



# News From Diocesan Council

July 2021

## Welcome

Bishop Keith welcomed all in attendance. Councillors shared a short introduction of themselves which could include their personal Why statement and Just Cause, and their vision for the future of the Diocese.

## Zoom Presentations

Council welcomed Ms Paula Davies, Professional Standards Director for the Province, to the meeting via Zoom conferencing facilities. Ms Davies worked through a PowerPoint Presentation and Councillors were encouraged to interact throughout. They were also joined separately by Mr Brian Dalby, Group Health Safety Environment Director for Inchcape plc. Councillors were provided with a copy of the Due Diligence - South Australia WHS obligations PowerPoint presentation on work health and safety matters in order to better equip those tasked with such responsibilities.

## Bishop's Appointments

To Diocesan Council; Jeff McHugh, Ruth Daws, Dr Ted Sandercock

Diocesan Council Executive: Bishop, Vicar General, Chancellor, Ruth Daws

## Diocesan Council Appointments

Chairman of Committees: Dr Robert Tong

Deputy Chairman of Committee: Fr David Price

Sealholders: Fr Cliff Greaves, Dr Ted Sandercock

Auditor: BDO SA

Noting that there were insufficient nominations received at the recent session of Synod to fulfil the triennial election process, Council agreed to seek any Expressions of Interest in the various committees and vacancies from the Synod membership.

## Registry Staffing

Council was updated on progress associated with the newly created position of Assistant Registrar. Job and Person Descriptions have been finalised for all three Registry administration roles. The logistics of making space available in the adjacent vacant office for the Bishop and Vicar General is occurring for admin to be all together at the existing Registry.

## Episcopal Standards Ordinance and Committee

The Chancellor took carriage of this matter noting that while our Synod passed the Episcopal Standards Ordinance in 2016, the ordinance has not commenced operation because of: (i) the desire to act provincially with Adelaide and Willochra, and (ii) the difficulty in populating the required boards and committees. Council agreed in principle to act provincially in activating the operation of the Episcopal Standards Ordinance 2016 and determine the steps necessary for action.

## Episcopal Grievance Protocol and Policy

The Protocol and Policy drafted by Dr Jocelyn Kellam were circulated to members prior to the meeting. Discussion was encouraged and Council then resolved to adopt the Dispute Resolution Protocol and Policy regarding grievances involving the Diocesan Bishop, effectively immediately.

## Property Report

The Western Fleurieu are reviewing their decision to sell one of their properties, but the land acquisition for a major road expansion is in hand. There has been an offer on a property although the pastoral district has not yet decided to sell at this stage. The future of another property in the South East is still being discussed locally. A rental property in the Southern Suburbs has been approved for sale. A church building was severely damaged by a storm and an insurance claim is underway. The cost of repair is likely to be significant. The property within the Tatiara Pastoral District has been sold.

## Governance and Board Effectiveness Training

*Not for Profit Success* facilitated six training sessions at various locations across the Diocese accommodating a total of 138 participants. The sessions were very well attended, and feedback was generally very positive, yet some participants still require a better understanding of their governance obligations.

(continued overleaf...)

### Safe Ministry Records

The safe ministry records continue to be updated as the necessary documentation is received. There has been a steady influx of documentation in the last couple of months which suggests that the message of needing to provide it is being heard. Parishes are also gradually indicating who is in, or who is no longer in, a relevant role within a Parish so that the records can be updated to reflect this and more easily identify if someone is due to update their Safe Ministry Requirements.

Discussions have been reopened with the Provincial Registrars resulting in a Provincial solution for safe ministry recording. The secure platform, currently used by the Diocese of Adelaide, is tried and tested and a prudent way forward.

### Safe Ministry Training

Fr Brenton Daulby has facilitated nine face-to-face Child Safe Environments "Through Their Eyes" courses this year and an additional Induction and Refresher session have each been arranged by Zoom. The general feedback received has been positive regarding the way that Fr Brenton has run the courses and the obvious knowledge that he has on this topic of child safety.

People continue to take up the opportunity to participate in the Safe Ministry Training course online through OpenLearning. This too has received very positive feedback although face-to-face options are being investigated again.

### Home Mission Fund Grants

A \$3,000 grant for the Tatiara Pastoral District to assist with ministry short fall expenses as they trial for a 6-8 month period a new monthly ministry plan. An extension of funding to the Murraylands Pastoral District for 50% stipend emoluments until 31st December 2021.

### Risk Management Committee

Dr Ted Sandercock provided an update to Council that the creation of a Risk Management culture process at Parish level was postponed while the committee worked on WHS Policy and Procedures. These should be presented at the next Diocesan Council meeting. The WHS management template has not been sent out as the agreed samples have not yet been completed. The new WHS format of Policy and Procedures is being considered for some of the DC Regulations. The Committee is also considering ways to provide a WHS consultant in each region of the Diocese to assist local Parishes implement the new WHS Policy and Procedures. This also ties in to the Brian Dalby WHS presentation.

### The Murray Anglican Editor

With Fr Paul Devenport accepting a position in the Diocese of Adelaide, he has been asked to provide a recommendation for a replacement Editor.

### Synod Observers

Diocese of Adelaide - 15-17 October - Council nominated Fr Wayne Corker and Dr Ted Sandercock to represent the Diocese at this Synod.  
Diocese of Willochra - 30-31 October - Port Pirie - Council agreed to call for expressions of interest to fill these observer roles.

### **Special Calls of Synod**

Friday 3rd December 2021

Saturday 4th December 2021

Murray Bridge

Website

[www.murray.anglican.org](http://www.murray.anglican.org)

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