



# Anglican Church of Australia

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Standing Committee of General Synod

## **STANDING COMMITTEE OF GENERAL SYNOD**

**18-19 November 2016**

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### **SUMMARY OF BUSINESS**

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The Standing Committee of General Synod met at Rydges Sydney Central, Sydney, at 1.30 pm on Friday 18 November 2016 and concluded at 1.00 pm on Saturday 19 November 2016.

A service of Holy Communion was conducted at 8.00 am on Saturday 19 November 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 MISSIONARY DIOCESES CANON 1977**

Standing Committee received the report of Bishop Sarah Macneil and Bishop Michael Stead proposing amendments to the Missional Dioceses Canon 1977 and asked the Church Law Commission to prepare a bill to amend the Missionary Diocese Canon 1977 at the Seventeenth Session of General Synod.

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

Standing Committee received the General Secretary's report and updated timetable for for the Seventeenth Session of General Synod and supported the General Secretary's recommendation that "Conference Sessions" be incorporated into the program to allow reporting and interaction between members, outside the restrictions of Standing Orders.

Standing Committee appointed the members of the Standing Committee Executive Committee to fulfil the function of the Provisional Business Committee to prepare the Order of Business for the first day of the Seventeenth Session of General Synod.

## **4 FINANCIAL PROTECTION CANON 1995 - ANNUAL REPORT**

Standing Committee received the report of Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force on the review of NATSIAC's audited accounts for 2015 in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Protection Canon 1995.

## **5 TRAVEL POLICIES - DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL**

Standing Committee approved the revised Domestic Travel Policy and the new International Travel Policy endorsed by the Executive Committee at its meeting in September 2016.

## **6 REVIEW OF STANDING COMMITTEE CIRCULAR RESOLUTION PROCEDURE**

Standing Committee asked the Church Law Commission to prepare amendments to Rule II – Rules for the Appointment of a Standing Committee of General Synod and Defining its powers and Duties, to allow a circular resolution to be passed by three-quarters of all members voting, rather than three-quarters of all members of the Committee, subject to the establishment of a quorum of voters. The Church Law Commission was asked to prepare a bill to amend Rule II at the Seventeenth Session of General Synod.

## **7. STRATEGIC ISSUES, COMMISSIONS TASK FORCES AND NETWORKS CANON 1999**

Standing Committee asked the Church Law Commission to prepare amendments to the Strategic Issues, Commissions Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998 to:

- a) Change the name of the Ministry Commission to the Mission and Ministry Commission;
- b) Change the name of the Professional Standards Commission to the Safe Ministry Commission;
- c) Establish the Public Affairs Commission as an ongoing Reference Commission and detail its functions;
- d) Establish the Ecumenical Relations Commission as an ongoing Reference Commission and detail its function;
- e) Amend s14 of the Canon to change the term of appointment for members of Reference Commissions from a 5 year term to a term of up to 5 years with members able to be reappointed, and
- f) Amend 12A (a) and (b) of the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon in the functions of the Professional Standards Commission, by inserting after the word “training”, the words “the protection of children and adults from abuse.”

## **8 DOCTRINE**

Standing Committee received the report of the Doctrine Commission dated 26 October 2016 entitled *A response to In the Image and Likeness of God: A Hope-Filled Anthropology: The Buffalo Statement Agreed by the International Commission for Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue* (2015).

Standing Committee requested the Doctrine Commission to prepare a report for Standing Committee on the doctrinal issue concerning the blessing by the Church of the civil union or marriage of same-sex people.

## **9. CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES**

1. Standing Committee resolved to continue to support constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples but in a manner that at least:
  - a. Removes discriminatory provisions like s25 and the power to make laws on the basis of “race”,
  - b. Includes recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples;
  - c. Includes a power for the Commonwealth to make laws with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples for overcoming disadvantage, ameliorating past discrimination and protecting culture, language and heritage, or beneficial provisions to this effect; and
  - d. Prohibits adverse discrimination against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

2. Standing Committee requested the Public Affairs Commission to continue monitoring the issue of constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and further requests a briefing from the Public Affairs Commission on current thinking about the notions of sovereignty and treaty especially as they relate to constitutional recognition.
3. Standing Committee asked the Public Affairs Commission to consider the theological rationale for this proposed position on Constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

## **10. CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA**

The following resolution was passed:

Standing Committee supports the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Standing Committee requests the Public Affairs Commission in consultation with NATSIAC, to bring recommendations to the Standing Committee as to how this support and recognition can best be effected.

## **11. DRAFT LEGISLATION FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD**

Standing Committee endorsed the following bills, as drafted by the Church Law Commission, and amended in discussion, for presentation to the Seventeenth Session of General Synod:

- i. A Bill for a Canon to amend the Long Service Leave Canon 2010.
- ii. A Bill for a Canon to repeal the Canon Concerning Confessions 1989 (Amendment) Canon 2014 and to amend the Canon Concerning Confessions 1989.
- iii. A Bill for the Appellate Tribunal Amendment Canon 2017 and a Bill for the Constitution (Appellate Tribunal Vacancies) Amendment Canon 2017.
- iv. A Bill for the Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017
- v. A Rule to Amend Rule III – Rules for the Conduct of Elections Ordered to be made by the General Synod
- vi. Long Service Leave (Notification of Participating Organisation) Canon 2017.

Standing Committee deferred consideration of the *Holy Orders, Relinquishment and Deposition Canon (Amendment) Bill*, as drafted by the Church Law Commission, until the next meeting of Standing Committee and asked the Doctrine Commission to produce a report on whether it is possible to depose from the exercise of an office, rather than from each of the separate orders.

## **12 REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN ON GENERAL SYNOD AND DIOCESAN BODIES**

Standing Committee received the report from the General Secretary and requested that an updated report on representation of women on General Synod bodies, including the Tribunals, be presented to the Seventeenth Session of General Synod.

### **13. RESPONSE TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT ON REDRESS AND CIVIL LITIGATION**

Standing Committee received the report on the Royal Commission Working Group's (RCWG) consultation process in regard to the establishment of an independent, incorporated entity to manage redress services on behalf of the dioceses and Anglican entities that choose to use its.

Standing Committee authorised the General Secretary and Mr Garth Blake SC to accept the invitation, extended by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, to work with the Department's Redress Task Force on the development of the Commonwealth Redress Scheme.

Standing Committee authorised the General Secretary to obtain legal advice up to a value of \$25,000 to facilitate Anglican engagement with the Commonwealth as it develops its Redress Scheme and the participation of Anglican dioceses and institutions in that scheme.

### **14 COMMONWEALTH REDRESS SCHEME**

It was resolved that, the Standing Committee,

- i. urges the dioceses and organisations of the Anglican Church of Australia to continue to care for and support survivors,
- ii. endorses the Primate's welcoming the Commonwealth Redress Scheme,
- iii. supports the proposal in principle while awaiting detail of that scheme,
- iv. commits to work constructively with Federal and State governments in delivering redress to survivors of child sexual abuse.

### **15. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

#### **Principles for the use of names of persons who perpetrated, or failed to take action in relation to child sexual abuse.**

Standing Committee endorsed and recommended principles for the use of names of persons who perpetrated, or failed to take action in relation to child sexual abuse to dioceses and Anglican bodies and requested that the principles be circulated and published.

#### **Faithfulness in Service – Proposed and Further Revisions**

Standing Committee revised Faithfulness in Service as recommended by the Professional Standards commission and requested that the revised document be circulated and published.

#### **National Register – Protocol For Access to and Disclosure of Information**

Standing Committee approved the revision of the Protocol 2 for access to and disclosure of Information in the National Register 2007 and requested that the revised document be circulated and published.

### **Ministry Suitability Information Protocol Canon 2017**

Standing Committee referred the Bill, as recommended by the Professional Standards Commission, for the Ministry Suitability Information Protocol Canon 2017 to the Church Law Commission for review and a response.

### **Diocesan responsibility for disciplinary action**

Standing Committee recommended that each diocese adopt and implement the Protocol for determining the responsibility of dioceses for disciplining Church workers for misconduct and requested that the protocol be circulated and published.

### **Policy for Safe Ministry with Persons of Concern**

Standing Committee received the report of the Professional Standards Commission and requested the Commission to revise the draft policy in the light of the discussion at Standing Committee.

## **16 Episcopal Standards**

Standing Committee received a report from the Episcopal Standards Commission and requested the Chair of the Church Law Commission to engage with the new Convenor of the Episcopal Standards Commission on the recommendations in the report.

## **17 LONG SERVICE LEAVE FUND**

### **Disclosure under Section 9(2) of the LSL Canon 2010**

Standing Committee received the notice from the Long Service Leave Fund Board that that the Board has established a regulation to provide a new category of participating member in the Fund, being the “ordained, unlicensed, pastoral class of people”.

Pursuant to s9(4) of the Long Service Leave Canon 2010, the Standing Committee disallowed the regulation made by the Long Service Leave Board.

### **Notional Stipend, Contribution Rate and Sabbatical Allowance for 2017**

Standing Committee noted and approved the following recommendations of the Anglican Long Service Leave Board for the 2017 year:

(a) The Notional Stipend in respect of all participants of the Fund should be \$72,439.

(b) The Contribution Rate in respect of all participants of the Fund should be \$1,524.

The Sabbatical Allowance in respect of all participants of the Fund should be 70%

## **18 NATSIAC**

Standing Committee endorsed the changes recommended by NATSIAC to the membership of NATSIAC and requested the Church Law Commission to prepare legislation for the Seventeenth Session of General Synod to increase the number of representatives appointed by the Archbishop of Brisbane, to include both an Aboriginal person and a Torres Strait Island person.

## **19 BROUGHTON PUBLISHING**

Standing Committee received a report from the Board of Broughton Publishing and endorsed the Board's position taken on some of the recommendations of the Liturgy Commission which impacted on the continued operations and viability of Broughton Publishing.

## **20 FINANCE**

The Standing Committee received the following financial reports:

- Statutory Fund Forecast 2016
- 30 September 2016 YTD Financial Performance
- General Synod Budget 2017
- Draft General Synod Budget Forecasts 2018-2020
- Report of the General Synod Investment Committee

## **21 IARCCUM - International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission**

Standing Committee received the report of Bishop John Parkes and endorsed his proposal to circulate the documents to the Bishops for their consideration and action in their respective contexts when the joint declaration has received final assent.

## **22. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **Standing Committee Vacancy – House of Laity**

Standing Committee confirmed the election of Ms Suzanne (Sue) West to fill the vacancy in the members of Standing Committee elected by the House of Laity, arising from the resignation of Ms Leigh Haywood for a term until the next session of General Synod.

### **Episcopal Standards Commission – Appointment of Convenor**

Standing Committee appointed Mr Ian Dallas as Convenor of the Episcopal Standards Commission, for a five year term commencing on 21 November 2016, under the provisions of section 6(1) of the Special Tribunal Canon 2007.

### **Appellate Tribunal Election**

Standing Committee noted the election of Bishop Garry Weatherill to the Appellate Tribunal by the members of General Synod's House of Laity.

### **Special Tribunal Election**

Standing Committee received the report from the General Secretary on the progress of the election to fill three vacancies on the Special Tribunal.

## **23 FUTURE MEETINGS**

The following meeting dates were confirmed.

### **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

## **24 CLOSING PRAYER**

The meeting closed with the Grace at 1.00 pm.