

**Proceedings of the 2019 Session of Synod
[Third Session of the 79th Synod]**

**FRIDAY 28 JUNE 2019
Present: Clergy 106, Lay 136**

Synod met in St John's Cathedral, Ann Street, Brisbane, on Friday 28 June 2019, following the Synod Eucharist at which the Synod Sermon was preached by the Ven Valerie Hoare.

Opening

The President, the Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall, took the Chair at 9.05pm and his Chaplain read prayers.

President's Inaugural Address

The President, the Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall, welcomed Members of Synod and delivered his inaugural address, which was received with applause.

Open Space Dialogue

The General Manager moved, the Rev'd Canon Sarah Leisemann seconded:

“That Synod conduct an Open Space Dialogue session in the manner described in the material circulated to members before Synod, from 9am to 3:15pm on Saturday 29 June 2019 and that:

1. The Rev'd Michael Wood and Mr Brendan McKeague be the facilitators of the Open Space session;
2. The following people be invited to participate in the Open Space session together with members of Synod and those persons attending under section 3 of the Synod Canon:
 - Ms Sally Isles
Manager, Chaplaincy Services, Parish & Other Mission Agencies Commission
 - Ms Belinda Macarthur
Administrator, Parish and Other Mission Agencies Commission
 - Mr Peter Kline
Academic Dean, Ministry Education Commission
 - Mrs Susan Cooke
Director of Services, Community Services Commission
 - Mr David Barrie
Chief Financial Officer, Community Services Commission
 - Ms Vanessa Gamack
Mission Education Advisor, Anglican Schools Commission
 - Mr Robert Nettleton
Manager, Systems Compliance, Anglican Schools Commission
 - Mr Hiro Kawamata
Group Manager Property, Finance and Diocesan Services Commission
 - Mr Patrick Meuleman
Group Manager – Digital Innovation, Finance & Diocesan Services Commission
 - Ms Jen Basham
Coordinator, Justice Unit, Secretariat, Social Responsibilities Committee

- Mr Ian Eckersley
Policy & Advocacy Adviser;
3. The Reports of the Diocesan Council, the Cathedral Chapter and the Commissions appointed pursuant to the Diocesan Governance Canon be considered in the Open Space session;
 4. The President, in consultation with the facilitators, may bring the Open Space session to an end at any time and facilitate Synod continuing with its agenda as published in the business papers;
 5. The records of discussions held in the Open Space be collated into a Book of Proceedings and that the Book of Proceedings, in the form signed by the President, become part of the Synod record and be available to view on the Synod website; and
 6. So much of Standing Orders be suspended that would prevent the Synod conducting the Open Space Dialogue session in the manner proposed.”

Carried

Appointment to the Committee of Elections and Qualifications

The General Manager moved, Mr Alan Gallimore seconded:

“That Miss Vaishi Rajanayagam be appointed to the Committee of Elections and Qualifications.”

Carried

Synod Arrangements

Synod set orders of the day, gave leave for certain persons to address Synod, gave leave for the distribution of literature, and authorised the Diocesan Council to confirm the Minutes of Sunday’s sitting.

Nominations

The President called for nominations for election of representatives in General Synod.

Reports

The Reports of Diocesan Council and other Reports are noted as tabled.

Synod adjourned at 9:30pm.

SATURDAY 29 JUNE 2019

Present: Clergy 163, Lay 243

Synod resumed in Morris Hall, Anglican Church Grammar School, Oaklands Parade, East Brisbane.

Opening

The President, the Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall, took the Chair at 8.50am, and he read prayers.

Open Space

The Synod was conducted as an Open Space Dialogue session from 9.00 am to 3.05 pm.

Being Together

The Rev'd Gillian Moses moved, the Rev'd Jan Crombie seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. acknowledges the document “Being Together – Expectations of Behaviour in our Church Community” is a policy of this Diocese for all church communities.
2. adopts the policy as the standard of behaviour expected in Synod discussions and debates.
3. exhorts all members to respect one another's differences, seeking at all times to listen respectfully and to understand beliefs and opinions that differ from our own.”

Note: Being Together: <https://anglicanchurchsq.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Being-Together-24.11.16.pdf>

Carried

Domestic & Family Violence

The Rev'd Gillian Moses sought leave to move motion 5 in an amended form, the Rev'd Jan Crombie seconded:

Carried

The Rev'd Gillian Moses moved, the Rev'd Jan Crombie seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. recognises the social, emotional and spiritual cost of domestic and family violence among people connected with the Anglican Church;
2. commends the General Synod Family Violence Working Group/NCLS Family Safety Study and requests that parishes and agencies circulate associated survey links around their networks to ensure broad participation by people connected with the Anglican Church;
3. affirms this Diocese's commitment to equality in relationships, understanding that the imbalance of power caused by inequality in relationships is the significant driver of domestic and family violence;
4. welcomes the establishment of a Diocesan Family Violence Working Group to oversee the work of policy development, training and education on prevention, intervention and response. Membership of this group should include clergy and laity, as well as experts from outside the church.”

Carried

Integration of Schools

The Rev'd Chris Tyack moved, the Rev'd Don Parker seconded:

“That the Archbishop convene a working group (including school principals, chaplains, and parish clergy) to consider how schools and churches can collaborate to promote more integrated models of ministry in suitable locations.”

*Carried***Anglican Board of Mission**

The Rev'd Jasmine Dow moved, Ms Sarah Gover seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. gives thanks to God for the ministry of the Rev'd Ken Spreadborough over 12 years, as a member of the Diocesan ABM Committee, and for his leadership for the past eight years.
2. gives thanks to God for the ministry of the Rev'd Canon Arthur Fellows over three decades. For his coordination of the collection of stamps contributed by faithful church members and the sale of these stamps to raise tens of thousands of dollars for the ministry of ABM.
3. commends the people of the Diocese for their support of ABM through the 2018 Archbishop's November Appeal which raised over \$25,000 to help support ministry at Yarrabah including Faithfulness in Service training and training in how to lead liturgy and use resources such as e-pray.
4. commends the people of the Diocese for their support of ABM, generally, with over \$180,000 being raised for ABM in 2018, amounting to 15% of the total donations from all of the Australian Dioceses.
5. encourages the people of the Diocese to support the 2019 Archbishop's November Appeal in aid of the ministry of Newton College Theological College in Papua New Guinea.”

Carried with acclamation

Thank you to Jim Eyles

Mrs Diane Massurit moved, the Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconded:

“That this Synod recognises the extraordinary contribution of Jim Eyles in support of ministry in Western parishes, serving as auditor over the past 18 years for 16 parishes. That the President be requested to write to Jim conveying our appreciation.”

Carried

Insurance Canon Repeal Canon 2019

The General Manager moved, Ms Vaishi Rajanayagam seconded:

“That this Synod agrees to the general principles of the Insurance Canon Repeal Canon 2019.”

Carried

The General Manager moved, Ms Vaishi Rajanayagam seconded:

“That the Insurance Canon Repeal Canon 2019 do now pass.”

Carried

The President announced that he has assented to the Insurance Canon Repeal Canon 2019.

Affirming Anglican Unity in Diversity

The Rev'd Dr Josephine Inkipin moved, the Rev'd Canon Gary Harch seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. affirms with thanksgiving the Anglican Tradition, its historic formularies, Anglican Method in theology, and the rich and dynamic diversity of expression in Anglican prayer, theology, and ethical living.
2. notes with profound concern the serious strains within the Anglican Communion.
3. re-commits this diocese to living in communion with all provinces of the Anglican Communion, respecting their autonomy, boundaries and cultural contexts, affirms the Instruments of Communion, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, and encourages

- closer relationships, especially with provinces in the Global South in their struggles for peace, justice and ecological sustainability.
4. calls on all Anglicans worldwide to recommit themselves to dialogue, including 'indaba' and other collaborative processes, in order to contribute faithfully and constructively to the 'continually contested conversation' which is historic Anglicanism.
 5. encourages all Diocesan members to engage more deeply with the variety of Anglican identities, and commends the Being Anglican short course, the Praying in Anglican Ways 360 course, Anglican Foundations, and other resources available through St Francis College.
 6. requests Diocesan Council to work with the MEC and PMC in exploration of further means to enable a deeper understanding and commitment to Anglican unity and diversity within the Diocese.
 7. requests the Archbishop and regional bishops to develop means by which all members of the Diocese can be involved in prayer for, learning about, and contributing to, the work of the Lambeth Conference in 2020.
 8. requests the Archbishop to communicate this resolution to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and to the Primate and all bishops in the Anglican Church of Australia."

Carried

Affirming Anglican Schools Support of Gender Diverse Students

Dr Gemma Dashwood moved, the Rev'd Suzanne Grimmett seconded:

"That this Synod:

1. affirms that Anglican Schools are to be places where all people, including those who are transgender and gender diverse, are welcomed, loved and supported.
2. commends Anglican Schools on the work they are doing in:
 - a) supporting transgender students who have transitioned or are transitioning.
 - b) developing gender neutral uniform options and other practical support measures.
 - c) supporting families of transgender students.
 - d) educating staff on the needs and gifts of transgender students.
3. encourages Anglican Schools to recognise the "Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for trans and gender diverse children and adolescents" as best practice in enabling transgender people to flourish."

Carried

Auditor's Report and Statement of Accounts

The General Manager moved; Mr David Sneesby seconded:

"That the Auditor's Report and Statement of Accounts of The Corporation of the Synod of the Cathedral Church of Brisbane for the year ended 31 December 2018 as incorporated in the Report Book, be adopted."

Carried

Budget 2020

The General Manager moved; Mr David Sneesby seconded:

"That this Synod approves the Budget for the year ending 31 December 2020 as detailed in the attached summary and in so doing notes that:

- this Budget has been prepared eight months in advance of the year of operation;
- the Budget will need revision and approval by Diocesan Council in the light of any unforeseen external economic factors and more up-to-date estimates of revenue and costs which may emerge in the intervening period; and

- whilst Synod acknowledges that the budget may require a refresh in light of changed circumstances, the intent of operational initiatives included in the budget as submitted will be honoured where possible.”

Carried

Nicene Creed

The Rev'd Dr Cathy Laufer moved, the Rev'd Canon Richard Tutin seconded:

“That this Synod set up a committee comprising the Rev'd Dr Cathy Laufer, Canon Dr Jim McPherson and Canon Richard Tutin, with power to co-opt, to investigate the possible cessation of saying the filioque clause in the Nicene Creed in worship in the Diocese, to liaise with the General Synod Ecumenical Relations Committee on this matter, and to report back to Synod 2020.”

Carried

Professional Standards Canon Amendment Canon

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moved, the Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves seconded:

“This Synod requests that the Legal Committee brings to the next session of Synod a Canon to amend the Professional Standards Canon in such a way that will ensure that amendments to Faithfulness in Service are adopted by this Synod.”

Carried

Conversion Therapy

The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moved, the Rev'd Dr Ann Solari seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. acknowledges that every person is made in the image of God;
2. acknowledges the pain and damage conversion therapy and sexual and gender orientation change efforts have caused in people's lives;
3. will not advocate the practice of conversion therapy or propagate conversion/reparative ideology;
4. calls on the Australian government to protect youth and families by banning conversion therapy and asking for stricter regulations for counsellors in this area.”

Carried

Synod was adjourned at 9.30pm.

SUNDAY 30 JUNE 2019
Present: Clergy 120, Lay 210

Synod resumed in Morris Hall, Anglican Church Grammar School, Oaklands Parade, East Brisbane.

Opening

The President, the Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall, took the Chair at 11.30am and his Chaplain read the prayers.

Clergy Summer School

The Ven Geoff Hoyte moved, the Rev'd Helen Paget seconded:

“That this Synod

- affirms the role of the Clergy Summer School in maintaining collegiality and in the ongoing professional development of the clergy of Brisbane Diocese;
- encourages the clergy to attend the January 2020 Summer School;
- encourages Parishes to meet the financial cost for their clergy of registration at the Summer School.”

Carried

Thanks to the Rev'd John Milburn

The Rev'd Michael Uptin moved, the Rev'd Nicholas Whereat seconded:

“That this Synod:

- a. records its thanks to the Rev'd John Milburn for his service to the Diocese as Diocesan Director of Ordinands;
- b. notes that during his 13 years as an Examining Chaplain and his 10 years as Director of Ordinands, numerous helpful changes have been made to both the process of selecting and forming priests and deacons, and to the recognition of the crucial ministry of the laity in our joint mission;
- c. prays that John might continue to serve God and contribute to the life of our Diocese in his retirement.”

Carried

Participation by Persons of Concern in Parishes Canon 2019

Ms Vaishi Rajanayagam moved, the General Manager seconded:

“That this Synod agrees to the general principles of the Participation by Persons of Concern in Parishes Canon 2019.”

Carried

The President moved:

“That the Report of the Committee of the Whole Synod be adopted.”

In Synod, the Chairman of Committees reported that the Committee had considered the proposed Canon and agreed to the same with amendments.

The President moved:

“That the Report of the Committee of the Whole Synod be adopted.”

Carried

Ms Vaishi Rajanayagam moved, the General Manager seconded:

“That the Participation by Persons of Concern in Parishes Canon 2019 do now pass.”

Carried

The President announced that he has assented to the Participation by Persons of Concern in Parishes Canon 2019.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Mr Julian Glasscock moved, Ms Pamela Rae seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. humbly thanks survivors of sexual abuse in institutions of this Diocese who made submissions to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to child Sexual Abuse for their courage and perseverance in telling the truth of their experiences, and that the Diocese communicate this message to survivors in an appropriate way;
2. acknowledges the toll these contributions have taken on survivors, their families and loved ones;
3. reiterates its sincere apology to those harmed by sexual abuse in our institutions and by our inadequate and at times unhelpful responses when abuse was reported and justice and/or redress was sought;
4. expresses the hope that eventually survivors may come to trust our sincerity and that we can be reconciled with them;
5. commits itself to carefully discern the ongoing lessons that the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse offers, so that we can respond helpfully and lovingly to all those harmed by sexual abuse and strive to be a beacon of hope and strength to those who carry this unfair and undeserved burden.
6. records its thanks to the Archbishop for his diligent efforts with regard to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse;
7. expresses its gratitude for his leadership of our Diocese in responding to the Royal Commission and in putting protocols and procedures in place which help to safeguard children now and in the future;
8. records its thanks to those clergy and lay persons within the Diocese who have supported survivors over the years and in particular during the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and who have championed reform within the Diocese;
9. acknowledges the journey ahead and that it is the Mission of the Church to ensure that the lessons learnt from the past be applied to ensure ongoing best practice prevention, detection, reporting and response to child sexual abuse within the Church.

This includes ensuring that this mission is paramount in the way in which the Diocese responds to survivors and their claims for redress or compensation.”

Carried

Marriage, Same-Sex Marriage and the Anglican Church of Australia

The Rev'd Lynda Johnson moved, the Right Rev'd John Roundhill seconded:

“That this Synod

- a) notes that the General Synod Doctrine Commission, in response to General Synod resolution 48/17, has published the book *Marriage, Same-Sex Marriage and the Anglican Church of Australia*.
- b) notes that this book is available for free download from the website of Broughton Publishing at the following link:
<https://www.broughtonpublishing.com.au/marriagedoctrineessays/>
- c) encourages all members of the church to engage closely with the essays in this book, which seek to inform and facilitate a respectful conversation in our church about marriage, same-sex marriage and the blessings of same-sex unions.
- d) notes and commends to Synod that the PMC and others are curating resources to assist Diocesan deliberations on these issues; and
- e) encourages Anglicans to listen to the voices of LGBTI people in these matters.”

Carried

Recommitting to Jesus Christ

The Rev'd Peter Palmer moved, the Rev'd Michael Uptin seconded:

“That this Synod recommit ourselves to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.”

Carried

Question from the Rev'd Jan Crombie

What practical steps has the Archbishop -in-Council taken to remind Synod of its commitment to equal representation on the basis of gender in elections and appointments in the Diocese, particularly noting the election process for General Synod members?

Answer:

The Synod resolution of 2016 encouraged the Synod in all elections to nominate representative numbers of women and men to all positions, having regard to gender as one of a number of qualifications for election.

The resolution is part of the Synod record and does not call on Archbishop-in-Council to take any specific action.

Announcement of Election Results

The President announced the Election Results.

Thanks of Synod

By leave of Synod, the Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moved; the Right Rev'd John Roundhill seconded:

“That this Synod acknowledges with thanks the contribution of Mr Alan Gallimore to the Synod over the 23 years that he has been a Synod representative.”

Carried with acclamation

Thanks of Synod

By leave of Synod, the Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moved; the Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconded:

“That the thanks of Synod be accorded to –

- His Grace the Archbishop as President of Synod and for his charge which is available in printed and electronic forms
- the Chair of Committees,

- the Deputy Chair of Committees,
- Mr Dan O'Connor for sitting in for the Chancellor & Deputy Chancellor
- the Chaplain to Synod,
- the Clerical and Lay Secretaries of Synod,
- the Minutes Committee,
- the Committee of Elections and Qualifications,
- the Timekeeper,
- the Deputy Timekeeper,
- the General Manager,
- those assisting, particularly with the secretarial work
- those who facilitated the Open Space processes esp. Brendan McKeague & his team for their care and attention to the conduct of Synod and the preparation thereof.

Carried with acclamation

Thanks of Synod

By leave of Synod, the Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moved; the Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconded:

“That the thanks of Synod be accorded to –

- the Headmaster Dr Alan Campbell, and staff of the Anglican Church Grammar School, in particular Ms Diane Cross, Mr Brian Bowen and the Rev'd Brian Gadd for the use of facilities of the School;
- Scholarest for their nourishing catering at the school;
- the audio-visual staff and student volunteers especially those involved in the efficient movement of chairs in Morris Hall;
- the many volunteers who provided informative displays during the Synod;
- all of the Diocesan staff who have made themselves available during Synod and for all their work in the preparations for Synod; and
- the Dean and Cathedral personnel for the inspiring Service on Friday evening.

Carried with acclamation

Adjournment

The President adjourned the Synod at 3.20pm.

*Phillip Brisbane
27th August 2019*