



News from Diocesan Council

December 2015 to February 2016

New appointments

It was announced that Margaret Philpott, a parishioner from Mount Barker, has accepted the Bishop's invitation to join Diocesan Council as his nominee.

During Mass following the December meeting, the Council witnessed the licensing and commissioning of the Venerable Dr Peter Carlsson as Archdeacon of The Murray and Vicar General.

Progress around the Diocese

Diocesan Council have been planning a Progress around the Diocese to take place in Eastertide to consult about the future shape and direction of our common life in the service of the Good News.

All feedback will be provided to the Council who will develop a presentation to be shared at the Special Call of Synod in November.

Creation of Pastoral Districts

At the request of the former Pastoral District Councils of Delamere and Yankalilla, the Diocesan Council resolved that they combine and be recognised as the Pastoral District of Yankalilla and Delamere.

The former Pastoral District of Seaford has also united with Southern Vales and are to be recognised and function as the Pastoral District of Southern Vales.

The Council resolved that the former Parishes of Strathalbyn and Naracoorte are now recognised as the Pastoral District of Strathalbyn and the Pastoral District of Naracoorte.

Proposed Murray Bridge Building Project

A new group has been set up to take this matter forward. This group will comprise of a number of new participants and David Fleming, Chair of the Finance Committee will be its convenor. The building and financial feasibility studies will continue and discussion will be had with interested parties regarding possible involvement in this proposed development.

Diocese of Popondota

As a result of Bishop John's visit to the Diocese of Popondota (Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea) during November, links have been re-established between the two Dioceses. Some of the previous Synod budgeted funds have now been earmarked to support Popondota with their coffee drying plant refurbishment project so that they can start drying beans for exportation and generate income within approximately a six month period.

Resource to assist those preparing a Will

Council has instructed the Synod Solicitor in consultation with the Bishop to prepare such a leaflet to assist those preparing a Will.

Survey of Diocesan Assets

Council reflected on the preliminary report presented previously by Jeff McHugh. A brief discussion was had regarding possible projects in certain areas. It was noted that beyond the Progress around the Diocese, more substantive decisions will be able to occur.

Work Health and Safety Requirements

The Risk Management Committee has been tirelessly working on the Diocesan WHS policies. Diocesan Council engaged James Large, Director of PeopleVision to review our policies, provide suggested amendments, assist the Council to understand WHS requirements and he will in due course undertake a safety audit across the Diocese.

Safe Church Environment

Dates will soon be advised for the 2016 Safe Ministry Training sessions. A revised Safe Place Poster was circulated prior to Christmas to all Parishes and Pastoral Districts for updating church noticeboards.

Memorandum of Understanding - Professional Standards

In order to establish a shared infrastructure the Diocesan Councils of the three Dioceses in the Province of South Australia have approved a new version of the MOU associated with Professional Standards.

Diocesan Communications Strategy Report

A report was conducted on the different communication strategies used by the Diocese, and the following highlights two areas of their research.

• *Diocesan Website*

The report supported that the Diocesan website should be completely overhauled and updated on all levels to become relevant.

• *The Murray Anglican*

It was reported that in a broad sense this publication appears to be well liked, with a general approval of the magazine format. Council noted that a printed format remains important to reach those in our community. It was noted that assistance is received from only one lay person and one proof reader, and that editions are limited to provision of information.

2016 Synod Dates

27 & 28 May, Woodcroft College
5 November, Special Call, Woodcroft College

Facebook

www.facebook.com/pages/The-Diocese-of-The-Murray

Website

<http://www.murray.anglican.org/>