



News from Diocesan Council

February 2021

Parochial Administration Ordinance

The Bishop touched on his recent letter to the diocese and the two major reasons for the rewrite of the Parochial Administration Ordinance (PAO). Firstly, it is largely unchanged from its inception in 1970 when the diocese came into being. One of the revisions will bring in a five-year review cycle with provision to amend as required in the interim if needed. The second reason is that the regulatory environment has changed dramatically since 2000 and certainly since 1970. Some of the important changes in the PAO is a requirement that there be a person on Parish Council responsible for Work Health and Safety, Safe Ministry, Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) compliance.

Diocesan Council Ordinance

Councillors were afforded the opportunity to comment on the Diocesan Council Ordinance. It was moved that the Chair of the Human Resources and Risk Management Committee be an ex-officio member of the Council.

Circulation to Synod Members

Council moved that the POA and DC Ordinance be circulated to members of Synod inviting them to provide any feedback or comments in writing to the Registrar no later than Monday 29th March in readiness for the April Diocesan Council meeting and the upcoming Synod.

Diocesan Policy Review and Identification of Gaps

The Bishop requested that a review be undertaken of all diocesan regulations and the Council resolved that this be undertaken for all Diocesan Regulations for future standardising of an overarching policy document (if required) with a procedures document.

Human Resources & Risk Management Committee

With the addition of WHS to the Committee's oversight, it was agreed to change the name to Human Resources and Risk Management (HR & RM) Committee. The Committee have since been reviewing the Diocese of The Murray WHS Policy. Council ratified the recommendation that the Diocese of Adelaide WHS Policies and Procedures be adopted, subject to minor personalising amendments to make the document reflect the Diocese of The Murray. This will be taken to Synod 2021 with written submissions by members of Synod invited by way of review for Diocesan Councillors to consider no later than 31st January 2022.

It was also noted that John Badgery has resigned from the Committee after nearly three years of membership. An invitation has been issued to fill the vacancy.

Governance Officer

Council previously approved, in principle, the appointment of Jenetta Russell as Interim Governance Officer for the Diocese. This decision was ratified with further agreement on the remuneration on an hourly basis noting that it was envisaged that the role could be achieved in 5 hours per month between November 2020 to 30 June 2021. There may need to be an additional 5–10 hours for the preparation of a training programme and finalisation of the manual document in preparedness of the sign-off by the Diocese, but Ms Russell will make every effort to minimise any additional time.

Property Report

Progress has been made with the current pending property sale within the Western Fleurieu Pastoral District. A separate proposal for the sale of another property within the Tatiara Pastoral District was considered by Council and approved, subject to the Executive Committee agreeing to the minimum sale price.

Registry Staffing

The Council received an update from the task group taking this matter forward. The two existing job descriptions for the Registrar and Bishop's Secretary/Registry Clerk have been reviewed and updated and an Assistant/Deputy Registrar job description has been developed. The aim to test the market and appoint by April remains on target.

2021 MTF and HMF Appeals

Some time ago, comments at Diocesan Council alluded that the regular brochure and envelope approach for our two appeals, namely the Ministry Training Fund and the Home Mission Fund, was considered outdated. It was noted that the appeals for 2020 were held over due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Until we are more digitalised with the new app and website, it was agreed that a brochure be prepared for each of our appeals for the months of June and September respectively.

Synod 2021

14th & 15th May
Murray Bridge Racing Club

Website

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