

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH DAY OF THE FIFTEENTH GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
HELD AT MELBOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MELBOURNE,
ON TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2010**

1 PRAYERS AND BIBLE STUDY

Prayers were led by The Reverend Angela Webb.

Dr Clare Amos led Synod through a Bible Study on Matthew 28:16-20.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr Chris Nelson moved, Mr Brian Norris seconding,

Reported that the Minute Reading Committee had read the Minutes of the third day's sitting and certified they were a correct record.

Carried

3 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Primate provided an answer to the following question:

Mr Neil Cameron asked,

What are the terms and conditions determined by the Standing Committee under clause 5(2) of the Special Tribunal Canon 2007?

Section 5(2) of the Special Tribunal Canon 2007 provides:

The members of the Episcopal Standards Commission shall hold office on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Standing Committee from time to time.

The Standing Committee has not determined any terms and conditions under clause 5(2) of the Special Tribunal Canon 2009.

4 PETITIONS

The President called for Petitions.

No Petitions were received.

5 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

No Notices of Questions were received.

7 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Notice was given of the following motions:

28.34 Asylum Seekers

Mr Russell Morton to moved, The Reverend Canon Dr Julia Perry seconding,
That this General Synod requests the Primate to write to both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Federal Opposition to communicate the following;

- a) that members of the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Australia do not minimise the complexity of the issues surrounding the arrival on our shores of men, women and children; however
- b) that the General Synod, affirming unambiguously the clear teaching of Scripture about the value of every person in the sight of God, urges that the Government take immediate and sufficient steps to ensure that all persons intercepted on their way to or arriving on our shores, by whatever means, are treated with dignity, respect and in way which do not impact adversely their physical or mental well-being.

28.35 Diocese of North West Australia 100 Years of Ministry

The Reverend Mark Short to move, Archdeacon Joe Hopkins seconding,

That this Synod give thanks to Almighty God for 100 years of ministry of the Anglican Diocese of North West Australia, recognising the partnership of the wider Church in proclaiming and encouraging continued partnership in the years to come.

28.36 School Chaplains

Justice David Bleby to move, Mr Garth Blake QC seconding,

That the General Synod

- a) calls on the Commonwealth Government to reaffirm its commitment to the funding of the School Chaplains' Program and to oppose the proposed challenge in the High Court to the validity of such funding; and
- b) authorises the Standing Committee, if it considers it appropriate, to join in supporting, financially and otherwise, on behalf of this Synod opposition to such challenge in the High Court.

28.37 Church Plants

Bishop Ross Nicholson to move, The Very Reverend Richard Humphrey seconding,

That given the challenges and opportunities presented in the First Expressions Report, that this General Synod requests the Doctrine Commission to prepare a report on the theology of church planting to be available to members of the 16th General Synod.

28.38 Doctrine Commission Resources

Mr Luke Scandrett to move, Mr Stephen Tong seconding,

That this General Synod requests the Doctrine Commission to prepare resources to assist Australian Anglicans to make considered, positive and non-defensive responses to the phenomenon popularly referred to as "the new atheism". It further requests that if at all possible these resources be published prior to the meeting of the Sixteenth General Synod.

8 CALL OVER OF MOTIONS

The following motion was passed formally:

28.33 Sanctity of Life

Bishop Philip Huggins moved, The Reverend Des Benfield seconding,

That this Synod affirms the sanctity of life; that life is God's gift and that our task is to protect, nurture and sustain life to the best of our ability.

That this Synod makes this reaffirmation amidst media reports, so soon after a federal election, suggesting a future federal parliamentary debate about euthanasia.

Carried

9 ORDERS OF THE DAY

9.1 Bill 17 – A Bill for the Solemnization of Matrimony Canon 1981 Amendment Canon 2010 (Provisional Canon P01, 2007)

Bishop Glenn Davies sought leave to amend the motion as it appears on the Business Paper to insert the words "vote on the motion" after the words "recommittal of the". Leave was so granted.

Bishop Glenn Davies moved,

That Standing Orders be suspended to the extent that would prevent a recommittal of the vote on the motion:

"That the Bill for the Solemnization of Matrimony Canon 2010 do now pass",

and that the motion be made an Order of the Day following the consideration of all other legislation.

Carried

9.2 Bill 08 – A Bill for the National Register Canon 2007 Amendment Canon 2010

Synod formed into Committee to resume its consideration of the Bill.

The Chairman reported progress and sought leave to sit again. Leave was so granted.

Synod adjourned for Morning Tea at 10.34am.

Synod resumed at 11.00am.

10 REPORT

The General Secretary reported that there is no information on the National Register with regards to nominations for the Appellate Tribunal and the Special Tribunal.

The President moved,

That given the lateness of this report, the election process proceed without disruption.

Carried

11 Bill 08 – A Bill for the National Register Canon 2007 Amendment Canon 2010

Synod formed itself into Committee to continue consideration of the Bill.

The Chair reported progress and sought leave to sit again. Leave was so granted.

12 Bill 15 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Chapter V) Canon 2010

Synod moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

The Deputy Chair reported progress and sought permission to sit again. Permission was so granted.

13 Bill R07 – A Rule to amend Rule XV – Rules under Section 32 of the Constitution

Justice Peter Young moved, Mr Ian Walker seconding,

That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

14 Bill 10 – A Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2007 Amendment Canon 2010

Ms Audrey Mills reported on progress through the “huddle” process.

The debate was adjourned.

15 Bill 21 – A Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2007 Amendment Canon 2010

Debate was adjourned.

Synod adjourned for Lunch at 12.30pm.

Synod resumed at 1.30pm.

Mr Neil Cameron moving, Mr Robin Mitchell seconding,

That a Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2007 Amendment Canon 2010 be approved in principle.

Carried

The Deputy Chair reported that the Bill had been considered and agreed to with amendment.

Mr Neil Cameron moving, Mr Robin Mitchell seconding,

That the Bill do now pass.

Carried

16 Bill 15 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Chapter V) Canon 2010

Mr Robert Tong sought leave of Synod to bring the Bill in an amended form. Leave was so granted.

The Chair reported progress and sought leave for further consideration.

17 Bill 10 – A Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2007 Amendment Canon 2010

Ms Audrey Mills sought leave of Synod to bring the Bill in an amended form. Leave was so granted.

The Deputy Chair reported progress and sought leave for further consideration.

Bishop Glenn Davies moved, Mr Phil Davies seconding,

That the Bill be reconstructed to include the approve amendments and brought back.

Carried

18 Bill 15 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Chapter V) Canon 2010

Synod moved into Committee to further consider the Bill.

The Chair reported that the Bill had been agreed with amendments.

Further discussion of the Bill was adjourned.

19 Bill 08 – A Bill for the National Register Canon 2007 Amendment Canon 2010

Mr Garth Blake sought leave of Synod to introduce a further amended form of the Bill. Leave was so granted.

Synod moved into Committee to further consider this Bill.

The Chair reported that the Bill had been agreed to with amendment.

Further consideration of the Bill was adjourned.

20 Recommittal of Bill 17 – A Bill for the Solemnization of Matrimony Canon 1981 Amendment Canon 2010 (Provisional Canon P01, 2007)

Bishop Gary Weatherill moved that this matter be made an Order of the Day for Wednesday 22 September at immediately following the Call Over of Motions.

Lost

Bishop Glenn Davies moved, Justice Peter Young seconding,

That the Bill do now pass subject to voting by House requiring a two-thirds majority in each House:

House of Laity – 77 in favour from 106 (Carried)

House of Clergy – 66 in favour from 111 (Lost)

A ballot in the House of Bishops not required

Lost

Synod adjourned at 3.25pm for Afternoon Tea.

Synod resumed at 4.00pm.

21 MOTIONS

21.1 Motion concerning Caring for the Creation: the need to acknowledge and respond to population issues

Dr Beth Heyde sought leave of Synod to bring the motion in an amended form. Leave was so granted.

Dr Beth Heyde moved, The Reverend Canon Dr Marian Free seconding,

That this General Synod of The Anglican Church of Australia gives thanks to Almighty God for the gracious gift of human life and for the privilege of being divine image bearers.

Synod acknowledges:

- a) that all human life comes from God, irrespective of age, gender, race, or ability, and that God does not delight in the death of any he has made, and notes:
- b) Resolution I.8 of the Lambeth Conference 1998, which
 - (i) reaffirms the Biblical vision of Creation according to which the divine spirit is present in Creation and human beings have responsibility to make personal and corporate sacrifices for the common good of all Creation; and
 - (ii) recognizes that unless human beings take responsibility for caring for the earth, the consequences will be catastrophic because of : overpopulation, unsustainable levels of consumption by the rich, poor quality and shortage of water, air pollution, eroded and impoverished soil, forest destruction, and animal extinction.
- c) The encouragement in Resolution 14.15 of the Anglican Consultative Council in May 2009 for Provinces 'to advocate sustainable restorative economies with national governments, the United Nations through the Anglican Observers Office, and local constituencies'.

And requests

(1) Australian Anglican Dioceses and individuals to:

- (i) Grow in understanding of global and national environmental challenges, and the role of human population growth in contributing to them.
- (ii) Use resources including those identified by the General Synod's Public Affairs Commission and Environment Working Group to assist in developing integrated views of issues and potential responses, and take action to reduce our impacts.
- (iii) Contribute thoughtfully and prayerfully to public debate about how to
 - achieve justice not only for current Australians but for our descendants,
 - nurture and protect all other life on this fragile land with all its beauty and diversity,
 - share in a world of finite resources, showing love for our neighbours, particularly those who live in the two-thirds world,
- (iv) remain confident in the gospel of Jesus Christ to address environmental challenges as it calls people to turn from human selfishness and greed.
- (v) Prayerfully consider and reduce their levels of consumption.
- (vi) Explore ways to ensure that every child is welcomed and has the opportunity to reach his/her full potential.

(2) The Australian Government to:

- (i) Recognise the role of population growth and unsustainable levels of consumption by the affluent in contributing to global and national

- environmental challenges, and avoid any reliance on continuing population growth to maintain economic growth.
- (ii) Determine a sustainable population policy for Australia which is fair and just for future human and other life on this ecologically fragile land, and generous towards humanitarian needs.
 - (iii) Consider carefully any incentive aimed specifically and primarily at increasing Australia's population while continuing to support low-income families and sustainable immigration.
 - (iv) Contribute more generously to improving the welfare of people in the least developed nations, and other life in their environments, in particular by including support for family planning and women's reproductive health programmes with aid for development, in ways that respect the cultures of those people and take account of Christian values including respect for the sanctity of all human life.
- (3) The reporting of the outcome of this Motion to the United Nations Anglican Observers' Office.

AMENDMENTS

1 Bishop Trevor Ewing moved, Bishop John Parkes seconding,

In (1)(iii) delete "all other" and replace with (1)(iii) "nurture and protect life on this fragile land with all its beauty and diversity".

Carried

2 Mr Graham Peart moved, Ms Leigh Haywood seconding,

Adding the words to clause 2, new item (iv) "Support agricultural research both to care for our land and to preserve our ability to produce food".

Carried

3 Dr Lyn Arnold moved, Mr Russell Morton seconding,

That in clause (2)(ii) all words after "just" be deleted.

Carried

Amended Motion

Dr Beth Heyde moved, The Reverend Canon Dr Marian Free seconding,

That this General Synod of The Anglican Church of Australia gives thanks to Almighty God for the gracious gift of human life and for the privilege of being divine image bearers.

Synod acknowledges:

- a) that all human life comes from God, irrespective of age, gender, race, or ability, and that God does not delight in the death of any he has made, and notes:
- b) Resolution I.8 of the Lambeth Conference 1998, which
 - (iii) reaffirms the Biblical vision of Creation according to which the divine spirit is present in Creation and human beings have responsibility to make personal and corporate sacrifices for the common good of all Creation; and
 - (iv) recognizes that unless human beings take responsibility for caring for the earth, the consequences will be catastrophic because of : overpopulation, unsustainable levels of consumption by the rich, poor quality and shortage of water, air pollution, eroded and impoverished soil, forest destruction, and animal extinction.

- c) The encouragement in Resolution 14.15 of the Anglican Consultative Council in May 2009 for Provinces 'to advocate sustainable restorative economies with national governments, the United Nations through the Anglican Observers Office, and local constituencies'.

And requests

(1) Australian Anglican Dioceses and individuals to:

- (i) Grow in understanding of global and national environmental challenges, and the role of human population growth in contributing to them.
- (ii) Use resources including those identified by the General Synod's Public Affairs Commission and Environment Working Group to assist in developing integrated views of issues and potential responses, and take action to reduce our impacts.
- (iii) Contribute thoughtfully and prayerfully to public debate about how to
 - achieve justice not only for current Australians but for our descendants,
 - nurture and protect, nurture and protect life on this fragile land with all its beauty and diversity life on this fragile land with all its beauty and diversity,
 - share in a world of finite resources, showing love for our neighbours, particularly those who live in the two-thirds world,
- (iv) remain confident in the gospel of Jesus Christ to address environmental challenges as it calls people to turn from human selfishness and greed.
- (v) Prayerfully consider and reduce their levels of consumption.
- (vi) Explore ways to ensure that every child is welcomed and has the opportunity to reach his/her full potential.

(2) The Australian Government to:

- (i) Recognise the role of population growth and unsustainable levels of consumption by the affluent in contributing to global and national environmental challenges, and avoid any reliance on continuing population growth to maintain economic growth.
- (ii) Determine a sustainable population policy for Australia which is fair and just.
- (iii) Consider carefully any incentive aimed specifically and primarily at increasing Australia's population while continuing to support low-income families and sustainable immigration.
- (iv) Support agricultural research both to care for our land and to preserve our ability to produce food.
- (v) Contribute more generously to improving the welfare of people in the least developed nations, and other life in their environments, in particular by including support for family planning and women's reproductive health programmes with aid for development, in ways that respect the cultures of those people and take account of Christian values including respect for the sanctity of all human life.

(3) The reporting of the outcome of this Motion to the United Nations Anglican Observers' Office.

Carried

21.2 **Jerusalem Declaration**

The Reverend Dr Mark Thompson moved, The Reverend Richard Condie seconding,

That General Synod notes the publication of the Jerusalem Declaration and encourages its study as a means to Anglican identity and cohesion.

AMENDMENT

1 The Reverend Dr John Davis moved, Ms Janet Nelson seconding,

That all the words following “study” be deleted.

Carried

Archbishop Roger Herft foreshadowed a further amendment, if the amendment is carried.

The Reverend Richard Trist foreshadowed a further amendment to the motion.

2 Archbishop Roger Herft moved,

That after the words “Jerusalem Declaration”, add “and acknowledge the particular context in which it has arisen. The General Synod encourages its study by dioceses and parishes in this Church to assist our understanding of some of the current issues facing the Anglican Communion”.

Amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder.

3 The Reverend Richard Trist moved,

That the words “as one means towards greater understanding of one another” be added to the motion.

Withdrawn

AMENDED MOTION

The Reverend Dr Mark Thompson moved, The Reverend Richard Condie seconding,

That General Synod notes the publication of the Jerusalem Declaration and acknowledges the particular context in which it has arisen. The General Synod encourages its study by dioceses and parishes in this Church to assist our understanding of some of the current issues facing the Anglican Communion.

Carried

Synod adjourned for Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

President

Date