

## 2017 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 usually held in the Heath Centre, Level 5, St Andrew's Cathedral School, St Andrew's House. Mail should be addressed to "The Diocesan Secretary, Standing Committee of Synod, PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230" (telephone (02) 9265 1555; 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 website of Sydney Diocesan Secretariat ("SDS") at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

#### 1.3 Meetings and members

Since October 2016 we have met 10 times. The names of the members will be listed in the 2017 Diocesan Year Book and on the website of SDS at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

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

- A vacancy arose in the position of a lay person elected by the whole of Synod upon the resignation of Dr Neil Cameron. We elected Dr Robert Mackay to fill the vacancy.
- Mr Mark Payne ceased to be a member *ex-officio* as the Chief Executive Officer of the SDS upon his resignation as CEO.

Additionally, Mrs Lis Boyce, Mr Robert Bradfield, Dr Bryan Cowling, Mr Geoff Kyngdon and the Rev Mat Yeo retired as members of the Standing Committee at the end of their term of office in October 2017.

#### 1.4 Management and structure

Each meeting of the Standing Committee is like a small Synod meeting. Our permanent subcommittees are –

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Affiliated Churches Committee                      | Religious Freedom Reference Group   |
| Diocesan Resources Committee                       | Royal Commission Steering Committee |
| Finance Committee                                  | Service Review Committee            |
| General Synod Relations Committee                  | Social Issues Committee             |
| Ministry in Socially Disadvantaged Areas Committee | Stipends and Allowances Committee   |
| Minute Reading Committee                           | Strategic Research Group            |

Ordinance Reviewers and Panels  
Professional Standards Oversight Committee

Work Outside the Diocese Committee

The terms of reference and the membership of our permanent subcommittees are posted at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

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.

#### **1.4A Retirement of Mrs Lis Boyce**

We noted the retirement of Mrs Lis Boyce after 13 years of service on the Standing Committee and thanked her for her dedicated service, particularly as an ordinance reviewer.

#### **1.4B Retirement of Dr Bryan Cowling**

We noted the retirement of Dr Bryan Cowling after 15 years of service on the Standing Committee, thanked him for his service and for his wider contribution to Christian education.

#### **1.4C Retirement of Mr Geoff Kyngdon**

We noted the resignation of Mr Geoff Kyngdon after 22 years of service, including as a member and chair of the Mission Property Committee. We wished Geoff God's blessing in his retirement from the Standing Committee.

#### **1.4D Retirement of Mr Robert Bradfield and the Rev Mat Yeo**

We noted the retirement of Mr Robert Bradfield and the Rev Mat Yeo and thanked them for their service.

#### **1.5 Resignation of Dr Neil Cameron**

We noted the resignation of Dr Neil Cameron as a member of the Standing Committee after a tenure of nearly 47 years. We recorded our profound thanks to Dr Cameron for his long and unselfish service to the Diocese chiefly through its governance structures, including the Legal Committee of the Standing Committee, the Inner-City Committee, the Moore College Council and the Anglican Church Property Trust. Dr Cameron also served as a Diocesan Advocate and represented the Diocese on General Synod's Standing Committee and Canon Law Commission.

#### **1.6 Resignation of Mr Mark Payne as CEO of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat**

We noted the resignation of Mr Mark Payne as CEO of the SDS and that as a consequence of his resignation, he ceased to be a member of Standing Committee. We thanked Mr Payne for his 25 years of service to the Standing Committee and Synod of this Diocese. We noted that Mr Robert Wicks had been appointed as Acting CEO.

#### **1.7 The Rev Dr Raj Gupta**

We congratulated the Rev Dr Raj Gupta on being awarded a Doctor of Ministry from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, with his thesis entitled "Why do Sydney Anglican Churches struggle to grow beyond 200?".

#### **1.8 Election of Bishop Geoff Smith as Archbishop of Adelaide**

We congratulated Bishop Geoff Smith on his appointment as the next Archbishop of Adelaide and extended our prayers and best wishes to Geoff as he commenced in this role.

#### **1.9 Death of Justice Richard Gee**

We noted with sadness the death of Justice Richard Gee on 2 January 2017 at the age of 73. Justice Gee was active in the Diocese, being a lay reader, serving as a lay representative on Synod for various parishes from 1969 until 2004, and on Standing Committee from 1973 to 1976. Following his retirement from the bench in 1999, he became a member of the Council of Anglicare and in 2002 an Executive Member of the NSW Council of Churches.

#### **1.10 Appointment of next Chief Executive Officer of Youthworks**

We congratulated the Rev Craig Roberts on his appointment as the next Chief Executive Officer of Youthworks (Council of Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney). We recognised the importance of ministry to children and young people and assured Craig of our ongoing prayers as he undertakes this new role.

#### **1.11 Appointment of Mr Garth Blake SC as the Chair of the Safe Church Commission**

We congratulated Mr Garth Blake SC on his appointment as Chair of the Anglican Communion's Safe Church Commission.

## 1.12 Appointment of Mr Stephen Kinsella as the next Executive Director of the Anglican Education Commission

We congratulated Mr Stephen Kinsella on his appointment as the second Executive Director of the Anglican Education Commission and extended our prayers and best wishes to Stephen as he commences in this ministry.

## 2. Actions with the Archbishop

### 2.1 Strategic Research Group

The Strategic Research Group (“SRG”) comprises the following members –

|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Archbishop Glenn Davies (Chair) | Mr Graham Murray        |
| The Rev Dr Raj Gupta            | The Rev Craig Schafer   |
| The Rev Andrew Katay            | The Rev Hayden Smith    |
| Bishop Peter Lin                | The Rev Andrew Robson   |
| Mr Peter Mayrick                | Ms Nicola Warwick- Mayo |

In addition, the SRG is well served by Dr John Bellamy, who attends each meeting as a consultant to the Group and has provided a significant depth of research and analysis.

The SRG is an advisory group for the Archbishop and the Standing Committee in their formulation of missional goals for consideration and adoption by the Synod. The Group is tasked to –

- (a) identify, research, evaluate and develop for Standing Committee’s consideration high level vision, strategy and structure which optimise the capacity of the diocesan network to achieve missional goals adopted by the Synod, and
- (b) oversee the objective measurement of and reporting to the Standing Committee on progress toward achieving those missional goals.

The SRG typically meets quarterly for full day meetings. Since the last Synod, the SRG has met 4 times and has partnered with Mission Area Leaders (“MALs”) for a joint conference on 3 May 2017. The conference with MALs has been held annually since 2015 and usually includes members of the SRG updating the MALs regarding the work of the Group, and the MALs sharing insights from ministry in their Mission Areas while suggesting matters that the SRG may research or consider in order to further support ministry in the Diocese. The most recent conference also included a presentation of the initial results from the National Church Life Survey (“NCLS”) conducted in 2016.

In early 2016 the SRG began consideration of how rectors may be better equipped for the leadership aspects of their ministries. A sub-committee of the SRG partnered with representatives of Ministry Training and Development and Evangelism and New Churches to develop a Ministry Development Plan (“MDP”) for voluntary use by Rectors on an ongoing basis. The SRG also provided a proposal and recommendations to the Licensing of Incumbents Review Committee as that committee coordinated the development of proposals relating to, or arising from, the licensing of clergy (resolution 9/15).

The SRG has reviewed and analysed church attendance data on an ongoing basis using both self-reported data (from parishes) and attendance figures determined through the NCLS. The attendance data is useful both at a parish and diocesan level for analysis of trends and identification of opportunities.

In early 2017, the Standing Committee asked the SRG to evaluate the possibility that increases in the absolute numbers of church attenders have been offset by decreasing frequency of attendance among these people. The research of the Group found that, among other things, trends over the past 20 years in self-reported frequency of attendance (measured through the NCLS) do not appear to support the hypothesis, as the data had remained relatively stable over that period. However anecdotal observations of decreasing frequency of attendance among regular attenders may be consistent with a lower frequency of attendance measured among 30 and 40 year old attenders compared with other age groups.

In addition to these key projects, the SRG has –

- (a) reviewed progress against *Mission 2020* goals (and will present a progress report to Synod),
- (b) provided recommendations regarding proposed changes to Standing Committee policies on sale proceeds,
- (c) determined a recommendation for Synod with regard to the allocation of additional funds from the proposed Property Receipts Levy, and
- (d) provided recommendations to the Diocesan Resources Committee regarding funding principles and priorities for the next triennium, in light of the priorities in *Mission 2020*.

The SRG is planning a retreat in early 2018 to focus specifically on matters of high level vision, strategy and structure within the diocese.

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

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$40,000 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop to assist clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

## 2.3 Parish of Glenquarie

The parish of Glenquarie became vacant during the year but the Archbishop was unable to declare that the parish had complied with clause 5 of the *Nominations Ordinance 2006*. The matter was referred to the Archbishop-in-Council who determined that, in the circumstances, the parish should not have the benefits under the Ordinance.

## 3. Financial and Property Administration

### 3.1 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 information in relation to members, structure, activities and a summary of the financial results, together with audited financial statements, a liquidity report, a risk management report and a charities group status report. As this year is the first ordinary session of a Synod, the reports also include a statement which assesses an organisation's compliance with the Synod's governance policy and explains any areas of non-conformity.

The reports must be lodged by 30 June each year. A later lodgement date has been approved for two organisations, Anglican Community Services and Anglican Aid whose financial year ends on 30 June.

Some of these organisations are also required to provide us with certain internal management financial information during the year.

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

### 3.2 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 prepared and reported on according to an agreed review of procedures instead of an audit.

These reports are printed separately.

### 3.3 Ordination training fund

In 2017 this Fund received a Synod allocation of \$40,000 (2016 \$40,000) which it used to provide a book allowance of \$1,000 to first year candidates studying through Moore Theological College or Youthworks College for ordination in Sydney, and to meet a number of specific costs associated with preparing candidates for ordination. In exceptional cases the Fund may also provide bursaries or financial assistance to some of the students.

### 3.4 Ordinances

The following table shows the number of ordinances passed and assented to in 2011 to 2016 and in 2017 up to 20 September 2017 –

|                    | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Standing Committee | 40   | 53   | 60   | 42   | 46   | 53   | 27   |
| Synod              | 10   | 3    | 6    | 7    | 6    | 4    | 0    |
|                    | 50   | 56   | 66   | 49   | 52   | 57   | 27   |

A separate report lists the ordinances passed by us since the 2016 session of the Synod. There are 14 ordinances of particular interest.

The *Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2016* gave effect to the Synod's general intention with respect to the appropriation and allocation of Synod funds for 2017. The ordinance also allocated the additional income from parish trusts in accordance with the recommendations of the Diocesan Resources Committee.

The *Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney Ordinance 1919 Amendment Ordinance 2017* removed the Chief Executive Officer of Youthworks as a member of its Council.

The *Investment of Church Trust Property Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2017* updated the list of permitted investments for persons who and organisations which hold church trust property.

The *Evangelism and New Churches Incorporation Ordinance 2017* provided for the members of the Department of Evangelism and New Churches to be incorporated as a body corporate and changed its name to “Evangelism and New Churches”.

The *Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2015 Amendment Ordinance 2017* reallocated \$110,000 from “Membership/affiliation – General Synod” to instead fund the development of online Safe Ministry training by the Professional Standards Unit.

The *Regions Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2017* inserted a provision setting out the purpose of regional councils and reduced the frequency of required meetings of regional councils.

The *St Andrew’s House Trust (Variation of Trusts) Ordinance 2017* varied the trusts of the 50% interest held by the Diocesan Endowment in the St Andrew’s House Trust to enable the interest to be held directly for the general purposes of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney.

The *Sydney Diocesan Secretariat Ordinance 1973 Amendment Ordinance 2017* updated the constitution of the SDS to ensure that it better complies with modern standards and practices for corporate governance, current legislative requirements and the Synod’s Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations.

The *Sydney Church of England Finance and Loans Board Ordinance 1957 Amendment Ordinance 2017* updated the constitution of the Board to ensure that it better complies with modern standards and practices for corporate governance, current legislative requirements and the Synod’s Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations.

The *Cathedral Ordinance 1969 Amendment Ordinance 2017* amended the *Cathedral Ordinance 1969* to update the governance arrangements for the Cathedral Chapter and the Cathedral School Council.

The *Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2017* provided for the distribution of Synod funds during 2018.

The *Broadway Variation of Trusts for Archbishop’s Residence Ordinance 2017* varied the trusts of land previously held for the purposes of the parish of Broadway so that the land is held for the purposes of the Endowment of the See Capital Fund to enable a residence and function centre for the Archbishop to be built on the site.

The *St Andrew’s Cathedral Trust Ordinance 2016 Amendment Ordinance 2017* authorised a long-term lease of the Upper Chapter House to the Council of the St Andrew’s Cathedral School.

The *Marriage (Special Appropriation) Ordinance 2017* authorised the payment of \$1million from the Diocesan Endowment for the purposes of contributing to the “no” campaign led by the Coalition For Marriage to oppose any change in the law to permit same-sex couples to marry.

### 3.5 Parochial cost recoveries – arrears

The following table compares the arrears of cost recovery charges as at 30 June 2017 and 2016 –

|                          | 2017            | 2016           |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Guildford with Villawood | 6,505           | -              |
| Longueville              | 4,720           | -              |
| Norfolk Island           | 1,498           | -              |
| Picton                   | 2,946           | -              |
| Richmond                 | 2,985           | -              |
| St George                | -               | 2,237          |
| St Marys                 | -               | 2,071          |
|                          | <u>\$18,654</u> | <u>\$4,308</u> |

We also approved the remission of arrears of \$6,214 of Parochial Cost Recovery charges for 2016 owing by the parish of St Marys in accordance with clause 8(3) of the *Cost Recoveries Framework Ordinance 2008*. We did this because the amount related to the 2014 offertory received by the Ropes Crossing congregation which became an Evangelism and New Churches Fellowship from 1 July 2015.

### 3.6 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 2017, 84 parochial units (31%) had not lodged a set of prescribed financial statements (compared with 82 at the same time in 2016). By 30 June 2017 this had improved so that only 15 parochial units had not lodged their financial statements, although some others had only lodged incomplete or

unsigned financial statements.

The Finance Committee has processes in place to remind parochial units of their obligations under the Ordinance, to assist with any enquiries and to review the statements lodged. The Finance Committee also works with the Regional Bishops 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.

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

The parishes of Bankstown, Bellevue Hill, Canterbury with Hurlstone Park, Glenquarie, Greystanes-Merrylands West, Mt Druitt, Mulgoa, Watsons Bay and Waverley had local revenue below the requisite amount in 2016. In the case of Bankstown, this was the third consecutive year of revenue below the threshold and accordingly this parish will revert to provisional status on 31 December 2017 unless the Georges River Regional Council exercises its discretion under clause 8(1A) of the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*. The other parishes have been advised of the importance of ensuring their 2017 and future revenues meet the relevant threshold figures in order to retain their parish status.

### **3.8 Stipends, allowances and benefits for 2018**

A report on stipends, allowances and benefits for 2018 is printed separately.

### **3.9 Stipend Continuance Insurance renewal**

We authorised SDS to calculate and charge the Stipend Continuance Insurance (“SCI”) component of the Parochial Cost Recovery (“PCR”) charge for 2017 by –

- (a) taking into account the expected cost of the SCI premium calculated on the basis of the AMP tender for 1 year with a continuation of the current basic benefit design,
- (b) utilising \$100,000 of the balance in the SCI Fund 952 to reduce the impact of the increased premium,
- (c) assuming an expected population of 550 clergy at 1 January 2017 (in parishes, participating organisations and the Episcopal team), and
- (d) recovering a \$90 per person fee to cover SDS’s costs of administering the program.

### **3.10 Work Outside the Diocese**

In the 6 months to 30 June 2017, the Work Outside the Diocese Committee had applied \$117,826 from a total Synod allocation in 2017 of \$221,000. It is expected that further amounts will be applied during the 6 months to 31 December 2017 from the 2017 allocation, and the opening reserves of \$43,052.

### **3.11 Recommended distribution from the Diocesan Endowment for 2018**

We noted the advice of the Glebe Administration Board that, for the purposes of clause 5(1) of the *Diocesan Endowment Ordinance 1984*, \$4.69 million could prudently be distributed from the Diocesan Endowment for spending by the Synod in 2018 (2017: \$4.4 million).

### **3.12 Parish cost recovery charges for 2018**

A report about the cost recovery charges for 2018 is printed separately.

### **3.13 Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities for 2019-2021**

Under clause 3(3) of the *Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998* we are required to prepare for the 1<sup>st</sup> ordinary session of the 51<sup>st</sup> Synod a Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities to guide estimates for 2019 to 2021 of –

- the amount required for meeting the cost of sittings of the Synod, the maintenance of diocesan offices and the expenses of such other diocesan activities and commitments as, in our opinion, should be supported, and
- the amount which, in our opinion, should be granted to organisations under the control of Synod or to other organisations, and
- the amount of income available from endowments or other trusts for meeting the amounts referred to above in the relevant financial year.

Under clause 3(3A) the Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities is to be accompanied by a motion moved by request of the Standing Committee by which the Synod may approve the Statement.

A Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities together with a motion by which Synod may approve the statement are printed separately.

### **3.14 Clergy Assistance Program**

A report on a 12 month review of the Clergy Assistance Program is printed separately.

### 3.15 Clergy Contact Persons

We approved a 12 month trial of a Clergy Contact Person program. The aim of the program is to provide parish clergy and the spouses of parish clergy who are experiencing particular difficulties associated with parish ministry with face to face confidential assistance in developing and implementing a plan to address those difficulties.

The Archbishop nominated 9 persons to be appointed as Clergy Contact Persons. A training day was held for the Contact Persons in April 2017 with a follow-up session in May 2017. This coincided with a letter sent by the Archbishop to all rectors and co-ordinators of clergy spouse support groups advising of this new initiative.

### 3.16 Costs associated with attendance of General Synod

We authorised the allocation of \$30,000 from Synod Fund Contingencies to Synod Fund 130 as additional funding support for our General Synod representatives. This additional support was, in part, necessary due to an increase in the total number of General Synod Representatives from 66 to 70.

### 3.17 Freedom For Faith

We authorised the annual payment of \$20,000 for the affiliation fee for Freedom For Faith from 2017 onward and requested that the Diocesan Resources Committee consider including an affiliation fee of \$20,000 in the Synod budgets for 2018 and following.

### 3.18 Safe Ministry Training

Due to a rebate provided in respect to the General Synod statutory assessment in 2017, we agreed that the estimated cost of \$110,000 to develop online Safe Ministry training material for use from 2018 be funded from a reallocation of \$110,000 from the amount of \$484,000 presently allocated to “Membership/affiliation – General Synod” for the General Synod statutory assessment for 2017.

See item 6.3.

### 3.19 Review of the Management Fee of the Anglican Church Property Trust

We approved a non-standard ACPT management fee of 2.5% pa of the rental income to be received by ACPT on behalf of the parish of Darlinghurst in relation to a lease over part of the parish property that is subject to a long term ground lease to HammondCare.

### 3.20 Review of the finances of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat

We requested the following be undertaken before the revenue of the SDS from Synod sources is set for the 2019-2020 Triennium –

- (a) a review of SDS’ customers be performed, to ensure that expectations are met and services are delivered with satisfactory levels of price,
- (b) a review of current SDS processes, to identify those where SDS has insufficient scale to perform effectively and may be better outsourced to others within the “Anglican family”,
- (c) a review of staffing levels and distribution in line with the response in (a) and (b) above,
- (d) a review of SDS policies to ensure where the term “comparable” or similar is used, as in “comparable role” or “comparable organisation”, that the definition of “comparable” includes “other Anglican”, “other Protestant” or “other Faith-based” as appropriate, and
- (e) SDS commit to a set positive percentage of surplus over each Triennium.

### 3.21 Ethical Investment Policies

We noted that the Glebe Administration Board and the Anglican Church Property Trust had both revised their ethical investment policies to seek to reduce the carbon intensity of all their investments in listed companies (whether held directly, or indirectly through an actively managed fund which hold securities in listed companies). Previously the goal of the policies in progressively reducing carbon intensity applied only to investments in Australian listed companies.

## 4. General Administration

### 4.1 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, while others are made by the Standing Committee in its own right.

From November 2016 to July 2017, 71 such positions were filled (44 for the same period in 2015 – 2016).

#### **4.2 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 51<sup>st</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 2017. The Registrar has advised that this number is 25.

The Archbishop advised that he intends nominating 25 ministers as members of the 51<sup>st</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 51<sup>st</sup> Synod under Part 8 of the Ordinance. We have elected 25 lay persons to be members under Part 8.

In addition, under Part 6 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*, we may declare up to 5 diocesan boards, departments or organisations to be “nominated organisations” for the purposes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Synod. The effect of such declaration is that the Chief Executive Officer of the nominated organisation is a member of the 51<sup>st</sup> Synod. We have declared the following organisations to be “nominated organisations” –

- Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)
- Anglican Media
- Anglican Schools Corporation
- Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks)
- Evangelism and New Churches

#### **4.3 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. This year the annual reports are printed as a compilation. Any reports for reclassification of provisional parishes under the *Parishes Ordinance 1979* are printed separately.

#### **4.4 Review of the services of Sydney Diocesan Secretariat to the Synod and Standing Committee**

We undertook a review of the services provided by the SDS during 2016. We confirmed that the services had been provided in a satisfactory manner and commended SDS for the high standard of services provided to the Standing Committee and Synod.

#### **4.5 Diocesan Research Officer**

We noted the high standard of service provided by the Diocesan Research Officer in 2016, and recognised that the Diocesan Research Officer role is a necessary part of the Diocese. We recommended to the Diocesan Resources Committee that funding be provided in the next funding triennium for the ongoing services of a Diocesan Research Officer.

#### **4.6 Attendance in Sydney Anglican churches between 2002 and 2015**

We received a discussion paper relating to attendances in Sydney Anglican Churches from 2002-2015 and requested the Strategic Research Group (“SRG”) to evaluate the possibility that increases in the absolute numbers of church attenders have been offset by decreasing frequency of attendance among these people.

The SRG report indicated, among other things, that trends over the past 20 years in self-reported frequency of attendance (measured through the NCLS) do not appear to support the hypothesis, as the data has remained relatively stable over this period. However anecdotal observations of decreasing frequency of attendance among regular attenders may be consistent with a lower frequency of attendance measured among 30 and 40 year old attenders compared with other age groups.

#### **4.7 Regulation for assessing the strategic value of retaining parish property for the purposes of the Diocesan Mission**

We amended our regulations for “Assessing the strategic value of retaining parish property for the purposes of the Diocesan Mission”. The amendments enable a parish, which is seeking an ordinance to authorise the sale of parish property or a lease of parish property for more than 20 years, to obtain from the Mission Property Committee its recommendation as to whether the retention of the property has strategic value for the purposes of the Diocesan Mission. Previously such recommendations could only be given upon the referral of the proposal to the Mission Property Committee by the Regional Bishop.

#### **4.8 Proposed amendment to the Constitution of SCEGGS Darlinghurst Ltd**

We approved amendments to the Constitution of SCEGGS Darlinghurst Ltd. The amendments were intended to bring the constitution into line with modern constitutions and the requirements of *the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission Act 2012*. They did not affect any provisions of the constitution of relevance to the relationship between the Company and the Diocese.

#### 4.9 Amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Social Issues Committee

We amended the Social Issues Committee's Terms of Reference to, among other things, provide the appropriate authority for the SIC to publish articles or blogs on current social issues (in accordance with its 2nd object). Prior to the amendment, the SIC would require the approval of Standing Committee or the Archbishop for each article produced.

#### 4.10 Amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Research Group

We agreed to amend the Terms of Reference of the Strategic Research Group ("SRG") to require an annual report to Synod with a six month interim report to Standing Committee. Previously, the SRG was required to report "no less than quarterly to the Standing Committee".

#### 4.11 Amendments to the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations

We agreed to modify the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations with regard to the role of the Archbishop in relation to diocesan organisations.

Previously the guidelines provided that the Archbishop should not usually be a board member of a diocesan organisation but should be entitled to receive board papers on request, attend board meetings, and to address the board on any pastoral or policy issue concerning the Anglican Church of Australia as it applies to the organisation including the appointment of its chief executive officer.

The modification rendered neutral the question of whether the Archbishop should be a board member of a diocesan organisation. Instead it provided that –

- (a) if the Archbishop is a member of a diocesan organisation, he should be entitled to chair board meetings of the organisation, and
- (b) if the Archbishop is not a member, he should retain the entitlements already in the policy in relation to the receipt of board papers (on request), attendance at board meetings, and addressing the board on any pastoral or policy matter concerning the Anglican Church of Australia.

#### 4.12 Amendments to Diocesan Policy Statement on Education

We amended the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education to provide that the form of Statement of personal faith to be signed before a person is elected or appointed to the board of a diocesan organisation is set out in Appendix 3 of the Synod's Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations, rather than the form included in the Education policy itself. This amendment was made to avoid confusion as to the correct form of the Statement to sign.

#### 4.13 Publication in Spanish of *Masters of the English Reformation* by Sir Marcus Loane

We agreed to allocate \$2,000 from the Publishing Reserve Fund to fund the publication of *Masters of the English Reformation* in Spanish.

#### 4.14 Affiliated Churches

We declared Hunter Bible Church, Newcastle and Coast Evangelical Church, Forster to be affiliated with the Diocese under the *Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005*.

#### 4.15 Guidelines for Remuneration of Parish Ministry Staff in 2018

We approved guidelines for the remuneration of parish ministry staff in 2018.

#### 4.16 Evangelism and New Churches and The Sanctuary Project

We noted that Evangelism and New Churches ("ENC") had accepted The Sanctuary Project as a project within ENS in the expectation that, by the end of 2018, the project would be continued by a separate legal entity and subject to the Standing Committee supporting ENC's sponsorship of the project. We indicated our support of ENC's commitment to sponsor this project.

### 5. Relations with Government

#### 5.1 Social Issues Committee

The Social Issues Committee ("SIC") comprises the following members –

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dr Karin Sowada (Chair) | The Rev Dr Michael Jensen |
| Dr Megan Best           | Mr Darren Mitchell        |
| The Rev Dr Andrew Ford  | Dean Kanishka Raffel      |
| Dr Chase Kuhn           |                           |

The SIC provides advice to the Archbishop on issues which are referred to by him. It also provides advice on issues referred to it by the Standing Committee or at the request of the Synod. When resources allow the SIC also identifies and initiates the study and discussion of social issues and matters of public policy

among Anglicans in the Diocese and interacts with Government and other external organisations through submissions to parliamentary and public inquiries. The SIC is often the first point of contact for community groups and other organisations wishing to engage with the Diocese on matters of public policy.

Since the last Synod, the SIC has met 6 times and has devoted the bulk of its time to the production of reports relating to gender identity. This work was initially provided to the Heads and Chairs of Anglican Schools through the preparation of an Archbishop's Gender Briefing Paper. A more substantial report is expected to be available for inclusion in the Synod 2017 papers. The SIC also commissioned a mixed method gender identity research project based on an online "Lived Experiences" survey.

This work has been undertaken in conjunction with the Gender Identity subcommittee established by the SIC in 2016, which now comprises –

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Dr Claire Smith (Chair) | The Rev David Ould    |
| Dr Megan Best           | The Rev Nicholas Moll |
| Dr Patricia Weerakoon   |                       |

Mrs Emma Penzo also served as a member of the Subcommittee during the year.

Gender-related issues are expected to increase in profile. Further work may need to be undertaken by parties outside the SIC including the development of school policy and pastoral care guidelines. The SIC will continue to monitor and respond to legislative and executive developments in this space.

In response to resolutions of the 2016 Synod the SIC has progressed work on reports on "Consumerism" and "Diversity and Inclusion". The Committee now expects this work to be submitted to the 2018 Synod.

With the support of Standing Committee the SIC has also partnered with Dr Louise Gosbell in researching "The Experiences of People with Disability in the Sydney Diocese of the Anglican Church". The primary aim of the project is to measure the impact of Synod resolution 34/09 *People Affected by Disability*. The project is yet to receive Human Research Ethics Committee approval.

Through meetings and formal correspondence the Committee has been engaged in advocacy relating to –

- (a) online gambling using credit card facilities,
- (b) public holiday and weekend penalty rates, and
- (c) the plight of refugees, detainees and those in off-shore detention.

Submissions have been provided to –

- (a) the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into the Status of the Human Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief, and
- (b) the NSW Parliamentary Working Group on Assisted Dying.

The SIC also prepared a letter on behalf of the Archbishop to Members of the NSW Legislative Council regarding the Abortion Law Reform (Miscellaneous Acts Amendment) Bill 2016.

The Committee expressed gratitude for the services of Mrs Emma Penzo, who finished as part-time Diocesan Researcher in March 2017. Mrs Leonie Russell was appointed to the role, starting in May 2017.

For reports, submissions and briefings on current and archived matters, please refer to its web site <http://www.socialissues.org.au>.

## **5.2 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**

We approved an allocation from the Synod Fund and requested the Property Trust to provide an equal amount, to meet the increased needs of the Royal Commission Steering Committee.

We received a report from the Registrar following the conclusion of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse public hearing referred to as Case Study 52. The hearing ran from Friday 17 March to Wednesday 22 March 2017 and its purpose was "to inquire into the current policies and procedures of Anglican Church authorities in Australia in relation to child-protection and child-safety standards, including responding to allegations of child sexual abuse.

The Archbishop, Registrar and staff of the PSU attended the whole of each hearing day and several witnesses were associated with the Diocese of Sydney. The Royal Commission Steering Committee ("RCSC") had appointed Ms Michelle England with Ms Alexandra Rose, instructed by Mr Steve Lucas, to act for the Diocese of Sydney, Archbishop Glenn Davies, the Rev Archie Poulos, the Rev Dr Andrew Ford, Ms Jacqueline Dawson and Mr Lachlan Bryant.

We thanked Ms Michelle England and also Ms Alexandra Rose together with Mr Steve Lucas and the PSU staff for all their assistance with Case Study 52 of the Royal Commission.

### **5.3 Submission to the Joint Parliamentary Inquiry into the Status of the Human Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief**

Our Religious Freedom Reference Group and Social Issues Committee made a joint submission on behalf of the Diocese of Sydney to a Parliamentary inquiry being conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade into the protection and promotion of the human right to freedom of religion or belief worldwide, including in Australia.

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

### **6.1 17<sup>th</sup> session of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia**

The 17<sup>th</sup> session of the General Synod was held at the Novotel Twin Water Resort, Maroochydore, Queensland on 3 – 8 September 2017.

A report on the proceedings of the General Synod is printed separately. In addition we agreed to promote a number of bills to the Sydney Synod to adopt canons made at the General Synod session. The bills and accompanying explanatory material are also printed separately.

### **6.2 General Synod Special Assessment**

In response to a letter from the General Secretary of the General Synod, we confirmed that the position of the Diocese of Sydney in respect to payment of the General Synod Special Assessment has not changed, and accordingly declined to make any payment in respect of the Special Assessment.

### **6.3 General Synod Statutory Assessment rebate**

We noted that due primarily to a one-off rebate from the General Synod's Statutory Fund, a total of \$178,531 that had been allocated for "Membership/affiliation – General Synod" was no longer required for that purpose.

### **6.4 Amendments to Faithfulness in Service**

We noted a letter from the General Secretary concerning amendments to *Faithfulness in Service* approved by the General Synod Standing Committee in November 2016. The amendments concerned the definition of bullying as well as other changes concerning definitions of "grooming", "sexual abuse of a child", "sexual assault" and "sexual harassment".

We appointed a committee to consider the proposed amendments to the definition of "bullying" and requested the Director of Professional Standards to consider the other amendments set out in the letter. Following receipt of these recommendations, we asked that a motion be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

### **6.5 GAFCON Primates Communique April 2017**

We welcomed the communique of the GAFCON Primates of 29 April 2017 and the intention of the Primates to consecrate a missionary bishop, who would be tasked with providing episcopal leadership for faithful Anglicans who find themselves outside the structures of any Anglican province, especially in Europe, but desire episcopal leadership. We strongly encouraged the Archbishop to participate in the consecration of such a missionary bishop as a sign of solidarity with the GAFCON Primates and those seeking such episcopal leadership.

### **6.6 Appellate Tribunal determination concerning membership of the General Synod House of Bishops**

The Diocese of Newcastle referred the following 3 questions to the Appellate Tribunal for consideration –

- (a) Whether a person appointed bishop administrator of a diocese for the purposes of section 8 of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia ("the Constitution") or otherwise is, under section 16 of the Constitution or otherwise, a member of the House of Bishops.
- (b) Whether if a person so appointed as bishop administrator of a diocese is a member of the House of Bishops the diocese for which he or she is appointed is entitled to appoint another person to be a member of General Synod.
- (c) Whether the answers to the preceding questions are different depending upon whether or not the person so appointed as bishop administrator is a duly consecrated bishop of the Anglican Church of Australia and, if so, in what respect.

We submitted that the Appellate Tribunal should answer these questions as follows –

- (a) No.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) No.

The Appellate Tribunal agreed with our submission.

### **6.7 Participation in references to the Appellate Tribunal**

In August 2017, references were made to the Appellate Tribunal concerning –

- (a) our Affiliated Churches Ordinance, and
- (b) the participation of the Archbishop and other Australian bishops in the consecration of a bishop of the Anglican Church of North America.

We expressed a wish to intervene in, and thereby become a party to, these proceedings.

## **7. Sydney Synod Matters**

### **7.1 41/10 Amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917**

By resolution 41/10, the Synod requested that we pursue with the NSW Government certain amendments to the *Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917* (the “Act”) to improve the governance of the Anglican Church Property Trust. Despite attempts over many years, we have been unable to secure the agreement of all other dioceses in the Province of NSW to these changes. Until such agreement is obtained, the NSW Government will not agree to promote the changes in Parliament.

In the circumstances, we concurred with the resolution of the Anglican Church Property Trust not to pursue any changes to the Act at this time.

#### **7.1A 25/14 Theology of Communion and Catholicity**

By resolution 25/14, the Synod requested the Sydney Diocesan Doctrine Commission to prepare a report on the theology of communion and catholicity with special reference to contemporary Anglicanism in Australia.

The report of the Doctrine Commission is printed separately.

#### **7.2 13/15 Study into Effective Church Planting**

By resolution 13/15, among other things, Synod –

- (a) noted the *Study into Effective Church Planting in the Anglican Diocese of Sydney*,
- (b) encouraged rectors and parish councils to consider how they could initiate church planting in their parishes, and
- (c) requested that Evangelism and New Churches (“ENC”) provide recommendations regarding the practice of church planting.

ENC developed the Church Planting Guidelines in cooperation with several other groups based on the *Study into Effective Church Planting in the Anglican Diocese of Sydney*.

We authorised an allocation of \$3,000 from Synod Fund Contingencies in order to fund a concept design for the Church Planting Guidelines.

#### **7.3 22/15 Proposal for a Property Receipts Levy**

By resolution 22/15, among other things, the Synod agreed that a Property Receipts Levy may be preferable to a Large Property Receipts Policy. The Synod therefore requested the Standing Committee to collect the necessary financial data from parishes, and undertake the necessary modelling and further consultation to bring to the Synod no later than its session in 2020 a proposal for a Property Receipts Levy to be considered as an alternative to a Large Property Receipts Policy.

A report about this matter is printed separately together with a further report which sets out a proposal from the Strategic Research Group for applying any additional proceeds raised from a Property Receipts Levy.

#### **7.4 34/15 Diocesan Doctrine Commission report on Human Sexuality**

By resolution 34/15, among other things, Synod requested the Standing Committee to continue its work of developing pastoral guidelines for pastors as they minister to Christians experiencing same-sex attraction, their family and friends, and their churches; and that a committee be formed of sufficient size, breadth of experience, and expertise to accomplish this, to report to Synod in 2017.

The committee we constituted to address this request has made significant progress but has not yet completed its work. We expect a report for Synod in 2018.

## 7.5 35/15 Review of Regional Councils

By resolution 35/15, Synod requested the Standing Committee to conduct a review of the purpose and effectiveness of Regional Councils.

We surveyed the regional councils and following consideration of the responses, amended the *Regions Ordinance 1995* to reduce the frequency of required meetings of regional councils and insert a provision setting out the purpose of regional councils as follows –

- ‘The purpose of a regional council is to advance the purposes of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney by –
- (i) conceiving, planning, implementing and resourcing regional ministry strategies,
  - (ii) supporting the regional bishop in the leadership of the region,
  - (iii) undertaking the governance tasks delegated to them by Synod and Standing Committee, and
  - (iv) receiving and considering grant applications and distributing grant funding as available from time-to-time.’

We also recognised that the effectiveness of a regional council to convene, plan, implement and resource regional ministry strategies is constrained when there are limited funds available.

## 7.6 4/16 Funding church planting in urban areas

By resolution 4/16, among other things, Synod requested the Large Property Receipts Policy Committee, when presenting the proposed Property Receipts Levy, to include in its modelling an option that provides significant additional funding for ministry initiatives.

This matter is dealt with in the report of the Large Property Receipts Policy Committee referred to at item 7.3.

## 7.7 6/16 Protestant Reformation

By resolution 6/16, among other things, the Synod requested the Standing Committee, the Chapter of St Andrew’s Cathedral, Moore Theological College, Youthworks College, Mary Andrews College, and Anglican Deaconess Ministries to consider ways in which they might contribute to a diocesan wide celebration of our Reformation heritage during 2017.

We endorsed the Reformation celebration events planned by Moore Theological College and the Cathedral in 2017, and alerted rectors to these and other events to celebrate the Reformation planned by the organisations referred to in the resolution. We also authorised the application of \$7,000 from Synod Fund contingencies to publish a calendar of events regarding Reformation celebration.

## 7.8 9/16 Equipping rectors for their task of leadership

By resolution 9/16, among other things, Synod asked the Strategic Research Group (“SRG”) to establish a committee (in consultation with MT&D, CMD and other appropriate instruments) to explore and report back to the Synod in 2017 on what action is required and how it may be implemented to better equip rectors for their task of leadership.

The SRG had already been considering this matter, and had established a working group in partnership with representatives from Evangelism and New Churches and Ministry Training and Development. The working group developed a Ministry Development Plan (“MDP”) for voluntary use by Rectors on an ongoing basis. The MDP has been piloted through new rectors (in the Developing Rectors Program) and through voluntary testing in Mission Area Groups.

The SRG is supportive of the Developing Rectors program launched by Moore College’s Centre for Ministry Development (“CMD”). This course has been developed by CMD with the assistance of the Bishops.

The SRG also provided a proposal and recommendations to the Licensing of Incumbents Review Committee as that committee coordinated the development of proposals relating to or arising from the licensing of clergy.

## 7.9 10/16 Licensing of incumbents interim report

By resolution 10/16, among other things, Synod encourages the Committee reviewing the licensing of incumbents, to continue to meet and provide a final report with recommendations and proposed ordinances for consideration by the Synod in 2017.

A further interim report from the Committee is printed separately together with a report from Ministry Training and Development concerning *Lifelong Ministry Development Guidelines*.

**7.10 14/16 Funding for Urban Renewal**

By resolution 14/16, among other things, Synod requested that Standing Committee consider the recommendations of the “Funding for Urban Renewal” report against other funding needs and opportunities in the preparation of the “Statement of Funding Principles” report for the 2017 Synod for potential inclusion in the triennium funding ordinances for 2019-2021. The Synod also requested that Standing Committee assess factors other than building grants that may induce growth in established areas, and establish a priority list for the disbursement of funds for the purpose of growing evangelistic ministry in urban areas.

We conveyed the terms of this resolution to the Diocesan Resources Committee (“DRC”) to ensure that the recommendations of the “Funding for Urban Renewal” report were considered against other funding needs and opportunities in the preparation of the Statement of Funding Principles.

At our request the Strategic Research Group provided us with a report which assessed factors for growth. This report was also shared with the DRC so that it could be taken into account in preparing the Statement of Funding Principles.

**7.11 16/16 Diversity and Inclusion Policies**

By resolution 16/16, among other things, Synod requested the Diocesan Doctrine Commission or the Social Issues Committee (“SIC”) to provide a report on the biblical understanding of “diversity and inclusion” so as to assist our organisations in the formulation of such policies, and to report back to the next session of Synod.

The SIC agreed to take an initial lead in producing this report. The SIC has not yet completed its work.

**7.12 21/16 Membership structure of Mission Property Committee**

By resolution 21/16, among other things, the Synod requested Standing Committee to review the membership structure of the Mission Property Committee in consultation with its chairman and deputy chairman.

We appointed a committee to undertake the work requested in the resolution. A report about this matter is printed separately.

See item 7.16.

**7.13 24/16 Domestic Violence**

By resolution 24/16, among other things, the Synod –

- (a) gave thanks for the work of the Domestic Violence Response Task Force (the “Task Force”) and called on them to continue their work - in particular that of developing policy and pastoral guidelines to recommend to Standing Committee and make recommendations about education - as expeditiously as possible,
- (b) called on Standing Committee to consider providing funding for the Task Force sufficient to expedite its work and particularly the work of interviewing and caring for victims,
- (c) asked the Task Force, and the Discipline Ordinance 2006 Review Committee, to consider changes to the necessary ordinances which would allow victims of domestic abuse, who have brought the abuse to the attention of church-workers who have their pastoral oversight and who feel that they have received negligent, callous or otherwise improper advice or treatment by those with pastoral oversight, to have complaints referred to the Professional Standards Unit, and
- (d) requested the Task Force to report again, no later than this Synod.

A further report from the Task Force is printed separately together with an accompanying document *Responding to Domestic Abuse: Provisional Policy and Good Practice Guidelines*.

**7.14 26/16 Debate concerning same-sex marriage  
Archbishop’s Task Force on Same-Sex Marriage Plebiscite**

By resolution 26/16, among other things, the Synod –

- (a) commended for consideration the booklet prepared by the Archbishop’s Plebiscite Task Force *What Has God Joined Together?* as a resource to assist Sydney Anglicans and others prepare for and engage in public debate on this issue,
- (b) called on Rectors in the Diocese to incorporate teaching on marriage, human sexuality and religious freedom in the teaching program of their parish,
- (c) encouraged all Christians to participate fully in the democratic processes open to us in this country to seek to persuade our nation of the goodness and wisdom of ensuring the legal definition of marriage in the Marriage Act 1961 remains aligned with its inherent meaning, and

- (d) urged all Christians to engage lovingly and respectfully in the debate about marriage, and condemns any vilification, bigotry or other expressions of hatred or fear directed against anyone, not exclusively but especially members and supporters of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans or intersex (LGBTI) community.

We authorised expenditure from the Publishing Reserve of up to \$50,000 for the printing and distribution (including digital distribution via a website) of the booklet *What Has God Joined Together?*.

We also –

- (a) noted that Freedom For Faith, working in cooperation with the Coalition for Marriage, is preparing written and video materials highlighting the significant threat that same-sex marriage poses to freedom of religion and conscience, and
- (b) agreed to such materials being distributed to parishes and diocesan organisations at the discretion and with the approval of the Archbishop.

A report about the “No” campaign led by the Coalition For Marriage to oppose any change to the law to permit same-sex couples to marry is printed separately.

#### **7.15 30/16 Culture of consumerism**

By resolution 30/16 the Synod requested the Social Issues Committee (“SIC”) to report on the culture of consumerism and its impact on our society and churches with recommendations on how we can respond better to the challenges it presents.

The SIC has not yet completed its work.

#### **7.16 33/16 Resourcing the management and development of parish property**

By resolution 33/16, among other things, Synod requested that the Standing Committee establish an appropriate task-force or committee (made up of people with relevant expertise) to serve as a resource to parishes in managing and developing parish property for gospel benefit.

We noted that pursuant to clause 9(1)(e) of the *Mission Property Ordinance 2002* the Mission Property Committee (“MPC”) is already responsible for providing advice and support to parochial units which seek to acquire land, sell or otherwise realise land, construct or renovate ministry buildings, develop land, or rationalise or better utilise their land (and has been doing so for a number of years).

We requested the committee responsible for undertaking the review of the membership structure of the MPC under Synod resolution 21/16 to take into account the responsibilities of MPC under clause 9(1)(e) in conducting its review. We also requested the committee to determine the resources that would be necessary to allow the MPC to –

- (a) develop some generic guidelines to assist parishes in determining the priorities for facilities development, and
- (b) be more proactive with regards to the development of the facilities of existing parishes.

A report about this matter is printed separately together with a further report from the Mission Property Committee setting out a proposal to provide guidance to parishes undertaking development projects.

#### **7.17 34/16 Opening, closure, merger or takeover of Schools Corporation schools**

By resolution 34/16, among other things, Synod requested that –

- (a) the Standing Committee review the Anglican Schools Corporation Ordinance, especially regarding the interaction between the Corporation Board, individual school councils and broader stakeholders regarding the opening, closure, merger or takeover of Corporation schools, and
- (b) the Schools Corporation Board review its internal processes and procedures regarding consultation and the sharing of information concerning the opening, closure, merger or takeover of Corporation Schools (or other similarly major decisions) with broader stakeholders, including school councils and local parishes.

The Anglican Schools Corporation has provided its response however we have not yet considered it.

#### **7.18 39/16 Business rules for moving amendments to motions**

By resolution 39/16, among other things, the Synod, requested Standing Committee to re-examine the *Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000*, with respect to –

- (a) whether the President should be given permission to waive the application of rule 4.6 on similar grounds to the relief offered in rule 4.9.8,
- (b) whether the ordinance should require Synod’s practice of allowing movers of amendments to speak prior to those wishing to speak for or against the principal motion, or otherwise,

- (c) whether the ordinance should provide a rule regarding “set piece” debates, in particular for looking at the right of reply by both sides,
- (d) whether to provide for a considerably shorter time limit for the mover of an amendment, while providing for the mover of the amendment to speak one more time in the debate, and
- (e) any other matters that might improve the effectiveness of Synod’s business rules as they apply to the debate of a motion,

and to bring to the session of Synod in 2017 a report and any such amending ordinance as is required to give effect to its findings.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

#### **7.19 40/16 Safe learning environment for all students**

By resolution 40/16, among other things, Synod acknowledged the work of the Gender Identity Subcommittee of the Social Issues Committee, including the development of possible resources, and looked forward to receiving the Committee’s report at the 2017 Synod.

A report from the Gender Identity Subcommittee is printed separately.

#### **7.20 Synod and Standing Committee membership**

We requested that a bill for the *Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017* be promoted to the Synod to make a number of changes to the membership of the Synod and the Standing Committee.

A bill and an accompanying explanatory report are printed separately.

#### **7.21 Resolutions made by the Synod in 2016 and not mentioned in this report**

Circulars were sent to parishes and organisations about the matters arising from the 2016 Synod session. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons and organisations.

#### **7.22 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*

20 September 2017