the resolution of the Sydney Synod concerning General Synod finances did provide the impetus for the creation of the Task Force.
6. John suggested that the meeting should focus on what will be in and outside the scope of the Financial Task Force's considerations. John will provide a report to the General Synod Standing Committee's Executive Committee on the matters that he considers are outside the scope and will relay these matters to Justice Peter Young for possible consideration in the context of the Unity Task Force.
7. Neil Cameron provided a brief historical context to the matters raised in the letter of 24 February, noting that the particular matters are symptomatic of long standing and underlying issues within the Anglican Church of Australia. In particular Neil noted that –
  - There was considerable resistance from Sydney to the adoption of the 1961 Constitution. A number of, ultimately unsuccessful, attempts were made to prevent the NSW Parliament from passing enabling legislation for the Constitution.
  - Assurances were given at the time the Constitution was adopted that individual dioceses would retain a high level of autonomy.
  - There was also an understanding at the time that the infrastructure surrounding the General Synod would be minimal. However Sydney did support the provision of an assistant to one of the initial Primate's, Archbishop Grindrod because it was recognised that he needed particular assistance in administering the General Synod.
  - An on-going issue has been Sydney's objection to the use of monies for particular projects supported by a majority of the General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC). This is reflected in Sydney's decision not to pay voluntary assessments and, in recent times, has put pressure on certain aspects of the costs recovered by the general assessment.
  - The failure to use profits from the business activities of the General Synod generated from across Australia to reduce the general assessment is seen as a misuse of funds.
  - The issues referred to above have been aggravated by the nature of representation on the GSSC. Sydney has a feeling that it is not being listened to.
  - The Archbishop of Sydney has recently sent a letter to the Metropolitans indicating that he wants these matters to be resolved.
8. John thanked Neil for this historical background and at the present time had no questions in response. John did however indicate that he does have an awareness of the unhappiness of the Sydney diocese.
9. The meeting proceeded to consider the matters raised in the letter of 24 February 2011 for the purposes of categorising them as being "in" or "out" of the Financial Task Force's terms of reference.

### *Apportioning of assessments*

10. The Sydney representatives confirmed that there is no objection to the underlying formula by which assessments are apportioned. In this regard it is accepted that Sydney's current proportion needs to be updated to represent a 60/224 share.

*Authority of GSSC on financial matters*

11. John asked what was meant by the reference in the letter to a more equitable and appropriate assessment?

12. In response, Gavin indicated that there was a concern about the total quantum of assessments levied, and the particular circumstances which led to a 23% increase of assessments payable by Sydney between 2010 and 2011.

13. John indicated that the Financial Task Force may look at "smoothing" for 2012 (taking into account the increase in 2011). However he pointed out that all dioceses had received the benefit of a 10% reduction in assessments in 2010 and that the increase in 2011 aligned expenditure with the long-term trend.

*Financial transparency*

14. It was noted that this matter has already been dealt with by the GSSC.

*Shared services fund*

15. John indicated that he is looking at the application of surpluses generated from the shared services fund as a question of principle for the Task Force. In particular, how should surpluses be used generally. The Task Force will be consulting on this issue around the dioceses, but not in a leading manner.

*Special fund*

16. The issues in relation to the special fund raises the same questions concerning the application of surpluses.

17. John indicated that the Task Force is also looking at what constitutes prudent reserves for the Special Fund.

*Income from sale of liturgical resources*

18. John indicated that the Financial Task Force will consider whether a "shareholder dividend" should be paid and if so how the shareholder dividend should be applied.

*General Synod reserves*

19. John indicated that the Financial Task Force will be looking at what constitutes a prudent level of reserves. However in this context, John wanted the Sydney group to acknowledge that there had been a 10% reduction in assessments in 2010.

*Primate's assistant*

20. John indicated that the use of funds raised by the general assessment is not something that the Financial Task Force will enter into. However he did note that in 2011 there is no amount in the general assessment attributed to the Primate's assistant because the Sydney Standing Committee originally objected to the cost of the Primate's assistant being funded from the general assessment. Since the change in the source of funding was intended to meet that objection, the current objection appears to be a shifting of the goal posts. He therefore took exception to comments made in the letter about Sydney's objection to the Primate's assistant being paid from surpluses from the shared services fund.

21. In response, Neil indicated that while Sydney is happy that the Primate's assistant is no longer being funded from general assessments, it continues to indirectly pay for the Primate's assistant to the extent surpluses from the Long Service Leave fund and the Telstra arrangement are generated from across the whole of the Australian Church.

*Broughton Publishing*

22. John indicated that the history behind the development and publication of liturgical resources such as AAPB and APBA is not something that the Task Force will look at. However the Task Force will be looking at the question of a shareholder dividend in respect of revenue raised from the sale of these resources and also the question of the purchase of the initial intellectual property.

*Operating costs of General Synod*

23. John was not clear whether this is something that the Financial Task Force should be looking at. He suggested that if the Sydney group had some particular proposals to reduce the structure of the General Synod office that such proposals should be put to the GSSC for consideration. In his view there is not much scope for reducing the size of the existing General Synod office.

24. In relation to moving to a 4 year cycle of General Synod sessions and reducing the length of sessions, he will be referring this matter to Peter Young for consideration. However on his calculations moving to a 4 year cycle will save in the order of \$44,000, and reduced the length of session will save only a few thousands of dollars. He will be providing these numbers to Peter Young.

*Large increase in statutory assessments*

25. John indicated that he does not perceive that people are going around saying "lets make Sydney pay more". He indicated that the 23% increase in relation to the general assessments in 2011 for Sydney was a result of modelling work done to relieve the level of voluntary assessments that dioceses are paying. He pointed out that although there has been a 23% increase in the assessments Sydney pays between 2010 and 2011, there

had been a 10% reduction in the level of 2010 assessments due to the GFC. Furthermore he considered that the long term increase in assessments was in the order of 4% per annum.

26. Doug Marr indicated that historically, the voluntary assessment has been about paying grants for special purposes, some of which are objectionable to Sydney. Doug therefore considers that subsidisation of these grants through shared services fund and other sources is not consistent with this historical position. If there is pressure on the grants that need to be made from the voluntary assessment, the proper approach is to cut back on the level of grants being made rather than subsidise them.

27. Neil indicated that the Diocese of Sydney has no objection to other dioceses paying for particular projects, whether among themselves or via the General Synod office. That said, Neil accepts that the decision to subsidise the voluntary assessment was not made with any ill intent.

28. Robert Tong noted that in his view the decision to subsidise the voluntary assessment was a pragmatic decision to deal with a particular problem. Robert asked whether there was a policy discussion about where business earnings of the General Synod should be applied? In response, John indicated that he did not believe that there had been a policy discussion in black and white terms on this matter. Therefore this matter will be looked at by the Task Force in the context of how surpluses should be applied.

### **Next steps**

29. In terms of the next steps, John indicated that he would refer the matters that the Financial Task Force does not intend looking at to the Unity Task Force chaired by Peter Young.

30. The Financial Task Force will prepare a brief summary of the potential areas in which policy should be developed, set out the options and invite comment from the dioceses. After comments are received there are likely to be further opportunities for discussion, including with the Sydney group.

31. In terms of timing, John indicated that realistically he will not have a final report ready for the GSSC until the first meeting next year. Doug noted that this will be after the budget for 2012 has been finalised at the November 2011 meeting of the GSSC.

ROBERT WICKS  
*Diocesan Secretary*

1 June 2011

## **Constitution Amendment (Section 30) Canon 2010**

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

### **Title**

1. This Canon may be cited as "Constitution Amendment (Section 30) Canon 2010".

### **Amendment to section 30**

2. Section 30 is amended as follows:
  - (a) by the substitution of the following for all of the words in paragraph (a):

"Where the General Synod does not make a declaration under paragraph (b) of this section in relation to a canon, and the synod of a diocese (or the diocesan council thereof) declares that the canon affects:

    - (i) the ritual, ceremonial or discipline of this Church within such diocese; or
    - (ii) the order and good government of the Church within such diocese, or
    - (iii) the church trust property of such diocese,

such canon shall not come into force in such diocese unless and until the diocese, by ordinance of its synod adopts the said canon."; and
  - (b) by the omission of paragraph (c).

We certify that this bill was passed by the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Australia this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_ 2010.



