



# News from Diocesan Council

April 2019

## Bishop John's Last Diocesan Council

The Bishop reminded Council that this was his last meeting and shared that he found the times together stimulating and enjoyable, and he acknowledged the hard work achieved together and thanked the Council for all that they had given. The Councillors in turn shared their sincere appreciation and thanks for the love and leadership provided.

## Farewell Service for Bishop John & Bridget Ford

A service of thanksgiving will be held at Tyndale Christian School on Saturday 4th May 2019 at 11.00am. It was reported that all is in hand regarding liturgy and personnel and that invitation responses are being received in order to ascertain numbers.

## 50th Anniversary Celebrations 2020

Discussion ensued before it was agreed that Ruth Daws would take some responsibility going forward and that she should co-opt assistance from interested parties. Ruth agreed to explore a broad outline and to report back.

## Diocesan Synod

Council were asked to come to a mind about the Synod agenda before agreeing that Synod would meet on this occasion for one day only, namely Saturday 25th May 2019 at Woodcroft College from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

## Audited Diocesan Financial Statements

The annual audit for 2018 has been completed. Financial Statements for all three funds, i.e. The Diocese, The See Fund and The Murray Fund, will be distributed to Synod Representatives.

## Draft Assessment Rate for Synod

Council will recommend to Synod that in order to meet the estimated Synod Expenses, the minimum rate of Assessment from the 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2020 be 16% on all assessable income.

## Property Report

Jeff McHugh provided an update to Council which included the successful settlement of St Ninian's Clarendon. There are contracts on two properties and an offer has been submitted to purchase another site.

## Registry Relocation

Council was advised that quotes and tradesmen had been secured for the renovation of the Clara Street property, however some delay is expected so month by month lease arrangements have been put in place beyond the lease end at the current Registry. These arrangements should perhaps only be for two months.

## Risk Management Committee

It was reported that since Diocesan Council refreshed the membership of the Risk Management Committee, namely Dr Ted Sandercock, Mr John Badgery, Mr Chris Martin and the Registrar, they have met simply to go through the documents that they have inherited.

## Correspondence

Correspondence from the Chancellor was tabled at the meeting which shared the following view; "that over the past five years there has been a turn around in the spiritual focus of the diocese, with less attention to maintenance ministry and more on mission ministry as well as reorganisation of local parish governance. Of course, there has been resistance to change, and growth in the garden has not been uniform. Several outsiders, reading the Diocesan Profile and other material on the website have commented, very positively, on the new energy and purpose in the diocese under Bishop John's leadership."

Council considered the matter of correspondence being emailed direct to its membership before making the following policy instruction: That the Diocesan Council resolves that items that require consideration by the Diocesan Council need to be received through the Parish/Pastoral District Council chair who will consult with the Registrar about the appropriateness of the matter for the Council's agenda.

## Change the Capital - Stewardship Working Group Mission for growth programme.

During Lent and Eastertide congregations across the Diocese are being asked to take some time to think about how we, individually in our discipleship and collectively as God's holy people, should **change the capital** concerning the investment we make of our time, talent and treasure. The Lent programme has involved people in three different ways; study and reflection, intentional prayer, and creating a database of the worshipping family by gathering information about available resources, gifts and talents. After Easter, Partnerships, or constituent parts, will look at budgeting for growth and the financial aspect of their operations, using the database to help equip for mission and ministry. Pentecost is when we will be challenged to commit to change one thing (at least!) individually and corporately and Trinity Sunday will be an opportunity for acts of thanksgiving to God for all He gives and the promptings of His Spirit to us to change one thing and thus contribute towards **CHANGE THE CAPITAL** for the Diocesan family as we approach our 50th anniversary in 2020.

Church Plant Woodcroft College - Presentation by Colin Taylor and Canon John Warner

The southern suburbs are growing with the City of Onkaparinga is set to increase by 20,000 (11%) over the next 20 years. Yet people living in the Southern Suburbs are less and less likely to be engaging with Jesus. For example, in the 2016 census 43% of people stated they had 'no religion', compared to 30% nationally. The increasing population and stated moves away from Jesus means the need for healthy churches is even greater. Sunday gatherings aim to be the following; Open, warm and welcoming to everyone, family-friendly for children of all ages, a celebration and thanksgiving for what God has done for us, and thought-provoking and practical. The Plant begins with a Launch Team with them inviting friends and family to come along as new regulars, with friends following up friends where appropriate. Council received this presentation with acclamation.

Acting Professional Standards Director

Council noted that Theodora Ekonomopoulos finished up in her role as PSD in February 2019. The Adelaide and Willochra Diocesan Councils have taken steps to appoint an Acting PSD, namely Ms Claire Sergeant currently PSD for the Dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat and Wangaratta. Council moved that Ms Claire Sergeant be appointed as Acting Professional Standards Director from February 2019.

Project Applications Above \$5,000

Council approved the Robe Church painting project noting that fundraising will be contributed to this project expenditure.

The Diocesan Council considered the practical arrangements of parishes and pastoral districts needing to wait up to two months for project approvals in excess of \$5k before agreeing the following resolution; That the Diocesan Council resolves to extend project approvals up to \$10k to be authorised by the Registrar in consultation with the Chair of FAI until the end of this calendar year and that this matter be revisited at the first Diocesan Council meeting in 2020.

Safe Church Environment

Dates for courses around the Diocese are being finalised and will be circulated to Parishes and Pastoral Districts as soon as possible.

**2019 Synod Dates**

Saturday 25th May, Woodcroft College  
10:00am to 3:00pm

**Website**

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

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