

## 2011 Report of the Standing Committee

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### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Charter

The Standing Committee is constituted under the Standing Committee Ordinance 1897. Its duties arise under a number of ordinances and include the following –

- (a) making arrangements for the meetings of the Synod and preparing the Synod's business, and
- (b) acting as a council of advice to the Archbishop (the "Archbishop-in-Council"), and
- (c) considering and reporting upon matters referred to it by the Synod and carrying out the Synod's resolutions, and
- (d) deliberating and conferring upon all matters affecting the interests of the Church, and
- (e) making ordinances under delegated powers, and
- (f) preparing and administering parochial cost recoveries and Synod appropriations and allocations, and
- (g) appointing persons to fill casual vacancies among persons elected by the Synod to boards etc, and
- (h) monitoring the finances of diocesan organisations.

#### 1.2 Access

Meetings are held in the Chapter House, St Andrew's Cathedral. Mail should be addressed to "The Diocesan Secretary, Standing Committee of Synod, PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230" (telephone (02) 9265 1555; fax (02) 9261 4485; email [rjw@sydney.anglican.asn.au](mailto:rjw@sydney.anglican.asn.au)). Office hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

A report on each meeting is published a few days after the meeting on the Secretariat's website at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

#### 1.3 Meetings and members

Since October 2010 we have met 10 times. The names of the members will be listed in the 2011 Diocesan Year Book and on the Secretariat's website at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

During the year, the following changes took place to the membership of the Standing Committee –

- Mr Mark Payne became a member *ex-officio* upon his appointment as CEO of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat and Glebe Administration Board.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a lay person elected by the whole Synod upon the resignation of Mrs Nicky Fortescue. The Standing Committee elected Ms Simone Sietsma to fill the vacancy.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a lay person elected by the Georges River Region upon the resignation of Mr James Jack. The Georges River Region elected Mr Stephen Mitchell to fill the vacancy.
- Mr Peter Kell ceased being a member *ex officio* upon his retirement as CEO of Anglicare. Mr Grant Millard became a member *ex officio* upon his appointment as the new CEO of Anglicare.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a lay person elected by the Wollongong Region upon the resignation of Mr Peter White. The Wollongong Region elected Mr Peter Kell to fill the vacancy.

#### 1.4 Management and structure

Each meeting of the Standing Committee is like a small Synod meeting. The major committees are –

Mission Board	Ordination Training Fund Committee
Finance Committee	Social Issues Executive
General Synod Canons Committee	Stipends and Allowances Committee
Ordinance Reviewers and Panels	Work Outside the Diocese Committee

Other committees are appointed from time to time for special tasks. We thank God for the faithfulness and expertise of the people who serve on our committees.

### **1.5 Appointment of Mr Mark Payne as CEO**

We congratulated Mr Mark Payne on his appointment as CEO of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat and Glebe Administration Board and extended our prayers and best wishes to Mark as he commenced in this role.

### **1.6 Special session of the Synod in 2013 to elect the next Archbishop of Sydney**

Under the Archbishop of Sydney Election Ordinance 1982, a meeting of the Synod summoned to fill a vacancy in the office of Archbishop of Sydney when the date of the vacancy is known in advance shall be held within the period of not less than 3 weeks and not more than 6 weeks after the occurrence of the vacancy.

The current of Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Peter Jensen, reaches his retirement age on 11 July 2013. In the expectation that this will be the date on which a vacancy in the office of the Archbishop arises, the Wesley Theatre in Pitt Street has been booked for 5 days commencing in the fourth week after the occurrence of the vacancy.

Dates for the Election Synod have therefore been set for 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 August 2013.

### **1.7 Access to Standing Committee minutes for Synod Members**

A report about this matter is printed separately.

## **2. The Diocesan Mission**

### **2.1 Diocesan Mission Strategy**

In 2002, the Synod adopted the mission strategy for the Diocese including the following Mission Statement –

To glorify God by proclaiming our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit, so that everyone will hear his call to repent, trust and serve Christ in love, and be established in the fellowship of his disciples while they await his return.

The initial goal of the Mission adopted by the Synod is –

To see at least 10% of the population of the region of the Diocese in Bible-based churches in 10 years.

The fundamental aim of the strategy is –

To multiply Bible-based Christian fellowships, congregations and churches which equip and nurture their members and expand themselves, both in the Diocese and 'in all the world'.

The Mission Strategy continues to direct much of the work we have undertaken during the year.

### **2.2 Mission Areas**

Under the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2010 an amount of \$200,000 was allocated for support and assistance for Mission Areas. We confirmed that during 2011 quarterly payments of \$2,500 should be made to each of the 18 parishes whose senior minister had been appointed as a Mission Area Leader in recognition of the work they undertake.

We approved a change of name of the Connect09 Fund to the Mission Areas Fund. We also asked for an ordinance to be prepared to –

- (a) transfer the unspent portion of allocations to Mission Areas in 2010 to the new Mission Areas Fund, and
- (b) vary the trusts of the Fund to enable the existing balance in the Fund to be used for the purposes of Mission Areas.

### **2.3 Mission Property Fund**

We received quarterly reports from the Mission Property Committee concerning progress in implementing the prioritised "greenfield" and "brownfield" projects that received funding from the Mission Property Fund.

We agreed to the Mission Property Committee making a 15 minute presentation to the Synod about these projects.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

### **2.4 Funding principles and priorities**

We amended the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998 by replacing the references to "Strategic Plan" with "statement of funding principles and priorities" as the document used to guide triennial Synod funding.

We made this change because of the impracticality of preparing a Strategic Plan for the whole Diocese and because a statement of funding principles and priorities is the most tangible way for the Synod to express the activities which it believes have strategic importance for the Diocese.

We circulated to Synod members an exposure draft of a statement of funding principles and priorities for the next triennium 2013-2015 for the purposes of pre-Synod briefings. We subsequently agreed to a revised draft of the

statement being printed for the Synod and requested that a motion be moved at Synod to enable members to provide comment on the revised draft.

The revised draft of the statement of funding principles and priorities is printed separately.

## **2.5 Minutes of the Mission Board**

We agreed that members of the Standing Committee may have access to all Mission Board minutes and any attachments referred to in those minutes except for attachments which the Archbishop has identified as confidential –

- (a) by reason of commercial or pastoral sensitivity, or
- (b) because they are working or discussion papers of the Mission Board.

## **3. Actions with the Archbishop**

### **3.1 Archbishop's Strategic Commission on Structure, Funding and Governance**

We received the final report of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission on Structure, Funding and Governance. The report is printed separately.

See item 8.9.

### **3.2 Estate of Late M.A. Grant (Sisters' Endowment)**

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$30,000 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop to assist clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

### **3.3 Parramatta '54 Free Fund**

The income of this fund is to be distributed among the objects of the Diocese of Sydney as determined by the Archbishop-in-Council. A distribution of \$3,039 was made in December 2010 and a further distribution of \$9,044 made in September 2011 to reimburse the Endowment of the See for the costs for 3 Sydney Bishops to attend the March 2010 Australian Bishops' Conference held in Perth and for 5 Sydney Bishops to attend the March 2011 Australian Bishops' Conference held in Newcastle.

### **3.4 Extension of retirement age of Archdeacon Ian Cox**

Acting with the Archbishop, we extended the retirement age of Archdeacon Ian Cox until his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on 14 April 2013 under clause 5(1)(b) of the Retirements Ordinance 1993.

## **4. Financial and Property Administration**

### **4.1 Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995**

Organisations of the Synod which manage church trust property must report annually to the Synod. These reports include audited financial statements and must be lodged, together with a liquidity report, by 30 June each year. A different lodgement date has been approved for two organisations, Anglicare and Anglican Retirement Villages, whose financial year ends on 30 June.

Organisations are also required to provide us with certain internal management financial information during the year.

The annual reports and audited accounts for about 40 organisations will be tabled in the Synod. Any major problems found by the Finance Committee from a review of these accounts and the additional internal management financial information will be reported.

We agreed that a copy of the annual report and annual audited financial statements of each diocesan organisation should be made available for a reasonable fee to any member of the Synod on request made to the Diocesan Secretary. However copies would only be made available after review by the Finance Committee and on condition that the member of Synod agrees to treat all such information as confidential unless the relevant diocesan organisation has itself made the information publicly available.

### **4.2 Annual Financial Statements for the Synod Funds and Parish Funds**

The annual financial statements for the Amalgamated Synod Funds and Amalgamated Parish Funds have been reformatted to provide more useful information about the performance and financial status of each fund. Additionally, the auditors reported according to an agreed review of procedures instead of an audit.

These reports are printed separately.

### **4.3 Borrowing limits for organisations**

In April the borrowing limit for one organisation was extended until the annual audited financial statements were available.

### **4.4 Ordination training fund**

From this Fund, bursaries are available to –

- (a) candidates studying through Moore Theological College or Youthworks College for ordination in Sydney, and

- (b) candidates studying through Moore Theological College or Youthworks College for commissioning as Diocesan Lay Workers in Sydney.

Bursaries of \$186,000 were paid in 2010 (\$222,000 in 2009).

#### 4.5 Ordinances

The following table shows the number of ordinances passed and assented to in 2005 to 2010 and in 2011 to 21 September.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Standing Committee	50	48	45	38	27	36	31
Synod	8	5	3	6	13	4	0
	58	53	48	44	40	40	31

A separate report lists the ordinances passed by us since the 2010 session of the Synod. There are 14 ordinances of particular interest.

The Parish Cost Recoveries (Return of Capital) Ordinance 2010 authorised the repayment of \$1 million of seed capital from the Parish Cost Recoveries Fund to the Diocesan Endowment as an addition to the capital of that fund.

The Cathedral Ordinance 1969 Amendment Ordinance 2010 gave the Council of St Andrew's Cathedral School power to operate schools other than St Andrew's Cathedral School and made changes to the governance of the Council which reflected the Diocesan Education Policy.

The Endowment of the See (Funding) Ordinance 2010 made provision for an assessment on parochial units in 2011 for the purposes of contributing to the financial needs of the Endowment of the See during 2011.

The St Andrew's House Income Ordinance 2011 re-declared the trusts of the land on which the building known as St Andrew's House is situated and revised the provisions for the distribution of the income from the land in order to ensure that those distributions are financially sustainable.

The Sydney Diocesan Educational and Book Committee Variation of Trusts and Repeal Ordinance 2011 varied the trusts of certain funds held under the Sydney Diocesan Educational and Book Committee Ordinance 1986 to enable the distribution of those funds to Moore Theological College and Anglican Youthworks in equal shares and to repeal that ordinance upon the distribution of the funds.

The St James' Sydney Phillip Street Property Amendment Ordinance 2011 provided for the distribution of net income from the building known as St James' Hall during the years 2010 to 2014 inclusive with 80% of such income being paid to the wardens of the parish and 20% being paid to the Synod for the purposes of the Diocese.

The Synod Appropriations and Allocations Amendment Ordinance 2011 enabled disbursements incurred on behalf of the Synod and Standing Committee up to \$76,000 per annum to be paid directly from funds held for the Synod.

The Diocesan Endowment (Special Distribution) Amendment Ordinance 2011 provided for the payment of \$3.642 million by the Glebe Administration Board to the Standing Committee from property held under the Diocesan Endowment Ordinance 1984 for spending by the Synod in 2012.

The Synod (National Church Life Survey) Special Application Ordinance 2011 authorised an amount of up to \$100,000 to be paid from the Synod Fund for the purposes of the 2011 NCLS survey.

The Synod Appropriation and Allocations Ordinance 2011 provided for Synod appropriations and allocations in 2012. A report about this matter is printed separately.

The Sydney Estimates Ordinance 1998 Amendment Ordinance 2011 provided for a statement of funding principles and priorities to be provided to the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Synod to guide triennial Synod funding rather than a Strategic Plan.

The Cost Recoveries (Parochial Network) Amendment Ordinance 2011 updated the terminology used to describe the costs recovered under the variable component of the parochial cost recoveries charge from "property costs" to "parochial network costs".

The Synod Funds (Variation of Trusts) Ordinance 2011 authorised the repayment of the balance of seed capital, being \$300,000, from the Parish Cost Recoveries Fund to the Diocesan Endowment and the payment of the balance in the Social Issues Executive Fund to Moore Theological College for the purposes of the Social Issues Executive.

The Auditing Amendment Ordinance 2011 provided for a review and report by an independent assurance practitioner instead of an "audit" of financial statements prepared by wardens and special purpose financial statements prepared for diocesan organisations.

#### **4.6 Parochial cost recoveries - arrears**

As at 30 June 2011, there were no arrears of cost recovery charges for any parochial unit.

#### **4.7 Annual financial statements from parishes**

Under the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008, parochial units are required to lodge their audited financial statements within 7 days after their annual general meeting of parishioners.

As at 30 April 2011, 100 parochial units (37%) had not lodged a set of prescribed financial statements. By 11 August this had improved so that only 2 parochial units (0.7%) had not lodged their financial statements.

The Finance Committee has processes in place to remind parochial units of their obligations under the Ordinance, assist with any enquiries and review the statements lodged. The Finance Committee also works with the Regional Bishops and the Archdeacon of Liverpool to investigate and report to us on the status of the audited financial statements for parochial units that are late in lodging the required information.

#### **4.8 Local revenues test for parish status**

The parish of Glenquarie and the parish of Concord and Burwood had local revenues below the requisite amount in 2010. The parishes have been advised of the importance of ensuring their 2011 and future revenues meet the relevant threshold figures in order to retain their parish status.

#### **4.9 Methodology for making distributions from the Diocesan Endowment**

We received a report from the Glebe Administration Board which recommended a methodology for determining distributions from the Diocesan Endowment which has regard to 3 distinct revenue sources, namely –

- investments which are managed externally
- revenue from banking activity
- the interest in the St Andrew's House trust

Based on this methodology the Glebe Administration Board recommended that the total amount to be distributed in 2011 for spending by the Synod in 2012 should be \$3.642 million. We subsequently passed the Diocesan Endowment (Special Distribution) Amendment Ordinance 2011 to give effect to this recommendation.

We also requested that an ordinance be promoted early in 2012 to replace the current formula in the Diocesan Endowment Ordinance 1984 with a formula which reflects the new methodology.

#### **4.10 Synod Appropriations and Allocations for 2012**

Under clause 5(6) of the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2009 we are required to report to the 2011 session of the Synod about the appropriations and allocations for 2012.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

#### **4.11 Parochial cost recoveries for 2012**

Under clause 3(2) of the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2009 we are required to report to the 2011 session of the Synod about the cost recoveries charge for 2012. However in view of the proposed inclusion of a number of new items in the variable component for the cost recoveries charge for 2012, we requested that a bill for the parish cost recoveries charge in 2012 be prepared for promotion to and consideration by the Synod.

A bill and explanatory statement for this purpose are printed separately.

#### **4.12 Funding principles and priorities for triennium 2013-2015**

See item 2.4.

#### **4.13 Stipends, allowances and benefits for 2012**

A report on stipends, allowances and benefits for 2012 is printed separately.

#### **4.14 Work Outside the Diocese**

In the 6 months to 30 June 2011, the Work Outside the Diocese Committee had applied \$215,278 from a total Synod allocation in 2011 of \$288,000. It is expected that the balance of the 2011 allocation together with further amounts from reserves will be applied during the 6 months to 31 December 2011.

#### **4.15 Allocation of Synod funds to regional councils**

Under the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2010 an amount of \$600,000 was provided as a general allocation to regional councils for 2011, including for the support of ethnic and cross cultural ministry and administration support. With the agreement of the 5 Regional Bishops and regional councils, we allocated this amount as follows –

Georges River Regional Council	\$85,000
Northern Regional Council	\$195,000
South Sydney Regional Council	\$125,000
Western Sydney Regional Council	\$195,000

Wollongong Regional Council	\$0
Total	<u>\$600,000</u>

#### **4.16 Greenoaks Apartments**

By clause 9 of the Bishops court Back Block Development and Land Sale Ordinance 2004, we are required to report to each ordinary session of the Synod about –

- progress of the development authorised by the ordinance, now called “Greenoaks Apartments”, and
- application of the sale proceeds of the land the subject of the development, and
- action taken by us in response to the statement of intention under clause 8(3) of the ordinance.

The Greenoaks development comprised a 6-storey apartment building containing 10 apartments over basement parking for 25 motor vehicles. Construction commenced in September 2005 and practical completion occurred in September 2007.

Eight of the apartments have been sold. One apartment is the residence of the Bishop of South Sydney. The remaining apartment is currently on the market for sale.

Clause 8(3) of the ordinance provides that when the final balance of the sale of the land, or parts thereof, is known, we intend that an appropriate sum be applied for the repair and maintenance of Bishops court. Although the final balance of the sale of the apartments is not yet known, the major roof repair and renovation project undertaken at Bishops court in 2009 will be taken into account in determining the appropriate sum.

#### **4.17 Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre Sale Ordinance 2001**

Under the Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre Sale Ordinance 2001, we are required to provide an annual report to the Synod on progress in acquiring, constructing, adapting and/or renovating a property or building to be used as a conference centre and retreat house for the Diocese.

In 2007 we agreed to release to Anglican Youthworks, upon its request to the Property Trust, the invested funds from the sale of Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre in order to purchase a new conference centre.

Anglican Youthworks has been actively pursuing camping and conferencing centre options north of Sydney, although has not yet been successful in acquiring another conference site. Youthworks is not in a rush to secure another property and remains particular about the requirements for a suitable property.

#### **4.18 Services provided by the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat**

During the year we approved a service level standards document for services provided by the Secretariat to the Synod and the Standing Committee. In relation to the costs incurred by the Secretariat in providing such services, we –

- (a) endorsed the principle that the Secretariat should recover from each diocesan organisation it serves, including the Synod and the Standing Committee but excluding parishes, the cost of serving that organisation, and
- (b) noted that the costs of the services set out in the service level standards document for the provision of services to the Synod, the Standing Committee and their subcommittees exceeds the amount of the grant to be made to the Secretariat in 2011, and that the Secretariat proposes further discussions with us about the action which can be taken to enable the Secretariat to recover the costs of the services it provides.

We are reviewing the services provided by the Secretariat under the service level standards document and any changes that should be made to the document for services provided in 2012.

#### **4.19 Synod disbursements**

We agreed that from 2011, disbursements of up to \$76,000 per annum incurred on behalf of the Synod and the Standing Committee be paid directly from the Synod fund, on the basis the Finance Committee maintains an appropriate oversight as to the nature and quantum of such disbursements.

#### **4.20 Diocesan financial policies**

At our request, the Glebe Administration Board provided us with a paper to facilitate policy discussions on the following matters –

- raising additional capital to expand the size of the Diocesan Endowment
- investment of equity investments in index funds rather than actively managed funds
- the parameters of the Diocesan ethical investment policy

We intend to consider these matters after reviewing the report of the Archbishop’s Strategic Commission.

#### **4.21 Estate of the Late Thomas Moore**

Until December 2010, the Trustees in the Estate of the Late Thomas Moore were required to distribute the net income earned each year on the investment of the corpus of the Estate in four equal parts. One part of the income was to be distributed to the Sydney Diocesan Educational and Book Committee, the second part applied to the support of Anglican clergy in the Province, the third part applied to support clergy widows in the Province

and the fourth part applied to support needy members of the Church in the Province. The net income in respect of the second, third and fourth parts was distributed between the dioceses in the Province in proportion to their General Synod representation.

In recent years, the Trustees had become concerned about the high on-going administrative costs of the Estate in comparison to the returns being received. After due consideration, the Trustees determined that the charitable purposes of the Estate would be most effectively fulfilled if the capital of the Estate was distributed in the same manner and proportions as the net income.

On 8 March 2010, the Trustees made an application to the Attorney General under section 12 of the Charitable Trust Act 1993 for a *cy pres* scheme to enable the capital of the Estate to be distributed in this manner. The scheme came into effect on 24 December 2010. The Trustees of the Estate subsequently authorised the final distribution of capital and accumulated income in the amount of \$192,419 in accordance with the scheme. Following this final distribution, the property of the Estate was exhausted and its trusts terminated.

As a consequence of the termination of the trusts, the persons previously holding office as Trustee under the Will also ceased to hold office *ex officio* as members of the Moore Theological College Council.

We noted with appreciation the following resolution passed by the Trustees of the Estate of the Late Thomas Moore at their final meeting on 9 December 2010 –

“With thanksgiving to Almighty God for His manifest blessings through the munificent bequest of Thomas Moore, blessings much further multiplied over the 170 years since his death, the present Trustees of Thomas Moore’s Estate, aware that the corpus is rapidly diminishing in real value, hereby lay aside our responsibilities, confident that all reasonable efforts have been made to discharge our obligations and to discover whether there remain any further assets of the Trust, praying that the work begun by Thomas Moore, Bishop Barker and so many others, through the Anglican Church, notably through Moore College, will continue to flourish and be a blessing to untold numbers of people, and so resolve to distribute the corpus in accordance with the approved *cy pres* scheme and to Terminate the trusts”.

#### **4.22 Moore College campus development**

We were informed that the NSW Department of Planning had approved the Moore College Concept Plan and Project Application. The Concept Plan covers most of the College’s Newtown campus while the Project Application is for a library building on the corner of Carillon Avenue and King Street.

The next stage of the process is for the College to prepare detailed plans for the new library building.

#### **4.23 Review of diocesan funds**

We reviewed all funds that come directly under our responsibility including the adequacy of the relevant funds for their purpose and especially whether there are any surpluses in the funds which we may consider using for other diocesan requirements.

As a result of the review, we passed the Synod Funds (Variation of Trusts) Ordinance 2011 to –

- (a) return to the Diocesan Endowment the balance of \$300,000 provided to the PCR Fund in 2005 as seed capital, and
- (b) transfer the balance of funds held in the Social Issues Executive Fund to Moore Theological College for the purpose of supporting the work of the SIE, and close the SIE Fund.

We also agreed to retain other amounts in the PCR group of funds pending consideration of how these amounts can be most appropriately returned to parishes, possibly by way of a partial offset to the PCR charges proposed for the 2013-2015 triennium.

#### **4.24 Christmas Eve Service in the Cathedral**

We agreed to contribute \$30,000 of Synod Contingencies to fund the ABC recording of a Christmas Eve Service in the Cathedral.

### **5. General Administration**

#### **5.1 Elections**

The appointment of persons to serve on committees etc. continued to be a major part of our business. Some appointments are to fill casual vacancies among Synod appointees, and these appointments fall vacant at this coming Synod session. Other appointments are made by the Standing Committee in its own right.

From November 2010 to June 2011, 72 such positions were filled (61 for the same period in 2009 – 2010).

#### **5.2 Membership of the Synod**

Under part 7 of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995, the Archbishop is entitled to nominate a number of ministers to be members of the 49<sup>th</sup> Synod. The maximum number of ministers who may be nominated cannot exceed 10% of the total number of “parochial ministers” (as defined in the ordinance) determined on 1 January 2011. The Registrar has advised that this number is 24.

The Archbishop advised that he intended nominating 24 ministers as members of the 49<sup>th</sup> Synod under part 7.

For every nominated minister proposed to be nominated by the Archbishop, we can elect a lay person to be a member of the 49<sup>th</sup> Synod under part 8 of the Ordinance. We have elected 24 lay persons to be members of the 49<sup>th</sup> Synod.

In addition, under part 6 of the Ordinance, we may declare up to 7 Diocesan Boards, departments or organisations to be “nominated organisations” for the purposes of the 49<sup>th</sup> Synod. The effect of such a declaration is the Chief Executive Officer of the nominated organisation is a member of the 49<sup>th</sup> Synod. We have declared the following organisations to be “nominated organisations” –

Anglican Media  
Anglican Retirement Villages Diocese of Sydney  
Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks)  
Moore Theological College  
Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society (Anglicare)  
Sydney Diocesan Secretariat  
Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation.

### **5.3 Reports from regional councils**

Under clause 9 of the Regions Ordinance 1995 each regional council must give us an annual report for inclusion in our report to the Synod. The annual reports are printed separately, together with any reports for reclassification of provisional parishes under the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

### **5.4 Declaration of Harbour Church as a Recognised Church**

During the year we received a notification for the purposes of clause 8(2)(a)(iv) of the Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000 that Harbour Church had been declared to be a recognised church. The church will meet at Shellharbour Anglican College. We extended our prayers and best wishes to the Rev Robert Sharp and the members of the church as they continue their ministry in the fellowship of the Diocese.

### **5.5 Sydney Diocesan Educational and Book Committee**

In 2006 we agreed in principle that the Sydney Diocesan Educational and Book Committee should be disbanded and its assets allocated equally between Anglican Youthworks and Moore Theological College.

Following the winding up of the Estate of the Late Thomas Moore (see item 4.19) we passed an ordinance to disband the Committee and allocate its assets as agreed in 2006.

### **5.6 National Church Life Survey 2011**

Last year we approved the payment of \$90,000 from Synod Fund Contingencies in 2010 and 2011 in equal proportions, being the cost of the Diocese participating in the National Church Life Survey (NCLS). We noted that no payment was made for NCLS in 2010 which, in part, led to Synod Fund Contingencies in 2010 being underspent by \$110,000. Accordingly, in order to confirm our participation in the NCLS 2011 survey, we passed an ordinance to make a special application from the Synod Fund of up to \$100,000 to meet this cost. We also asked parishes to consider whether they could contribute to the costs of their own NCLS survey in 2011.

### **5.7 Diocesan policy on Education**

Under the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education, we have authority to amend the policy provided that any such amendments are reported to the Synod.

During the year we amended the policy by replacing paragraph 2 of the statement of personal faith set out in the annexure to the Policy with the following –

“In particular I believe –

- (a) There is only one way to be reconciled to God which is through his Son, Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and was raised for our justification; and
- (b) That we are justified before God by faith only.
- (c) That God’s word written, the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.”

### **5.8 Decommissioning of Area Deans and Area Deaneries**

We requested the Ordinance Reform Group to report to us about the legislative changes that are needed to implement the decommissioning of Area Deans and Area Deaneries in the Diocese. We asked that consideration of possible legislative changes regarding Area Deaneries should also consider how the elected membership of Regional Councils might still be drawn from across the entire region.

The Ordinance Reform Group has provided us with a report which we are still considering.

### **5.9 Diocesan Ministers’ Assistance Scheme**

Last year we agreed in principle to undertake a pilot for a Diocesan Ministers’ Assistance Scheme during 2011 in response to a recommendation from the Safe Ministry Board. Before agreeing to fund the pilot, we asked the Director of Professional Standards to confirm that suitable arrangements can be made for the provision of assistance by Christian counsellors under the pilot.

In response to a recommendation from the Director of Professional Standards, we agreed to defer this matter indefinitely on the basis that there is insufficient time and funding at this time to proceed with the matter.

### **5.10 Review of the status of St John's and St Michael's Provisional Cathedrals**

Under clause 9 of the Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 1995, St John's Provisional Cathedral Parramatta and St Michael's Provisional Cathedral Wollongong cease being provisional cathedrals on 1 January 2012.

In view of this deadline, we –

- (a) agreed in principle that St John's Provisional Cathedral Parramatta and St Michael's Provisional Cathedral Wollongong should become regional cathedrals, and
- (b) requested that bills to give effect to this change be promoted to the Synod.

Bills for amending ordinances and an explanatory report are printed separately.

### **5.11 Proposed amendments to the Constitution of SCEGGS Darlinghurst Limited**

During the year we endorsed proposed changes to the constitution of SCEGGS Darlinghurst Limited. The intention of the changes was to bring the constitution into line with changes in the Corporations Act together with a number of other miscellaneous matters.

### **5.12 Review of the School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975**

Last year we appointed a committee to review the School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975 and report back to us with its recommendations.

The committee has not yet provided us with its report.

### **5.13 Relinquishment of Holy Orders**

We noted that under the General Synod – Holy Orders, Relinquishment and Deposition Canon 2004 Adopting Ordinance 2005, it is not possible for a member of the clergy to voluntarily relinquish or voluntarily accept deposition from Holy Orders unless the Archbishop is satisfied that the person is not currently the subject of any information, complaint or charge in any diocese concerning his or her fitness to hold office. However it may sometimes be appropriate to permit voluntary relinquishment in such circumstances.

In order to address this matter we requested that a bill for the Relinquishment of Holy Orders (Exclusion and Reinstatement) Ordinance 2011 be promoted to the Synod.

The bill and an explanatory report for the bill are printed separately.

### **5.14 Common Prayer: Resources for Gospel-Shaped Gathering**

We agreed to an amount of up to \$9,000 from the Publishing Reserve being used for the publication and distribution to Synod members of *Common Prayer: Resources for Gospel-Shaped Gathering*. We requested that a motion be moved at the Synod to commend this resource for use and study by parishes with a view to including the services in the Schedule to the Authorised Services Ordinance.

### **5.15 Employment Relations Guidelines for Parishes**

We noted a new edition of the *Employment Relations Guidelines for Parishes*, updated to reflect changes under Fair Work legislation. The Guidelines include standard letters of appointment and other resources for effective employment practices in parishes.

## **6. Relations with Government**

### **6.1 Social Issues Executive**

The Social Issues Executive (SIE) is one of our subcommittees. The SIE provides advice to the Archbishop on issues which are referred to it by him and provides advice on issues referred to it by us or at the request of the Synod. The SIE also identifies and initiates the study and discussion of social issues among Anglicans in the Diocese. In this capacity, since October 2010 it has run public forums on euthanasia and maintains a web-based resource portal on the subject. It has also produced eleven briefings on various topics including euthanasia, marriage, freedom of religion, gambling reform, and alcohol related violence (available at [www.sie.org.au](http://www.sie.org.au)).

During the year, the SIE made submissions to the following Commonwealth Government and statutory commission inquiries –

- July 2011: Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform Inquiry into the *Interactive Gambling and Broadcasting Amendment 2011*
- June 2011: Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform Inquiry into Online Gambling Reform
- May 2011: Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee Inquiry into the *Migration Amendment Bill 2011*
- March 2011: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Review of the *Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2002* and the *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002*

- March 2011: Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment (Disallowance and Amendment Power of the Commonwealth) Bill 2011*
- February 2011: Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform Inquiry on Gambling Reform (mandatory precommitment scheme for electronic gaming machines)
- November 2010: Consultation by the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) into *Protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity*

It has also participated in an interdenominational reply to proposals to extend marriage to same sex couples and has raised Diocesan awareness of, and facilitated church accessibility for, persons with disability (as contemplated by resolution 34/09).

## **6.2 National Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission**

In January this year, the Assistant Treasurer released a Consultation Paper – *Scoping Study for a National Not-for-Profit Regulator*. In response to the Consultation Paper we –

- Called on the Federal Government to commit to and clearly identify a program of harmonisation and simplification of the regulatory environment in which the not-for-profit (NFP) sector operates and to ensure that this is effectively implemented by Commonwealth agencies which interact with the sector.
- Cautioned that unless a level of commitment to a clearly defined program of broader reform is achieved, the Government would be ill-advised to proceed down the path of establishing an NFP regulator.
- Suggested that the role of a NFP regulator should be fairly limited if duplication of regulatory oversight is to be avoided.
- Opposed any proposal which would require the NFP regulator to develop mandatory governance standards
- Called for the NFP regulator to be established as a new independent body rather than as a structurally separate body within the ATO or a new body established within ASIC.
- Indicated that if there is a need to clarify the status of an expanded range of purposes as charitable, then this should be done by way of legislation as an extension to the common law rather than a replacement of it.
- Expressed the view that recent calls to remove the public benefit presumption which currently applies to religious and other charitable purposes would be a retrograde step, however well intended.

The Government announced the establishment of a regulator for the sector, the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission, in its 2011 budget in May.

A full copy of the submission is available at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

## **6.3 Taxation of unrelated commercial activities of charities and not-for-profit entities**

As part of its 2011 budget announcement in May, the Government also issued a consultation paper – *Better Targeting of Not-for-Profit Tax Concessions* outlining proposals for the removal of tax concessions for unrelated commercial activities undertaken by NFPs.

We made a submission in response to the consultation paper. In summary –

- We welcomed the Government's intention to reform the regulation of the charities and not-for-profit (NFP) sector, and broadly support the package of reforms recently announced by the Government.
- While supporting initiatives to deal with abuses in the sector, we indicated it would clearly be inadvisable for the Government to pursue reforms to prevent the possible abuse of tax concessions without first establishing that such abuses are an increasing problem in the sector and without properly characterising and quantifying such abuses.
- We indicated that our principal concern is that the costs to Government and the sector in imposing, complying with, and regulating the reforms will outweigh the benefits of the reforms.
- We submitted that any review of the tax concessions provided to charities and NFPs must therefore be conducted within the context of the broader reform process and, in particular, after the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) has sourced appropriate data to correctly characterise and quantify the extent of potential abuses and after questions surrounding the definition of charity have been resolved.
- We submitted that unless the Government approaches the review of the tax concessions in this way, the broader reforms may not only fail to deliver a cohesive and effective package to make it easier for charities and NFPs to help those who need it but will risk making it harder for them to do so if the costs of complying with the new arrangements prove to be considerable and unjustified.
- We requested the Government to clarify the repeated use of the terms 'altruism' and 'altruistic purpose' throughout the Consultation Paper so organisations can better understand whether such

use is in general terms or whether these terms are intended to be defined and formulated as a separate test for determining access to tax concessions.

- We submitted that in light of the findings of numerous government reviews and reports to the contrary, the policy aim of 'levelling the playing field' should not be a primary driver for the proposed reforms.
- We requested assurances from Government that further and real consultation about the reforms will be undertaken with the whole sector.

A full copy of the submission is available at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

#### **6.4 Meaning of charity in Draft Taxation Ruling TR 2011/D2**

We made a submission to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) on its Draft Taxation Ruling TR 2011/D2 concerning the meaning of charity. In particular we –

- Requested that the draft ruling refer to the presumption of public benefit which applies in respect of charities for the advancement of education and the advancement of religion.
- Commented on the approach that should be taken in determining whether an institution's sole purpose (as that term is used in the draft ruling) is charitable.

A full copy of the submission is available at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

#### **6.5 Changes to the "In Australia" and other requirements for tax concession status**

During the year, the Government released an exposure draft for legislation proposing changes to the "In Australia" and other special conditions that apply to tax exempt or deductible gift recipient entities.

We made a submission in response to the exposure draft. In summary –

- While broadly supporting the policy considerations of the Government in the exposure draft, we expressed concern that the means proposed for achieving these policy outcomes are not appropriate and will result in bona fide Australian organisations losing their entitlement to endorsement as tax exempt or deductible gift recipient entities.
- We expressed deep concern that, as presently drafted, the exposure draft will result in Australian resident overseas mission organisations losing their income tax exempt status.
- We noted a number of problems with proposed restrictions on making donations and recommended that they be withdrawn at this time and reconsidered after the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission has been established and given the opportunity to form a view about the restrictions.
- We submitted that distributions of gifts or government grants which are currently disregarded in determining whether an organisation is "in Australia" should continue to be disregarded.
- We submitted that the proposed requirement that an organisation comply with all the requirements of its governing rules, without limitation to the objects, non-profit and dissolution clauses, is unworkable and may be unnecessary.
- We submitted that the proposed requirement that an organisation use its income and assets solely to pursue the purposes for which it was established is unnecessary and may be inconsistent with the proposed removal of tax concessions in respect of retained profits from the unrelated commercial activities of not-for-profit entities.
- We submitted that the proposed statutory definition of "not-for-profit entity" may preclude all charitable funds and some charitable institutions from being income tax exempt entities and recommended that the Common Law definition be retained.

A full copy of the submission is available at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

#### **6.6 Changes to the requirements for public ancillary funds**

During the year, the Government released an exposure draft for legislation and guidelines about proposed changes in respect of public ancillary funds. In particular the draft legislation proposes that the trustee of newly established public ancillary funds must be a "constitutional corporation".

In view of the impact that this change would have on parish public ancillary funds with trustees who are typically individual wardens, we made a submission requesting that the Government not proceed with this change or, alternatively, that suitable exemptions from the requirement to have a constitutional corporation as trustee are provided for church funds and funds with small amounts of capital.

A full copy of the submission is available at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

#### **6.7 Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and sex/gender identity**

During the year the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) launched a consultation addressing the adequacy of the protections at the Federal level from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and sex/gender identity. To this end the AHRC issued a discussion paper – *Protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity* and called for written submissions in response to the discussion paper.

In response to the discussion paper, we expressed in principle support for the extension of Federal anti-discrimination law to cover sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity but indicated there was a need to balance any such extension with the right to religious freedom.

A full copy of the submission is available at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

## **6.8 Euthanasia**

We noted that debates on euthanasia are expected to take place before the end of November in the New South Wales, South Australian and Tasmanian State parliaments. There is also a bill before the Federal Parliament which seeks to curtail the exercise of Federal Executive power in the oversight of Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory legislation. This may have implications for the euthanasia debate in the medium to long term.

The Social Issues Executive is keeping a watching brief on this matter and indicated it will keep us informed of developments.

## **6.9 Freedom of Religion and Belief Project**

In 2008, the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) launched the *Freedom of Religion and Belief Project* (FRB). The FRB's terms of reference were to address the experiences and place in civil society of every religious and secular belief. However the initial impetus for the FRB was a concern about the treatment of Muslims within the broader Australian community, exemptions to anti-discrimination law and the value of religious anti-vilification law.

We made a submission to the FRB in early 2009 and coordinated the preparation of 9 related submissions from various organisations and individuals within the Diocese. By the closing date for submissions, the FRB had received almost 2,000 submissions.

The initial expectation was that the final FRB report would be released in early 2010. However the report was ultimately launched in Canberra in March 2011. There was a concern that the report would include recommendations which, if implemented, would detrimentally impact religious freedom in Australia. In the end, the report did not include any recommendations. Instead it sought to capture the conversation around religion and belief in Australia.

## **6.10 Revising marriage**

We noted an update from the Social Issues Executive about an inter-denominational document called "Revising Marriage?" which has been endorsed by senior Anglican clergy and leaders in other denominations. The document presents the arguments for not revising marriage to include same-sex relationships. It will be the subject of a Media Release in late August.

# **7. The International, National and Provincial Church**

## **7.1 General Synod session in 2010**

A report about this matter is printed separately.

## **7.2 General Synod legislation in 2010**

A report about this matter is printed separately.

## **7.3 General Synod Financial Statements**

By resolution 11/10, the Synod noted that the annual financial statements of the General Synod and its related bodies are not usually provided to each Australian diocese. The Synod requested that the General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC) send copies of the audited financial statements of General Synod bodies to each Australian diocese each year, or alternatively make them available on the General Synod's website.

The GSSC informed us that it had adopted a communications policy which provided for relevant financial statements (incorporating the Trust Fund, the Statutory Fund, the Special Fund, the Indigenous Endowment Fund, the Reserve Fund and any other fund established by the GSSC) to be published on the General Synod website. The GSSC indicated that further consideration was being given to Synod's request that the financial statements of other General Synod bodies also be made available.

## **7.4 General Synod Assessments**

By resolution 12/10, the Synod noted with concern certain financial decisions of the General Synod and the General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC), including a 23% increase in the rate of Statutory Fund assessment between the 2010 and 2011 financial years and the implementation of changes in policy in the use of General Synod reserves without the issue being discussed by the General Synod.

The Synod asked us to enter into urgent negotiations with the GSSC to negotiate a more equitable financial outcome for the dioceses of the Australian Church. The Synod further asked us to consider reporting on these matters to the 2011 session of Synod before arranging for payments to the General Synod in 2011.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

## **7.5 Exchange of views between members of the General Synod**

By resolution 17/10, the Synod asked the Diocesan Secretary, upon our agreement, to forward to all members of the 2010 General Synod, a copy of the Synod's resolution concerning the Appellate Tribunal's opinion on the administration of Holy Communion by persons other than a presbyter and a copy of the publication *The Lord's Supper in Human Hands Epilogue* (the resolution and publication).

We agreed to forward to all members of the 2010 General Synod a copy of the resolution and publication. In order to facilitate distribution, we requested the General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC) to consider an appropriate means by which the views of General Synod members, including the views expressed in the resolution and publication, can be exchanged with other members of the General Synod.

In response, the GSSC indicated that they had considered the feasibility of using the General Synod website for this purpose but had identified a number of impediments, both legal and practical, which prevented this from being implemented.

In light of this response, we requested the Diocesan Secretary to use his best endeavours to send directly to members of the General Synod a copy of the resolution and publication.

To date, copies have been sent to all clerical members of the General Synod.

## **7.6 Policy debate on participating in proceedings of the Appellate Tribunal**

We confirmed our position that, although it is unlikely that we will in the future participate in the consideration of questions on the Constitution put to the Appellate Tribunal, we will nonetheless consider each reference to the Tribunal on its merits.

## **7.7 Public Affairs Commission's submission to the National Inquiry into Sustainable Population**

We expressed disappointment with the views of the General Synod Public Affairs Commission made in its submission to the National Inquiry into Sustainable Population. Our disappointment related to the failure of the Commission to make sufficiently clear that the General Synod did not call for the abolition of the Baby Bonus or other incentives, which might encourage the birth of children. We indicated that the Public Affairs Commission's submission should have reflected the General Synod's position on this matter.

## **7.8 Election of Bishop Hector "Tito" Zavala of Chile as Primate of the Southern Cone**

We offered our congratulations to Bishop Hector "Tito" Zavala of Chile on his election as Primate of the Southern Cone and assured him of our prayers as he continues to serve Christ and his people in his new capacity and at this crucial time in the life of the Anglican Communion.

## **7.9 Hosting the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of General Synod**

We received tender documentation from the General Secretary seeking expressions of interest from dioceses for hosting the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Synod in 2013-2014. We thanked the General Secretary for the documentation but informed him that we are not able to host the next session of the General Synod in this Diocese.

## **7.10 Amendments to Provincial Synod Constitution**

We requested that a bill be promoted to the Synod to enable the Synod to assent to amendments to the Provincial Synod Constitution which would reduce the size of the Provincial Synod and make provision for Provincial Conferences.

The bill and an explanatory report are printed separately.

# **8. Sydney Synod Matters**

## **8.1 Review of Synod procedures**

We agreed to propose that the Synod trial a suspension of business rules this year which, at the time of giving notice of questions, would prevent members reading out the question in full but instead enable them to make a brief statement informing the Synod about the subject matter of the question. The full text of the question would then be handed to the Synod Secretaries and printed in full in the Business Paper for the following day. As is currently the case, the question would not be read out on the day that the question is answered, usually the following day.

We also agreed to move a procedural motion on the first day by which the Synod can ask the Order of Business Committee to preserve as much time as is practicable for the purposes of considering private members' motions, having regard to the need to ensure sufficient time for dealing with scheduled business.

## **8.2 Culture of review among parishes and clergy**

In 2009 we appointed a taskforce to recommend alternative approaches for encouraging a culture of review among our parishes and clergy, and for facilitating actual review mechanisms where parishes and clergy wish to request a review. We agreed to the taskforce preparing an email and web-based survey of rectors in consultation with Mission Area Leaders seeking advice about what resources they had used to enable them or their parish to review and develop ministry with a view to compiling the results into an annotated list of resources available for

such reviews. We also supported including in the training of Mission Area Leaders familiarity with these resources and an encouragement to facilitate a culture of review among clergy and parishes.

We asked the taskforce to prepare a suitable report for the Synod once the survey had been completed.

We understand that the survey has been completed but we have not yet received a report about the matter.

### **8.3 Solemn promises made by clergy**

Last year the Synod commenced consideration of a bill for the Solemn Promises Ordinance 2010. The bill proposed that the current forms of oath, declaration, assent and undertaking be replaced by corresponding forms of solemn promise. The bill also proposed that the language used in the current forms be updated to reflect more contemporary language and recent developments, for example, in the forms of divine service that may lawfully be conducted in this Diocese.

Before concluding its consideration of the bill, the Synod referred it back to us with a request that a revised form of bill be brought to the Synod in 2011.

A revised form of the bill and an explanatory statement for the bill are printed separately.

### **8.3A Parish Relationships Ordinance**

Last year a bill was promoted to the Synod at our request to amend the Parish Relationships Ordinance 2001. However, due to time constraints, the bill was not considered.

We requested that the bill be promoted again to the Synod this year. The bill and an explanatory statement for the bill are printed separately.

### **8.4 25/03 Freemasonry**

By resolution 25/03, the Synod, noting the 1988 report to Synod entitled "Freemasonry Examined" and subsequent resolution 9/88 –

- (a) affirmed that Freemasonry and Christianity are fundamentally and irreconcilably incompatible, and
- (b) affirmed that Freemasonry teaches and upholds a system of false religious and spiritual beliefs that are contrary to biblical Christianity.

By that resolution, the Synod also requested that we prepare and distribute a clear and unambiguous booklet suitable for wide distribution, examining the key rites, teachings and beliefs of Freemasonry and explaining why they differ from biblical Christianity and why it is wrong for a Christian to belong to the Lodge.

In 2009 we requested Moore Theological College to prepare, in consultation with the Archbishop, the booklet referred to Synod resolution 25/03. However the booklet has not been prepared.

In view of the significantly diminished number of Masons in recent years compared to the increasing size of other groups that arguably pose a greater challenge to our mission, we agreed that work in producing a booklet in response to the request in resolution 25/03 should be discontinued. In reaching this view we reaffirmed that the belief systems of Freemasonry and biblical Christianity are contrary to one another and drew attention to the 1988 report to Synod "Freemasonry Examined" on the Secretariat's website [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

### **8.5 38/07 Fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death**

By resolution 38/07, the Synod requested the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to consider the appropriateness, with respect to the teaching of Scripture and the Anglican formularies, of Anglican churches having a fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death, and to bring a report to Synod at a convenient time.

The Doctrine Commission has not yet reported on this matter.

### **8.6 24/09 Support for Regional Councils**

By resolution 24/09, the Synod requested that we consider how Regional Councils can be supported to continue their important role of funding ministry strategies in their regions. This is to include considering a change in the large receipts policy for sale and leasing ordinances so that the portion usually added to the capital of the Diocesan Endowment may instead be allocated to a Regional Council or other Diocesan beneficiary to further the Diocesan Mission and to bring a report on the operation of this matter to Synod.

We have not yet considered this matter.

### **8.7 2/10 Towards 2050**

By resolution 2/10, the Synod noted that by the year 2050, projected population studies anticipate Australia's population will exceed 40 million people and that the proportion of the population from non-Anglo-Celt background will be even more significant than is now the case.

The Synod requested that we explore, and report back to Synod next year on how our Church might meet this significant change (both in population numbers and population mix) in terms of its impact on our mission to the people of our Diocese and on the face and fabric of our Church. Synod also requested that we consider the name or names that our Church uses as we present our mission objectives across the Church and also the "logos" of our Church.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

**8.8 3/10 Glebe Board charter**

By resolution 3/10, the Synod requested that we produce a detailed report for the 2011 session of Synod regarding the operational application of the charter supplied to the Glebe Administration Board for its management of the Diocesan Endowment under clause 2 of the Glebe Administration Ordinance 1930.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

**8.9 7/10 Work of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission for Structure, Funding and Governance****37/10 Financial sustainability of the Endowment of the See**

By resolution 7/10, the Synod expressed its thanks to the Archbishop for establishing the Archbishop's Strategic Commission for Structure, Funding and Governance (the Commission) and –

- (a) noting the ongoing work of the Commission in bringing recommendations to the Archbishop and the Standing Committee about ensuring the sustainability of the Endowment of the See and changes that need to be made to the operation and inter-dependence of diocesan bodies to ensure that the essential work and services of the Diocese are maintained while living within our means, and
- (b) noting that the Standing Committee has endorsed the general direction proposed by the Commission in an interim report provided to the Archbishop and Standing Committee and requested that the Commission progress its work with relevant diocesan agencies,

requested that –

- (i) Synod members be afforded the opportunity to provide comments to the Commission by 31 December 2010, and
- (ii) we provide a report to the Synod in 2011 about the steps that have or still need to be taken to ensure that diocesan finances are placed on a sustainable footing and the implications such steps will have on the funding of diocesan infrastructure and activities in 2012 and beyond.

By resolution 37/10, the Synod requested that we report to the Synod in 2011 about the options that exist to place the Endowment of the See (EOS) on a financially sustainable footing, together with a recommendation. Synod requested that this report should be prepared in consultation with the EOS, the Archbishop's Strategic Commission and the Anglican Church Property Trust.

A report about these matters is printed separately.

**8.10 11/10 General Synod Financial Statements**

See item 7.3.

**8.11 12/10 General Synod Assessments**

See item 7.4.

**8.12 14/10 Scepticism with respect to the Gospel**

By resolution 14/10, the Synod recognised that in our society a profound scepticism exists with respect to the gospel and the fundamentals upon which it rests and that this scepticism entails, among other things, matters of an historical, scientific, philosophical and moral nature and commitment to other beliefs. The Synod requested that we appoint a committee to consider theological perspectives on the issue and to investigate resources and consider strategies likely to assist parishes, Anglican organisations and individuals in the Diocese in the proclamation of the gospel in this atmosphere of scepticism and that such a report should be brought to the next session of Synod.

We agreed that, in view of existing priorities, no further action should be taken in relation to this matter.

**8.13 15/10 Regulation of Holy Matrimony**

By resolution 15/10, the Synod requested that we bring to the first session of the next Synod either an ordinance which would repeal the Holy Matrimony Canon 1981 and an ordinance or regulations that would then govern the solemnization of holy matrimony in the Diocese of Sydney or any viable alternative to produce the same result.

We requested that a bill for the Solemnisation of Marriage Ordinance 2011 be promoted to the Synod. The bill and an explanatory report for the bill are printed separately.

**8.14 17/10 The Lord's Supper in Human Hands Epilogue**

See item 7.5.

**8.15 19/10 Anglican Communion Covenant**

By resolution 19/10, the Synod noted that General Synod 2010 received the text of the Anglican Communion Covenant and resolved to request that the synods of all dioceses to consider the question of the Anglican Church of Australia adopting the Covenant by resolution and report the results of their consideration to the General Synod Standing Committee by December 2012. Synod asked us to take any necessary steps to enable Synod to consider the question at its 2011 session.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

**8.16 25/10 Printing of Synod proceedings in Diocesan Yearbook**

By resolution 25/10, the Synod requested us to print the Proceedings of Synod for each year in the Diocesan Yearbook, or as some alternative form of hard copy, and to set aside sufficient funds annually for this purpose. The Synod also requested that we print the proceedings for the 2009 and 2010 sessions of the Synod and, if thought fit, examine other ways of funding such annual printing.

Having considered this matter, we decided that, in view of the current financial constraints, we are not in favour of recommencing hard copy printing of Synod proceedings.

**8.17 26/10 Environmental initiatives in the Diocese**

By resolution 26/10, the Synod noted that a number of parishes had installed solar panels to generate electricity back to the grid and also noted the rapid rate in which Government policy in this area is changing. The Synod asked the Property Trust as a matter of priority to provide an accessible guide for parishes on how they can easily sign up to participate in Government schemes to encourage renewable energy and asked the Finance and Loans Board to work with the Property Trust to develop some guidelines to facilitate parishes installing solar panels.

We received a report from the Property Trust indicating that it had declined to agree to take any further action in relation to Synod's request in relation to these matters. We noted that due to the short period of time between the Synod and the recalibration of State Government policy in October 2010, it was not possible for the Property Trust to serve parishes in the way envisaged by the Synod. We –

- (a) expressed regret that as a result many parishes have now missed the opportunity, but congratulated those parishes who did manage to apply to take advantage of the Government's scheme before the change in Government policy, and
- (b) requested the Property Trust to keep a watching brief on how parishes and diocesan organisations might take advantage of future Government environmental programs and to think creatively about how it might encourage diocesan bodies to take advantage of such programs.

**8.18 37/10 Parish assessment towards the funding needs of the Endowment of the See**

By resolution 37/10, the Synod approved an assessment on parishes at a rate of 1.14% for the purposes of contributing to the EOS funding needs during 2011. The assessment was approved on the proviso that it was determined that by 1 January 2011 it was not reasonable to expect that there is a way of realising part or all of the EOS's interest in St Andrew's House or any other sources of funds to inject adequate and long term cash into the EOS while maintaining the real value of the investment when completed.

Having made this determination, we passed the Endowment of the See (Funding) Ordinance 2010 to put this levy in place.

**8.19 37/10 Future requirements and roles of the Archbishop's staff and 5 year budget of Endowment of the See projected costs**

By resolution 37/10, the Synod requested the EOS Committee to bring to Synod in 2011 a report on the future requirements and roles of the Archbishop's staff and a 5 year budget of projected costs.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

**8.20 40/10 Implementation of Grievance Policy and Procedure**

By resolution 40/10, the Synod –

- (a) determined the Grievance Policy and Procedure adopted by the Synod last year is to commence on 1 July 2011, and
- (b) requested the Standing Committee to approve up to 15 persons as the initial pool of diocesan conciliators for the purposes of the policy and procedure, and
- (c) authorised us to make amendments to the procedure which are consistent with the terms of the policy, and
- (d) requested the Parish Risk Management Program address issues of abusive behaviour in the parish context, with a particular focus on responsibilities for providing a safe workplace for parish staff.

We appointed a committee to undertake the work of implementing the policy and procedure contemplated by this resolution. On the recommendation of this committee, we approved 12 persons as diocesan conciliators and made a number of amendments to the procedure.

In June we noted the preparations which had been undertaken in readiness for the commencement of the Policy and Procedure on 1 July 2011, including conflict resolution training for diocesan conciliators and the preparation of various documents to assist senior ministers, regional bishops and conciliators discharge their responsibilities under the policy should the need arise.

**8.21 41/10 Amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917**

By resolution 41/10, the Synod endorsed the promotion to the New South Wales Parliament of a number of amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917 in relation to the governance of the Property Trust. The Synod requested that before promoting these amendments to Parliament, they be circulated to the Diocesan Bishops of the Province of New South Wales for comment for a period of 6 months. The

proposed amendments were circulated with no substantive comment being made by any of the Diocesan Bishops during the requisite 6 month period. The proposed amendments are currently with the Attorney General for his consideration.

### **8.22 43/10 Corporate Governance Policy for diocesan organisations**

By resolution 43/10, the Synod –

- (a) referred the draft Diocesan Corporate Governance Policy which it considered last year back to the Standing Committee to be revised in a manner which reflected the in-principle decisions made by the Synod at its session last year, and
- (b) requested that a copy of the revised form of the draft Policy together with any explanatory report be sent to each member of the Synod and to the board of each diocesan organisation for comment, and
- (c) requested that a further revised form of the Policy be brought back to the Synod this year incorporating, as appropriate, comments made by Synod members and the boards of diocesan organisations, and the work of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission, and
- (d) requested the draft guidelines in the role and function of boards of diocesan organisations also be brought to the Synod in 2011.

We agreed to make a number of changes to the draft policy considered by Synod last year which were included in a revised draft sent to Synod members and the boards and committees of diocesan organisations for comment.

In view of the number and substantive nature of submissions received in response to the revised draft and the likely focus on recommendations of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission leading up to and during the Synod this year, we encouraged the Governance Committee to continue its work in preparing a final draft of the policy for the Synod but agreed that a brief progress report be provided to the Synod this year rather than a final draft of the policy with a view to bringing the policy to the Synod in 2012.

A brief progress report about this matter is printed separately.

### **8.23 Resolutions made by the Synod in 2010 and not mentioned in this report**

Circulars were sent to parishes and organisations about the matters arising from the 2010 Synod session. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons and organisations.

### **8.24 Ordinances for this session**

The bills for ordinances for this session of the Synod are printed separately, together with accompanying reports or explanatory statements.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

ROBERT WICKS  
*Diocesan Secretary*

21 September 2011