

Synopsis of Synod Proceedings: 19, 20, 21 and 22 October 2011

The following acts were passed:

Parishes Act (Auditors and Independent Examiners) Amendment Act 2011
Synod (Heads of Anglican Schools) Act 2011
Episcopal Standards Act 2011
Exclusion of the Episcopal Standards Commission from bringing Charges before the Special Tribunal Act 2011
Constitution Amendment (Appellate Tribunal Part Heard Matters) Canon 2010 (Assent) Act 2011
Constitution Amendment (Diocesan Council) Canon 2010 (Assent) Act 2011
Long Service Leave Canon 2010 (Assent) Act 2011

The following motions were passed:

1 Sessional Arrangements

Mr Ken Spackman (Secretary of Synod) moved and Mr Michael Dowling (St Thomas, Burwood) seconded:

- a. That this Synod meets at:
 - 7:00 pm on Wednesday 19 October 2011 and adjourns not before 10:00 pm and not later than 10:30 pm.
 - 7:00 pm on Thursday 20 October 2011 and adjourns not before 10:00 pm and not later than 10:30 pm.
 - 7:00 pm on Friday 21 October 2011 and adjourns not before 10:00 pm and not later than 10:30 pm.
 - 10:00 am on Saturday 22 October 2011 and adjourns not later than 12:15 pm.
 - 1:15 pm on Saturday 22 October 2011 and adjourns not later than 5:30 pm.
- b. That unless otherwise specified, Orders of the Day be taken at 7:15 pm on Thursday 20 October 2011, 7:15 pm on Friday 21 October 2011 and at 10:15 am on Saturday 22 October 2011 and take precedence over Notices of Motion until they have been disposed of.
- c. That at 9:30 pm on Thursday 20 October 2011 and on Friday 21 October 2011 the order of business be suspended to enable consideration of formal motions.

2 Proposed Amendments to Diocesan Budget

Mr Ken Spackman (Secretary of Synod) moved, and Ms Katherine Presley (Council of the Diocese) seconded that at this session of Synod, a proposed amendment to the motion for the adoption of the Diocesan budget not be received unless:

the proposed amendment is given in writing to the Chair of Committees before 7pm on Thursday 20 October 2011 together with the names of the proposer and seconder; and

If the proposed amendment seeks an increase in expenditure for a particular purpose, the proposed amendment indicates the source of the funding for that increase.

3 Synod Election Scrutineer

Mr Ken Spackman (Secretary of Synod) moved and Dr Muriel Porter (Council of the Diocese) seconded that Synod appoints Ms Deborah Guess to replace Mr Tony Greenwood as scrutineer for any Synod election conducted under the Regulation of Elections Act 1980 for the duration of the 50th Synod.

4 Suspension of Standing Orders

- a. Dr Muriel Porter (Council of the Diocese) moved, and the Reverend Dr David Powys (St John's Cranbourne) seconded a discussion in response to the Presidential address to Synod for up to 40 minutes as an Order of the Day at 7.30pm on Thursday 20 October 2011, the response to be introduced and moderated by the Chair of Committees.
- b. Dr Muriel Porter (Council of the Diocese) moved, and the Reverend Dr David Powys (St John's Cranbourne) seconded that the Archbishop present his Vision and Strategic Directions 2011-2013 to Synod for no more than 20 minutes, the presentation to be an Order of the Day for Saturday 22 October 2011 following the adoption of the Diocesan Budget.

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- c. Reverend Robyn Boyd (Church of the Ascension, Burwood East) moved, and the Reverend Stephen Pash (St Faith's, Burwood) seconded that motion 14 be an order of the day for Saturday 22 October 2011 immediately following the Vision and Directions presentation by the Archbishop.
- d. The Reverend Carmel Hunter (Parish of Hume) moved, and the Right Reverend Philip Huggins (North/West Regional Bishop) seconded that the Social Responsibilities Committee address Synod for not more than 20 minutes in relation to motion 15 – Prevention of Violence Against Women- and that this item be an Order of the Day on Saturday 22 October 2011 immediately following the Vision and Directions presentation and motion.
- e. Mr Ken Spackman (Secretary of Synod) moved, and Ms Katherine Presley (Council fo the Diocese) seconded that motion 12 (Diocesan Accounts) and motion 13 (Diocesan Budget) be Orders of the Day for Saturday, 22 October 2011 at 10.30 am.

5 Orders of the Day

The Reverend John Baldock (St John's Malvern East) and Dr Peter Sherlock (Council of the Diocese) moved an amendment to the motion that item 23 (notice of Motion) and motion 16 be Orders of the Day for Thursday 20 October 2011 at 7.30pm.

6 Review of Parish Legislation (Motion 3)

On behalf of Archbishop in Council Dr Ian Gibson (Chair of Committees) moved, and the Venerable Peter McPherson (St Alfred's Blackburn North) seconded:

That Synod

- (a) receives the report of the Archbishop in Council on the review of legislation relating to parishes;
- (b) endorses the report as a basis for continuing work to bring legislation to Synod;
- (c) authorises Archbishop in Council to approve detailed drafting instructions in relation to the legislation by the end of 2012;
- (d) encourages Archbishop in Council to arrange consultations to inform the drafting process.

7 Asylum Seeker Policy (motion 4):

The Right Reverend Philip Huggins (North/West Regional Bishop) moved and the Reverend Samuel Morton (St Matthew's Prahran) seconded that:

Synod, noting the contribution made by Australian residents who are former refugees, including members of our Church:

- (a) affirms the need for policy on refugees and asylum seekers that is consistent with our moral obligations and international commitments; and
- (b) encourages discussion of the Report 'A new approach : Breaking the Stalemate on Refugees and Asylum Seekers' by the Centre for Policy Development (CPD), as a contribution to improved policy and practice in this complex area.

8 National Churches Taskforce on Gambling Reforms (motion 5);

The Right Reverend Philip Huggins (North/West Regional Bishop) proposed and Reverend Graham Reynolds (Anglicare Victoria) seconded that:

This Synod affirms the objectives of the National Churches Taskforce on Gambling:

- (a) supporting adoption of a national mandatory pre-commitment scheme that requires gamblers in all electronic gaming machine venues to choose spending limits;
- (b) reducing access to cash in gambling venues as a measure to reduce the opportunity for unplanned expenditure on gambling;
- (c) making effective restrictions on online gambling;
- (d) expressing concern about the growth of gambling advertising in public spaces, including at sporting venues.

9 Global Atheist Convention (motion 6):

On behalf of the Diocesan Christianity and Atheism Committee, Dr Denise Cooper-Clarke (General Synod Representative) moved and The Revd Phillip Brown (St John's Brunswick West) seconded that: The amended motion now reads:

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This Synod, noting that the second Global Atheist Convention will be held in Melbourne on 13-15 April 2012, encourages parishes and church organisations to initiate and/or support events which engage both the church and the community and;

- (a) encourage discussion and debate between Christians and atheists
- (b) respond to the atheist position, and
- (c) equip Christians to defend and explain their faith.

10 Minimum Mandatory Sentencing (motion 10):

The Reverend Cinti Joule Robinson (Chaplain – Youth Justice Centre Parkville) moved and The Reverend Bill Beagley (Holy Trinity Williamstown) seconded that:

This Synod, in light of the evidence of the effective failure of minimum mandatory sentencing in reducing crime or creating safer communities in other states, and overwhelming opposition to it by legal, judicial and social services professions, urges the State Government of Victoria to:

- (a) reconsider its policies to introduce such legislation into parliament; and
- (b) conduct an informed and balanced review of the sentencing procedures and options in our State.

11 Parish Statistics / Diocesan Yearbook (motion 19):

Mr Colin Reilly (Christ Church Brunswick) moved and the Reverend Margaret Burt (St Philip's Mount Waverley) seconded that:

This Synod in the centenary year of the Australian population census and bearing in mind the Parable of the Lost Sheep gives thanks to God for one hundred and fifty years of parish statistics published in the Yearbook of the Diocese of Melbourne and its predecessor publication, Statistics of the Diocese of Melbourne, and urges all parishes to furnish their annual returns in a timely manner for the information of all.

12 Review of Anglican Media (motion 7):

The Reverend Tim Anderson (St John's Healesville) moved and the Reverend Phillip Brown (St John's Brunswick West) seconded that

This Synod:

- (a) recognising the rapidly changing face of similar media organisations in the broader community, requests a review of the operation of Anglican Media to ensure that Anglican Media is realising its full potential and that the Diocese is getting value for the funds committed.
- (b) requests that a committee be established by Archbishop in Council to conduct the review.

13 Report of the Indigenous Policy Steering Group (motion 21)

The Reverend Canon Dr Peter Adam (Ridley Melbourne) moved and Dr Justin Denholm (General Synod Representative) seconded that:

This Synod welcomes the report of the Indigenous Policy Steering Group, and calls on all Melbourne Anglicans:

- a) to engage positively and creatively with the issues raised in the report,
- b) to pray about these issues,
- c) to reflect deeply on these issues,
- d) to support every effort to promote truth, reconciliation, respect and restitution at every level and in every part of our church and diocese.

14 Support for the Coptic Orthodox Church and Egypt (motion 25)

The Right Reverend Paul White (Southern Regional Bishop) moved and the Right Reverend Barbara Darling (Eastern Regional Bishop) seconded that:

This Synod assures the Coptic Orthodox Church, both in Egypt and Australia, of our prayerful support given recent sufferings in Egypt.

We pray that Egypt make a healthy transition to a stable democracy with the assurance of religious freedom for all, including the Coptic Orthodox Church.

15 Christian Religious Education – Special Religious Instruction (motion 23)

The Reverend Craig Ogden (St Matthias – New Areas Parish of Mernda) moved and Revd Tracy Lauersen (Kew /North Balwyn) seconded that:

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The amended motion now reads:

This Synod:

- a) gives thanks for the provisions of the *Victorian Education and Training Reform Act 2006* that allows for Special Religious Instruction, of which Christian Religious Education is offered, along with the programmes of other faith providers;
- b) acknowledges the important role that the Anglican Church plays as a founding member of the Council of Christian Education in Schools, and give thanks for its ongoing contribution in leadership and governance;
- c) acknowledges the significant contribution of Anglican CRE volunteers who represent just under a third of all CRE volunteers;
- d) acknowledges the contribution of school Chaplains, especially in Anglican Schools, but also those who work as Access Ministries Chaplains in State schools in Victoria;
- e) acknowledges the support for Access Ministries conveyed by both the Federal and State Governments.

16 Diocesan Accounts for 2010 (motion 12):

Mr Ken Spackman (Secretary of the Synod) moved and Mrs Katherine Presley (Council of the Diocese) seconded that:

The Diocesan Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2010 be received.

17 Diocesan Budget 2012 (motion 13):

Mr Ken Spackman (Secretary of the Synod) moved and Mrs Katherine Presley (Council of the Diocese) seconded that:

The Diocesan Budget for 2012 be adopted.

18 Diocesan Vision and Strategic Direction (motion 14):

The Reverend Robyn Boyd (Church of Ascension Burwood East) moved and the Reverend Stephen Pash (St Faith's Burwood) seconded that:

This Synod

- a) commends the Pilot Program of the Diocesan Vision and Strategic Directions; and
- b) affirms its value as a stimulus for renewal and growth in all traditions of the Anglican Church in this Diocese.

19 Violence Against Women (motion 15)

The Reverend Carmel Hunter (Parish of Hume) moved and the Right Reverend Phillip Huggins (North / West Regional Bishop) seconded that:

This Synod

recognising the prevalence and social cost of violence against women and the importance of primary prevention in reducing this violence,

- (a) acknowledges that our Diocese has a role to play in the prevention of this violence;
- (b) endorses the Strategic Policy for the Prevention of Violence Against Women;
- (c) requests Archbishop in Council to begin implementation of the Strategic Policy; and
- (d) acknowledges with gratitude Anglicare's financial contribution to the first year of implementation of the Strategy.

20 Diocesan Property Policy (motion 8):

Of behalf of Archbishop-in-Council, Mr Geoff Buchanan (Council of the Diocese) moved and the Venerable Ray McInnes (St Silas & St Anselm's Albert Park and Holy Trinity Port Melbourne) seconded that:

The amended motion now reads:

This Synod

- (a) recognises that the present practice of distribution of proceeds from parish property sales will continue to diminish the diocesan property holdings;
- (b) endorses the principle that proceeds from the sale of property, following the cessation of the historical usage of sites associated with former parishes, should in future be pooled and used primarily to establish new parishes and ministries in growth areas in the Diocese of

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Melbourne in line with the Diocese's Strategic Vision *Making the Word of God Fully Known*;
and

- (c) asks Diocesan Council to develop a policy for redistribution of such proceeds according to this principle in consultation with the regional bishops and archdeacons.
- (d) asks that such a policy include the provision of a mechanism by which parishes can obtain AiC approval to retain proceeds of property prior to a Parish merger taking place where such a merger is for growth oriented strategic reasons.

21 Report of the Committee on Parish Property and Future Urban Development (motion 9):

The Reverend Dr David Powys (St John's Cranbourne) moved and The Reverend Stuart Soley (St Mark's Fitzroy) seconded the following:

The amended motion now reads:

That Synod:

- 1. Receives the report of its Committee on Parish Property and Future Urban Development, and
- 2. Noting the recommendation included in motion 8, requests Archbishop in Council to take into consideration the recommendations in that report on
 - (a) the stewardship of parish properties and
 - (b) the operation of the Church Extension and Development Fund in the formulation of policy.

22 Federal Treasury Income Tax Exemptions (motion 11)

Mr Kimberly Smith (Kew/North Balwyn) moved and the Venerable Alison Taylor (St John's Camberwell) seconded that:

That this Synod:

- a) joins with the General Synod Office of the Anglican Church in Australia and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) in expressing concern over the proposals of the Federal Treasury to remove income tax exemptions and concessions from Australian charitable and community organisations which send monies overseas to assist needy people and to combat the root causes of poverty; and
- b) supports the endeavours of ACFID and the overseas missions peak body Missions Interlink to retain the tax exemptions which have applied to Christian churches and overseas mission agencies since the Income Tax Assessment Act was enacted in 1936 and requests the Archbishop to express the concerns of this Synod to the Assistant Treasurer.

23 Composition of the Synod (motion 17):

Dr Jenny George (General Synod Representative) moved and Mr Allan Bulman (General Synod Representative) seconded the following motion:

That this Synod:

- a) requests Archbishop in Council to investigate changing the composition of this Synod to reduce the overall size of Synod and to make the lay representation of parishes more reflective of the number of Sunday worshippers at the parish.
- b) requests Archbishop in Council to bring a bill enacting these changes to the 2012 Synod.

24 Resources for Blessings on Civil Marriages (motion 18):

The Reverend Canon Dr Colleen O'Reilly (St George's Malvern) moved and the Reverend Stuart Soley (St Mark's Fitzroy) seconded the following motion:

That this Synod asks the Archbishop to provide clergy with guidelines and liturgical resources for the blessing of civil marriages.

25 National Disability Insurance Scheme (motion 24):

Ms. Jill Pickering (Northern Region Representative) moved and The Right Reverend Phillip Huggins (North / West Regional Bishop) seconded the following motion:

That this Synod supports the National Disability Insurance Scheme and urges both Government and non-government support for its continuing implementation.

26 Disability Awareness (motion 26):

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The Reverend David Sullivan (St Matthew's Panton Hill) moved and the Venerable Dianne Nicolios (St John's Diamond Creek) sought leave of Synod to amend the motion on the notice paper, so that the amended motion would read:

The amended motion now reads:

Synod requests that, beginning in 2012, the Melbourne Diocese appoint and support lay persons in each of the Diocesan regions to promote to pilot parishes the Luke 14 program, for the inclusion of people with disabilities in church life, and for the provision of the necessary education for the implementation of the Luke 14 program, by

- (a) providing resources, as possible, for travel expenses, telephone calls, and any other expenses, as may be incurred in the exercise of this ministry;
- (b) encouraging the parishes receiving the Luke 14 education to provide compensation to the appointed lay persons at their discretion or by agreement with those lay persons appointed by the Diocese;
- (c) establishing an annual Disability Sunday in which parishes are invited to pray with and affirm those with disabilities and their families and carers.
- (d) teaching children how to react and understand fellow children with physical, verbal or intellectual challenges.

27 Condolence Motion (motion 22):

The Right Reverend Barbara Darling (Eastern Regional Bishop) moved and The Right Reverend Paul White (Southern Regional Bishop) seconded the following motion:

That this Synod gives thanks to Almighty God for the lives and ministries of the following:

Clergy

Bedbrook, The Revd Canon Frederick Ernest, 22 October 2010

Green, The Revd Lawrence Victor, 16 March 2011

Hughes, The Revd Richard Clifford, 17 April 2011

Lane, Deaconess Merle Vyvienne, 11 February 2011

McPherson, The Revd Canon Albert Bayne, 19 August 2011

Morrison, The Revd David Noel, 3 February 2011

Omond, The Revd Peter, 24 October 2010

Potter, The Revd William Robert, 3 March 2011

Richter, The Revd Murray Clifford, 17 January 2011

Robins, The Revd Edwin Knox, 3 February 2011

Shand, The Right Revd David Hubert Warner, 8 July 2011

Thawley, The Very Revd David Laurie, 3 April 2011

Thompson, The Revd Lawrence John, 26 October 2010

Williams, The Revd Stephen Heath, 15 October 2010

Wilson, The Right Revd John Warwick, 22 January 2011

Winter, The Revd Charles James, 26 October 2010

Lay

Crosbie, Ronald Frederick Stewart [Former Registrar of Diocese] 17 May 2011

Herbert, Mr Jock Pirie [Represented Parish of Ringwood] 8 May 2011

Ireland, Mr John Decource [Represented St Margaret's Eltham] 2011

Jamieson, Mr Henry [Represented St Paul's Canterbury] 7 February 2011

Miller, Mrs Brenda Ruth [Represented Christ Church, Berwick] 23 May 2011

Sister Hilda CHN – 11 December 2010

Smith, Mr Peter Bassett [Represented St Margaret's Eltham] 2011

Motion of thanks

28 The Right Reverend Paul White (Southern Regional Bishop) moved and The Right Reverend Barbara Darling (Eastern Regional Bishop) seconded the following motion:

That Synod record grateful thanks to those involved in the careful organisation and smooth running of Synod including the Archbishop and the Archbishop's staff, the Synod Arrangements Committee, the Dean and Cathedral staff (noting the involvement of the Vergers this year), the Registrar and staff, the Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor, the Advocate, the Chair and deputy Chairs of Committee, the Cathedral flower guild, the members of the minutes reading committee, the election scrutineers, the many participants who prepared and led the worship

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and prayer, the Chaplain Jerome Diaz, the patient and helpful technical staff from Harry the Hirer, and the Anglican media for reporting the Synod activities.

- 29 The Archbishop added his thanks to the Synod members for their co-operation and participation and for their forbearance and good humour throughout. He expressed his thanks to the Dean and his staff for their hospitality throughout the Synod.

Answers to Questions asked

1 Mr Simon Jackson (St Mary's North Melbourne) asked (Wednesday):

Question: How many Parishes have failed to submit an assessment return in the past three years?

Answer: Seven.

Question: What are the full names of those parishes?

Answer: A full report of Parochial Assessment for 2010/2011 has been provided to all Synod members at page 141 of the Business papers. This report includes a list of those parishes who have not submitted returns.

Question: Which if any of those parishes are taking steps to meet their responsibilities in future to provide assessment returns to the Registry?

Answer: Each of the parishes has been contacted regarding their responsibilities. Four parishes have indicated that they have or are preparing Audited Annual Accounts. Two parishes have indicated that they do not yet have Audited Annual Accounts and one parish has yet to respond. The Territorial Archdeacons and Regional Bishops are actively involved in addressing the non-compliance of these parishes and progress is monitored monthly by the Finance Committee and by Archbishop in Council.

Question: Have any monies been paid by any of those parishes in the past three years in lieu of assessment, and if so, on what basis have any such contributions been calculated?

Answer: Each parish has made an assessment contribution in the last three years. Six parishes have made a contribution in the last two years and for 2010/2011 four parishes have made a contribution. These contributions vary in basis; some assume a minimum assessment of \$2,340 p.a. whilst others are based on prior year contributions. In one case both a minimum contribution and lump sum payment has been received on two of the last three years. In all cases it is difficult to validate the appropriateness of the assessment as the lack of valid returns and audited financials prevent a more precise evaluation. The Episcopate, together with the Finance Committee and Registry continue to promote compliance with the agreed practices and processes of the Diocese to the parishes concerned.

Question: Could the Registrar indicate whether any part of the question I asked at the 2010 Synod can be answered, and if so what the answers are?

Answer: The question asked at the last Synod was in fact 11 related questions regarding the past and present legal status of the Anglican societies, agencies and associated organisations listed on the business paper. The question then asked for an evaluation of the relationship of each entity's assets to the Melbourne Anglican Trust Corporation and the basis upon which the entity's assets has been the subject of active decisions by Archbishop in Council. The time scale and breadth of the question make answering many aspects impossible. As many of the organisations to which the questioner refers are indeed separately incorporated, the Diocese in many cases does not have the historic information with which to begin to address the question.

Nevertheless a response to the question was recently dispatched which included an invitation to the questioner to contact the Registrar to discuss any residual concerns.

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Question: Could the Registrar also indicate whether the Committee on Parish Property and Future Urban development or any other committee has considered the matters raised in my question of 2010?

Answer: The Registrar has advised that the matter has not been referred to any committee of the Diocese, nor would it be without further definition as to what issues are being raised.

2 Mr Ian Hartley (Parish of Mount Dandenong) asked (Thursday):

Question: With a view to economy and environmental responsibility, would consideration please be given to issuing Synod papers electronically via, for example, either email or downloading from the Diocesan website?

Answer: Some basic Synod material is already available in electronic means via the Diocesan website and it is envisaged that this mechanism and others will increasingly be utilised as a means by which material of this nature can be delivered.

3 Ms Jill Pickering (Northern Region Lay Synod Representative) asked (Thursday):

Question: What proportion of the steering group members is disabled? If none, can at least 2 different disability members be included in the steering group to help foster understanding of access issues from a disability perspective?
Can the Registrar provide a follow-up progress report on Disability Access to the 2012 Synod?

Answer: No members of the current steering group are disabled, although several have an involvement either in respect to pastorally caring for those with disabilities or having family members with disability. I am sure that the steering group would welcome the inclusion of disabled people to assist in the guidance of this important work of inclusion. The steering group has discussed this possibility already and is looking to partner with individuals and parishes to pilot this work.
It is envisaged that the steering group would report its progress and with the support of the AiC and Synod Business Arrangements Committee would be pleased to bring a report to the 2012 Synod.

4 Dr Muriel Porter (Council of the Diocese) asked (Thursday):

Question: Six entities have not provided reports to the Synod in the timeframe requested. Two are committees of the Diocese – the Ecumenical Affairs Committee and the Social Responsibilities Committee, which is a committee under an Act of Synod. Two are entities which receive funding in the Council of the Diocese Budget (ACCESS Ministries and the National Home Mission Fund). The other two are the Anglican Defence Force Chaplaincy and the Brotherhood of St Laurence.
Can the Registrar please inform the Synod if there are any known reasons why these entities failed to provide reports, and whether any of them is formally obliged to report annually to the Synod?

Answer: The Social Responsibilities Committee and Access Ministries reports to the Synod were unfortunately excluded as a result of a clerical error by Registry. Both reports were received in time. The SRC report was available last night and the Access Ministries report is available from the Information Desk tonight.
The remaining reports were requested but not received. The Brotherhood of St Laurence experienced a delay in the provision of their report, which is now available but will require the leave of Synod to distribute.

5 Reverend Jane Foulcher (Holy Trinity East Melbourne) asked (Friday):

Question: In view of the existing pilot program to encourage growth in mission in parishes of 70-120 persons, and its extension next year to parishes wishing to grow beyond 150

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attenders, what strategies are being planned to support the growth of mission in parishes with less than 70 members?

Answer: From the Vision and Strategic Directions we outlined at the Synod last year a 2013 initiative was outlined that will take 5 parishes that are currently under 70 attenders and seeking to work with them to make that transition from less than 70 to greater than 70 regular attenders. In addition to this, there have been several healthy small church seminars, including one at the Diocesan Ministry Conference and the resources of the Bishop Perry Institute will soon be available. Of course it is open to all parishes to use the material of 'Seeing the Parish through Fresh Eyes' or next year "Serving the Parish with Fresh Focus" or to take part in Back to Church Sunday.

6 The Right Reverend Paul White (Southern Regional Bishop) asked (Friday):

Question: Would the President inform the members of Synod about the fund within the Melbourne Anglican Foundation which receives tax deductible donations towards the support of hospital chaplaincy in the Diocese of Melbourne? Would the President outline the importance of supporting this fund and encouraging donations to the fund?

Answer: There is a fund within the Melbourne Anglican Foundation which can receive tax deductible donations toward the support of hospital chaplaincy within the Diocese of Melbourne and I urge members to donate to this fund and support and extend this valuable ministry within the Diocese.

7 Colin Reilly (Christ Church Brunswick) asked (Friday):

Question 1: My question is directed to the Registrar and relates to the Business Services / Registry Reports on the Diocesan Yearbook on page 163. The report refers to the Information Privacy Principles and Act. The Privacy Policy for the Diocesan website refers to a "Privacy Act of Victoria 2001". It is stated on the website that the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne is bound by the provisions of Victorian legislation, but this only applies to State government agencies and local councils. However there is national legislation that sets out National Privacy Principles that apply to non – government organisations with a turnover of more than \$3 million. These principles include, inter alia:

- 5.1 An organisation must set out in a document clearly expressed policies on its management of personal information. The organisation must make the document available to anyone that asks for it.

Therefore I ask:

- a) Has the Synod passed legislation or made a resolution relating to privacy? If so, what are the provisions?
- b) Has the Council of the Diocese made a policy relating to privacy? If so, what is the policy?
- c) Could the Synod be advised which elements of information related to licenced clergy are deemed to require consent to be used or disclosed in the yearbook?
- d) If a distinction is made between clergy holding a "full licence" and those holding Permission to Officiate could the Synod be advised with respect to the question in (c) for each class of licence holder.

Answer: The question has a number of parts which I will answer in turn. The answer to the question at A is no. The answer to the question at B is also no as this matter relates to compliance with State and Federal legislative requirements. The question at C is governed by the provisions of the legislation which is clear that it relates to all information of a personal nature. An example of this would be a personal mobile number, home address, partner's name and details of past licences where they are outside of this Diocese and other things of this nature. Information

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relating to their office, parish address and parish contact details would not be considered private.

The question at D is answered that no such distinction is made as the issue relates to personal information not licence status. Copies of the Privacy Policy as it relates have been available throughout the process of the Yearbook compilation.

Question 2: A further question is that in the absence of a motion to receive them, what is the status of the reports in the Business Paper and Synod Annual Reports?

Answer: Mr Reilly is thanked for his helpful contribution to the correct procedural operation of the Synod. In order to regularise the situation that he has raised the secretary has asked for leave to bring a motion to enable the adoption of the Business Papers and Synod Reports as tabled, together with the reports of the Access Ministries, Ecumenical Affairs Committee, Social Responsibilities Committee and the Brotherhood of St Laurence which were dealt with during last night session.