



News from Diocesan Council

April 2021

Vote of Thanks

The Bishop acknowledged with deep gratitude the efforts of the Council before noting that some long standing members were bringing their attendance to a close after years of dedicated service. Thanks was conveyed to Fr David Patterson, David Fleming, Murray McFarlane, Des Warner and Joan Small for their faithful, dedicated and wonderful service on the Diocesan Council over many years and for their great counsel to the bishop of the day.

Grievance Policy

Professor Jocelyn Kellam finalised the grievance policy in accordance with comments expressed by the Council from their February meeting. Council resolved to adopt the Grievance Policy effectively immediately. Council also requested that Professor Kellam redraft the grievance policy for the purposes of a grievance against the Bishop.

Human Resources & Risk Management Committee

Council was informed that the Committee's current tasks have been put to one side whilst the WHS Policy proposals took priority. The Diocese of Adelaide updated documents for WHS Policy and Procedures, Forms, Plans and Templates were received and personalised to reflect the Diocese of The Murray. Council resolved to; provisionally adopt as presented the WHS Policy and Procedures, Forms, Plans and Template; that each parish/pastoral district be instructed to complete their management plan with the provision of three examples; to report this action to the May 2021 Synod; and to invite written submissions by way of a review by members of Synod for Diocesan Council's consideration no later than 31 January 2022. Policy rollout is expected during May.

Registry Staffing

The task group taking this matter forward co-opted an individual from ac.care to provide some human resources advice and his work was acknowledged. It was reiterated that job descriptions for the Registrar and Bishop's Secretary/Registry Clerk were redeveloped and an Assistant Registrar developed and Contracts of Employment are being drafted for all three positions. Council resolved to move forward with an Assistant Registrar appointment.

Integrated Accounting System

Councillors expressed that some of the IAS reporting and operator issues appear to be resolving. In relation to the governance issues previously flagged, the FAI Committee agreed that the IAS Workshop should be reconstituted, that potentially an IAS Committee should be established, and that an operational manual from a user's perspective should be developed.

Memorandum of Understanding

It was noted that the three centres at Mannum, Mount Pleasant and Mount Torrens be immediately separated from the Pastoral District of the Murraylands and will operate under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bishop until the updated Parochial Administration Ordinance comes into effect.

Property Report

Council was advised that the settlement on the property in the Western Fleurieu is imminent and another property will have an adjustment to its Title to make way for a major road expansion. An agent has also been engaged to advance the sale of a property within the Tatiara Pastoral District.

Distribution Rate

Council moved that the interest distribution rate for the six month period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021, to be paid on parish/diocesan investments, be 1.00%.

Safe Ministry Records

It was reported that the safe ministry records are a living record and remain a work in progress. Almost 500 records are held within the Diocesan database; some are out of date and some of the original documentation has yet to be sighted. Council agreed that, effective immediately, a JP certified copy of a National Police Certificate would be deemed acceptable in fulfilling this aspect of the safe ministry requirements. Council also resolved that safe ministry compliance be prioritised and that each parish record be rolled out from the Registry for parishes to update and collate any required forms with a timeline return date to the Registry of 30th June 2021. Beyond this date the Diocese would be in a position to centralise the data and declare to each parish who is compliant to operate in matters of safe ministry. Whoever is not compliant at this time will be suspended until compliance is fulfilled. Policy rollout is expected during May.

Synod 2021

14th & 15th May
Bridges Event Centre
Murray Bridge Racing Club

Website

www.murray.anglican.org

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