



3 December 2016

MEDIA RELEASE

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF ADELAIDE ELECT NEW ARCHBISHOP

The Anglican Diocese of Adelaide has today elected a new Archbishop, Bishop Geoffrey Smith.

Bishop Smith is the current Assistant Bishop/General Manager and Registrar of the Diocese of Brisbane, Queensland.

His previous appointments include Rector of Taraka, Papua New Guinea, First Vicar of the Parochial District of Sawtell-Bonville, National Director Anglicare Board of Mission – Australia, and Bishop of the Southern Region, Diocese of Brisbane.

Bishop Smith succeeds Archbishop Jeffrey Driver, who retired in August after 11 years as Archbishop of Adelaide. Bishop Smith's appointment to the role was made during a special Election Synod (gathering of around 260 clergy and lay representatives from each Anglican Parish in Adelaide) to elect a new Archbishop. The Election Synod was held at Memorial Hall at St Peter's College on Saturday December 3. The Archbishop-elect is likely to be commissioned as Archbishop of Adelaide during the first half of 2017.



Bishop Smith will be available for phone interview on Sunday by appointment.

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For immediate release

- Former Archbishop of Adelaide, Dr Jeffrey Driver announced his retirement on 10 April 2016 and formally laid up his pastoral staff at a special service in St Peter' Cathedral on 19 August 2016.
- In the Diocese of Adelaide, the Bishop Nomination Committee comprising of ten people, five clergy and five laity, are responsible for coordinating the nomination process and presenting no more than four and no less than three names to a special Election Synod where a nominee will be elected Archbishop.
- Synod is comprised of approximately 260 members (*≈150 lay and ≈115 clergy*).
- The nomination period opened on 26 July and closed on 23 August 2016. Nominations were open to all clergy in the Anglican Church, both within Australia and abroad. To be eligible for nomination a nominee must be nominated by four members of the Adelaide Synod. The process is designed



for members of Synod to seek out suitable nominees rather than nominees apply directly.

- The Nomination Committee met on thirteen occasions between May and November 2016. During this time a diocesan-wide consultation process was undertaken, inviting all Anglicans to participate in providing feedback on what they value to be most important in choosing the next Archbishop.
- At the conclusion of the nomination period, those who had been nominated were invited to provide to the Nomination Committee a Cover Letter, their CV, list of referees and their response to the Selection Criteria. The Selection Criteria being primarily drawn from the feedback received from the Consultation Workshops.
- The Nomination Committee reviewed the submissions from the nominees and determined who would be interviewed. Based on the material provided, several nominees were invited to be interviewed by the Nomination Committee. Those invited to be interviewed came from all over Australia. Each interview was two hours in duration with nominees presented with 18 questions.
- After the interviews, the nominees were further shortlisted and referee checks were conducted and psychological profiling was undertaken.
- All nominees were already bishops within the Anglican Church in Australia.
- In all, the process has taken about six months.