

Diocesan Council via Zoom

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restricting face-to-face gatherings, Diocesan Council met via Zoom on the 12th May. The FAI Committee have also been meeting via Zoom on alternate Mondays.

Governance Development

Noting that improvement in this area is essential, progress is being made towards developing a programme of governance which aligns with a not-for-profit organisation such as the Diocese and ensuring that the whole process will be very much "faith based."

Grievance Policy

Noting the need for a grievance policy to be developed in the Diocese, three sample policies were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was further noted that Adelaide is currently revamping their policy and once this is finalised it will be made available to the Council for further consideration.

Episcopal Standards Ordinance and Committee

A status update on this matter noted that the Professional Standards Director was consulting with the Archbishop and Bishops about taking a provincial approach to Episcopal Standards similar to the current approach taken with Professional Standards in SA. Council moved that they would hereby support such an approach if the bishops agree to this.

Safe Church Environment

Fr David Patterson advised that our various face-to-face courses are on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic, however a few volunteers have moved towards online training. A reminder is currently being prepared promoting the online training. This will be circulated within the Diocese together with an update about the legislative requirement in relation to the Working With Children Check. A user friendly brochure will accompany this reminder to provide further clarity around what roles require what checks and training.

Portability of Safe Ministry Requirements

In order to facilitate a Provincial approach to Safe Ministry, Diocesan Council acknowledged the validity of safe ministry clearances and training certificates for licensed clergy and volunteers within the Province of South Australia for the period they are issued, however these must be produced on request to the Registrar. This applies to clearances and certificates issued in the Province of South Australia only.

50th Anniversary Celebrations 2020

Fr Paul Devenport, Ruth Daws and David Fleming advised the Council that all arrangements have been put on hold awaiting outcomes from the pandemic. The Bishop advised that mid-year he intends to prepare an address on video for the Diocese with respect to the 50th Anniversary.

Property Report

An update was provided to Council that the property at St Philip and St James, Old Noarlunga (Church and Cemetery) has now settled. The new owners restoring the property are quite excited about opening the site as an office to the public with a café and are keen to reach out to the families associated with the property and cemetery. Contact can be made with the new owners in regards to the cemetery via their email address

hello@thechurchonthehill.com.au

Another church property is yet to be contracted but is proceeding towards a potential sale.

Parish Projects Above \$5k

Council received applications for three Parish projects, namely;
Blakiston Rectory renovations/maintenance
Millicent/Penola property roof repairs
Onkaparinga Valley bitumising the carparks at St Thomas' Church and Op-Shop.

2020 Diocesan Fund Appeals and NATSIAC Retiring Collection

Council previously suggested that a change of format be promoted, moving away from the flyer and envelope approach previously adopted for the Ministry Training Fund and Home Mission Fund Appeals, however a discussion had not occurred on the best way forward before the impact of COVID-19 restrictions came into place. As a result, Council agreed to defer for one year the annual appeals for the MTF and HMF, together with the proposed NATSIAC retiring collection for Pentecost Sunday.

Distribution Rate

Council moved that the interest distribution rate for the six month period 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020, to be paid on parish/diocesan investments, be 1.25%.

Proposed 2020 Synod Dates

27th & 28th November

Tyndale Christian School, Murray Bridge

Website

www.murray.anglican.org

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