



# Anglican Church of Australia

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Standing Committee of General Synod

**STANDING COMMITTEE OF GENERAL SYNOD**

**13 – 14 MAY 2016**

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**SUMMARY OF BUSINESS**

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The Standing Committee of General Synod met at Hotel Jen Brisbane, 159 Roma Street, Brisbane, Queensland at 2.00pm on Friday 13 May 2016 and concluded at 1.00 pm on Saturday 14 May 2016.

A service of Holy Communion was conducted at 8.00am on Saturday 14 May 2016.

A summary of business transacted follows.

#### **1 VIABILITY AND STRUCTURES STEERING GROUP REPORT**

Standing Committee received a report on the progress of the Viability and Structures Steering Group from Bishop Andrew Curnow.

#### **2 ANNUAL REPORTS – COMMISSIONS TASK FORCES AND NETWORKS**

Standing Committee received annual reports for 2015 from:

##### **Commissions**

Church Law Commission  
Doctrine Commission  
Liturgy Commission  
Ministry Commission  
Professional Standards Commission  
Public Affairs Commission

##### **Task Forces**

Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force

##### **Networks**

Anglican Schools Australia  
Anglicare Australia  
Australian Anglican Diaconal Association  
Cathedral Deans Network  
Children & Youth Network  
Professional Standards Directors Network  
Registrars Network  
Women's' Network

It was noted that no report was received from the Ecumenical Relations Commission due to inactivity during 2015.

#### **3. NSW SUPREME COURT DECISION - DIOCESE OF BATHURST**

The General Secretary was asked to collate and distribute a summary report of the issues arising out of NSW Supreme Court decision regarding the Diocese of Bathurst for the consideration of the dioceses' governing bodies.

#### **4 BISHOPS MEETING 2016**

Standing Committee received the report on the 2016 Bishops' Meeting held on 6-9 March 2016

## **5 SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF GENERAL SYNOD 2017**

Standing Committee noted the General Secretary's report and draft timetable for the planning for the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of General Synod and appointed a group to plan bible study and small group discussions during the General Synod sessions.

Standing Committee appointed the following people to the bible study design group:

Prof. Dorothy Lee  
The Ven. Lionel Snell  
Ms Leigh Haywood  
The Rt Rev'd Ross Nicholson  
The Ven. Arthur Copeman  
Ms Anne Hywood

## **6 ANGLICAN COMMUNION**

### **Primates' Meeting January 2016**

Standing Committee received the Communiqué from the Primates of the Anglican Communion dated 15 January 2016 - *Walking Together in the Service of God in the World*.

### **ACC-16 Zambia April 2016 – Delegates Report**

Standing Committee received verbal reports from the ACC-16 delegates: The Primate, Bishop Sarah Macneil, Archdeacon Arthur Copeman and Mr Garth Blake SC.

### **Anglican-Lutheran International Coordinating Committee**

#### **Appointment of Bishop Tim Harris – Co Chair**

Standing Committee noted the appointment of Bishop Timothy Harris as Co-Chair of the Anglican-Lutheran International Coordinating Committee.

## **7. SEAL OF THE CONFSSIONAL – CANON CONCERNING CONFESSIONS 1989**

Standing Committee considered the report from the Doctrine Commission on amending the *Canon Concerning Confessions 1989* and requested the Church Law Commission to draft a bill to amend the Canon to be promoted as a special bill at the Seventeenth Session of General Synod.

## **8 DOCTRINE**

Standing Committee received a report from the Doctrine Commission addressing the following issues:

- Conversation on Marriage
- In the Image and Likeness of God
- Deposition from Holy Orders
- The Elements of the Eucharist
- Report on the Anglican-Oriental Orthodox Agreed Statement on Christology 2014

## **9. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION – RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

Standing Committee noted the report from the Public Affairs Commission on its engagement with the Religious Freedom Roundtable Discussion conducted by the Human Rights Commission on 5 November 2015.

## **10. NATSIAC – CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS**

Standing Committee noted the Primate's referral to the Public Affairs Commission

*Given the Federal Government's stated intention to hold a Referendum on amending the Constitution with regard to references to Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, and given the desire of the Government to hold such a Referendum in May 2017, it is requested that the Public Affairs Commission, in consultation with NATSIAC, bring a report to the Standing Committee outlining a possible way forward that the Anglican Church might adopt in the context of the public debate on this issue.*

## **11. APPELLATE TRIBUNAL MEMBERSHIP**

Standing Committee requested the Church Law Commission to prepare legislation for the Seventeenth Session of General Synod to address issues relating to qualifications to be a member of the Appellate Tribunal and the establishment of a reserve panel.

## **12 EPISCOPAL STANDARDS**

Standing Committee committed to further discussion and review to ascertain a way forward towards a substantially uniform episcopal standards process for Bishops.

Standing Committee requested the preparation of amendments to the Holy Orders, Relinquishment and Deposition Canon 2004 so as to allow:

- (i) a bishop to relinquish or be deposed from the order of bishop, yet retain the order of priest or deacon ;and
- (ii) a priest to relinquish or be deposed from the order of priest, yet retain the order of deacon.

and requested the Doctrine Commission to report on any theological implications of such a proposition.

## **13. LITURGY**

Standing Committee received a report from the Liturgy Commission on its response to General Synod Resolution 43/14 on Liturgical Resources and requested the Board of Broughton Publishing to report to the Standing Committee on the financial and other implications of the recommendations of the Liturgy Commission.

Standing Committee requested the Church Law Commission to consider amendments to the *Canon Concerning Services 1992/98* (or by another means) to provide a mechanism for the national recognition of additional liturgical resources which could be authorised for use within a diocese by its diocesan bishop.

## **14 UNITED NATIONS STATUS OF WOMEN – 60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (UNCSW60)**

Standing Committee received a report from Ms Alison Present who had been nominated by the Anglican Church of Australia to join the Anglican Communion delegation to UNCSW60 in New York in March 2016.

## **15. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

### **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**

Standing Committee reaffirmed its commitment to the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and noted that dioceses had been asked to participate in a research project analyzing abuse complaints commencing from 30 May 2016.

### **Professional Standards Policy**

Standing Committee received a report from the Professional Standards Commission and endorsed recommended policy updates in the following areas:

- Sharing of Information by Directors of Professional Standards
- Revisions of *Faithfulness in Service*
- National Register Screening Policy – General Synod Appointments

### **National Register Operational Report and Annual Audit 2015**

The Standing committee received a report on the annual audit of the National Register.

### **Appeal of Keith Francis Slater to the Appellate Tribunal**

The Standing Committee received a report on the administrative arrangements in place to support the current appeal before the Appellate Tribunal.

## **16. NATIONAL HOME MISSION FUND**

Standing Committee received the report on the current status of the National Home Mission Fund and noted the intention of the Executive Committee to disburse 100% of the funds available in the Fund at 31 May 2016 equally between the Dioceses of The Riverina, Willochra, North West Australia and the Northern Territory

## **17. FINANCE**

The Standing Committee received the following financial reports:

- 31 December 2015 Financial Performance
- 31 March 2016 YTD Financial Performance
- General Synod Investment Committee Report
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The Standing Committee authorized the Primate and Treasurer to sign the 2015 Annual Financial Statements of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia and General Synod Audit Report.

## **18. NCCA INCORPORATION AND REVISED CONSTITUTION**

Standing Committee endorsed the revised constitution for NCCA Ltd and asked the General Secretary to inform the Anglican delegates attending the NCCA Forum in June 2016 that the motion to adopt the constitution can be supported.

## **19. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **NCCA APPOINTMENTS**

Standing Committee noted that the following delegates have been appointed to attend the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) Forum in 2016:

- Bishop Philip Huggins
- Bishop Doug Stevens
- Rev'd Jane Lee Barker
- Ms Rose Elu
- Revd Gloria Shipp
- Ms Anne Hywood

Standing Committee confirmed the nomination of the following people to serve on NCCA entities, subject to their willingness to accept nomination:

#### **Faith and Unity Commission**

- Bishop Doug Stevens
- Rev'd Jane Lee Barker
- Rev'd Dr Cathy Thomson

#### **Social Justice Network**

- Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt

#### **Safe Church Network**

- Mr Garth Blake SC

#### **Eco-Mission Project**

- Ms Claire Duffy

#### **Act for Peace**

- Ms Alison Preston

### **THE AUSTRALIAN HYMN BOOK PTY LTD - DIRECTOR**

Standing Committee appointed Mr Allan Perryman, General Synod Treasurer to the Board of The Australian Hymn Book Pty Ltd.

### **LITURGY COMMISSION**

Standing Committee recommended that the Primate appoint the Rev'd Jasmine Dow as a member of the Liturgy Commission for a term commencing 15 May 2016 and ending at the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of General Synod.

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

Standing Committee recommended that the Primate appoint Rev'd Evan Pederick as a member of the Public Affairs Commission for a term commencing 15 May 2016 and ending at the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of General Synod.

### **BROUGHTON PUBLISHING**

Standing Committee appointed the Rev'd Dane Courtney and the Right Rev'd Dr Michael Stead as members of the Broughton Publishing Committee and directors of Broughton Publishing Pty Ltd.

## **ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION-AUSTRALIA (ABM-A)**

Standing Committee confirmed the following appointments to the Anglican Board of Mission-Australia (ABM-A):

- The Very Rev 'd John Roundhill as the Victorian Provincial Director with a term to commence immediately and expire 16 November 2019;
- Ms Emma Riggs as the South Australian Provincial Director with a term to commence immediately and expire 16 November 2019; and

Mr Stephen Harrison as the Queensland Provincial Director with a term to commence immediately and to expire 16 November 2019.

## **20. FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **Standing Committee 2016**

Friday 18 – Saturday 19 November 2016

### **Executive Committee of Standing Committee 2016**

Tuesday 6 September 2016

### **2017 Dates**

Standing Committee	10-11 February
Executive Committee	28 March
Standing Committee	12-13 May
Standing Committee	8 September
Executive Committee	24 October
Standing Committee	8-9 December

## **20. CLOSING PRAYER**

The meeting closed with the Grace at 1.00 pm.