



The Synod of the Diocese of The Murray of
the Anglican Church of Australia Inc.
ABN 11 456 974 518

MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH TRIENNIAL SYNOD

**HELD AT CHRIST CHURCH, MOUNT GAMBIER
ON FRIDAY 21, SATURDAY 22 AND SUNDAY 23 JUNE 2024**

FRIDAY 21 JUNE 2024

The Synod commenced on Friday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. with the Synod Eucharist presided over by the Diocesan Administrator, Br Simon Waters, the sermon delivered by the Ven David McDougall. Following the Eucharist Synod Members adjourned to the Parish Hall for the Administrator's Presidential Address, at the conclusion of which Synod adjourned until Saturday morning.

SATURDAY 22 JUNE 2024

At 8:50 a.m. Synod opened with Prayer. Matters of housekeeping were dealt with and a welcome from the Parish of Mount Gambier followed. The ac.care Acknowledgement of Country video was played.

The President presided with 12 clerical and 45 lay members of Synod in attendance.

MEMBERSHIP

The Registrar announced the following appointments: Rev David Patterson as Assistant Secretary; Mr Jeffrey McHugh and Mr Richard Earley as Scrutineers; Rev Andrew Forder as Timekeeper; and the Ven Neil Fernando as Synod Reporter.

The Register of Members was made available for sighting.

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

Mrs Margaret Philpott	Mount Barker District
Mr Paul Stevens	Mount Barker District
The Reverend Desmond Ackland	Murraylands

Mrs Raelene Ackland	Murraylands
The Reverend Ian Jansse	Murraylands
Mrs Leonora Lyons	Murraylands
Mr Andrew Jeffery	South Coast
The Reverend Nicholas Rundle	South Coast
The Reverend Carol Cornwall	Southern Suburbs
Ms Jacqueline Kopacz	Southern Suburbs
Mr Chris Martin	Southern Suburbs
Mr Brian Landseer	Strathalbyn
The Reverend Robert Hupfield	Tatiara
Mr Lachlan Haynes	Upper Limestone Coast
Mrs Janet Malpas	Upper Limestone Coast
Mrs Susan Smith	Western Fleurieu

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

Mr John Hender	South Coast
Mr Stephen Banner	Western Fleurieu

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Noted below as they occurred during Synod.

PETITIONS

Nil

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Noted below as they occurred during Synod.

REPORTS PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION

The following reports were circulated with the Synod papers:

The Report of AnglicareSA submitted by Mr Grant Reubenicht, CEO.

The Report of the Anglican Board of Mission submitted by Mrs Meagan Schwarz, Key Relationships Manager.

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

The Report of Kooyoora (Professional Standards) submitted by Ms Fiona Boyle, CEO.

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

RESOLUTIONS OF SYNOD

SESSIONAL ORDERS

That during this Session, the Synod sits on:

Friday from	4:00 pm	to	6:00 pm
Saturday from	8:30 am	to	10:30 am
	11:00 am	to	12:30 pm
	1:30 pm	to	3:00 pm
Sunday from	9:00 am	to	10:15 am
	10:30 am	to	11:00 am

Mover: Mr Richard Earley

Seconder: Mr Murray McFarlane

PASSED

OBSERVERS TO THE SYNOD

That this Synod warmly welcomes:

The Observer from the Diocese of Adelaide (Rev Paula Bullock);

The Observers from the Diocese of Willochra (Rev Wendy Cooper and Mr Timothy Cooper);

Ms Fiona Boyle, CEO, Kooyoora;

Mr Jack Monaghan, Anglican Community Engagement Worker, AnglicareSA;

Mrs Meagan Schwarz, Key Relationships Manager, Anglican Board of Mission;

and grants them a seat on the floor of Synod with the right to speak, but not to propose or second motions or vote.

Mover: Mr Richard Earley

Seconder: Mr Murray McFarlane

PASSED

FINANCIAL REPORTS

That the Report of the Synod Auditor, and the Synod Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023, as tabled, be received and adopted.

Mover: Mr Jeff McHugh

Seconder: Mr Richard Earley

PASSED

DRAFT BUDGET OF SYNOD EXPENSES AND RATE OF ASSESSMENT

That the draft budget of Synod Expenses for the year 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 presented by the Diocesan Council, be received and adopted.

AND

That to meet the estimated Synod Expenses, the minimum rate of Assessment from 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2025 be 16% on all assessable income.

Mover: Mr Jeff McHugh

Seconder: Mr Richard Earley

PASSED

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Mover: Mr Ken Pidgeon

Seconder: Mr Timothy Earl

Could the Synod please be provided with a statement regarding the Bishop?

Response

The Administrator explained that the Episcopal Standards process was external to the Diocese and in the hands of the Episcopal Standards Commission. Until the Commission comes to a conclusion nothing further is known.

The Ven Peter Sandeman expanded further on the process, highlighting that in fairness to all involved it needs to remain confidential.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

That the Report of the Diocesan Council be received.

Mover: Mr Richard Earley

Seconder: Mr Murray McFarlane

PASSED

REPORT OF ANGLICAN COMMUNITY CARE

That the Report of the Anglican Community Care (ac.care) be received.

Mover: Mr Rick Fisher

Seconder: Mrs Sandy Coulson

PASSED

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

That the Report of the Legislation Review Committee be received.

Mover: Mr Murray McFarlane

Seconder: Mr Brian McMillan

PASSED

MOTIONS SUBMITTED (in order of receipt)

MOTION OF THANKS TO AND SUPPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR BR SIMON WATERS

That this Synod thanks Brother Simon Waters for his excellent leadership of the Diocese as Administrator following the suspension of Bishop Keith Dalby and supports him and his leadership team in this ongoing role.

Mover: Mrs Jill Hervé

Seconder: Mrs Julia Drought

PASSED

ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION MOTIONS

Mover: Rev Bruce Hicks

Seconder: Mrs Madeline Jenkins

That this Synod notes that the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) will celebrate its 175th Anniversary on 29 October 2025 and encourages the institutions of this Diocese to both participate in events organised by ABM and to consider organising their own events in 2025 or 2026 to mark this achievement, highlighting particularly the involvement of members of this Diocese over that time.

PASSED

That this Synod ask the Administrator to write to ABM to convey the interest of the Diocese of The Murray in celebrating this significant anniversary with ABM.

PASSED

That the Diocese of The Murray explores with ABM where God is calling it to participate in God's ongoing mission through ABM to complement the existing mission partnerships.

PASSED

That this Synod acknowledges and gives thanks for over \$5,500 donated by parishes to the work of ABM and Anglicans in Development (AID) in 2023 and for the prayers offered to God in support of our partners, particularly prayers for peace in Jerusalem, Israel, Gaza and the Middle East.

PASSED

That this Synod encourages parishes to support ABM's Church to Church and Reconciliation Programs that work with First Nations peoples throughout Australia and partner churches overseas.

PASSED

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED WITH NOTICE

Submitted by Mrs Cathy Cobble Dick

1. What are the levels of a Lay Minister Licence and how do these levels affect a Parish?
2. What are the General Synod Canons created in 2007 and what role are they likely to play?

Response

1. An answer to this will be provided by the Administrator when introducing the first session of Small Group workshops.
2. These Canons, as mentioned in the Legislation Review Committee's report, can be found on the General Synod website. As this is classified as legislation, and there being no Bishop present, they cannot be dealt with at this time.

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

That this Synod thanks Brother Simon Waters for the Pastoral Charge last night and requests it be published and provided to Parishes.

Mover: Mr Ken Pidgeon

Seconder: The Ven David McDougall

PASSED

PRESENTATIONS

The Anglican Board of Missions – Mrs Megan Schwarz. Instead of missionaries being sent into communities from Australia nowadays the practice is to support local missionaries in localities.

Anglican Community Care – Mr Rick Fisher (Chair), Trish (Community Centre Manager). Rick Fisher spoke of the origins of ac.care in the Christ Church Parish Hall (Mount Gambier). Trish, the Community Centre Manager in Mount Gambier, described the daily routine of the Centre.

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

That Standing Orders be Suspended to enable Synod and visitors to participate in Small Group Workshops.

Mover: Mr Richard Earley

Seconder: Mrs Jill Hervé

PASSED

The following workshops were held.

Small group workshops - Ministry Workshops

1. Sacristy ministry (in vestry and sanctuary) how to and possible support options.
2. Morning Prayer and PPP services how to and possible support options.
3. Music and Musicians, analogue and digital how to and possible support options.
4. Visiting and Pastoral Care (including communion by extension, to the sick) how to and possible support options.
5. Ministry in bereavement – preparing and leading a funeral how to and possible support options.

Small group workshops - Equipping Workshops

1. Church Worship using Prayer Book paper resources and possible support options.
2. Church Worship using PowerPoint / digital resources and possible support options.
3. Church economic logistics exploring Treasurer Support independent and with PAS and possible support options.
4. Church planning and governance focusing on How to run a good Parish Council meeting and possible support options.

PRESENTATIONS (cont.)

Safe Ministry – Tara McCracken, Mount Gambier Parish. Spoke about the importance of the Safe Ministry process.

Anglicare SA – Jack Monaghan, Community Engagement Worker. As well as speaking about his role in linking with parishes he reminded the Synod that Anglicare SA provides seed funding for approved community projects.

Archdeacon responsible for Diocesan Youth and Children Activities – The Ven Neil Fernando. It is important to have activities which engage children when they are present.

Tertiaries of the Society of St. Francis – Jeannie Minnis, Regional Minister of TSSF. Spoke about the Tertiaries as a lay group who continue to be inspired by St. Francis of Assisi while living life in the community and invited anyone interested to contact her.

Jeannie also expressed thanks for support for the **'Socks and Jocks'** campaign to provide items for the Drug and Alcohol Detox Unit, Glen Osmond, Adelaide.

GREETINGS FROM THE DIOCESES

Rev Paula Bullock, Diocese of Adelaide. Passed on greetings from the Archbishop, Diocesan Council, and Diocese.

Rev Wendy & Mr Tim Cooper, Diocese of Willochra. Passed on greetings from Bishop Jeremy and the Diocese.

At the conclusion of the day's business, Evening Prayer was held in Christ Church, followed by the Synod Dinner at Café Metro.

SUNDAY 23 JUNE 2024

Synod joined the Mount Gambier Parish at Christ Church for their morning worship at which the Ven Neil Fernando presided. Synod resumed at 10:40 a.m.

ELECTIONS

The Registrar noted that due to insufficient nominations, those nominated prior to Synod were declared elected unopposed. Attention was drawn to vacancies on Diocesan Council, as well as

other positions to be filled. Expressions of interest were requested for Diocesan Council to consider in due course.

ELECTION RESULTS

Bishop Nomination Committee

Clergy	Lay
The Venerable David McDougall	Mr Dean Grosse
The Venerable Peter Sandeman	Mr Murray McFarlane
The Reverend Brenton Dick	
The Reverend Andrew Klynsmith	

Diocesan Council

Clergy	Lay
The Venerable Peter Sandeman	Mrs Margaret Cale
The Reverend David Patterson	Mr Richard Fisher
	Mr Dean Grosse

Provincial Council

Clergy	Lay
The Venerable David McDougall	Mr Dean Grosse
The Reverend David Patterson	Mr Murray McFarlane

Sealholders

Clergy	Lay
No nominations	Mr Murray McFarlane

Diocesan Tribunal

Clergy	Lay
The Venerable David McDougall	Mrs Margaret Cale
The Reverend Brenton Dick	
The Reverend David Patterson	

General Synod Representative

Clergy	Lay
The Venerable David McDougall	Mr Murray McFarlane

Parish Nomination Committee

Clergy	Lay
The Venerable David McDougall	No nominations received

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

That Synod thanks the Parish of Mount Gambier for their hospitality and hosting of the Synod.

Mover: Mr Richard Earley

Seconder: Rev Andrew Forder

PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

It was noted that several Diocesan Councillors are retiring after many years of service.

Retiring Diocesan Council members: Mrs Ruth Daws, Mr Chris Martin and Mr Murray McFarlane.

That this Synod expresses its thanks to the retiring Diocesan Council members for their years of service on Diocesan Council.

Mover: Mr Richard Earley

Seconder: Ven Neil Fernando

PASSED

The President closed the Annual Session of Synod at 10:50 a.m.