

THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MURRAY
of the Anglican Church of Australia Incorporated

REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE EIGHTEENTH TRIENNIAL SYNOD

**HELD AT BRIDGES EVENT CENTRE, GIFFORD HILL
ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 14TH AND 15TH MAY 2021**

COMMENCEMENT

The Synod assembled at the Bridges Event Centre (Macquarie and Legends Rooms), Gifford Hill at 1:00pm Friday 14th May.

The Right Reverend Keith Dalby welcomed Synod members to the Bridges Event Centre and his first Synod as President. Housekeeping matters were addressed.

The President presided with 20 clerical and 48 lay members of Synod in attendance.

MEMBERSHIP

The following appointments were announced. The Reverend Scott Mudd as the Clerical Assistant Secretary and Ms Ann Hay as the Lay Assistant Secretary, the Reverend Paul Devenport appointed as Synod Reporter and Timekeeper.

The Registrar noted that the roll had been marked in the traditional way. All attending had been asked to use the mySA GOV app to check-in through the COVID-SAFE QR code.

The Register of Members was made available for sighting.

The following members were excused from attendance at this Session of Synod:

The Reverend Ian Jansse	Murraylands
The Reverend Peter Sandeman	Diocesan Licence
The Reverend Peter Bourne	Onkaparinga Valley
Mr Murray McFarlane	Murraylands
Dr Peter Charlton	Lower Limestone Coast
Dr Sue Charlton	Lower Limestone Coast
Mrs Lynn King	Western Fleurieu
Dr Kenneth Pidgeon	Southern Suburbs
Mrs Bronwyn Telfer	Southern Suburbs
Mr David Fleming	Bishop's Appointee
Mr Rob Foggo	Bishop's Appointee

A mandate had been issued to the following substitutionary lay members of Synod:

Mrs Lynn Fisher	Lower Limestone Coast
Mrs Elizabeth Hodges	Lower Limestone Coast
Mrs Anne Chittleborough	Western Fleurieu
Mrs Glenda Cockley	Southern Suburbs

DOCUMENTS TABLED

The President tabled the Synod Accounts and the Parochial Statistics.

A Discussion Paper regarding the Future Format of Synod was also tabled with the request that Synod Members take this back to their Parishes to discuss locally and then report to the Registry.

REPORTS PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION

The following reports were circulated with the Synod papers:

The Report of Anglican Community Care submitted by Mr Rick Fisher, Convener, Board of Directors.

The Report of Anglicare SA submitted by the Reverend Margaret Holt, Diocesan Representative on the Board.

The Report of Anglicare SA submitted by Mr Grant Reubenicht, Acting CEO.

The Annual Report of the Professional Standards Committee.

The Report of the Anglican Board of Mission submitted by the Reverend Paul Devenport, Diocesan Representative.

The Murray Anglican submitted by the Reverend Paul Devenport, Editor.

The Report from Mr Mark Porter, Anglican Schools Liaison Officer.

The Report of Woodcroft College submitted by Mrs Shannon Warren, Head of College.

The Report of Investigator College submitted by Mr John Robinson, Principal.

The Report of Mothers' Union, Diocese of The Murray submitted by Mrs Jocelyn Williamson, President.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The President of Synod delivered his Charge to Synod at the completion of the Synod Eucharist.

PROCEEDINGS

The President called over the Notice Paper.

Business proceeded in accordance to the Notice Paper.

Sessional Orders were generally followed during the sitting.

Presentations were made by Ms Jenetta Russell regarding Governance and Mr Simon Berry regarding Digital Platforms.

The Synod Eucharist included the Licencing of Professor Jocelyn Kellam as Lay Chaplain and Special Counsel to the Bishop.

The President closed the Session of Synod with prayer at 2:50pm on Saturday 15th May.

OBSERVERS

The President welcomed the observers from both the Diocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Willochra and those in the Gallery.

Immediately following the Saturday morning tea break the President invited the observers from the Diocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Willochra to give greetings.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYNOD

SESSIONAL ORDERS

Mover: Mrs DM Jones

Secunder: The Reverend LJ Sulzberger

That during this Session, the Synod sits:

on Friday from 1:00pm to 3:00pm
3:30pm to 6:00pm

on Saturday from 9:00am to 10:30am
11:00am to 12:30pm
1:15pm to 3:00pm

OBSERVERS TO THE SYNOD

Mover: Mrs DM Jones

Secunder: Mr A Jeffrey

That this Synod warmly welcomes the Synod Solicitor Mr Brett Cowell, the Chair of the Finance, Audit and Investment Committee Mr Jeff McHugh, the Governance Officer Ms Jenetta Russell, the Lay Chaplain and Special Counsel to the Bishop Ms Jocelyn Kellam and the observers from the Diocese of Adelaide Ms Ann Nadge and from the Diocese of Willochra the Reverend Anne Ford and Mr Michael Ford and grants them a seat on the floor of Synod with the right to speak, but not to propose or second motions or vote.

PASSED

MOTION FROM THE FLOOR TO REORDER SYNOD BUSINESS

Mover: The Very Reverend DA Price

Secunder: Mrs JC Hervé

That the Synod consider bringing Motion 8 on the Notice Paper forward as the motion in question would have a direct impact on the business of synod.

PASSED

DEFER CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED MEASURES

Mover: Mr B McMillan

Secunder: Mrs JC Hervé

That the Synod, recognising that, before debating the general principle of any Measure proposing a new Ordinance, any Measure proposing amendments to any current Ordinance, or any Measure proposing amendments to the Constitution, there is a need for the whole Diocese to address such fundamental and over-arching issues as

- (a) what do we as a Diocese want to achieve by such amendments,
- (b) what kind of church do we want to be,
- (c) what kind of priests do we want and
- (d) what sort of structure do we want,

determines not to consider, at this Session of Synod, any such Measure as may be listed on the Notice Paper.

Vote by voice initially, then by show of hands.

Outcome: In Favour: 27, Against: 30

DEFEATED

Business then proceeded in accordance to the Notice Paper.

DIOCESAN LEGISLATION

CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Mover: Dr R Tong

Seconder: The Very Reverend DA Price

1. That a measure for an Ordinance to amend the Constitution by the repeal of sections 11 and 13 and amending sections 15 and 26 to allow for the adoption by Synod of new Standing Orders for the conduct of synod business be approved in principle.

PASSED

Mover: Dr R Tong

Seconder: The Very Reverend DA Price

2. That a measure for an Ordinance to amend the Section 26 (b) of the Constitution be approved in principle.

Motion was amended to include the words “unless it has been confirmed in a like manner at a subsequent Synod.”

Mover: Mrs JC Hervé

Seconder: Mr P Evans

PASSED as amended

Note: As Mr Murray McFarlane was unable to attend this Synod, leave was given for the Very Reverend David Price (as the Seconder) to move the motions in his stead (and call for a new Seconder from the floor).

Mover: The Very Reverend DA Price

Seconder: Dr R Tong

3. That a measure for an Ordinance to amend various sections and Schedules of the Constitution be approved in principle.

PASSED

ORDINANCES

Mover: Dr R Tong

Secunder: The Very Reverend DA Price

Dr Tong spoke to the Motion and reminded Synod that it was approving in principal the measures put before it. A subsequent session of Synod would still be required to approve the measures.

1. Ordinance for the Conduct of Synod Business 2021

That a measure for an Ordinance to provide Standing Orders for the Conduct of Synod Business be approved in principle.

PASSED

Mover: Dr R Tong

Secunder: The Very Reverend DA Price

2. Consecration of A Bishop to the See of The Murray Ordinance 2021

That a measure for an Ordinance to provide for the consecration of a Bishop to the See of The Murray be approved in principle.

DEFERRED TO NEXT SESSION OF SYNOD

Mover: The Very Reverend DA Price

Secunder: Dr R Tong

3. Diocesan Council Ordinance 2021

That a measure for an ordinance to provide for the appointment and regulation of the affairs of the Diocesan Council and its Executive be approved in principle.

Mrs Jill Hervé raised an amendment that the Chair of the Finance, Audit and Investment Committee, the Registrar and the Chair of any other Sub-committee, if they are not members of Diocesan Council already, be given observer status only.

PASSED as amended

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Mover: Mr GD Grosse

Secunder: Mr M Smoker

Propose that the Synod cease continued debate on constitutional and ordinance amendments until the next session of the Triennium to ensure adequate time is given to the other business of Synod.

Motion amended to listen to the two remaining pieces of legislation and if questions of significance are raised then defer.

Mover: Dr R Tong

Secunder: The Very Reverend DA Price

Amendment **DEFEATED**

Vote on original Motion, by voice initially, then by show of hands.

Outcome: In Favour: 36, Against: 27

PASSED

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mover: Mrs DM Jones

Seconder: Mr C Martin

That the Report of the Synod Auditor, and the Synod Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020, as tabled, be received and adopted.

PASSED

With two recorded votes against;
Mr P Evans and Mrs P Johnston

DRAFT BUDGET OF SYNOD EXPENSES

Mover: Mrs DM Jones

Seconder: The Reverend CC Greaves

That the draft budget of Synod Expenses for the year 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 presented by the Diocesan Council, be received and adopted.

PASSED

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Mover: Mrs DM Jones

Seconder: The Reverend LJ Sulzberger

That the Report of the Diocesan Council be received.

PASSED

REPORT OF ANGLICAN COMMUNITY CARE

Mover: Mr RA Fisher

Seconder: Mr D Glover

Mr Fisher requested that Lay Canon Michael Bleby be given leave to speak as outgoing Chair of ac.care. Leave was granted by Synod and Mr Bleby gave a valedictory address on his 25 years with ac.care which was met with a vote of thanks for his long service.

That the report of Anglican Community Care be received.

PASSED

Leave was given by Synod to allow the Synod Solicitor, Mr Brett Cowell, to provide a brief summary around the matters relating to Dr Carlsson's litigation that formed Motions 9, 10 and 11 on the Notice Paper.

A REQUEST FOR A POSTHUMOUS APOLOGY FOR THE REVEREND DR PETER CARLSSON AND HIS FAMILY

Mover: Mrs P Johnston

Seconder: Mrs JC Hervé

That this Synod notes that charges of theft, laid against the late Reverend Dr Peter Carlsson in February 2019, for allegedly removing items from the Cathedral at Murray Bridge, were withdrawn by the prosecution on 27th May 2019 and dismissed by a Magistrate pursuant to Section 72 of the Criminal Procedure Act and apologises posthumously to the late Reverend Dr Peter and his family for the extreme pain and suffering caused to him as a result of the laying of these charges.

Motion put by show of hands.

Outcome: In Favour: 29, Against: 20

PASSED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE TO THE DIOCESE OF THE LATE DR PETER CARLSSON

Mover: Mrs JC Hervé

Seconder: Mrs JMD Malpas

That this Synod acknowledges and formally records and gives thanks for the enormous contribution made to the Diocese over some 14 years by the late Reverend Dr Peter Carlsson BTh, MA, MRE and Doctor of Practical Ministry in his diverse roles as Priest in Charge of Penola and Millicent Parishes, Examining Chaplain, Director of Formation, Rural Dean of the South East, Archdeacon of the Limestone Coast, Parish Priest of Strathalbyn Pastoral District, Archdeacon of The Murray, Vicar General and Administrator of the Diocese of The Murray during the times when Bishop John Ford was absent from the Diocese.

PASSED

REQUEST FOR EX GRATIA PAYMENTS TO THE ESTATE OF THE LATE REVEREND DR PETER CARLSSON

Mover: Mrs JC Hervé

Seconder: Mr P Evans

That in recognition of his many years of service to the Diocese, this Synod agrees to make the following ex gratia payments to the estate of the late Reverend Dr Peter Carlsson:

1. The sum of \$12,833.59 being improvements made by Reverend Dr Peter to the house owned by the Diocese at 15 Willowbark Crescent, Murray Bridge and occupied by him from 2015 to 2019.
2. The sum of \$7,130 incurred by him in removal expenses in moving from the house at 15 Willowbark Crescent, Murray Bridge to his new home at Strathalbyn in July 2019.

Motion put by show of hands.

Outcome: In Favour: 22, Against: 30

DEFEATED

MOTIONS NOT PUT

Mover: The Very Reverend DA Price

Seconder: Dr R Tong

4. **Clergy Service Ordinance 2021**

That a measure for an Ordinance to provide for the appointment of the Priest in Charge and the conditions for Clergy serving in the Diocese be approved in principle.

Mover: The Very Reverend DA Price

Seconder: Dr R Tong

5. **Parochial Administration Ordinance 2021**

That a measure for an Ordinance to provide for the definition, recognition and administration of Parishes Provisional Parishes and Parochial Districts in the Diocese be approved in principle.

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE BISHOP

In relation to a request of Naracoorte for a Statement of Acceptable Episcopal Standards.

1. It is the obligations of all church workers including the bishop to obey the law.
2. As bishop, I will not issue an instruction to breach statutory obligations.
3. I do not condone aggressive behaviour or intimidation, especially that which makes people cry.
4. I encourage open and constructive communication.

ELECTION RESULTS

Sealholder

No nominations submitted

Diocesan Nominator

No nominations submitted

General Synod Representative

Clergy (elected unopposed)

The Reverend P Devenport

Reserve

Laity

No nominations submitted

Reserve

Panel of Assessors

Clergy (elected unopposed)

The Reverend P Devenport

Laity

No nominations submitted

Provincial Council

Clergy (elected unopposed)

The Reverend P Devenport

The Reverend CC Greaves

Laity (elected unopposed)

Mr P Evans

Diocesan Council

Clergy (elected unopposed)
The Reverend P Devenport
The Reverend CC Greaves

Laity (elected unopposed)
Mr RA Fisher
Mr GD Grosse
Mr B McMillan
Mr C Martin

Bishop Election Committee

Clergy (elected unopposed)
The Reverend P Devenport
Reserves

Laity
No nominations submitted
Reserves

Chairman of Committees

No nominations submitted

Deputy Chairman of Committees

No nominations submitted

Auditor

ADDENDUM TO THE SYNOD MINUTES FOLLOWS

QUESTION 1

“Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31st December 2019”

Please would the Diocese of The Murray itemise the following expenditure.

“Audit, Legal and Consultancy Fees” of \$201,911 in 2019

- a) **Audit fees amount**
- b) **Legal fees amount, including name/s of recipients of funds and the matter/s involved.**
- c) **Consultancy Fees amount, including the name/s of recipients of funds and the matter/s involved.**

RESPONSE

Professional Standards Director	Anglican Diocese of Adelaide – Provincial MOU	17,368.00
Accounting services	Perrey Bozzetti & Associates - Accountancy	32,147.27
Auditor's remuneration	BDO (SA) Pty Ltd – Annual Audit	11,379.06
Legal expenses	Cowell Clarke Commercial Lawyers – Carlsson matter	111,900.50
Legal expenses	Reimbursement J Ford Forensic Timeline – Carlsson matter	819.00
Legal expenses	Cowell Clarke Commercial Lawyers – General matters	690.00
Legal expenses	Strachan Carr Lawyers – General matters	6,767.00
Legal expenses	CBP Lawyers – Settlement of confidential nature	20,840.00
		\$201,910.83

QUESTION 2

“Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31st December 2020”

Please would the Diocese of The Murray itemise the following expenditure.

“Audit, Legal and Consultancy Fees” of \$117,280 in 2020

- a) **Audit fees amount**
- b) **Legal fees amount, including name/s of recipients of funds and the matter/s involved.**
- c) **Consultancy Fees amount, including the name/s of recipients of funds and the matter/s involved.**

RESPONSE

Professional Standards Director	Anglican Diocese of Adelaide – Provincial MOU	17,368.00
Accounting services	Perrey Bozzetti & Associates – Accountancy	35,690.00
Auditor's remuneration	BDO (SA) Pty Ltd – Annual Audit	10,556.41
Legal expenses	Cowell Clarke Commercial Lawyers – Carlsson matter	36,284.00
Legal expenses	Cowell Clarke Commercial Lawyers – Cemetery matter	11,299.50
Legal expenses	Cowell Clarke Commercial Lawyers – General matters	5,249.00
Legal expenses	Strachan Carr Lawyers – General matters	833.00
		\$117,279.91