



Anglican Church of Australia

Standing Committee of General Synod

STANDING COMMITTEE OF GENERAL SYNOD

8-9 December 2017

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS

The Standing Committee of General Synod met at Mercure Melbourne Treasury Gardens, 13 Spring Street, Melbourne at 1.30 pm on Friday 8 December 2017 and concluded at 1.00 pm on Saturday 9 December 2017.

An Induction for new members was conducted at 10.30 am on Friday 8 December 2017.

A service of Holy Communion was conducted at 8.00 am on Saturday 9 December 2017.

A summary of business transacted follows:

1. ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CENTRAL & WESTERN NSW

Standing Committee noted advice from the Bishop of Bathurst of the change in the name of the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst to the 'Anglican Church of Central & Western NSW' agreed at the Diocesan Synod held from 16-17 September 2017.

2. ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE – FINAL REPORT

Standing Committee received an oral report from the Primate noting the intention of the Royal Commission to present a Final Report covering its investigations to the Governor-General on 15 December 2017. The Final Report will subsequently be tabled in the Australian Parliament by the Government and then be made public. Standing Committee noted the intention of the Royal Commission Working Group to report to Standing Committee at its meeting in May 2018 with recommendations on how best to respond to the issues raised in the Commission's final report.

3. STRATEGIC ISSUES

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on resolutions of the Seventeenth Session of General Synod directed to Standing Committee for action.

Standing Committee divided into four small groups and identified the following strategic issues from the resolutions of General Synod to be addressed in the period prior to the next session:

National Approach to Professional Standards (GS20/17)

Domestic Violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (GS23/17).

Equal Representation of Women (GS25/17)

Viability and Structures (GS47/17)

Standing Committee established the Viability and Structures Working Group to develop proposals in response to specific recommendations of the Viability and Structures Steering Group. Standing Committee noted Bishop John Stead's willingness to convene the working group and identify members for appointment.

Family Violence (GS50/17)

Standing Committee established the Family Violence Working Group to inquire into the commissioning of a research study into the nature and prevalence of family violence within the Australian Anglican Church population.

Standing Committee appointed the following persons to membership of the working group:

- The Rt Rev'd Genieve Blackwell
- The Rev'd Canon Sandy Grant
- The Rev'd Scott Holmes
- The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen (Convenor)
- Dr Naomi Priest
- Dr Karin Sowada

4. NETWORK OF ANGLICAN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATORS

Standing Committee established the national Network of Anglican Theological Educators Network as a General Synod Network under the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998. Standing Committee noted the appointment of the Rt Rev'd Dr Bradly Billings (Diocese of Melbourne) as convenor.

5. SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on the administration and conduct of the Seventeenth Session of the General Synod delivered against plan and within budget. Standing Committee expressed its appreciation to the General Secretary and her team for the successful administration and conduct of the Synod.

6. GENERAL SYNOD RESOLUTIONS AND CANONS - IMPLEMENTATION AND RESOURCING

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on legislation and resolutions passed at the Seventeenth Session of General Synod requiring budget support with respect to child safety, professional and episcopal standards and the redress scheme and the work program designated by resolutions identified as strategic issues to be addressed in the period prior to the next session of the General Synod.

Standing Committee approved adjustments to the 2018 General Synod Budget 2018 and Forecasts 2019 to 2020 passed at the General Synod to provide for the adoption of General Synod measures.

7. EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD PLANNING

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on the planning of the Eighteenth Session of General Synod. Standing Committee confirmed the selection criteria for the venue and the preferred date; and delegated authority to the Executive Committee to approve the venue for the Eighteenth Session of General Synod.

8. COMING OF THE LIGHT - 150th ANNIVERSARY

Standing Committee noted the 150th Anniversary of the Coming of the Light in 2021 - a celebration of the Torres Strait Islands commemorating the landing of the first Christian missionaries on Erub Island on 1 July 1871.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Standing Committee approved the amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Executive Committee authorising the Committee to function as the General Synod provisional Committee to arrange the order of business of the Synod.

10. GENERAL SYNOD QANTAS BUSINESS REWARDS POLICY

Standing Committee approved the General Synod Qantas Business Rewards Policy and the procedures to apply the points to General Synod Office staff to increase operational efficiency.

11. APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on the progress of questions or matters referred by the Primate relating to the Diocese of Sydney's Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 and the Australian Bishops participation in the Anglican Church of North America Consecration.

12. GENERAL SYNOD PROJECT FUNDING

Standing Committee noted the Executive Committee's approval of the process and timetable for receiving and assessing project funding proposals from General Synod Commissions, Task Forces and Working Groups for the budget years commencing 2018, 2019 and 2020.

13. ANNUAL REPORTING TEMPLATE FOR COMMISSIONS, TASK FORCES AND NETWORKS

Standing Committee approved the annual reporting template for the 2017 reporting period for General Synod bodies required to prepare an annual report under the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998. The template is designed to ensure the various reporting obligations are readily identified and consistently addressed.

14. DIOCESAN FINANCIAL ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Standing Committee received the report of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force on the Task Force's biennial desktop review of the financial statements of the 23 Dioceses and their significant entities commencing May 2017. Standing Committee noted the new financial viability ratings of dioceses applied by the Task Force to assess short-to-medium term financial viability of the Dioceses.

15. REGISTER OF AUTHORISED PERSONS

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary and noted the Executive Committee's approval of amendments to the Register of Authorised Persons reflecting staff changes in the General Synod Office.

16. TRUST CORPORATION RESOLUTIONS

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on decisions made by the Trust Corporation to enter into and execute agreements in accordance with General Synod's approved budget.

17. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT - APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on the appointment by the House of Bishops of the Hon Justice Richard Refshauge as Deputy President of the Appellate Tribunal for the period commencing 26 July 2017.

18. REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Standing Committee received the report of the General Synod Remuneration Committee on the outcomes of the annual review of the performance of the General Secretary, and annual approval of parameters for the remuneration of other employees of the General Synod and adjustments to remuneration. Standing Committee approved the Committee's recommendation for the 2018 financial parameters for employee remuneration, in accordance with the General Synod Remuneration Policy.

Standing Committee noted the recommendation of the Remuneration Committee to appoint Ms Anne Hywood as General Secretary for a further 5 year term commencing 9 February 2018.

19. LONG SERVICE LEAVE FUND

Standing Committee received the report on the decision of the Long Service Leave Board to approve the application by Anglicare Sydney to be admitted as a Participating Organisation of the Long Service Leave Fund from 1 January 2018.

20. ANGLICAN COMMUNION

2017 Primates' Meeting

Standing Committee received the Communiqué from the Primates' Meeting at Canterbury Cathedral, England, 2-6 October 2017.

Primates' Task Group

Standing Committee received an oral report from the Primate on his attendance at the second meeting of Primates' Task Group held in April, 2017 in London. The group was established in January 2016 by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the request of the primates to restore relationships, rebuild mutual trust and responsibility, heal the legacy of hurt and explore deep differences. The group met for the first time in September 2016.

Anglican Communion Inter Faith Commission

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on the establishment of an inter-Anglican commission on inter religious relations at the request of Anglican Consultative Council Resolution 16.10 to assist the provinces of the Anglican Communion in encouraging and promoting appropriate Christian Witness in a multi-religious world and to establish six regional networks representing:

- i. The America's
- ii. Europe
- iii. Africa
- iv. Middle East and Pakistan
- v. India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka
- vi. East Asia and Oceania

Standing Committee noted the appointment by the Primate of the Rev'd Dr Ruwan Palapathwala to membership of the Commission as representative of the Province of Australia and facilitator of conversation in the Pacifica area (Australia, Aoteoroa, New Zealand, Melanesia, Papua New Guinea)

Scottish Episcopal Church

Standing Committee received the response from the Scottish Episcopal Church to General Synod Resolution GS51/17 and the Primus statement to the Anglican Communion Primates' Meeting on Scottish Episcopal Church's decision to change its Canon on Marriage.

Episcopal Church (USA) Task Force on the study of marriage

Standing Committee noted the letter from the Primate in response to the invitation from the Episcopal Church (USA) Task Force to comment on the impact of the Episcopal Church's authorisation and use of liturgical rites for same-sex marriage and the blessing of same-sex unions on the Church. The letter reiterated General Synod Resolution (GS51/17) on the action taken by the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Inter-Anglican Budget - Contribution for the Province of Australia for 2018

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on the Inter-Anglican Budget in support of the work of the Anglican Communion. Standing Committee noted the six per cent increase in the contribution of the Provinces for 2018 to help with towards new initiatives not included in earlier ACO budgets such as the Safe Church Commission, Anglican Communion Inter Faith Commission and the Primates' Task Group.

Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission

Standing Committee received the report from the Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission's first face to face meeting held from 27 October to 31 October 2017 in London. Standing Committee noted that the Safe Church Commission has established three working groups in the areas of theology, policy, and liturgy.

Council of the Church in East Asia Bishops' Meeting

Standing Committee received the report of Archbishop Geoffrey Smith on his attendance at the Council of the Church in East Asia Bishops' Meeting held on 17 October 2017 in Yangon. Standing Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Council that the Bishops nominate a female delegate with a significant role in women's ministry in a diocese or province to attend the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 2-7 October 2019 in Sabah.

21. REFERENCE COMMISSIONS WORK PROGRAMS 2017-2018

Standing Committee endorsed the three-year work program outlining the strategic priorities identified by General Synod and Standing Committee for the following Commission's:

- The Doctrine Commission
- The Ecumenical Relations Commission
- The Liturgy Commission
- The Mission and Ministry Commission
- The Public Affairs Commission
- The Safe Ministry Commission

22. CHURCH LAW

Authentication of Canons of the Seventeenth Session of the General Synod

Standing Committee authorised three of its members to authenticate Canons and Rules passed at the Seventeenth Session of General Synod by the affixing of the official seal of the General Synod in accordance with sections 24 and 25 of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Bill for a Rule to Amend Rule I - Standing Orders

Standing Committee received the report of the Archbishop of Sydney requesting the Church Law Commission to draft a bill to amend Rule I - Standing Orders to be promoted at the Eighteenth Session of General Synod. Standing Committee appointed four of its members to make a recommendation to the Standing Committee::

- Archbishop Phillip Aspinall
- Archbishop Glenn Davies
- Dr Ian Gibson
- Dr Robert Tong AM

Advice on the implications of the Marriage Amendment (Definitions and Religious Freedoms) Act 2017

Standing Committee requested the Church Law Commission to advise on the implications of the *Marriage Amendment (Definitions and Religious Freedoms) Act 2017* for Anglican Clergy as authorised marriage celebrants.

23. INTERNATIONAL ANGLICAN LITURGICAL CONSULTATION 2017

Standing Committee received the report of the Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith and the Rev'd Dane Courtney on their attendance at the IALC held from 4-6 August 2017 in Belgium.

24. SOCIETAS LITURGICA CONGRESS 2017

Standing Committee received the report of the Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith on her attendance at the Societas Liturgia Congress held from 7-12 August 2017 in Leuven, Belgium.

25. UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW62)

Standing Committee elected Ms Ruth Brigden (Diocese of the Northern Territory) as the representative of the Anglican Church of Australia to join the Anglican Communion's delegation at the 62nd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to be held from 12 to 23 March 2018 in New York.

26. SAFE MINISTRY

National Anglican Approach to Redress and the Commonwealth Redress Scheme

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on the Royal Commission Working Group's progress in establishing an independent, incorporated entity to provide a single point of engagement with the Commonwealth/National Redress Scheme and enable Anglican entities to join as part of a national group as prescribed in the *Redress for Survivors of Abuse Canon 2017*.

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on the outcomes of the third General Synod Consultation Forum on Redress for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse held on 4 December 2017.

National Register Audit - 2017

Standing Committee appointed Nexia Australia to undertake an audit of the operation of the National Register for the calendar year 2017 for the purpose of verifying compliance with the National Register Canon 2007 and the protocols under this Canon.

Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 - Safe Ministry Check Forms

Standing Committee received the report of the Safe Ministry Commission on the proposed amendments to the Safe Ministry Check Forms and a new form for voluntary church workers under the age of 18 years. Standing Committee noted that Dioceses were requested to provide comments and feedback.

Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 - Implementation

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on resourcing the safe ministry initiatives under the *Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017* and *Redress for Survivors of Abuse Canon 2017* with respect to the Dioceses that adopt the Canon and the General Synod Office that administers the measures.

Royal Commission Working Group

Standing Committee requested the Royal Commission Working Group in consultation with the Primate and General Secretary to make recommendations with respect to the terms of reference, work program and membership of a reconstituted group for the purpose of implementing initiatives from the Royal Commission's Final Report.

27. DIRECTOR OF THE EPISCOPAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Standing Committee re-appointed Ms Jennifer Lum as the Director of the Episcopal Standards Commission for the period ending at the first meeting of the Standing Committee after the Eighteenth Session of General Synod in accordance with section 2.1.2 of the *Episcopal Standards Protocol (General) 2011*.

28. NATSIAC

Standing Committee received the report from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Council Executive Committee meeting held on 10 October 2017.

29. FINANCE

Standing Committee received the following reports:

- General Synod 2017 YTD Actuals to September 2017
- General Synod Budget 2018
- General Synod Budget Forecast 2019 - 2020

General Synod Investment Committee

Standing Committee received the report from the General Synod Investment Committee meeting held on 11 August 2017.

Long Service Leave Fund - Notional Stipend, Contributions, Rate and Sabbatical Allowances

Standing Committee on the advice of the Long Service Leave Board determined the notional annual stipend and sabbatical allowance and the amount of contributions in respect of all eligible members for the year 2018 in accordance with the Long Service Leave Canon 1992.

Standing Committee delegated its function under the Long Service Leave Canon 1992 to the Executive Committee to determine the :

- a) Notional annual stipend and Supplementary Allowance in respect of all eligible members set by the Board
- b) Amount of Contributions set by the Board

30. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE ANGLICAN ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL DIALOGUE

Standing Committee received the report of Archbishop Phillip Aspinall on his attendance at the International Commission for the Anglican Orthodox Theological Dialogue held from 14-21 October 2017 in Malta. Standing Committee received the Communiqué issued from the meeting.

31. LEGAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

Standing Committee appointed three of its members to review the Legal Assistance Policy and make recommendations on the terms and conditions for granting legal assistance to a bishop under the *Special Tribunal Canon 2007*:

- Ms Audrey Mills
- The Very Rev'd Kanishka Raffel
- Mr Tim Reid

32. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Seventeenth Session of General Synod - Election Results

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on the results of the election of persons to office at the Seventeenth Session of General Synod.

Appointments to General Synod Bodies

Standing Committee received the report of the Appointments Sub Committee on nominations for appointment to General Synod Bodies. The Primate and the Standing Committee made the following appointments for the term until the first full meeting of the Standing Committee after the Eighteenth Session of General Synod:

GROUP 1 – GENERAL SYNOD BODIES APPOINTED BY THE PRIMATE ON RECOMMENDATION OF STANDING COMMITTEE

- 1.1 Anglican Consultative Council**
No recommendation was made in regard to the episcopal vacancy arising from the retirement of Bishop Sarah Macneil. This vacancy to be considered at a future Standing Committee meeting.
- 1.2 Church Law Commission**
It was noted that the subcommittee did not address the General Synod resolution seeking the appointment of a member of clergy to the Church Law Commission (GS36/17). Justice Mullins advised that she would bring a recommendation to the May 2018 meeting of Standing Committee following a call for nominations.
- 1.3 Doctrine Commission**
Not Continuing
- The Rt Rev'd Dr Jeffrey Driver
- New Appointments
- The Rt Rev'd Dr Jonathan Holland - Chair
 - The Rev'd Dr Rhys Bezzant, member
 - The Rt Rev'd Prof Stephen Pickard, member
- 1.4 Liturgy Commission**
Reappointments
- The Rev'd Jasmine Dow, term concluding 23 November 2019
 - The Very Rev'd Richard Humphrey, term concluding 23 November 2019
- 1.5 Mission and Ministry Commission**
New Appointments
- The Rt Rev'd Dr Richard Condie – Chair
 - The Rt Rev'd Dr Tim Harris, member
 - The Very Rev'd Dr Mary Lewis, member
- Reappointments
- The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton, member
 - The Rev'd Mark Charleston, member
 - The Rev'd Zoe Everingham, member
 - Mr Michael Ford, member
 - The Rt Rev'd Ivan Lee, member
 - The Rev'd Canon Richard Trist, member
 - Ms Sue Williams, member
 - The Rev'd Dr Max Wood, member

- 1.6 Safe Ministry Commission**
New Appointments
- The Rev'd Professor Peter Sandeman
 - The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen

- 1.7 Public Affairs Commission**
New Appointments
- Dr Carolyn Tan – Chair
 - Mrs Rose Elu, member
 - The Rev'd Jan Crombie, member

The General Secretary reported that the incumbent Chair, the Hon Rev'd Dr Lynn Arnold AO, has advised of his resignation as Chair and will continue as a member.

- 1.8 Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force**
New Appointments
- Ms Susan Foley, member
 - Mr Bruce Harris, member
 - Ms Evelyn Horton, member
 - Mr Stuart Neilson, member
 - Mr Keith Stephens, member
- Reappointments
- Mr Michael Codling – Chair
 - Mr Michael Blaxland, member
 - Mr Geoffrey Girvan, member

GROUP 2 – GENERAL SYNOD BODIES APPOINTED BY STANDING COMMITTEE

- 2.1 Episcopal Standards Commission**
Reappointments
- Bishop Robert Forsyth
 - Ms Nicola Lock
 - Mr Indran Sinnadurai

- 2.2 Audit Committee**
Reappointments
- Mr Michael Blaxland
 - Mr Colin Johnston
 - Mr Doug Marr
 - Dr Robert Tong AM

- 2.3 Australian Hymn Book Company**
Reappointments
- Mr Phillip Nicholls
 - Mr Allan Perryman

- 2.4 Broughton Publishing Committee/Pty Limited**
Reappointments
- The Rt Rev'd Ross Nicholson – Chair
 - Ms Susan Arnold, member
 - The Ven Dane Courtney, member
 - Mr Daniel Harris, member
 - The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Stead

- 2.5 Anglican-Lutheran Dialogue**
Reappointments
- The Rt Rev'd Dr Timothy Harris
 - The Rev'd Martin Bleby
 - The Ven Michael Hillier
 - The Rev'd Dr Jane Lee-Barker
- 2.7 AUSTARC**
New Appointment
- The Rt Rev'd John Parkes AM, member
- Reappointment
- The Rev'd Colleen Arnold-Moore, member
 - The Rev'd Dr Craig D'Alton
 - The Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee
 - The Rev'd Scott Lowrey
 - The Ven Philip Newman OAM
- 2.8 Investment Committee**
Reappointments
- Mr Andrew Stanley – Chair
 - Mr Graham Baikie, member
- Continuing member
- Ms Susan Foley, member
- New Appointment
- Mr Grant Reubenicht, member
- 2.10 Refugee and Migrant Working Group**
-
- Reappointments
- The Rt Rev'd Philip Huggins – Convenor
 - The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt
 - Ms Libby Hogarth
 - Ms Joanne Knight
 - Ms Jessie Taylor
- New Appointment
- The Rev'd Katrina Holgate.
- 2.11 Remuneration Committee**
- Ms Felicity Hughes appointed for an additional term.
- 2.12 Trustees of the Trust Corporation**
New Appointments
[Bishops Stead and Weatherill left the room at the commencement of this item and returned at the conclusion.]
- A ballot was conducted for the election of a Corporate Trustee of the Trust Corporation of the Anglican Church of Australia
- The Primate declared Bishop Michael Stead elected.
- New Appointments
- Ms Rachel Ellyard, member
 - The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Stead, member

Reappointments

- Mr Michael Blaxland
- Mr Doug Marr
- Dr Karin Sowada

18. FUTURE MEETINGS

Standing Committee 2018

24 March 2018

11 -12 May 2018

9 - 10 December 2018

Executive Committee of Standing Committee 2018

28 May 2018

25 September 2018

Meeting Dates 2019-2021

Standing Committee

2019 17-18 May and 8-9 November

2020 17-18 April and 13-14 November

2021 14-15 May and 12-13 November

Executive Committee

2019 19 March and 10 September

2020 24 February and 8 September

2021 23 March and 14 September

19. CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting closed with Grace at 1.00pm.