

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE EIGHTEENTH TRIENNIAL SYNOD**

**HELD AT BRIDGES EVENT CENTRE, GIFFORD HILL  
ON SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**COMMENCEMENT**

The Synod assembled at the Bridges Event Centre (Macquarie and Legends Rooms), Gifford Hill at 9:00am Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

The Right Reverend Keith Dalby welcomed Synod members to the Bridges Event Centre. Housekeeping matters were addressed.

The President presided with 17 clerical and 44 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 David Patterson as Synod Timekeeper, Mr Mark Taylor as Synod Reporter. Mrs Donna Jones and Mrs Jasamine Irvine were appointed as Scrutineers

The Registrar noted that the roll had been marked on arrival. All attending had been asked to use the mySA GOV app to check-in through the dual COVID-Safe QR codes of the venue and the Synod.

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

The Reverend Wayne Corker	Upper Limestone Coast
The Reverend Lyndon Sulzberger	Lower Limestone Coast
The Reverend Paul Monash	South Coast
The Reverend Brenton Dick	Western Fleurieu
The Reverend Thomas Karamakuzhiyil	Mount Barker and Strathalbyn
Mrs Sharilyn Lively	Kingston-Robe
Mrs Pauline Johnston	Kingston-Robe
Mrs Stephanie Hunt	Kingston-Robe
Mr David Glover	Lower Limestone Coast
Mr Louis Leake	Lower Limestone Coast
Mr Graeme Skene	Lower Limestone Coast
Mrs Elizabeth Hodges	Lower Limestone Coast
Mr John Luckhurst Smith	Lower Limestone Coast
Mr Dean Burrow	Lower Limestone Coast
Mrs Lynn King	Western Fleurieu
Mr Dean Grosse	Riverland

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

Mrs Stephanie Hunt	Kingston-Robe
Mrs Lynn Fisher	Lower Limestone Coast
Mr John Luckhurst Smith	Lower Limestone Coast
Mr Dean Burrow	Lower Limestone Coast
Mrs Anne Chittleborough	Western Fleurieu
Mrs Glenda Cockley	Southern Suburbs

### **DOCUMENT TABLED**

The Register of Members.

### **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

The President of Synod delivered his Charge to Synod during the Synod Eucharist.

### **PROCEEDINGS**

The President proceeded with business in accordance with the Notice Paper.

The President acknowledged all new members of Synod, particularly the Right Reverend Michael Hough who is Locum Tenens at Kingston-Robe. He also acknowledged the clergy whose Parish ministry within the Diocese is concluding; The Reverend Richard Burr, The Reverend Daniel Irvine and the Reverend Scott Mudd. Thanks was also expressed to Mrs Jasamine Irvine, Bishop's Secretary and Registry Clerk, as she prepares to go on Maternity Leave next year and God's blessing was prayed for the Irvine family.

The President closed the Session of Synod with prayer at 2:10pm.

### **OBSERVER**

The President welcomed the observer from the Diocese of Adelaide and those in the Gallery.

Before the business session commenced, the President invited the observer from the Diocese of Adelaide the opportunity to extend greetings. Ms Ann Nadge gave a summary on Adelaide's recent Synod.

## **RESOLUTIONS OF SYNOD**

### **SESSIONAL ORDERS**

Mover: Mrs DM Jones

Seconder: The Very Reverend DA Price

That during this Session, the Synod sits from:

9:00am	to	10:00am
10:30am	to	12:30pm
1:15pm	to	3:00pm

**PASSED**

### **OBSERVER TO THE SYNOD**

Mover: Mrs DM Jones

Secunder: The Reverend SJD Mudd

That this Synod warmly welcomes the observer from the Diocese of Adelaide Ms Ann Nadge and grants her 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: The Reverend DBG Patterson

That the Synod consider deleting item 4 – *Clergy Service Ordinance 2021* (having been dealt with at the Special Session of Synod, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021) and moving item 6 – *Standing Orders for the Conduct of Synod Business* to item 4 on the agenda.

**PASSED**

Business then proceeded in accordance to the Notice Paper.

### **CONSTITUTION CHANGES**

Mover: Dr R Tong

Secunder: The Very Reverend DA Price

1. That a measure for an Ordinance to amend the Constitution to allow for the adoption by Synod of new Standing Orders for the conduct of synod business be now confirmed.

Vote by Houses by standing in place:

House of Laity: Yes – 39, No – 3

House of Clergy Yes – 16, No – 1

House of Bishop Yes – 1, No – 0

**PASSED**

Mover: Dr R Tong

Secunder: The Very Reverend DA Price

2. That a measure for an Ordinance to amend the Section 26 (b) of the Constitution as amended be now confirmed.

Vote by Houses by standing in place:

House of Laity: Yes – 38, No – 3

House of Clergy Yes – 16, No – 1

House of Bishop Yes – 1, No – 0

**PASSED**

Mover: Mr MH McFarlane

Secunder: Mr CN Martin

3. That a measure for an Ordinance to amend various sections and Schedules of the Constitution be now confirmed.

Vote by Houses by standing in place:

House of Laity: Yes – 39, No – 2

House of Clergy Yes – 17, No – 0

House of Bishop Yes – 1, No – 0

**PASSED**

### **STANDING ORDERS FOR THE CONDUCT OF SYNOD BUSINESS**

Mover: Dr R Tong

Secunder: Mr MH McFarlane

The measure for an Ordinance to provide for the conduct of Synod business.

Pursuant to Standing Order 33 (1) the President will ask if any member wishes to debate the measure in committee.

Section 1 Amend to add point 7 The Bishop may convene information sessions for Synod members, either in a single location or regional locations. Synod meeting rules are suspended and only recommendations can be put to Synod. Such sessions shall be open to all members of Parishes. These sessions may be chaired by the Vicar General or a Lay member of Diocesan Council or a member of Synod.

**PASSED** as amended

That the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Synod Business pass as an ordinance of Synod.

**PASSED**

### **PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATION ORDINANCE 2021**

Mover: Mr MH McFarlane

Secunder: Mr CN Martin

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.

Synod moved into Committee, Chaired by Dr Robert Tong.

Amendments were proposed as follows;

Section 17.2(d) Two Parish Councillors elected by members of the Parish according to Section 43.3.

17.2(e) One Parish Councillor and one Priest Churchwarden appointed by the Priest in Charge in accordance with Sections 40.3(b) and 43.4.

Mover: Mr MH McFarlane **Passed**

Section 38.3 Delete the words “and three Parish Churchwardens.”

Mover: Mr MH McFarlane **Passed**

Section 40.3 To read “In the year of the first session of Synod in each Triennium, prior to the Annual Meeting:

(a) each Faith Community shall elect the Local and Peoples Churchwardens in accordance with Section 26.2

(b) At or within 7 days of the Annual Meeting the Priest in Charge shall appoint one Priest Churchwarden.

Mover: Mr MH McFarlane **Passed**

Section 42.4 Delete in full.

Mover: Mr MH McFarlane **Passed**

Section 43 The following to be inserted

43.1 Parish Councillors are to be an integral part of the leadership of the Parish co-operating with the Priest in Charge in the initiation, conduct and development of the work of God and His Church within the Parish.

43.2 Parish Councillors represent all the Faith Communities on Parish Council and help fulfil roles assigned to Parish Council.

43.3 At the Annual Meeting of the Parish, two Parish Councillors shall be elected.

43.4 At or within 7 days of the Annual Meeting, the Priest in Charge shall appoint one Parish Councillor.

43.5 Vacancies shall be filled by Parish Council; these appointments do not count as part of the consecutive terms condition under Section 17.5.

Initial Section 43 to be renumbered 43A.

Mover: Mr MH McFarlane **Passed**

Section 46 Following on from the previous Special Session of Synod Mr MH McFarlane tabled an alternate proposal for Section 46 as requested but it was agreed to leave this for amendment at a later Synod.

Section 46 Delete the words “voluntarily associated with the Parish”

Mover: Mrs JC Hervé **Passed**

Section 53 Delete the existing points 53.1, 53.2 and 53.3 and replace with the following;

53.1 Any Building or location on any Parish Trust Property may be used at any time

(a) for public worship, with the prior approval of a Parish Council, or the Priest in Charge and of the Bishop or Vicar General, and

(b) for the administration of the Sacraments, with the prior approval of the Bishop.

53.2 Any building or location on any other property may be used, with the prior permission of the owner or occupier, at any specified time

(a) for public worship, with the prior approval of a Parish Council, or the Priest in Charge and of the Bishop or Vicar General, and

(b) for the administration of the Sacraments, with the prior approval of the Bishop.

Mover: Mr BE McMillan **Passed**

Section 61.5 Delete in full.

Mover: Mrs DK Horne **Defeated**

Section 61.5 Delete words “but 20% shall be placed in a maintenance fund held on behalf of the Parish at the Registry.

Mover: The Reverend Prof. P Sandeman **Passed**

Section 66 Delete in full.

Mover: Mr BE McMillan **Defeated**

Section 67 Replace “Home Mission” with “See”

Mover: Mrs JC Hervé **Passed**

*Appendix A* Suggest that Diocesan Council consider amending this list to include Faith Communities that are alternative to mainline Parish Faith Communities, i.e. places where church buildings have been sold but congregations meet at other premises.

Mover: Mr MH Bleby **Passed**

*Appendix C* Section B Include reference to Section 66.

Mover: Mrs JC Hervé **Passed**

**PASSED** as amended

That the Parochial Administration Ordinance 2021 pass as an ordinance of Synod.

**PASSED**

The Chancellor expressed thanks to Mr McFarlane for all his work in preparing the Legislation for these Special Sessions of Synod. This was met with acclamation.

### **THE REVEREND PAUL DEVENPORT**

Mover: Mrs RJ Daws

Secunder: The Reverend SJD Mudd

Synod gives thanks to Almighty God for the ministry of Fr Paul Devenport in this diocese as Priest in Charge of the Riverland and formerly Southern Vales and a member of Diocesan Council, Provincial Council, ABM Representative and more particularly as editor of The Murray Anglican. We pray God’s blessing on Paul and Helen as they enter his new ministry opportunities in the Diocese of Adelaide.

**PASSED**

Comments were made by Mrs Hervé that with the implementation of the Parochial Administration Ordinance there would need to be a “cleaning up” of Parish Australian Business Numbers and Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission pages.

The Reverend Neil Fernando offered words of encouragement to Parishes to spread the Good News.

The President offered a prayer for Mrs Bronwyn Telfer who became unwell during Synod.

The President thanked the staff of Bridges Event Centre, Dr R Tong, and Mrs Donna Jones and Mrs Jasmine Irvine for their work in organising Synod. This was met with acclamation.

The President closed the Session of Synod with prayer at 2:10pm.