

50th Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

1st Ordinary Session

Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Tuesday 21 October 2014

1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

2. Devotions

The Synod was led in devotions by Bishop Peter Tasker.

3. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Monday 20 October 2014.

4. Motions

4.1 Leadership of Devotions

Having been granted leave, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Synod records its appreciation of the preaching and leadership of Bishop Peter Tasker for the Synod Service and the devotions during remainder of this session.”

Seconded and carried by acclamation

5. Answers to Questions

5.1 Moore Theological College External Studies Correspondence course

Mrs Marguerite Robson asked the following question –

What were the student enrolment numbers in Moore College External Studies Correspondence course, for those students living within the Diocese –

- (a) for 2013 in –
 - (i) Preliminary Theological Certificate
 - (ii) Intermediate Theological Certificate
 - (iii) Advanced Theological Certificate
- (b) for 2014 in –
 - (i) the new revised Preliminary Theological Certificate
 - (ii) Introduction to Theological Studies (ITS)

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answers are as follows -

- (a) Based on postcode there were 2,196 enrolments in total from within the geographical area of the Sydney Diocese. The introduction of changes in the distance education program in 2012/2013, including the size of each stage and the difference between core and elective subjects, make a precise number in each stage difficult to calculate.

- (b)(i) 615 enrolments from students within the geographical area of the Sydney Diocese.
- (ii) 66 different people have been enrolled in a unit of the Introduction to Theological Studies course over the three terms of this year from students within the geographical area of the Sydney Diocese. Over the same period there were an additional 1,018 enrolments in the Theology Certificate course.

5.2 Theology Certificate

Mrs Marguerite Robson asked the following question –

How many students living within the Diocese, who were previously enrolled in Theology Certificate (ThC) studies –

- (a) successfully transitioned to ITS and continued with Moore College External Studies?
- (b) did not successfully transition to ITS?

To which the President replied –

This question is difficult to answer as the transition is still in process for some. For the same reason it is difficult to identify those who did not successfully transition to the Introduction to Theological Studies course. Some people are still considering which of the new available options suit them the best.

At this point in time (with an entire academic term to go in 2014) the following gives the number of PTC/ITC students from 2013 who are enrolled in one of the new programs -

Introduction to Theological Studies	8
Moore Access	116
New PTC	49
Continuing PTC	324

6. Petitions

There were no petitions.

7. Procedural motions from members

7.1 Calling of motion concerning the Viability and Structures report

Dr Robert Tong moved –

“Synod agrees to include the motion at item 7.4 on today's business paper in today's calling of motions on the business paper.”

Seconded

Dr Tong's procedural motion was not carried.

8. Motions from members

8.1 Bishop Ken Short

Having been granted leave, Bishop Peter Tasker moved –

‘This Synod notes with great sorrow the death of Bishop Ken Short last Sunday evening. We give thanks to God for the extraordinary ministry of Ken, who has faithfully served his Lord and Saviour throughout his life and has been a blessing to others in his various ministries as an elder statesman of the Diocese of Sydney, missionary in Tanganyika, evangelist, parish rector, military chaplain, regional bishop, Dean of Sydney and Bishop of the Defence Forces. We pray for his widow Gloria and the family as they grieve their

loss; yet rejoice with them in the sure and certain knowledge that our brother Ken is now “at home with the Lord”.’

Seconded and carried by acclamation

Bishop Tasker led the Synod in a prayer of thanksgiving for Bishop Short and for his family.

8.2 **Motion concerning the Rev Barry Lee**

Having been granted leave, Canon Sandy Grant moved –

“Synod recalls that ‘God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honour to the parts that lacked it’ (1 Corinthians 12:24), gives great thanks to God for the ‘unsung heroes’ of the ministry in our diocese, and express our gratitude for their quiet and faithful service.

We note especially that this is the last Synod of the Reverend Barry Lee, after almost 40 years of ordained ministry in our diocese, as Curate at Camden, Lalor Park with Seven Hills, Normanhurst, Rector of Ashbury, Assistant Minister at St Philip's Castle Cove in the parish of Roseville East, and as Curate-in-Charge, then Rector of Robertson for the last 15 years.”

Seconded and carried by acclamation

8.3 **Former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam**

Having been granted leave, the Rev Bob Cameron moved –

“Synod notes with sadness the death of former Prime Minister of Australia, Gough Whitlam, acknowledges his diverse and significant contribution to our national life, and assures all those who are mourning his death of its prayers for them.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Cameron led the Synod in a prayer of thanks for the life of Gough Whitlam and for his family.

9. Calling of motions on the business paper

There were no items called over.

10. Motions

10.1 **Mission 2020 document**

The Rev Peter Lin moved –

“Synod welcomes the *Mission 2020* document and agrees to adopt *Mission 2020* set out in that document.”

Seconded and carried unanimously

The Rev Hayden Smith led the Synod in prayer, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

10.2 **Strategic Research Group**

Having been granted leave, Bishop Ivan Lee moved his motion in the following form –

“Synod –

- (a) welcomes the establishment of the Strategic Research Group (SRG),
- (b) encourages the SRG to identify, research, evaluate and develop high level vision, strategy and structure which optimise the capacity of the diocesan network to achieve the Mission goals,

- (c) encourages the SRG to investigate ways of church gathering and mission that may prove effective in reaching those people who are unlikely to attend the majority of our current churches,
- (d) encourages the SRG to develop strategies to assist parishes to clarify, research, evaluate and implement ways to achieve the Mission goals as appropriate to their local context, and
- (e) invites all Anglican organisations within the Diocese, including schools, to embrace the vision of seeing Christ honoured in their communities and to partner with parishes in light of the four Priorities of the Mission.”

Seconded

The Rev Dr Martin Bragger moved the following amendment –

‘Replace the matter at paragraph (c) with the following –

“requests the SRG to research and investigate the development of alternative models of church that are –

- theologically Anglican
- not our current ‘Christendom’ form
- essentially missional”

Seconded

The Rev Jodie McNeill moved the following amendment –

‘Insert a new subparagraph (c) after subparagraph (b) (with consequential renumbering of the remaining subparagraphs) as follows –

“(c) requests that the SRG engage the services of the NCLS to conduct an annual survey of parishes in order to report every year to the Synod on the progress of the measurable goals of the Mission, and agrees that necessary funding for this reporting be allocated within the coming triennial budget,”

Seconded

The Rev Raj Gupta moved the following as an amendment to Mr McNeill’s amendment –

“(c) requests the SRG to consider the feasibility of engaging the services of the NCLS to conduct an annual survey of parishes, in order to report every year to the Synod on the progress of the goals of the Mission, and requests Standing Committee to consider funding such a project if requested by the SRG.”

Seconded

The Rev Simon Flinders moved the following amendment –

“Delete paragraph (c).”

Seconded

Mr James Mann moved the following motion –

‘In paragraph (b), delete the words, “high level vision”.’

Seconded

Canon Rick Smith moved the following amendment –

‘In paragraph (e), insert the words “as Lord and Saviour” after the words “seeing Christ honoured”.’

Seconded

Bishop Lee accepted the amendment of Canon Smith.

The amendments of Mr Mann, Dr Bragger and Mr Flinders were not carried.

Mr Gupta’s amendment to Mr McNeill’s amendment was carried.

Mr McNeill’s amendment, as amended, was not carried.

Canon Smith’s amendment was carried.

Bishop Lee’s motion, as amended, was carried in the following form –

“Synod –

- (a) welcomes the establishment of the Strategic Research Group (SRG),
- (b) encourages the SRG to identify, research, evaluate and develop high level vision, strategy and structure which optimise the capacity of the diocesan network to achieve the Mission goals,
- (c) encourages the SRG to investigate ways of church gathering and mission that may prove effective in reaching those people who are unlikely to attend the majority of our current churches,
- (d) encourages the SRG to develop strategies to assist parishes to clarify, research, evaluate and implement ways to achieve the Mission goals as appropriate to their local context, and
- (e) invites all Anglican organisations within the Diocese, including schools, to embrace the vision of seeing Christ honoured as Lord and Saviour in their communities and to partner with parishes in light of the four Priorities of the Mission.”

10.3 Large Property Receipts Policy

The following motion was taken to have been moved and seconded –

“That the Large Property Receipts Policy be approved in principle.”

The President asked –

“Does any member have a question about the proposed policy?”

There were questions.

After a time for questions the President asked –

“Does the Synod consider that sufficient time has been allowed for questions?”

The majority of members present answered in the affirmative.

11. Procedural motions

11.1 Consideration of business until 7.00 pm

Mr Robert Wicks moved the following procedural motion –

“Synod agrees to continue dealing with its remaining business until 7:00 pm tonight (without the 20 minute informal discussion following consideration of the Viability and Structures Report) with a view to adjourning the session at or about that time.”

Seconded

Mr Wicks’ procedural motion was not carried.

12. Adjournment

At 5:55 pm, Mr Doug Marr moved –

“That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.00 pm tonight.”

Seconded and carried

Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.00 pm.

13. Motions

13.1 Large Property Receipts Policy

Consideration of the Large Property Receipts Policy resumed.

The President asked –

“Does any member wish to speak against the motion, or move an amendment to it?”

There was a member who wished to move an amendment to the motion.

The Rev Andrew Katay moved the following amendment –

‘Add the following text to the end of the motion –

“subject to confirmation that, in the Chancellor’s opinion, the varying of trusts for the purpose of implementing the large receipts policy is legal.”

Seconded

The Rev Brian Tung moved the following amendment –

‘Add the following text to the end of the motion –

“provided that the operation of the existing policy will be suspended until the Synod endorse the new policy as a policy of the Synod, provided that the existing policy will still apply to transactions that are the subject of the policy prior to this resolution taking effect, such as leases or renewal of leases under ordinances that are the subject of the policy.”

Seconded

Having been granted leave, Mr Katay moved a procedural motion –

“That the amendment in my name be withdrawn.”

Seconded and carried

Mr Tung's amendment was not carried.

The motion that the policy be approved in principle was put and was carried without amendment.

13.2 Synod attendance

Ms Nicola Warwick-Mayo moved –

"Synod, noting the report on Synod attendance and the desirability of seeking ways to increase the attendance and participation of members at Synod sessions, agrees to trial the following arrangements for the 2nd ordinary session of the Synod in 2015 –

- (a) consistent with resolution 31/13, continue to hold the session over 5 appointed days but, pursuant to rule 1.1(2) of the business rules, commence meeting at the later time of 3.45pm on each appointed day,
- (b) schedule a shorter dinner break from 5.45 to 6.45pm on each appointed day (other than the first day),
- (c) schedule the conclusion of business at the earlier time of 9.00pm on each appointed day,
- (d) schedule all business involving the consideration of motions (other than formal and procedural motions, motions for the unopposed introduction of a proposed ordinance and motions for the reclassification of a provisional parish) after 4.30pm on each appointed day, and
- (e) beyond the Presidential Address and the Missionary Hour, keep to a minimum presentations and other business not involving the consideration of motions and, to the extent possible, schedule such business before 5.00 pm on each appointed day, including the Presidential Address and Missionary Hour,

and –

- (f) requests the Standing Committee to ensure, as far as possible, that the business it promotes to the Synod focuses on significant issues of policy and strategic direction and that it avoids promoting to the Synod technical or administrative business which can be dealt with by the Standing Committee under its delegated authority,
- (g) requests members who are likely to be unable to attend and participate in any part of the 2nd ordinary session of the Synod in 2015 to take early action to investigate and pursue options and arrangements that will enable them to attend and participate in the whole of the session, and
- (h) requests members who, after exhausting such avenues, are still unable to attend and participate in any part of the 2nd ordinary session of the Synod in 2015 to consider, in the case of parochial ministers and parochial representatives, appointing an alternate for the session or, in the case of elected or appointed members, resigning their membership to enable the election or appointment of those who can."

Seconded

Mrs Margaret Rumbold moved the following amendment –

'Omit the paragraph (e) and insert instead as follows –

- "(e) all presentations and business not involving the consideration of motions be kept to a minimum, with the exception of the Presidential Address and the Missionary Hour; and that, as far as is possible, all such presentations and business, including the Presidential Address and the Missionary Hour, be scheduled before 5.00pm on each appointed day".'

Seconded

Miss Joanna Warren moved the following amendment –

'In paragraph (e), insert the word "not" before the word "including".'

Seconded

The Rev David Clarke moved the following amendment –

'Insert new paragraph (i) as follows –

- "(i) requests the Standing Committee to review the procedures and ordinances relating to alternate and replacement synod representatives with a view to streamline the process and remove obstacles."

Seconded

Mr Bruce York moved a procedural motion –

"That voting be taken separately for paragraphs (a) – (e) and then for paragraphs (f) – (i)."

Seconded

Mr James Flavin moved an amendment to Mr York's procedural motion –

"That each paragraph of the motion be put seriatim."

Seconded

Mr Flavin's amendment to Mr York's procedural motion was carried.

Mr York's procedural motion, as amended, was put and carried.

The amendments of Miss Warren, Mrs Rumbold and Mr Clarke were carried.

The paragraphs of Ms Warwick-Mayo's motion, as amended, were put seriatim –

- (a) – not carried
- (b) – not carried
- (c) – not carried
- (d) – not carried
- (e) – not carried
- (f) – carried
- (g) – carried
- (h) – carried
- (i) – carried

Miss Warwick-Mayo's motion was declared carried in the following form (with editorial and consequential amendments) –

"Synod, noting the report on Synod attendance and the desirability of seeking ways to increase the attendance and participation of members at Synod sessions –

- (a) requests the Standing Committee to ensure, as far as possible, that the business it promotes to the Synod focuses on significant issues of policy and strategic direction and that it avoids promoting to the Synod technical or administrative business which can be dealt with by the Standing Committee under its delegated authority,
- (b) requests members who are likely to be unable to attend and participate in any part of the 2nd ordinary session of the Synod in 2015 to take early action to investigate and pursue options and arrangements that will enable them to attend and participate in the whole of the session,
- (c) requests members who, after exhausting such avenues, are still unable to attend and participate in any part of the 2nd ordinary session of the Synod in 2015 to consider, in the case of parochial ministers and parochial representatives,

appointing an alternate for the session or, in the case of elected or appointed members, resigning their membership to enable the election or appointment of those who can, and

- (d) requests the Standing Committee to review the procedures and ordinances relating to alternate and replacement synod representatives with a view to streamlining the process and removing obstacles.”

13.3 Report of the Viability and Structures Task Force

Dr Robert Tong moved –

‘Synod, noting –

- (i) the Report of the Viability and Structures Task Force (the “Viability Report”) considered at this year’s session of General Synod, and
 - (ii) the response of the General Synod to the Viability Report in resolution 65/14 (the “Viability resolution”), particularly the referral of the Viability Report to the dioceses for their consideration and response to the Standing Committee of the General Synod by 31 October 2014,
- (a) expresses its preliminary view that changing the structures, policies and leadership of the Anglican Church of Australia (the “ACA”) will not, of itself, adequately address the underlying challenges faced by the ACA, although agrees that the focus of work in these areas may best be pursued on a provincial basis,
 - (b) calls on the Standing Committee of the General Synod to ensure that clarity and confidence in the content of the gospel message and its faithful proclamation in word and deed across the ACA, particularly in the context of local Anglican churches, are at the fore of any proposal to respond to these challenges,
 - (c) affirms its commitment to the diocese as the unit of organisation of the ACA and therefore calls on the Standing Committee of the General Synod to ensure that it consults widely with dioceses about the Viability Report and the Viability Resolution over a reasonable time frame before formulating any significant proposals which may require the support of dioceses,
 - (d) opposes as a matter of principle any proposal which would involve an increase in the central powers of the General Synod as a means by which the challenges faced by the ACA are sought to be addressed,
 - (e) considers that the expectation of a considered response from dioceses to the Viability Report by 31 October 2014 is unrealistic,

and invites Synod members to send any comments on the Viability Report and Viability resolution to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2014 and requests our Standing Committee to respond to the Viability Report and the Viability Resolution taking any comments from Synod members into account.’

Seconded and carried

A period of 30 minutes followed the consideration of the motion during which members provided informal comment on the Viability Report and Viability Resolution, with a record of such comments being taken by the Secretary of the Synod to be taken into account by the Standing Committee in its response to the Viability Report and Viability Resolution.

The Archbishop led the Synod in prayer for the Anglican Church in Australia.

14. Closure

14.1 Officers of the Synod

Having been granted leave, Bishop Robert Forsyth moved –

“Synod records its appreciation of –

- (a) the President for his chairmanship, and
- (b) the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of Committees for their work in the Committee stages of ordinances, and
- (c) the members who helped during the session by giving advice and serving on committees, and
- (d) the services given by the Secretary, the staff of SDS, the Archbishop’s Office and Anglican Media, the music team and all those who have helped with the arrangements for sittings.”

Seconded and carried

14.2 Minutes of 21 October 2014

Having been granted leave, Mr Robert Wicks moved –

“Synod authorises the President to sign the minutes of 21 October 2014 upon the production to the Standing Committee of the certificate of any 2 members of the Minute Reading Committee.”

Seconded and carried

14.3 Hymn and Benediction

Members joined in the singing of the hymn “Your Hand, O God, Has Guided” after which the President gave the Benediction.

14.4 Adjournment

Mr Doug Marr moved –

“Synod adjourns without appointing another day of meeting.”

Seconded and carried

The Archbishop led the Synod in the Grace.

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

Two Members of the)
Minute Reading Committee)

Signed by the President

10 November 2014