



Anglican Church of Australia

Standing Committee of General Synod

STANDING COMMITTEE OF GENERAL SYNOD

11-12 May 2018

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS

The Standing Committee of General Synod met at Rydges Sydney Central, Sydney at 1.30 pm on Friday 11 May 2018 and concluded at 1.00 pm on Saturday 12 May 2018.

A service of Holy Communion was conducted at 8.00 am on Saturday 12 May 2018.

A summary of business transacted follows:

1. 50th ANNIVERSARY OF DIOCESE OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Standing Committee requested the General Secretary to send a message of greetings to the Bishop of the Northern Territory on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary since the Diocese of the Northern Territory was created in 1968 out of the Diocese of Carpentaria.

2. STRATEGIC ISSUES

Standing Committee received reports on the progress in the implementation of General Synod Resolutions identified as strategic issues to be addressed in the period prior to the next session of General Synod:

National Approach to Professional Standards (GS20/18)

Standing Committee requested the Safe Ministry Commission to develop a national approach to professional standards in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission's final report.

Domestic Violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (GS23/18)

Standing Committee requested the Family Violence Working Group to consult with NATSIAC.

Equal Representation of Women (GS25/17)

Standing Committee appointed the following members to form a Committee to prepare policies and procedures to achieve the target of 50% equal representation of women in elections and appointments by 1 December 2019:

- Anne Hywood
- Fiona McLean
- Audrey Mills
- Justice Debra Mullins
- Bishop Michael Stead

Viability and Structures (GS47/17)

Standing Committee appointed the Rt Rev'd John Stead as Convenor of the Viability and Structures Working Group and confirmed the composition of the working group comprising:

- One member appointed by Standing Committee
- One representative of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force
- One representative from each Province as identified by the metropolitan of that Province and the Extra Provincial.

Family Violence Study (GS50/17)

Standing Committee received the report of the Family Violence Working Group on the scope statement for a proposed research study into the nature and prevalence of family violence within the Australian Anglican Church population. Standing Committee requested the Convenor to bring back a recommendation to the next meeting.

3. EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Standing Committee confirmed the time and place for the Eighteenth Session of General Synod:

Eighteenth Session of General Synod - 31 May to 5 June 2020, Novotel Twin Waters Resort, Maroochydore, Queensland.

4. ANNUAL REPORTS - COMMISSIONS TASK FORCES AND NETWORKS

Standing Committee received annual reports for the 2017 reporting period from each General Synod expert Reference Commission, Task Force and Network and in accordance with section 22 of the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998:

Reference Commissions

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

Task Forces

The Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force

General Synod Networks

Anglican Religious Life in Australia Network
Anglican Schools Australia Network
Anglican Australia
Australian Anglican Diaconal Association
Australian Cathedral Deans
Children and Youth Ministry
Defence Force Anglican Chaplains Incorporated
Professional Standards Directors
Registrars' Network

5. FINANCIAL PROTECTION CANON 1995

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on the review of the arrangements under the Financial Protection Canon 1995. Standing Committee certified the following as organisations required to report in accordance with section 2 of the Financial Protection Canon 1995,

- a) Anglican Board of Mission – Australia Limited;
- b) Australian College of Theology Limited;
- c) Broughton Publishing Trust;
- d) Defence Force Board and AMOS Foundation;
- e) Long Service Leave Fund; and
- f) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council;

Standing Committee determined that these organisations are required to report annually and nominated the General Synod Audit Committee as the body to review the audited financial statements of these organisations.

6. REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT FOR PROFITS COMMISSION LEGISLATION

Standing Committee received the report on the national Church's engagement with the review of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission legislation including submissions to the Treasury from the Diocese of Sydney and a consolidated response from the national Church.

7. LEGAL ASSISTANCE POLICY REVIEW

Standing Committee received the report of Legal Assistance Policy Review Group and adopted the revised Legal Assistance Policy for granting legal assistance for the purpose of section 41(3) of the *Special Tribunal Canon 2007*, section 32(2) of the *Episcopal Standards Canon 2007* and section 32(2) of the *Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017*.

8. NATIONAL BISHOPS' MEETING 2018

Standing Committee received the report on the Bishops' Meeting 2018 held from 16 – 21 March 2018 in Canberra.

9. ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Oceania Anglican Fono - March 2018

Standing Committee received the communiqué "*Voyaging Together in Christ, in the Simplicity of the Gospel*", issued by the Oceania Anglican Fono, a meeting of Primates and General Secretaries, held on 2-5 March 2018 in Fiji. The Fono committed to take concrete action, to be champions and advocates, and to support each other in the following areas.

- Climate Change
- Violence against Women & Children
- Change of leadership / capacity building
- Disaster relief and preparedness
- Relationality

Anglican Inter Faith Commission February 2018 - Representative's Report

Standing Committee received the report of the Rev'd Dr Ruwan Palapathwala, the representative for the Provinces in the Pacific Region, on his attendance at the Anglican Inter Faith Commission meeting. The inter-Anglican commission on inter religious relations was established to implement resolution ACC-16.10 Anglican Inter faith engagement passed at ACC-16 in Lusaka 2016.

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

Standing Committee received the report of the Archbishop of Sydney and the General Secretary on the motion passed at the 63rd General Synod Te Hīnota Whānui (GSTHW) in May 2018, to allow churches in New Zealand to bless same sex relationships.

10. DOCTRINE

Standing Committee received the report of the Doctrine Commission on progress on the following matters referred from General Synod:

- Marriage, Same-sex marriage and the blessing of same-sex relationships
- The Gospel of Christ Crucified
- Advice on the implications of the *Marriage Amendment (Definitions and Religious Freedoms) Act 2017*.

11. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REVIEW

Standing Committee received the report of the Public Affairs Commission on its submission to the Australian Government's Religious Freedom Review Expert Panel examining whether Australian law adequately protects the human right to freedom of religion.

11. LITURGY

Standing Committee authorised expenditure for members of the Liturgy Commission to attend the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation from 22 to 25 January 2019 in Hong Kong to participate in a review of liturgical practice in the Asian and Oceania regions.

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

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

13. SAFE MINISTRY

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse - Final Report Recommendations

Standing Committee received the report of the Safe Ministry Commission on the implementation plan in response to the recommendations in the final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Standing Committee noted a total of 19 recommendations applying to the Anglican Church in the following categories:

- (a) *Discipline.*
- (b) *Child Safe Standards:*
- (c) *Screening and Relating Training:*
- (d) *Training and Professional Development:*
- (e) *Advice and Accountability:*
- (f) *Handling Complaints:*

Safe Ministry to Children - Screening Standards

Standing Committee received the report of the Safe Ministry Commission on the proposed amendments to the screening standards relating to safe ministry assessment and criminal history assessment. Standing Committee requested the General Secretary to initiate the consultation process required to make amendments to the prescribed standards and guidelines.

National Register Operational Report and Annual Audit 2017

Standing Committee received the annual report of the General Secretary on the operation of the National Register and the independent compliance report on the administration of the National Register in compliance with the Canon and its related protocols.

Royal Commission Working Group reconstituted

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary on the proposed timeframe for the reconstitution of the Royal Commission Working Group as the coordinating body for the Church's response to the Royal Commission into Institutional response to child sexual abuse.

NATIONAL ANGLICAN APPROACH TO REDRESS AND THE NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

Standing Committee received the report of the Royal Commission Working Group and approved in-principle the Constitution and By-Laws of the representative entity Anglican Representative (National Redress Scheme) Limited and related activities to establish the company.

National Redress Scheme Assessment Framework

Standing Committee received a report from the General Secretary on the proposed assessment framework for the National Redress Scheme and, noting that it did not adequately reflect the matrix recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, requested the Australian Parliament to consult with survivors and survivor advocacy groups before approving the framework.

Anglican participation in the National Redress Scheme

Standing Committee resolved to recommend to all Dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia, along with Anglican schools and other Anglican organisations, that they each participate in the National Redress scheme as a member of the Anglican participating group.

14. EPISCOPAL STANDARDS

Episcopal Standards Commission

Standing Committee received the report of the Episcopal Standards Commission on its activities for the calendar year 2017 as required under section 10(1) of the *Special Tribunal Canon 2007*.

15. BROUGHTON PUBLISHING PTY LIMITED

Standing Committee received the report of the Trustee of Broughton Publishing Pty Limited on its activities for the calendar year 2017 and endorsed the proposal that the company prepare a business case to produce a national directory of clergy, parishes in the form of the Australian Anglican Directory or an alternative form.

16. FINANCE

Standing Committee received the following reports:

- General Synod 2017 YTD Actuals to March 2018
- General Synod Groups Project Funding
- General Synod Investment Committee
- General Synod Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2017

Standing Committee authorised the signing of the General Synod Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2017 and received the General Synod Audit Report.

General Synod Groups Project Funding

Standing Committee approved the allocation of project funding in the General Synod Budget for 2018 for General Synod Groups.

- Doctrine Commission - \$5,000
- Mission and Ministry Commission - \$14,200
- Public Affairs Commission - \$1,200
- Safe Ministry Commission - \$20,000
- Family Violence Working Group - \$3,250

General Synod Investment Policy

Standing Committee approved minor revisions to the General Synod Investment of Funds Risk Appetite Statement and the General Synod Funds Investment Policy Statement.

17. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The Church Law Commission

On the advice of Standing Committee, the Primate appointed the Rev'd Gillian Moses to the Church Law Commission for a term expiring 23 November 2018.

Panel for the Episcopal Standards Board

Standing Committee appointed the following persons to membership of the Episcopal Standards Board for a term of five years or the determination of any current matter which they are sitting whichever is the later:

- Mr Dyson Heydon AC QC, President
- Ms Seak-King Huang, Member
- Ms Carol Webster SC

Standing Committee re-appointed the following persons to membership of the Episcopal Standards Board for a term of five years or the determination of any current matter which they are sitting whichever is the later:

- Mr Peter Dunning QC SG, Deputy President
- The Most Rev'd Dr Glenn Davies
- The Most Rev'd Geoff Smith
- The Rt Rev'd John Parkes AM
- Ms Audrey Mills
- Ms Vivien Bleby
- Mr Eric Ross-Adjie

Anglican Communion Consultative Committee

Standing Committee appointed the Most Rev'd Kay Goldsworthy AO the Episcopal Representative of the Anglican Church of Australia to the Anglican Communion Consultative Committee to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Rt Rev'd Dr Sarah Macneil.

Anglican Board of Mission - Australia Limited

Standing Committee appointed the Rt Rev'd Dr Peter Stuart as a Director of ABM for a term of three years.

Standing Committee re-appointed the following persons as a Director of ABM for a term of three years:

- The Rt Rev'd Garry Weatherill, Chair of the Directors
- The Ven Canon David Battrick BSG

18. FUTURE MEETINGS

Standing Committee 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 March and 8 September

2021 23 March and 14 September

19. CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting closed with Grace at 1.00pm.