



# Anglican Church of Australia

Standing Committee of General Synod

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**STANDING COMMITTEE OF GENERAL SYNOD**

**20 – 21 NOVEMBER 2015**

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**SUMMARY OF BUSINESS**

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The Standing Committee of the General Synod met at Rydges Sydney Airport, at 1.30pm on Friday 20 November 2015 and concluded at 1.00pm on Saturday 21 November 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.

Standing Committee approved an allocation of additional funds of \$80,000 to the General Synod Statutory Fund Budget in 2016 for General Synod 16 Implementation expenses to support the activities of the Viability and Structures Steering Group.

#### **2. SEVENTEETH SESSION OF THE GENERALSYNOD 2017**

The Standing Committee approved the budget to hold the seventeenth session of General Synod in 2017 at the Novotel Twin Waters Resort, Maroochydore, Queensland from 3-8 September 2017.

#### **3. STANDING COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Standing Committee approved an amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Standing Committee Executive Committee to give the Executive Committee authority to confirm the appointment of persons to represent the Anglican Church of Australia at international and domestic conferences and events and to authorise associated expenditure within the available budget.

#### **4. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ANGLICAN-ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL DIALOGUE**

The Standing Committee noted The International Commission for Anglican – Orthodox Theological Dialogue’s Agreed Statement In the Image and Likeness of God: A Hope-Filled Anthropology be referred to the Doctrine Commission for their study and further response and to the Bishops at the Bishops’ Meeting in 2016.

#### **5. PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES CONFERENCE – DUBLIN AUGUST 2015**

The Standing Committee received a report from General Secretary on her attendance at the Provincial Secretaries’ Conference in Dublin

#### **6. REPORT FROM THE DOCTRINE COMMISSION**

The Standing Committee received a report from Doctrine Commission and endorsed its report to the International Anglican-Oriental Orthodox Commission in response to the 2014 Agreed Statement on Christology and its report to the World Council of Churches (WCC) in response to the WCC Faith and Order Paper No. 214 on Ecclesiology.

The Standing Committee forwarded the Doctrine Commission’s report on Future Amendments to the Canon Concerning Confessions to the Confessions Working Group and to the national Bishops for their consideration at the National Bishops’ Conference in March 2016.

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

The Standing Committee received a report from the Public Affairs Commission on attendance by the Rev'd Dr Lynn Arnold and Dr Carolyn Tan at the Human Rights Commission's Round Table discussion on Religious Freedom.

## **8. INTERNATIONAL ANGLICAN LITURGICAL CONSULTATION – AUGUST 2015**

The Standing Committee received a report from the Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith and the Rev'd Dane Courtney on their attendance at the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation in Montreal on 3-8 August 2015.

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

Standing Committee received a report from the Royal Commission Working Group (RCWG) and encouraged further exploration and consultation 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 services, and asked the RCWG to come back with a detailed proposal to following consultation with dioceses and Anglican entities.

## **10. SHARING OF INFORMATION BY DIRECTORS OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

Standing Committee noted the need for a national consistent approach and encouraged the Professional Standards Commission to work with the Chair and Directors of Professional Standards units of each diocese, with a view to recommending a protocol to Standing Committee relating to the sharing of confidential information.

## **11. FAITHFULNESS IN SERVICE**

Standing Committee asked the Professional Standards Commission to circulate the draft revisions of Faithfulness in Service to dioceses for comment and report back.

Standing Committee recommended the Faithfulness in Service DVD Discussion Guide, as amended by the Professional Standards Commission, as a resource for dioceses.

## **12. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PROTOCOL**

The Standing Committee asked the Professional Standards Commission to review its draft protocol for determining the responsibility of diocese for investigating and disciplining church workers for misconduct.

## **13. NATIONAL HOME MISSION FUND**

Standing Committee approved the arrangements for the future operation of the National Home Mission Fund including the retention of the Disaster Fund and the transfer of responsibility for the management and disbursement of grants from the NHMF Committee to the Standing Committee Executive Committee as an interim arrangement with the objective of making the grants program of the Fund inactive.

#### **14. LONG SERVICE LEAVE FUND**

The Standing Committee considered issues relating to participating organisations in the fund and requested the Church Law Commission to consider drafting amendments to the Long Service Leave Canon 2010 to incorporate a consultation process with diocesan bishops prior to the approval of applications for participation.

#### **15. FINANCIAL REPORTS RECEIVED**

The Standing Committee received the following financial reports

- Year to Date 30 September 2015 Financial Performance
- Full Year 2015 Statutory Fund Forecast

#### **16. GENERAL SYNOD BUDGET FOR 2016**

The Standing Committee approved the General Synod Budget for 2016 with the inclusion of an additional \$80,000 allocation for General Synod 16 Implementation Expenses as these funds were not spent in 2015.

#### **17. GENERAL SYNOD INVESTMENT COMMITTEE POLICY**

The Standing Committee adopted the following:

- General Synod Funds – Investment Policy Statement
- The General Synod Funds – Risk Appetite Statement

#### **18. GENERAL SYNOD AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Standing Committee accepted the Audit Committee's recommendation that the General Synod continue to produce Special Purpose Financial Statements for the 2015 financial year.

The Standing Committee noted that the Audit Committee has recommended to the Long Service Leave Board that they produce General Purpose – Reduced Disclosure Financial Statements for the 2015 financial year.

#### **19. BROUGHTON PUBLISHING PTY LTD**

The Standing Committee received the 2014 Financial Statements of Broughton Publishing Pty Ltd

#### **20. LONG SERVICE LEAVE FUND**

The Standing Committee noted and approved the Notional Stipend, Contribution Rate and Sabbatical Allowance for 2016 proposed by the Board of the Long Service Leave Fund.

#### **21. CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA**

The Standing Committee received the report on attendance at the Christian Conference of Asia – Fourteenth General Assembly in Jakarta on 20-27 May 2015 from Archbishop Jeffrey Driver and Ms Christy Capper.

## 22. COUNCIL OF THE CHURCH OF EAST ASIA

The Standing Committee received the report on attendance at the Council of the Church of East Asia Assembly in Manila on 7-12 October 2015 from the Most Rev'd Dr Philip Freier, The Very Rev'd Keith Joseph, Ms Katherine Gilbert and the Rev'd Bruce Chapman

## 23. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- (a) The Standing Committee recommended that the Primate make the following appointments:
- (i) Archbishop Phillip Aspinall to the position of Chair of the Ecumenical Relations Commission
- (b) The Standing Committee appointed:
- (i) Ms Danielle Wuttke was appointed to the Board of the Anglican Board of Mission
  - (ii) Dr James Renwick SC as Convenor of the Episcopal Standards Commission
  - (iii) Bishop Robert Forsyth as a member of the Episcopal Standards Commission

## 24. FUTURE MEETINGS

### Standing Committee

Date	Venue
Friday 13 – Saturday 14 May 2016	Brisbane
Friday 18 – Saturday 19 November 2016	Sydney

It was agreed that a Eucharist service would be held during the course of each Standing Committee meeting.

### Executive Committee of Standing Committee

Date	Venue
Tuesday 15 March 2016	Sydney
Tuesday 6 September 2016	Sydney

## 25. CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting closed with the Grace at 12.50 pm.