



Anglican Church of Australia

Standing Committee of General Synod

STANDING COMMITTEE OF GENERAL SYNOD

22 – 23 MAY 2015

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS

The Standing Committee of the General Synod met at Rydges Melbourne, 186 Exhibition Street, Melbourne at 1.30pm on Friday 22 May 2015 and concluded at 12.15pm on Saturday 23 May 2015.

A summary of business transacted follows.

1. VIABILITY AND STRUCTURES TASK FORCE REPORT

The Standing Committee received a report on the dioceses and Anglican organisations that had provided a response to the Report.

The Standing Committee identified priority, expectations and opportunities to guide the work of the Viability and Structures Steering Group, established to develop and implement strategies in response to the Report of the Viability and Structures Report presented to the Sixteenth Session of General Synod, as follows:

1. Priority areas of focus for the Steering Group (from the Report Findings):
 - Provincial cooperation
 - Leadership – Bishop and senior leadership groups in dioceses
 - Training and skills in leadership development
 - Financial and governance accountability
2. The challenge of change within the national church:
 - It was agreed that changes across the Anglican Church of Australia will be evolutionary rather than revolutionary.
3. Implementation strategies:
 - The Viability and Structures Steering Group should focus on what is achievable, make sure that dioceses and provinces are considering the Report, investigate what is happening in a positive way across the Church, liaise with the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force and identify and communicate best practice across the dioceses.
 - Noting the support for provincial cooperation as a strategy for change the Steering Group should encourage provinces to take action to address the priority areas identified.

2. DIOCESAN FINANCIAL ADVISORY TASK FORCE

The terms of reference for the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force were amended at the request of the Task Force.

The Standing Committee did not support the recommendation of the Task Force that a position of Financial Risk Officer, operating from the General Synod office, be created as no funding for the position was available.

3. ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS, TASK FORCES AND NETWORKS

The annual reports from the following General Synod bodies were received:

Commissions

- Church Law Commission
- Doctrine Commission
- Ministry Commission
- Professional Standards Commission

Task Forces

- Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force
- Fresh Expressions Australia Task Force

Networks

- Anglican Schools Australia
- Anglicare Australia
- Australian Anglican Diaconal Association
- Children & Youth Network
- Directors of Professional Standards

4. HOSTING OF SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF GENERAL SYNOD

The General Secretary was asked to engage with the Metropolitans and the Bishop of Tasmania in regard to the venue for the next session of General Synod to be held in 2017.

5. AUTHENTICATION OF GENERAL SYNOD CANONS 2014

Three members of Standing Committee authenticated the canons, passed at the Sixteenth Session of General Synod 2014, by signing and affixing the official seal of General Synod:

6. AMALAGAMATION OF THE TASK FORCE ON MISSION AND MINISTRY COMMISSION

The Standing Committee received a report on the discussions undertaken to amalgamate the objective and membership of the Task Force on Mission (Fresh Expressions) and the General Synod Ministry Commission.

It was recommended to the Primate that the Ministry Commission be reconstituted with the following membership:

The Right Reverend Dr Stephen Pickard (Chair)
The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton
Mr Paul Cavanough
The Reverend Mark Charleston
The Reverend Zoe Everingham
Mr Michael Ford
The Right Reverend Ivan Lee
The Right Reverend Alison Taylor
Miss Jane Tooher
The Reverend Richard Trist
Ms Sue Williams
The Reverend Dr Max Wood
The Right Reverend Trevor Edwards (consultant)

It was resolved that an amendment canon to the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998 be promoted at the next General Synod or by way of circular resolution, to the effect that the Ministry Commission be renamed the Mission and Ministry Commission.

7. BILL FOR A CANON TO RATIFY THE AMENDED NEW SOUTH WALES PROVINCIAL SYNOD CONSTITUTION

The Standing Committee resolved to apply the provision of s28A of the Constitution to circulate a bill for a canon to ratify the amended NSW Provincial Synod Constitution.

**8. ATTENDANCE AT UNCSW59 – March 2015
(United Nations Commission on the Status of Women)**

A report from the Rev'd Gillian Moses who was the ACA's representative at the event was received. It was resolved to distribute the report to dioceses and the Australian Anglican Women's Network for information and consideration of further action.

9. SEAL OF THE CONFESSIONAL – CANON CONCERNING CONFESSION 1989

The Standing Committee received a report from the Church Law Commission.

The General Secretary was asked to advise dioceses that the Church Law Commission has reported there is a significant question over the validity of the 2014 amendment canon on the basis that the procedure for a special bill should have been followed and that Dioceses should not adopt the 2014 Canon.

Standing Committee resolved to promote the repeal of the 2014 Canon and that a fresh proposal for dealing with the matter be considered at the seventeenth session of General Synod in 2017.

The matter was referred to the House of Bishops, the Doctrine Commission, the Professional Standards Commission and the Church Law Commission to review and provide input to the Confessions Working Group.

10. DIOCESAN PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AUDITS

The General Secretary was asked to determine and circulate information on the cost and availability of professional standards audit services to all dioceses.

11. NATIONAL HOME MISSION FUND (NHMF)

The Standing Committee received a report from Bishop John Parkes, Chair of the NHMF and asked the General Secretary to liaise with the members of the NHMF to develop a recommendation for a revised operational model for the fund.

12. CLOSING THE GAP – ABORIGINAL ISSUES

Standing Committee endorsed the statement from NATSIAC in regard to the *Closing the Gap* Report and encouraged the Primate to engage with government leaders in regard to the closure of remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia.

13. REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee received the following reports:

- Operational report and annual audit report for the National Register for the calendar year 2014;
- General Synod annual financial statement for the General Synod for 2014 and report of the Audit Committee.

14. LONG SERVICE LEAVE FUND – REPORT ON PROVISIONS AND FUNDING OF LONG SERVICE LEAVE

The Standing Committee accepted the recommendations of the Long Service Leave Fund Board in regard to a review of the entitlements and funding of long service leave for clergy and asked the General Secretary to bring a bill for a canon to amend the Long Service Leave Canon 2010 for approval and then circulation to dioceses in accordance with s28A of the Constitution.

15. BROUGHTON PUBLISHING

The Standing Committee received advice on a revised model of operation and endorsed the report's recommendations. It appointed new members to the Broughton Publishing Committee and directors of Broughton Publishing Pty Ltd. Dr Michael Stead was appointed as a consultant to the Board.

16. ANGLICAN-ORTHODOX AGREED STATEMENT ON CHRISTOLOGY

The Standing Committee reviewed the response to the Agreed Statement prepared by the Doctrine Commission and referred it back to the Commission for further amendment and asked that a revised version be brought back to the Standing Committee in November 2015.

17. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- (a) The Standing Committee recommended that the Primate make the following appointments:
- (i) The Very Rev'd Richard Humphrey as a member of the Liturgy Commission;
 - (ii) The Rev'd Emily Vaux Fraser and the Rev'd Jeremy Morgan to the Anglican /Oriental Orthodox Dialogue.
- (b) The Standing Committee appointed:
- (i) The Chair of the Ecumenical Relations Commission (from time to time) as the designated member on the National Council of Churches Executive;
 - (ii) Mr Colin Johnston to the General Synod Audit Committee;
 - (iii) Ms Sherril Molloy as a member of the Royal Commission Working Group;
 - (iv) Ms Anne Hywood, General Secretary, as a member of the Viability and Structures Steering Group;

- (v) Bishop Ross Nicholson, Mr Daniel Harris and Ms Susan Arnold as members of the of the Broughton Publishing Committee and directors of Broughton Publishing Pty Ltd.
- (c) The Standing Committee endorsed the appointment of:
 - (i) Mrs Claire Duffy as the West Australian Provincial Representative on the Board of the Anglican Board of Mission.
 - (ii) Bishop Sarah Macneil as the representative of the House of Bishops on the Board of the Anglican Board of Mission.

18. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date	Venue
Executive Committee of Standing Committee Tuesday 8 September 2015	Sydney
Standing Committee Friday 20 – Saturday 21 November 2015	Melbourne