

Advance Distribution: Motions for which notice was given on Wednesday 16 October 2019

○○ M71 New Safe Ministry Assessment process and timing

Synod respects the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and the work done in responding to them represented by the Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2018.

Synod thanks the Professional Standards Unit, Safe Ministry Board, the Royal Commission Steering Committee and others for their tireless work in making us an increasingly safer diocese, and enabling our compliance with the recommendations from the Royal Commission.

Synod notes that the PSU's "Circular to Parishes: New Safe Ministry Requirements from 1 January 2020", dated 10 October 2019, has concentrated the attention of parish leadership as to the significant workload required in a short space of time.

Therefore Synod requests that Standing Committee pass an amending ordinance to defer the start date of operation of the Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2018 by four months, until 1 May 2020.

Synod also invites members of Synod, and parish Safe Ministry Representatives, to send concise feedback and suggestions about further streamlining or simplifying the new Safe Ministry Assessment process, in a way that honours our desire to protect children by conducting ministry as safely as possible. Such feedback should be sent to the Standing Committee via the Diocesan Secretary by 30th November 2019.

(Canon Sandy Grant / The Rev Tom Melbourne)

○○ M72 The Rev Stephen Semenchuk

Synod gives thanks for the life and ministry of the Rev Stephen Semenchuk who served with faithfulness and distinction in the Diocese from 1987 until his sudden death in May 2019. Stephen's ministry at Merrylands and South Granville, from 1990 to 2002 and Dapto Anglican from 2002 until 2019, bore testimony to his leadership skills and evangelistic heart that was used by God to bring many to saving knowledge of his Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Stephen also contributed to the wider life of the Diocese with his service on numerous strategy groups and Standing Committee.

Synod prays for God's comfort for his wife Leigh-anne and family as they grieve in their loss and undertake many changes in their life.

(Bishop Peter Hayward / Mr Tony Willis)

○○ M73 Fixed term appointment for the Archbishop

Synod requests the Standing Committee to report to the next session of Synod on the merits and difficulties of a fixed term of appointment for the Archbishop of Sydney, with or without the possibility for extension of that term. Synod members are invited to send succinct submissions on the proposal to the Standing Committee via the Diocesan Secretary by 30 November 2019.

(Mrs Stacey Chapman / The Rev Dr Raj Gupta)

○○ M74 Further review of the Ministry Standards Ordinance 2017

Synod requests Standing Committee consider further review of the *Ministry Standard Ordinance 2017* to include encouragement for parties to consider a 1 Timothy 5 and Matthew 18 approach

to resolving a grievance, complaint or dispute before seeking to enter the procedure of the Ministry Standard Ordinance.

(Mr Andrew McLachlan / The Rev Dr Raj Gupta)

○○ **M75 Congregational support for leadership**

Synod, recognising that in the Ordinal charge to presbyters that –

- (i) this office is of the highest dignity and importance,
- (ii) calls for utmost care, diligence, duty and action,
- (iii) care in study, prayer and development in wisdom,
- (iv) it cannot be done without the mediation of Christ and the assistance of the Holy Spirit,

and that

- (v) the office is becoming more complex in each succeeding generation,
- (vi) the respect in which the office is held continues to be challenged,
- (vii) some may infer from the *Assistant Ministers Ordinance* that poor leadership is exercised by the majority of rectors;

calls on all parishes and congregations to –

- (a) at least once a quarter in public prayers and more regularly in private prayers to call upon Almighty God to strengthen, surround and sustain the clergy who shepherd the churches of our Diocese, and
- (b) make whatever recommendations from whatever financial and other resources are available to enhance the wellbeing and resilience of rectors with the goal that rectors may recognise the congregational support for their leadership (1 Tim 5:17-20), and in our ordinances acknowledge and give due concern for the competing pressures under which they find themselves.

(The Rev Archie Poulos / Professor Sara Denize)

○○ **M76 Parish of Bondi and Waverley**

Noting that –

- (i) giving thanks for the extensive work of the Parish of Bondi and Waverley to date it appears that ordinance 32/2019 ("*Bondi and Waverley Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2019*") was passed at the 23/9/2019 Standing Committee meeting before the usual 3 week period for lodging objections had expired; and
- (ii) once sold, the 130 year old St Matthew's Bondi church and surrounding property could never be recovered as a future ministry base to the surrounding heavily populated area;

Synod requests that Standing Committee delay the implementation of that ordinance to give parishioners of Bondi and Waverley Parish more time to consider the supporting financial and ministry objectives detail and to discuss further with the Bondi and Waverley Parish Council.

(Mr Chris Hamam)

○○ **M77 Bishop (elect) Mark Calder**

Synod wishes to –

- (a) express our thanks to our gracious God for his provision of faithful harvesters for the plentiful harvest field, and as Anglicans, for his provision of "guardians of the faith" in the office of diocesan bishops,
- (b) thank the previous Bishop of Bathurst, Ian Palmer, and the Diocese for Bathurst for their ongoing work in making Christ known in such hard times, and their bold decisions to make the best of the limited resources available to them,

- (c) thank God for Mark and Susan Calder in being open to, and accepting of, the incredible responsibility of Mark becoming the next bishop of Bathurst,
- (d) continue to express excitement at the prospect developing any practical ministry assistance to the Diocese of Bathurst, in the common work of making Christ known, readily appreciating even just a few of the challenges of such a task in rural Australia,
- (e) note that the bishop (elect) will be consecrated in Sydney 21 November 2019,
- (f) note that the bishop (elect) will be in Bathurst 23 November 2019.

(The Rev James Warren /The Rev David Morgan)

○○ **M78 Archbishop Glenn Davies**

Synod wishes to say to our Archbishop –

- (a) Thank you.
- (b) We hope you and Di have a fantastic break after leaving the office of Archbishop.
- (c) But we also hope, and commit to praying for you, that you don't at all slow down from proclaiming Christ in season and out of season, correcting, rebuking and encouraging - with great patience and careful instruction.

(The Rev James Warren /Mr James Morgan)

○○ **M79 General Synod assessments**

That Rule XV of the Rules made pursuant to the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia be amended so that General Synod expenses of the costs of holding the General Synod and the maintenance of the registry of the Primate are apportioned among the dioceses on the basis of the number of diocesan representatives and all other expenses apportioned equally between the dioceses. The text of the amendments to be circulated to General Synod members in accordance with notice provisions.

(Dr Robert Tong AM / Mr James Flavin)

○○ **M80 Dr Timothy Wright**

This Synod gives thanks to God for Dr Timothy Wright after 16 years of distinguished service as the Headmaster of Shore School.

It acknowledges that Dr Wright's leadership at Shore, and his wider influence in a rapidly changing educational context, has been characterised by a clarity of vision, an application of formidable intellect and a constancy of Christian purpose.

Synod recognises the long and notable relationship of Shore School to our Diocese and Dr Wright's commitment to deepen that connection and provide humble leadership among our Anglican schools.

Synod sends its good wishes to Timothy and Sue as they enter retirement and as Timothy continues to support and mentor future Christian leaders in schools throughout our Diocese.

(The Rev Matthew Heazlewood / Bishop Chris Edwards)

○○ **M81 Guidelines for partnerships and mergers between parochial units**

Synod requests Standing Committee to formulate guidelines and policies to assist parishes in the process of investigating and implementing partnerships or mergers with other parochial units.

(Mr Peter Stewart / The Rev Dr Raj Gupta)

○○ **M82 The Rev David Mansfield**

Synod gives thanks to God for the Rev David Mansfield and his clear commitment to making Christ known as Saviour and Lord through his ministries at Fairy Meadow, Kiama, the Department of Evangelism, York St and in the last 10 years as CEO of the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid.

Under David's leadership, the Archbishop's Appeals Unit was transformed into Anglican Aid. He has been able to assist Anglican Aid to adjust to the ever changing landscape of the Anglican Communion. During his leadership Anglican Aid has broadened relationships with Gafcon partners, especially in the area of theological training. This has meant partnering with churches in Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific as well as Africa.

During his time as CEO, David has championed Anglican Aid as the aid agency of choice for Sydney Anglicans and their friends, working in partnership with parishes to promote and support their overseas links. David always maintained that aid is not delivered in a relational vacuum. He emphasised close partnership, with local leadership, through the local church.

He is passionate, humble, visionary and tireless in giving of himself professionally and personally to see the gospel proclaimed both in Sydney and internationally. David always encouraged everyone to let grace flow, to keep the gospel central and to see the fruit of the gospel thrive along with it.

As CEO he has seen donations and projects increase three-fold along with an increase of staff.

As David retires in the next few weeks as CEO of Anglican Aid, we pray for him and Helen that the Lord would continue to use them to His honour and glory.

(Bishop Peter Tasker / Mrs Amanda Garlato)

○○ **M83 Membership of Synod by Heads of Schools**

This Synod –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the Heads of Anglican Schools who have and continue to stand for the authority of the Scriptures, the uniqueness of Christ and the doctrine of our church in their schools;
- (b) notes that the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 does not preclude Heads of Anglican Schools being on Synod; and
- (c) requests Standing Committee to give consideration to amending the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 to allow for up to 3 heads to be elected to Synod.

(The Rev Nigel Fortescue / The Rev Craig Roberts)