

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA DIOCESE OF BRISBANE

The First Session of the Eightieth Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane

ABRIDGED MINUTES

Opening and prayer

The President, the Most Rev'd Dr Phillip J Aspinall, took the Chair and the Synod began in prayer.

Election of Secretaries of Synod

The General Manager, Mr Tim Reid, moved, the Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves seconding:
"That the Rev'd Canon Sarah Plowman be elected as Clerical Secretary of Synod."

Carried

The General Manager, Mr Tim Reid, moved, the Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves seconding:
"That Mr Allan Thomson be elected as Lay Secretary of Synod."

Carried

Election and Appointment of Office Holders of Synod:

The General Manager, Mr Tim Reid, moved, the Right Rev'd John Roundhill seconding:
"That Ms Kay Lauchland be elected as Chairman of Committees of Synod and Ms Vaishi Rajanayagam as Deputy Chair of Committees."

Carried

The General Manager, Mr Tim Reid, moved, the Right Rev'd John Roundhill seconding:
"That the Hon Justice Debra Mullins, Mr Tim Reid, Mr Daniel O'Connor and the Ven Mark Carlyon be appointed as the Committee of Elections and Qualifications."

Carried

The General Manager, Mr Tim Reid, moved, the Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconding:
"That The Rev'd Sharon Mitchell, Dr Christopher Gourlay and Mr David Sneesby be appointed as the Minutes Committee."

Carried

The General Manager, Mr Tim Reid, moved, the Right Rev'd John Roundhill seconding:
"That the Rev'd Dr Timothy Nicholson be appointed as Timekeeper and the Rev'd Dr Ann Solari as Deputy Timekeeper."

Carried

Consideration of Motions

Standing Orders – Approval of Minutes

The General Manager moved; Mr D O'Connor seconded:
"That the Standing Orders of the Synod be amended as follows:

1. In SO B.2(5), delete:

"Before the final adjournment of a session, any member may move without notice that confirmation of the minutes for the final day of the session be delegated to the Diocesan Council. If so delegated"

and insert

“Unless Synod resolves otherwise before the final adjournment of a session, the confirmation of the minutes for the final day of the session is delegated to the Diocesan Council and”.

Delete paragraph (j) of SO C.3 and substitute:

“If Synod has resolved before the final adjournment of the session that the minutes of that day’s business are to be confirmed by the Synod, on the last day of a session of Synod before the final adjournment the minutes of that day’s business are to be confirmed.”

Carried

Standing Orders – Ordering of Motions

The General Manager moved; Mr D O’Connor seconded

“That the Standing Orders of the Synod be amended as follows:

Delete SO C.6(3) and substitute:

“(3) Subject to the Standing Orders, the order in which such notices of motion are placed in the business paper shall be determined by the Order of Business Committee in such a way as will, in its opinion, best facilitate Synod's dealing with the business before it from day to day. Any notices of motion not so ordered by the Order of Business Committee shall be placed in the business paper in the order in which they are received by the General Manager.”

Carried

Motion of Thanks

The Rev’d Dr Cathy Laufer moved; the Rev’d Rosemary Gardiner seconded:

“That this Synod expresses its deepest gratitude to Stephen Harrison and Belinda Macarthur for their ongoing work during the pandemic, in reading government directives, extracting the relevant sections and communicating them to clergy and lay ministers in a clear and easily understood format. Their efforts have relieved much stress and anxiety, allowing ministry to continue in new ways, thus advancing the kingdom of God.”

Carried with acclamation

Mother Eunice and Society of the Sacred Advent

The Rev’d Jan Crombie cSSA, moved; The Rev’d Gillian Moses cSSA, seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. Gives thanks for the life, work and witness of Mother Eunice SSA (d 14/06/21), for her contribution to religious life and education in the Province of QLD, her spirituality and wisdom, which have guided generations, and her faithful and visionary leadership of the Society of the Sacred Advent for nearly 30 years.
2. Acknowledges the ongoing work of the Society of the Sacred Advent, in particular the SSA Schools, St Margaret’s and St Aidan’s as they embody and hand on the faith and ethos of the Sisters
3. Offers its prayerful support and encouragement to the Society as it engages in a process of revisioning itself as a religious community over the coming years.”

Carried

Holy Hermits Online Ministry

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moved; Mr Allan Thomson seconded:

“That this Synod:

1. Celebrates the emergence of the Holy Hermits Online community as an example of the church's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Rev'd Jamee Callard and the Holy Hermits leadership team for their stewardship of the emerging community.
3. Commends to the diocesan community the opportunity to enter into conversation with the Holy Hermits Online Community to explore ministry partnerships and other opportunities to enact the mission of Holy Hermits Online Community to make the Church accessible to people who cannot join in physical community life.”

Carried

Report of the Cathedral Chapter

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt presented the report of the Cathedral Chapter.

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moved, Dr Christopher Gourlay seconded:

“That the report of the Cathedral Chapter be received.”

Carried

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.

The Right Rev'd Cameron Venables moved, the Right Rev'd John Roundhill seconding:

“That Synod express its thanks to the President for his charge and asks that it be made available to Synod members for further reflection and discussion. Further that this Synod congratulates Archbishop Phillip on being awarded the Order of Australia this year. “For eminent service to the Anglican Church of Australia, to the development of ecumenical relationships and professional standards, and through commitment to social justice and welfare.”

Carried

Report of the Diocesan Council

The Rev'd Canon Gary Harch presented the report of Diocesan Council.

The Rev'd Canon Gary Harch moved, the Hon Justice Debra Mullins seconding:

“That the report of the Diocesan Council be received.”

Carried

Report of the Community Services Commission

Dr Kim Forrester presented the report of the Community Services Commission.

Dr Kim Forrester moved, the Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconding:

“That the report of the Community Services Commission be received.”

Carried

Report of the Ministry Education Commission

Mr Douglas Porter presented the report of the Ministry Education Commission.

The Rev'd Canon Sarah Plowman moved, the Right Rev'd Jonathan Holland seconding:
"That the report of the Ministry Education Commission be received."

Carried

Report of the Parishes and Other Mission Agencies Commission

Mrs Cathy Grant presented the report of the Parishes and Other Mission Agencies Commission.

Mrs Cathy Grant moved, the Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves seconding:
"That the report of the Parishes and Other Mission Agencies Commission be received."

Carried

Report of the Anglican Schools Commission

The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves presented the report of the Anglican Schools Commission.

The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moved, the Rev'd Greg Loumeau seconding:
"That the report of the Anglican Schools Commission be received."

Carried

Answers to Questions

The Archbishop answered the following questions:

The Rev'd Dr Cathy Laufer asked:

"Every parish is required to keep records of attendance at all services, and to report these in the Annual Returns. With hybrid services, counting attendance is well-nigh impossible. In addition, in 2 Samuel 24, David is condemned for the sin of counting the people of God. Given the unreliability of any attendance figures, and given the Scriptural proscription against counting God's people, will the Diocese's Annual Returns now remove all questions related to attendance numbers? If not, what is the rationale for keeping such questions?"

Answer:

"Under section 44 of the Parishes Regulation Canon:

The Parish Priest and Churchwardens of each Parish shall, not later than 15 March in each year transmit to the Registrar, in such form as may be prescribed by Regulation –

- a) The names and other details of the persons appointed or elected as Churchwardens, Synod representatives, Parish Nominators, Parish Councillors and Parish Treasurer, certified by the Returning Officer;
- b) Information concerning the Parish and its personnel, including statistical information for the year just past;
- c) The Parish Annual Financial Return;

Paragraph 44(b) is further defined by Regulation X, which sets out specific reporting requirements in areas relating to people, church services, pastoral and educational work, buildings, provisions for travelling, stipends and amenities, and form of return.

It is recognised that collecting accurate and meaningful attendance figures for online services can be complex. This is due to the range of platforms used and the many possible ways that online attendance may be measured. There is no one standard for measuring online attendance and a diversity of opinions on what may be most indicative or helpful. While parishes are encouraged to track their own online attendance, for the purpose of the annual return, it is intended to collect information on in person church attendance. Average Sunday Attendance (in person) is one measure that can be used to indicate vitality. It is not the only measure nor is it the only one collected. Average Sunday Attendance is probably the best measure at present, being well established and with years of comparative data available. It is also one of the few standard measures used consistently across many denominations, countries, and research centres/agencies. Average Sunday Attendance allows us to see one aspect of the impact of COVID-19 on parishes and discern what church attendance post COVID-19 implies.

Average Sunday Attendance is a measure that might be considered when making strategic decisions both at a local and Diocesan level, might be requested when parishes are seeking a new priest, and may also be used in operational activities such as evaluating risk.

It is unclear that the prohibition in 2 Sam 24 extends to measuring church attendance. There are numerous instances in the New Testament of various counts or estimates being undertaken. These include the believers being numbered “about a hundred and twenty” when nominating disciples to replace Judas (Acts 1:15). A figure is cited in relation to Pentecost when 3,000 were baptised (Acts 2:41) and when 5,000 were counted as believers (Acts 4:4).”

Consideration of Motions

Responding to Domestic and Family Abuse

The Rev'd Gillian Moses moved, the Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconding:

“That this Synod:

1. Acknowledges with sadness the National Anglican Family Violence Research Project which revealed a higher rate of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among people affiliated with Anglican faith communities than in comparable studies of the general population, and which highlighted particular areas in which the Anglican Church of Australia can do more to support those affected by IPV;
2. Gives thanks for the survivors of IPV who contributed to the study by sharing their own experiences, and to all who participated in the various surveys and interviews which helped to compile the study;
3. Affirms the equal value of all human beings, laments the pain and trauma caused by the abuse of power in relationships, and grieves with victim survivors of Domestic and Family Abuse (DVA);
4. Adopts the ‘Ten Commitments for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence’ recommended by the NAFVP research report and requests that Diocesan Council reports to Synod in 2022 on progress made in response to these Commitments;
5. Endorses Diocesan policies that ensure workplace safety and support for employees, clergy and licensed church workers working for ACSQ impacted by DVA;
6. Encourages the Diocesan Domestic and Family Violence Working Group to source and distribute resources that will assist parishes and agencies of ACSQ to more effectively

Prevent, Intervene, and Respond to the reality of DVA recognising that this work needs to be resourced adequately;

7. Endorses the proposed initiative coming from this motion of a full-time Domestic Violence Project Officer Diocesan position, and that this position be a shared partnership position for all expressions of faith communities of this Diocese, and that the funding of the position is explored to be shared by all stakeholders of that partnership, i.e. the Diocese, Anglicare, Schools.”

Carried

Faithfulness in Service

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

“That this Synod:

1. Affirms the adoption of Faithfulness in Service as the code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers within the Diocese of Brisbane in the form of that document as at 24 May 2019;
2. Rescinds that part of the adoption resolution passed at the 2006 session of Synod which adopted Faithfulness in Service ‘as revised from time to time by the Standing Committee of General Synod’;
3. In relation to future amendments to Faithfulness in Service:
 - a) Synod can by resolution amend Faithfulness in Service as it applies in the Diocese of Brisbane;
 - b) Amendments to Faithfulness in Service made by the Standing Committee of General Synod must be put by Diocesan Council to the next session of Synod for consideration;
 - c) Diocesan Council may approve, on an interim basis, amendments to Faithfulness in Service as it applies in the Diocese of Brisbane:
 - i. to correct any manifest error,
 - ii. to provide clarification of its requirements, or
 - iii. in the case of an urgent change reasonably required to address unforeseen circumstances, but any such amendments must be tabled for confirmation at the next session of Synod.”

Carried

ABM November Appeal

The Rev'd Eron Perry moved, Mrs Marilyn Oulds seconding:

“That this Synod:

1. Commends the people of the Diocese for their support of ABM in the difficult and challenging year of 2020 and in particular the 2020 Archbishop's November Appeal through which over \$26,809 was raised to help support the resourcing of the Diocese of North Queensland (Torres Strait Islands),
2. Commends the people of the Diocese for their support of ABM, generally, with over \$94,455 being raised for ABM in 2020,

3. Encourages the people of the Diocese to support the 2021 Archbishop's November Appeal to continue to support the Diocese of North Queensland's ministries with Torres Strait Islander peoples in this year of the 150th anniversary of the Coming of the Light through,
 - Development of Torres Strait Islander leadership and,
 - Supporting other priority mission activities by the church in the Torres Strait under the oversight of the Bishop of North Queensland
4. Commends the Anglican Schools as they support ABM Projects,
5. Encourages the people of the Diocese to collect used stamps, the sale of which benefited ABM by over \$7,500 last financial year, and other fundraising activities,
6. And, finally, commends the people of the Diocese to keep in constant prayer for the people of Myanmar (refer to Prayer-card) and for other ABM partners in mission."

Carried

Financial and Diocesan Services Commission Report

Mr Bruce Wilson presented the report of the Financial and Diocesan Services Commission.

Mr Tim Reid moved, Mr David Sneesby seconding:

"The report of the Financial Services Commission Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 be received."

Carried

Auditor's Report and Statement of Accounts

Ms Sandra Long presented the Statement of Accounts.

Mr Tim Reid moved, Mr David Sneesby seconding:

"That the Auditor's Report and Statement of Accounts of The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane and related entities and The Corporation of the Lesser Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Brisbane for the year ended 31 December 2020 as incorporated in the Report Book be adopted."

Carried

Budget 2022

Ms Sandra Long presented the 2022 Budget.

Mr Tim Reid moved, Mr David Sneesby seconding:

"That this Synod approves the Budget for the 12 months ending 31 December 2022 as detailed in the attached summary and in so doing notes:

- this Budget has been prepared six months in advance of the year of operation;
- that 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 be honoured where possible."

Carried

Appointment of Auditors for 2022-23

The General Manager moved; Mr David Sneesby seconding:

“That this Synod appoints Ernst & Young as Auditors of the Diocese of Brisbane for all Diocesan audits for the years ending 31 December 2022 and 2023”.

Carried

Consideration of Motions

Dialogue re: Same gender marriage

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moved, the Rev'd Mike Uptin seconding:

“That this Synod;

1. Notes the Anglican Church of Australia Appellate Tribunal determinations and opinions entitled ‘Wangaratta Blessing Service Opinion – 11 November 2020’ and ‘Newcastle Clergy Discipline Ordinance Opinion – 11 November 2020’,
2. Notes that both determinations and opinions have a minority and a majority report indicative of continuing deeply held convictions, within the Anglican Church of Australia, on the issue of the blessing of marriages of same gender people solemnized under the Marriage Act of 1961,
3. Notes that one of the values underpinning our Diocesan Vision is ‘Comprehensive’, explained as ‘being welcoming and respectful of a broad range of ideas, people and approaches, and open to dialogue and learning’,
4. Invites the Dean and the Rev'd Mike Uptin to devise a process of such dialogue and learning which will allow faith communities within this Diocese to engage with the implications of the Appellate Tribunal determinations and opinions,
5. Encourages faith communities to engage in this process of dialogue and learning,
6. Requests that a report on the progress or outcome of that process of dialogue and learning be prepared for Synod 2022,
7. Encourages all Anglicans to welcome and pastorally care for LGBTIQ+ people in accord with the teachings of Jesus and in compliance with the Canons of this Diocese and the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia,
8. Requests the Archbishop to consider the content of this motion, and the proposed discussion of these matters at the upcoming General Synod, in responding to any requests for related action in our Diocese.”

Carried

Vacant Parishes

The Rev'd Dr Rodney Wolff moved, the Rev'd Dr Graham Warren seconding:

“That, in respect of parishes with vacancy in incumbency (“vacant parishes”), this Synod:

1. notes that vacancies in parishes can be substantially prolonged;

2. affirms the importance of vacant parishes to be represented fully in Synod;
3. affirms the importance of well-being for all clergy, including those in locum tenens positions in vacant parishes; and thus
4. requests the Archbishop-in-Council to bring to the next meeting of this Synod comprehensive draft amendments to the Canons which will create a distinctive category of locum tenens appointment for vacant parishes, where such appointments will have the right
 - a) to be a member of Synod; and
 - b) to accumulate paid annual leave, personal leave, long service leave, and all other forms of leave afforded to parish incumbents, so far as is lawful.”

Carried

St Francis College

The Ven Olaf Anderson moved, the Rev'd Elizabeth Donald McConnell seconding:

“That this Synod

1. notes the unique place that St Francis College has within the Diocese of Brisbane,
2. expresses pleasure at the growth in enrolments and income over the last few years; and
3. values the place of the College and all its activities – tertiary theological teaching, library, development of parish and ACSQ educational programs, AYC&F work, Community of the Way, spiritual direction formation, training for clergy supervision, Baroona Farm and the residential community – in ACSQ life and witness.”

Carried

Answers to Questions

The Archbishop answered the following question:

The Rev'd Michael Calder asked the following:

Question: Out of all our Parishes, how many are currently vacant?

Answer: Fourteen parishes are currently actively seeking full-time clergy.

Question: Out of all our parishes, how many can self-support full time clergy?

Answer: 106 parishes can self-support full time clergy.

Question: Noting that there were 13 students in last year's formation at an average of 4 in each year level and that not all of them are headed for parish ministry – with the current retirement rate of clergy, how many future parish priests do we need to be training right now?

Answer: The question requires a complex analysis that cannot be done in the time available at the Synod.

Consideration of Motions

Emissions Reduction Target

Mr Graeme Smyth moved, the Ven Bronwyn Pagram seconding:

“That this Synod:

1. Affirms that along with other marks of mission, our faith demands we safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth; transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
2. Recognise and give thanks for individual members, Parishes, schools, commissions and agencies of the Diocese who are active and ambitious in reducing their environmental footprint.
3. Requests Diocesan Council to explore options to:
 - a) consider how a comprehensive and credible baseline assessment of greenhouse gas emissions associated with all ACSQ entities inclusive of Parishes, schools and other associated agencies might be undertaken;
 - b) devise a Sustainability Charter that embodies a realistic yet courageous 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target (Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions);
 - c) establish an emissions reduction roadmap to achieve the initial 2030 target and a pathway beyond this to achieving net-zero.
 - d) develop guidance, support and financing frameworks to assist Parishes, schools and other agencies toward the achievement of emissions reduction targets;
 - e) report on progress to each ordinary session of this Synod, and where appropriate, the General Synod.
4. Requests the Archbishop write to Archbishops and Bishops of other Australian Diocese notifying them of this resolution and inviting collaborative knowledge sharing toward advancing the goals of the Protection of the Environment Canon, 2007.”

Carried

Nicene Creed

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

“That this Synod:

1. requests a select committee (of the Rev'd Dr Cathy Laufer, the Rev'd Canon Richard Tutin, Mr Daniel Aspinall, Ms Annabelle McDonald and Dr John Wright) to provide a study guide about the Filioque clause;
2. invites parishes to use the study guide to facilitate discussion locally about the Filioque clause and provide feedback to the select committee;
3. asks the select committee to collate the feedback and report back to Synod 2022.”

Carried

Support for Regional, Rural and Remote Areas of our Diocese

The Rev'd Michael Uptin moved, the Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconding:

“That this Synod:

1. Notes that:

- a) Approximately 65% of the land area of our state remains drought declared and all but eight (8) of the local government areas in our Diocese remain drought declared (source www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/drought/drought-declarations);
 - b) The long-term trend of population movement from regional and rural areas to urban and coastal areas continues with over 73% of our state living in the South East corner in 2020 compared to 65% in 2016 (Source: www.abs.gov.au)
2. Encourages all parishes, schools and agencies to consider how they might be able to further support churches and communities in regional, rural and remote areas of our Diocese.”

Carried

Equitable Participation Working Group

The Rev'd Ann Edwards moved, the Rev'd Canon Linda McWilliam seconding:

“That this Synod:

1. Recognises the establishment of the Equitable Participation Working Group, according to the request of Synod in 2018 (per the Disability Access & Action motion).
2. Adopts the following pledge, developed by the Equitable Access Working Group, as a commitment to the full inclusion and participation of all people in our community:

The Anglican Church Southern Queensland pledges to broaden our inclusive environment where equitable participation in the full range of church activities is the basic right of all community members. The enrichment that is offered by diversity is a cause for celebration and community members are respected for contributing in whatever capacity they are able to do so rather than excluded on the basis of what they are unable to do.

We will achieve this by developing an Equitable Participation Plan, with our primary focus on the wellbeing, safety and positive experiences of each individual. We will build upon current initiatives while removing existing attitudinal and environmental barriers to full participation.

This is our pledge.

3. Supports the Working Group's current projects and commits to the use of the resources developed –
 - a. Development of a resource about understanding Autism and ADHD (neurodiversity) for parishes
 - b. Piloting of the Accessible Community Self-Audit Matrix for parish use
4. Asks the General Manager to bring the contents of this motion to the attention of all Parish Councils for their action.”

Carried

Celebrating the Eucharist

Mr Gerald Shannon moved, Mrs Marilyn Taylor seconding:

“That the Archbishop consider ways of celebrating the Eucharist, so that members of the congregation receive both bread and wine.”

Carried

Clergy Mental Health

The Rev'd Dr Gemma Dashwood OAM to move; the Rev'd Selina McMahon seconding:

“That this Synod:

1. Notes the significant amount of mental illness found within both the community and the clergy.
2. Recognises that while Flourish is an excellent resource for promoting some wellbeing and coping strategies, the Diocesan assistance for clergy with severe and chronic mental illness could be improved.
3. Refers the issue of severe mental illness amongst the clergy to the Clergy Wellbeing and Development Group (PMC) to ensure that there is a transparent and well recognised process to assist clergy in the Diocese with severe chronic mental illness
4. Requests the Clergy Wellbeing and Development Group (PMC) to ensure that there is adequate support for clergy who may be supporting their colleagues with severe mental illness
5. Encourages all clergy, parish councillors and parishioners to undertake mental health first aid courses in order to support clergy with severe mental illness and to ensure that education on severe mental illness is available to all clergy in the Diocese.

Carried

The Right Rev'd Vernon Cornish

The Rev'd Canon Paul Mitchell moved, the Right Rev'd Jonathan Holland seconding:

“That this Synod welcomes the recent publication of a biography of The Right Rev'd Vernon Cornish (Dr. Christine Ledger, *Who is this Vernon Cornish?*) and gives thanks to God for his ministry in this Diocese and across the Australian Anglican Church.”

Carried

Gambling Community Benefit Fund

The Rev'd Suzanne Grimmett to move; the Rev'd Dr Ann Solari seconding:

“That this Synod:

1. Notes recent reports which show an increase in problem gambling with the onset of Covid in Qld, with \$2.8 billion lost in Queensland's poker machines in the last 12 months,

2. Recognises that a significant proportion of gambling profits in Qld is drawn from poker machines, which are designed psychologically to incentivise continued play and corresponding financial loss,
3. Acknowledges that problem gambling is frequently a key factor involved in a range of other issues including criminal activity and domestic violence,
4. Asserts that in the acceptance of grants from the Community Gambling Fund by parishes and other agencies there is strong pressure for self-censorship of the church's prophetic voice in calling for reform to the gambling industry,
5. Requests parishes and other agencies to not apply for Gambling Fund Community Grants given that such a large proportion of these funds are obtained through poker machines which account for four out of five problem gamblers,
6. Encourages Diocesan Council to explore other sources of funding and seeks ways that support can be provided to assist in applying for these alternatives. "

Carried

Afghanistan

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt to move; the Rev'd Dr Rodney Wolff seconding:

"That this Synod:

1. notes the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan associated with the withdrawal of Australian and other armed forces in April/May 2021, and the collapse of elected government in August 2021,
2. calls on the Australian Government:
 - a. to make expanded and generous accommodation for refugees and asylum seekers, waiving statutory eligibility conditions on compassionate grounds to the greatest extent possible; and
 - b. to call on its allies to continue to expand their accommodations for refugee and asylum seekers.
3. Requests that the General Manager communicates to the Prime Minister the requests contained in this motion."

Carried

Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Veterans Chaplaincy

The Rev'd Stephen Briggs moved, the Rev'd Michelle Philp seconding:

"That this Synod:

1. Thanks God, for the citizens of Australia who serve our nation in the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force and, in this difficult time, assures the sailors, soldiers, aviators and their families of our love, support and appreciation.

2. Notes the emerging issues, within the Australian Defence Force (ADF), of suicide, moral injury, mental health issues and spiritual wounds as identified by enquiries and reports including from the Senate and Royal Commissions.
3. Notes the work of ADF chaplains particularly with those struggling in body, mind and spirit and the reported widespread acceptance of this ministry by Defence members and their families and notes the constant call for more chaplains.
4. Thanks God, for and affirms the ministry of ADF chaplains full-time and part-time (Reserve) who minister to Defence personnel and their families to bring God's Gospel, love, healing, hope and pastoral care; and notes the difficulties and personal cost of this ministry to chaplains and their families and assures them of our love and support.
5. Notes the suffering of many veterans after their service and calls on the Commonwealth Government to lead, coordinate and fund the extension of the work done by ADF chaplains in support of veterans and their families.
6. Commits to encourage more clergy to become ADF chaplains, particularly in the Reserves to support serving members and their families and to be a bridge between the ADF and local parish churches."

Carried

Clergy Personal Leave

Mr Graeme Smyth moved, Dr Trish Rathie seconding:

"That this Synod:

Requests:

- a. that the Diocesan Council undertake a procedural and legal review of current provisions and obligations of Canons regarding annual leave, clergy sickness, accident and personal leave ('sick leave') including the following considerations:
 - i. paid sick leave annual entitlements including whether entitlements are accruing;
 - ii. processes and reporting obligations (e.g. to churchwardens, deacons, Finance and Diocesan Services Commission and/or Archbishop) for absences due to sickness or accident of less than the minimum coverage of the Diocesan Sickness and Accident and Maternity Leave Compensation Scheme (seven days);
 - iii. obligations of parishes, Diocese and subject clergy in instances of extended absences especially beyond the maximum coverage of Diocesan Sickness and Accident and Maternity Leave Compensation Scheme (55 weeks) including:
 1. whether responsibility for ongoing remuneration transfers from parishes to Diocese;
 2. obligation of subject clergy to assess and report capacity to continue appointment;
 3. powers of Archbishop to make a ruling in regard to capacity for subject clergy to continue appointment; and
 4. obligation of subject clergy to draw from other accrued leave entitlements during, or after, the 55-week period;
 - iv. right to privacy of clergy in taking sick leave;

- v. financial, leadership and spiritual impact on parishes especially for extended periods of clergy sick leave;
 - vi. any other relevant matters.
- b. presentation to a future Synod of summary recommendations endorsed by Diocesan Council from the review in part (a), including proposed changes to Canon, if applicable.”

Carried

Leadership Appointments

The Rev'd Lynda Johnson moved, the Rev'd Charlie Lacey seconding:

“That this Synod

1. Welcomes the development and publication of a new Vision for the Anglican Church in Southern Queensland;
2. Notes the explanation of the vision, values and key focus areas, by the Archbishop, at recent clergy conferences;
3. Welcomes his articulation of the key focus area, “Comprehensive Anglican identity and purpose” and
4. Asks the Archbishop and Diocesan Council to continue to encourage and facilitate leadership appointments in the episcopate, the Commissions, parishes, lecturers at St Francis College, speakers at Diocesan events/retreats/conferences to reflect true Anglican comprehensiveness.”

Carried

Reconciliation Action Plan

The Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase moved, the Venerable Bronwyn Pagram seconding:

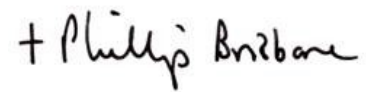
“That this Synod:

1. Welcomes the endorsement in September 2021 by Reconciliation Australia of the 2021 – 23 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for the Anglican Church Southern Queensland;
2. Encourages all ACSQ parishes, schools and other agencies to engage positively with the RAP, including:
 - a. Growing relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people locally;
 - b. Exploring local steps forward toward reconciliation in line with the RAP;
 - c. Supporting Diocesan RAP activities;
 - d. Sharing “good news” stories with the wider Diocese.

Carried with acclamation

Adjournment

The President adjourned the Synod after Prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Phillip Brisbane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall AC
Archbishop of Brisbane

Confirmed: 27 October 2021