

# The Synod *Survival Guide*

***A guide to understanding and participating  
in the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney***

**by**

**Robert Tong**

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LEAGUE 

## About the Author

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He was appointed Deputy Chancellor of the Diocese of Sydney in 2009, and from 2013, Chancellor of the Diocese of The Murray.

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To learn more about the ACL, please turn to page 44,  
or see our website at [www.acl.asn.au](http://www.acl.asn.au)

## Introduction

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**Congratulations!** Your hand went up at the parish Annual General Meeting, perhaps a little reluctantly, but you are now a Parish Representative to the 50th Synod of the Diocese of Sydney. Now you enjoy the prospect of attending Synod for the next three years!

Welcome to Synod. Even though we meet for only one week each year, the work to be done is important. There will be moments of high tension and interest, speeches of passion and times of sheer boredom when you will wonder: 'Why am I here?'

But what we do to the framework and fabric of our denomination impacts on parish life, sometimes visibly and immediately, but often slowly over a period of time.

However, it won't be all plain sailing, especially if you are new to Synod.

First, by the time you get to Synod you will more than likely regret not having taken up that speed reading course! Don't let the paper warfare overwhelm you: read it through quickly—it will generally be pretty obvious which bits need more careful reading—mark it with a highlighter as you read, make notes in the margin, flag key parts to find them easily, and don't be intimidated by it. Synod has agreed to move to a 'paperless' Synod beginning with the first session of the 51st Synod in 2017. In the meantime we are in transition. All Synod materials will be available on the diocesan website for downloading. Any document over 25 pages in length will be distributed in hard copy.

Secondly, you'll soon discover that Synod operates in a very formal way which is probably quite foreign to anything you are used to. Federal Parliament on late night TV Will give you some idea of what I am talking about. While our own Synod procedures follow a parliamentary shape, we are regularly modernising language and procedure.

But it is important to follow what is going on during Synod if you are going to fulfil the responsibilities given to you as a Synod Rep. My aim in this guide is to explain what it's all about in advance, what

will happen next, and what all that ‘jargon’ really means. Don’t try to read this guide through in one sitting—there is a lot to digest, so put it down, take the dog for a walk, and come back to it later. Bring it to Synod with you too.

There are six Parts in this guide:

Part 1. **What’s it all about?** (p. 5)

– who we are, what we do, the big picture

Part 2. **Getting ready.** (p. 7)

– have you loaded all the papers onto your iPad?

Part 3. **Day by day.** (p. 8)

– are there really five days of this?

Part 4. **Some end notes.** (p. 20)

– my thumbnail sketches on Business Rules, the Australian Church, Money, the Prayer Book and the Anglican Communion.

Part 5. **Glossary.** (p. 31)

– my explanation of key words you might hear used in Synod.

Part 6. **Resources.** (p. 39)

– The Lambeth 1998 Resolution of Human Sexuality, the Jerusalem Declaration, some useful websites, Information about the Anglican Church League.

## 1. What’s it all about?

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### Who are we?

The Archbishop **and** clergy (incumbents only: rectors and curates in charge) **and** elected lay representatives from the parishes **and** those called under various parts of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 (remember, you can look these terms up in the Glossary).

### Why are we here?

I looked for the word ‘Synod’ in my concordance, but it’s not a Bible word. I did find a word for assembly—*ekklesia*—but that’s another story. Instead, I offer a word of explanation from Archbishop Robinson’s 1984 Synod address—

We need a Synod because the Diocese is a fellowship of many congregations for which it is desirable to have a common order and also instruments for common action. But the essence of our fellowship is not in the actions of a synod but in our faith. St. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to be ‘united in the same mind and the same judgment’ and he urged the Philippians to ‘stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel’. Of course Christians have a long history of not doing this but we dare not acquiesce in such failure. As fellow members of Christ we are bound to cultivate a community of mind and understanding. This is not a question of mere goodwill or tolerance. Such unity comes from our agreement in the faith of the gospel. (*1985 Year Book*)

### What do we do?

I’m a lawyer, so how about a legal quote to explain what we do:

‘The Synod of each Diocese may make Ordinances upon and in respect of all matters and things concerning the order and good government of the Anglican Church of Australia and the regulation of its affairs within the diocese...’ (*2nd Constitution in Anglican Church of Australia Constitutions Act 1902*)

That is, the Synod is responsible for the governance, i.e. *the order and good government*, of the Anglican Church in this Diocese. Remember the Synod is the Bishop plus clergy plus laity.

Exercising the *order and good government* function is mainly by the creation of domestic rules known as Ordinances. (We'll talk more about how Ordinances are made later.) Additionally, resolutions are made which establish enquiries, urge action and initiate activity. You will see what I mean when you look at the Business Paper for the first day.

The text of the Acts of Parliament and Ordinances relevant to the life of the Diocese and Synod can be found on the website of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au) What we actually do, day by day at Synod, is governed by the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000.

The second important task of the Synod is to act as the electoral college (i.e. the people who vote) for the filling of positions on boards and committees. More about this shortly.

A third task is scrutiny of the Standing Committee, which serves the Synod during the year. Their report is a full account of what they have done over the last year.

## 2. Getting ready

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You will already have received some of the paper work from Robert Wicks. Officially, he is the Diocesan Secretary. Robert knows all! He knows the workings of the Synod inside out, as well as where you can get a cup of coffee and the location of the toilets! He and his staff are always willing to provide assistance.

A bit earlier I mentioned that one of the key tasks of the Synod is elections. The first mailing from Robert Wicks is the Archbishop's summons to Synod and notice of elections. There are about fifty committees to be filled. Would you like to stand? You will need a nominator and a seconder. Are you mature in the faith, do you have a special skill, will you 'add value' to the committee? Then why not have a go?

Most positions are for a three year term and voting is conducted at the Synod over the first few days.

About three weeks before Synod starts you will receive a fat envelope with the Business Paper for the first day and the Standing Committee Report. In it you will find an account of what Standing Committee has been doing, draft Ordinances to be considered by the Synod and reports from various committees.

Before you leave for Synod have you:

- talked to your other Synod Rep/your Minister, prayed about the issues?
- read all the papers Robert Wicks has sent you?
- organised car pooling or transport arrangements?
- booked a ticket for the ACL dinner on the first night?

## 3. Day by day

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### Day 1

There are a few members of the Synod left who can remember the first day of Synod commencing with a church service in the Cathedral and then squeezing into the Chapter House for the formal commencement of Synod.

Since those days, the Wesley Centre has become the Synod venue. The commencement service will be in the Cathedral commencing at about 1.30pm.

The Archbishop presides over the Synod, and the Business Rules refer to him as 'the President'. When you stand to speak you should address him 'Mr. President' or 'Archbishop'. Occasionally some will address the Archbishop as 'Your Grace' which comes from the English courtesy form of address for the Archbishops of York and Canterbury, who are given the same rank of precedence as a Duke.

After the Presidential Address we turn our attention to a number of housekeeping elections:

- electing a Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of Committees;
- electing a Committee to resolve disputes about elections and qualifications;
- electing a Committee to arrange the order of business for the succeeding days of Synod;
- electing a Committee to read the Minutes of each day's proceedings.

The text of each motion is printed on the Business Paper. The Synod can only operate by making decisions on proposals (motions). Hence the saying 'there must always be a motion before the chair'.

Robert Wicks does a little weightlifting and will hold aloft the Standing Committee Minute Book for tabling. Any member of the Synod can inspect the Book while Synod is in session.

*Special Note:* the 2014 session of Synod will consider amendments to the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000. If carried, some of the advice in this booklet will require adjustment.

So far we have watched set piece moves. The chance to take part is now upon us.

### **President: 'Are there any petitions?'**

Petitions are relatively rare; a motion is needed to receive the petition. Even more rare is debate on whether the petition should be received—the subject matter would have to be highly controversial. Conduct of Synod Business Rule 6.2 tells you how to make a petition.

### **President: 'Are there any notices of questions?'**

Here is your chance to ask a question about the life of the Diocese. You will not get an answer immediately. In fact, you are only giving notice of your question at this time:

'I give notice that, at the appropriate time, I propose to ask: Why does the Coat of Arms on the Year Book of the Diocese have a mitre when such headdress is not permitted in this Diocese?'

Your questions must be directed to matters connected with the business of the Synod. In your question you cannot make statements of fact or seek a legal opinion or draw an inference.

You will receive the opportunity to actually ask your question, and get an answer, tomorrow. Conduct of Synod Business Rule 6.3 tells you more.

### **President: 'Are there any notices of motion?'**

When the notices of question have been exhausted, the President will ask 'Are there any notices of motion?'. You may at this point give notice of a motion you wish to move.

‘I give notice that at the appropriate time I intend to move “that the Archbishop be requested to fund, out of the Endowment of the See, secretarial assistance and travelling allowances to Mission Area Directors to enable them to better fulfil their duties”’

## The Call Over

When these Notices of Motion have been exhausted, the President calls by number the motions printed on the business paper. (Business Rule 4.5) Unless you or someone else stands and shouts ‘object’ then the following exchange will more than likely take place:

President: ‘I call Jane Smith [the mover of the motion].’  
Jane Smith: ‘I move the motion standing in my name.’  
President: ‘All agreed say aye. All against say no. I declare the motion carried.’

After the call over of the printed motions, we go back and tackle the first of them.

## Motions: What happens?

The President calls the mover of the first motion printed in the section of the business paper headed ‘Motions at the Request of Synod or the Standing Committee.’

The mover has up to 10 minutes to make the case for the motion. The mover normally arranges for another person to ‘second’ the motion. If the seconder chooses to speak, it is done immediately after the mover and the seconder has 5 minutes.

If you are the seconder, but do not wish to speak, you can indicate that you second the motion formally. Some seconders say ‘I second the motion formally and reserve my right to speak later in the debate.’ Strictly speaking it is not possible to ‘reserve your right to speak later.’ Your official chance is now. Later on you may be called at the discretion of the President.

After the mover and the seconder have spoken, the President will ask: ‘Does anyone wish to speak against the motion or move an

amendment?’. If there is silence, then the President will ask the Synod to indicate by voice whether they are for or against the motion. If the volume of noise is about the same then there will be a show of hands with a count to decide the issue. It is possible to have a ballot, but this is extremely rare.

Do you want to speak in the debate? If so, stand immediately a speaker finishes so that you catch the attention of the President. When called upon, go to a microphone to speak, and address your remarks to the President. It is helpful to give your name and parish before you start your speech. Five minutes are yours to fill—but aim to be brief and speak for less than five if you possibly can. A bell will signal when there is a minute left. Another will sound when time is up. If you know that you need a minute or two more have a friend stand when the second bell goes and call out: ‘I move an extension of time of two minutes.’ Usually the Synod will indulge you by extending the time—but don’t make a habit of it.

Don’t like the wording of the motion? Well, move an amendment: ‘Mr. President, I wish to move an amendment to the motion, as follows...’ Have it in writing to hand up. Robert Wicks has some handy forms you can use.

At the end of the debate, the mover has five minutes to speak in reply. For more detail see Part 4 of the Business Rules.

## Ordinances: What usually happens on Day 1

Two things usually happen...

- Introduction of the Ordinance with debate on principle, fixed for Day 2.
- Introduction and agreement on principle, fast tracked and Ordinance concluded.

I will walk you through both procedures.

The Business Paper for the first day will list at this point all the Ordinances for consideration by the Synod. It is here that you will see the Parliamentary model in play. The way in which we bring into

effect domestic rules for the life and health of the denomination is by agreeing to the text of those rules drafted like an Act of Parliament and dealt with by the Synod by a method similar to that used by the Parliament to make legislation.

Each piece of domestic rule making—in our Synod called ‘an Ordinance’—requires the new measure to be considered by the Synod on three separate occasions. Parliament calls each of these stages a ‘reading’.

Originally the Business Rules, previously known as Standing Orders, required each reading of an Ordinance to take place on a separate day. The purpose of this was to give Synod members time to reflect on the seriousness and impact of each new measure they wish to pass.

When the new rule or provision is of a housekeeping nature the requirement to deal with it over a three day period can be a ritual waste of time.

In 1995 Business Rules adjusted the three stage process and cut out various formal steps. The steps are now—

- introducing the ordinance
- approving the ordinance in principle
- passing the ordinance.

#### Introduction

Mover: ‘I move that Synod permits the introduction of a Bill for an Ordinance to repeal the Confessions Ordinance 1995.’

President: ‘All agreed say aye, all against say no. Leave is given.’

Mover: ‘I move that the debate in principle be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.’

Almost always this motion is passed without dissent.

It is possible to debate the motion for leave to introduce, particularly where the subject matter is controversial, but it is rare. If the motion to introduce is defeated, the Bill disappears from the Agenda.

## The Fast Track

The promoter of an Ordinance can take advantage of the ‘Fast Track Procedure’ if it is thought that the proposal is not controversial. (see Rule 5.4) Thus, permission is given to introduce the Ordinance immediately.

Mover: ‘I move that Synod agrees to pass the Ordinance formally.’

If Synod agrees, you have three minutes to explain the Ordinance. Then you field questions put to you by members. When sufficient time has been given for questions and answers:

Mover: ‘I move that the Ordinance pass formally as an Ordinance of this Synod.’

If eight members of the Synod object to the Ordinance passing as a formal Ordinance, it must take its place in the queue with the other Ordinances and be processed in the ordinary way. (Business Rule 5.4 and (9).)

By the time leave is given for the introduction of each Ordinance AND the Fast Track Procedure is used on a number of the Ordinances it will be time for dinner!

The Registrar, Mr Doug Marr: ‘I move that Synod adjourn and recommence at 7:00 p.m.’

Having previously indicated that you will go to the Anglican Church League Dinner, you push on out of the hall without too much chit chat.

The Synod resumes a little after 7:00p.m. and continues through the Business Paper.

At about 9:30p.m. or 9:45p.m., and at the end of a debate or speech, someone will catch the eye of the President and say: ‘I move

the adjournment until 3:15p.m. tomorrow.' This is a motion about procedure and must be dealt with immediately. Procedural motions take precedence over all other motions.

If the Synod agrees with the motion, then we all go home and come back tomorrow.

## Day 2

A new business paper will be on the seat and available electronically. Questions and motions from yesterday have been incorporated.

After Bible reading and prayer, the President will call by name those who gave notice of their questions the previous day. When called upon, you stand and say: 'I ask the question standing in my name.'

President: 'The question seeks an expression of legal opinion and is therefore out of order. Nevertheless, I am advised that the mitre forming part of the Coat of Arms shown on the title page of the Year Book is officially part of the Coat of Arms of the Diocese granted by the College of Herald's'

You will be given a printed copy of the question and answer.

After the despatch of yesterday's questions the President will ask: 'Are there any notices of question?' Here is your second chance to give notice of a question.

The President will then ask: 'Are there any notices of motion?' Here again is an opportunity to give notice of a motion. By now however the notice paper is building up and the chances of your motion being reached are becoming a little remote.

The President will then call over by number the motions. Don't forget to call 'object' if you wish to vote against a motion or move an amendment—if you don't then the motion may well pass formally and you have lost your chance. At least eight members must 'object' otherwise the motion is taken formally. If you have an amendment you wish to make to the motion, call out 'amendment' and this will stop the formal consideration of the motion. It is desirable to confer with the mover to see if your amendment can be accommodated in the motion when it comes up for debate.

Motions are then dealt with until 4:30p.m. If a debate is proceeding on a motion at that time the debate will continue until the motion is dealt with. The Synod then moves to 'Orders of the Day'. This is the legislation introduced yesterday.

The President calls on the promoter of the Ordinance to move for the Synod's approval in principle to the Ordinance. Here is the major discussion of principle. The Mover has 20 minutes (and 10 minutes in reply at the end). The Secunder has 10 minutes. After the Mover and Secunder have spoken, there is a time of questions directed at the Mover on the subject matter of the Ordinance.

You will notice that the text of the Bill and a statement explaining its background and purpose is printed in the Standing Committee Report.

Amendments to the text are not taken at this stage, although members will often in their speeches foreshadow amendments they wish to move at the Committee stage. Again, opponents of the Bill may defeat it by voting against the motion so that the approval in principle is not given.

After the Mover and Secunder have spoken and opportunity given for questions the President will ask: 'Is there anyone who wishes to speak in opposition, or move an amendment to, the motion for the second reading?'

If you want to oppose the Bill, or if you wish to amend the Bill, you should call out 'Yes'. If the answer is 'No' to both questions the approval in principle motion will be put to the vote.

Mover: 'I move that the (name of Ordinance) be approved in principle.'

If passed, and no amendments have been foreshadowed,

Mover: 'I move that the (name of Ordinance) pass as an Ordinance of the Synod.'

## **The Committee Stage**

If, after approval in principle has been given, a member has indicated that an amendment will be moved to the Bill, the control of the debate moves out of the hands of the President, into the hands of the Chairman of Committees. The Synod undergoes a metamorphosis and turns itself into a Committee (strangely consisting of the whole Synod!). As a Committee, the procedure is less formal than the Synod acting as a legislative body. For example, if called, a member may speak more than once in debate.

The Bill will be considered clause by clause and you can move an amendment at the appropriate time. The preamble—the 'whereas' bits and the title—are considered last.

It would be out of order to move amendments which are out of line with the general intention of the Bill or to insert words which would make the Bill have the opposite effect. Your amendment can take words out, add words in, or re-arrange the Ordinance. Every amendment must be in writing and handed up to the Chairman of Committees. Preferably two copies should be handed up, as this will assist the Secretaries.

At the conclusion of the committee stage the Chairman asks: 'That I do report the Ordinance, with or without amendment, to the house' as the case may be. As the same persons make up the 'committee of the whole' as the Synod, the reception of the report from the Chairman of Committees to the President is largely symbolic.

When the report from the committee as a whole is adopted a time is then fixed for consideration of the motion 'That the (name of ordinance) pass as an Ordinance of the Synod.'

## **Passing the Ordinance**

While, in many cases, the motion to pass the ordinance (previously the Third Reading debate) is purely formal, it still presents an opportunity for debate. Business Rules (Rule 5.8) allow for the whole Bill, or any clause, to be recommitted and it is possible to have a repeat of the second reading debate, although the scope of the debate

is restricted to the Bill as amended.

A failure to carry the motion means that the Bill does not pass and disappears from the Agenda. If the motion is carried, the Bill is presented to the President for his assent.

The Archbishop gives his assent to the Ordinance by signing a fair copy. Occasionally the Archbishop may wish to reflect further on the Ordinance made by the Synod and if assent is not given within one month of the passing of the Ordinance, then the Ordinance lapses.

For many years, at 7:00p.m. on Day 2, the Synod would consider the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance—referred to some as ‘the Money Bill’. This term comes from the English Parliament and refers to Bills which raise taxation and authorise expenditure

There is an end note in this book on the ‘Money Bill’.

More recently Synod moved from annual budgeting to three year allocations. Synod in year 1 of a triennium agrees on policies for funding and in year 2 adopts a 3 year budget. A previous Synod authorised the Standing Committee to deal with the 2015 finances. The 2015 Synod will consider income and expenditure questions for the following 2/3 years. If you have questions to ask about money, they should be directed to the Mover or Seconder of any Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance.

### **Day 3**

The first half an hour will follow the pattern of yesterday—a hymn, prayers, a Bible reading, answers to questions and then your last opportunity to give notice of a question or give notice of a motion.

The President will then call over the motions. After this the motions will be dealt with by the Synod in order. Remember that at 4.30 p.m. or the conclusion of a debate, Orders of the Day will be addressed.

A major debate may be scheduled for 7:00p.m.

### **Day 4**

The weekend break since Day 3 has been welcome. It all comes back to you when you pick up the Business Paper. Again, the early pattern of Day 2 and Day 3 will be followed, but there will be no call

for notices of questions or notices of motions. After the call over the President will direct the Synod to the first motion. Again, orders of the Day start at 4:00p.m.

A long established tradition means that at 7:00p.m. on Day 4 there is a Missionary Hour. This is an opportunity for us to hear of mission activity from near and far.

At 8:00p.m. Orders of the Day will be picked up again.

### **Day 5 and Day 6**

By now you feel comfortable. Have you got your notes for that speech?

## 4. End Notes

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So as not to break the flow of the main text, I have used these notes to say a little more about a number of topics. Note 1 is my paraphrase of some key Business Rules.

The other Notes are my own views, not necessarily those of the Anglican Church League. I offer them as background material. Feel free to disagree!

### **Note 1 – Business Rules**

You will get more out of a team game if you know the rules. In our Synod these are called Business Rules. The full text can be found on the Diocese of Sydney website, and should also be available to Synod members in printed form before Synod meets. If you have been a Synod member in another Diocese, or even at the General Synod, you will notice that some of our own rules are different, e.g. in the way amendments are dealt with.

### **Do we all vote together?**

With one exception all the members of Synod meet together in one body and transact business as one body (Rule 4.12). The exception is that 8 members of the laity or of the clergy can require a vote on any question to be voted on separately by the clergy and the laity. This is called a vote by orders. To pass, the question must have the support of both orders (*5th Constitution in Anglican Church of Australia Constitutions Act 1902*).

### **Order of Business**

Unless varied by the Synod, the meeting time commences at 3:15p.m. but no legislation can be considered before 4:30p.m. (Rule 1.1). You may wonder how the business is arranged day by day. Rule 3.2 prescribes the order of business for the first day. Rule 3.3 prescribes the order of business for succeeding days. Synod, on Day 1, appoints

an ‘Order of Business Committee’ to settle mechanical matters concerning the Business Paper from day to day.

### **Speaking**

If you wish to speak, stand in your place and when called by the President, go to a microphone, give your name and parish and address all remarks to the President. The Business Rules give the control of the Synod to the President—he is like the Speaker in the Parliament. You will be encouraged to keep your remarks to the subject matter of the motion. There are time limits on speeches (Rule 4.6). At the beginning of a major debate the Synod may agree to reduce the time limits. This may also happen on the last day of Synod to enable as much business as possible to be transacted.

### **Point of Order**

If a speaker transgresses the Business Rules, then another member can take issue with this by raising a ‘point of order’. You stand in your place, call out ‘point of order’ and attract the attention of the President. Having got yourself to the microphone you point out the breach, e.g. the speaker was making a personal reflection on a member. You can speak for or against the point of order. The President rules on the point of order. It is possible for the Synod, by vote, to disagree with the ruling. (Business Rule 4.2 and (5).)

### **Avoiding a Business Rule**

Can you get around the Business Rules? Yes! But there are two hurdles.

First you must ‘seek the leave of Synod to move a motion without notice’. You should indicate what motion you want to move. Secondly, you move to ‘suspend so much of the Business Rules as to allow...’ whatever it is you wish to do. If it is some mechanical matter you want attended to then usually the Synod will give you leave. You can be stopped. Eight members can stand in their place and object to the Business Rules being suspended—if this happens, you lose.

Another way is to give notice that, at some future time, you wish to suspend a particular Business Rule. Notice must be given on the previous day or, if it is the first day of Synod, before 7:00p.m. In these situations eight members cannot stop you suspending Business Rules if a majority decides to allow you to do it. The whole idea of giving notice is to prevent surprise and to give time to think about proposals.

### **Amendments**

What if you are not happy with the question being debated? You can move an amendment to omit words, to add words or to reshape the motion. Rule 4.9 sets out the possibilities. When all amendments have been proposed and spoken to, the President will put the amendments in an order which makes sense so that, at the end of the process, there is a text refined by amendments for Synod to vote on.

### **Avoiding a decision**

What if you think the Synod should make no decision? Under Rule 4.14 you can move ‘that the motion be not put’. This is known as ‘moving the previous question’. It does not happen that often, but confusion reigns when it does. Debate on the issue itself stops. Debate however is allowed on the procedural question:

‘Does the Synod wish the debate on the original motion to continue before the previous question is put to the Synod?’

That is, Synod is asked: do you want to keep debating the main motion before voting on taking no decision at all. If you are lost at this point, pray that the President isn’t and then read Rule 4.14 slowly!

## **Note 2 – The Australian Church**

Our denominational life as Christians—to the extent we wish to participate—has parallels with our life as citizens. Participation in the constitutional life of the local community is by voting and standing in elections and this can proceed to State and National level. Membership or support of groups, causes and organisations is another mark of community involvement.

We are all members of local churches where opportunity exists for ministry. But what of beyond? Here we are members of the Sydney Synod. In what way are we connected to other Synods and to other Christian bodies?

### **Australia Wide**

Structurally, and at least on paper, there is the General (National) Synod, the Provincial (State) Synod and the Diocesan Synod. In New South Wales there are seven other Dioceses which make up the Province of New South Wales—Armidale, Bathurst, Canberra/Goulburn, Grafton, Newcastle, Riverina and Sydney. Each has a Bishop. In Sydney he is called Archbishop because he is Bishop of the Province of New South Wales.

The Anglican Church of Australia (ACA) is made up of twenty three Dioceses. One might expect that a General Synod has power over the big questions, the Provincial Synod over the not so big and the Diocesan Synod over local questions. However the path of historical development of the Anglican Church in Australia has put the Diocese in the box seat for initiative and activity. The ACA Constitution recognises the Diocese in accordance with historical custom to be ‘the unit of organisation of this Church’.

### **When Do They All Meet?**

We meet as a Synod annually and the Standing Committee meets monthly.

The Provincial Synod meets every five years and its Standing Committee once a year. The General Synod did meet on a four year rotation but, in the last few years, has met on a three year interval.

Its Standing Committee meets every six months.

### **General Synod Composition**

Each Diocese sends at least the Bishop, one clergy and one lay person. There is a formula to determine how many reps each Diocese can have. There is one clerical rep for every 20 fulltime clergy in the diocese. This is matched by an equivalent number of laity. At the 2014 General Synod, Sydney had 66 reps plus the Archbishop. In addition to their bishop, Melbourne had 32, Brisbane 20, Perth 18 and Adelaide 12 – all other dioceses were in single figures.

### **The Primate**

Elected by a General Synod committee made up of all Diocesan Bishops, twelve clergy and twelve laity. You must be a Diocesan Bishop to be a candidate. The Primate is the Chairman of General Synod.

### **General Synod Canons**

The ACA Constitution is a schedule to the *Anglican Church of Australia Constitution Act 1961*. A copy is found on the diocesan website. While the General Synod has power under Section 26 to pass Canons for the order and good government of the ACA, the reality is many Canons only apply in a Diocese if that Diocese adopts the Canon.

If a Canon deals with some purely General Synod matter (such as a superannuation fund) then it comes into force usually in a month.

If a Canon affects the ‘good order and government of a Diocese’ or its ‘church trust property’ it only comes into effect in a Diocese if it is adopted by Ordinance of that Diocese. Similarly, if the subject matter concerns ‘ritual, ceremonial or discipline’ it requires an adopting ordinance.

So, for example, Sydney has not adopted General Synod Canons on the remarriage of divorced persons or on Defence Force Chaplains or on *A Prayer Book for Australia (1995)*.

### **Provisional Canons**

If a General Synod proposed Canon deals with ‘ritual ceremonial and discipline’ then it is called a Special Bill.

Special Bills require a two thirds majority at the third reading in the General Synod. If passed, the Canon becomes a ‘Provisional Canon’ and must then be considered in turn by each Diocese. This Special Bill procedure is to enable every Diocese to give specific consideration to the proposal. At the end of the process, the fate of the Provisional Canon in each Diocese is reported back to the next General Synod. If two thirds of that next General Synod at the third reading pass the Provisional Canon it then becomes a Canon. It still needs adoption at the Diocesan level because ‘ritual ceremonial and discipline’ canons affect the ‘good order and government’ of a Diocese.

Our normal practice is to consider all General Synod Canons as soon as possible.

### **General Synod Funding**

General Synod raises funds by assessment on the dioceses. The total is shared in proportion to the number of representations sent by each diocese, consequently, as our representation level rises so does our share of General Synod expenditure.

Section 32 of the 1961 Constitution set out the categories under which money can be levied. Over the last 20 years or so there has been debate as to whether all the assessment is properly authorised under this Section.

Additionally, there is a special (voluntary) assessment, mainly for international Anglican activities. For many years, our Synod has not paid this. Instead, selected activities have been supported directly.

### Note 3 – Money

The last 40 years have witnessed an enormous change to the shape and direction of Synod income and expenditure.

Up to the 1960s the annual Income and Expenditure Ordinance, sometimes referred to as the ‘Money Bill’, raised assessments on Parishes to fund the running of the Diocesan administration.

In 1966 (see Year Book) the total Synod expenditure was approximately \$180,000, of which \$128,000 was raised by parish assessment and \$28,000 from the Glebe Administration Board. There was a special (voluntary) assessment of \$92,000 for the benefit of Synod Organisations. The major payment from this voluntary assessment was \$30,000 for religious instruction in schools followed by \$25,000 for Moore College.

The Archbishop and the one or two Assistant Bishops were paid out of the Endowment of the See Fund, which is quite separate from synod generated funds.

The most dramatic change to Synod economics came about through the sale of the various Glebe estates so that the Glebe Administration Board had significant amounts of cash to invest. This investment, provided an income to the Synod for dispersal year by year. So for example in 2003 the Glebe Board provided Synod \$8.475M for application.

The GAB funds allowed significant growth in ministry activity and reliance on parish assessments diminished. This led to a conceptual shift so that the Parish contributions are in the nature of ‘cost recovery’ for insurance, long service leave and the like, rather than assessments based on income and deductions.

Post the GFC, there is a much smaller dividend from the GAB, about \$4M, for application.

### Note 4 – The Prayer Book

The Book of Common Prayer 1662 (BCP) has a special place in the Anglican Church of Australia. By the 1961 Constitution (Section 4), the ACA ‘retains and approves the doctrine and principles of the Church of England embodied in the Book of Common Prayer and the 39 Articles.’ BCP and the Articles are the authorised standard of worship and doctrine in the ACA.

Section 4 is long and convoluted—a product of hotly debated amendments on the floor of the General Synod. A curious phrase in the section, ‘provided that until further order’, comes before the provision for a Diocesan Bishop, at his discretion, to authorise deviations from BCP at the request of parishioners from a vestry meeting. Just what does ‘other order’ mean? Bishop Donald Robinson, who was a member of the Committee which produced AAPB (and a member of General Synod when the 1961 Constitution was debated), says that it means the adoption by the ACA of a replacement for BCP. So far that has not happened.

Since 1961, the General Synod has authorised for use two prayer books. What is their status?

The *AAPB* title page:

AN AUSTRALIAN PRAYER BOOK  
for use together with The Book of Common Prayer 1662  
1978

The *APBA* title page:

A PRAYER BOOK FOR AUSTRALIA  
For use together with The Book of Common Prayer (1662) and  
Australian Prayer Book (1978)  
Liturgical Resources authorised by the General Synod

Both books are ‘experimental’ and neither is a replacement for BCP.

The adoption of the 1961 Constitution, the desire for contemporary liturgy and a significant period of Australia-wide experimentation resulted in the 1978 AAPB passing in the General Synod without dissent. All Diocesan Synods adopted the Book with alacrity.

Sixteen years on, the passage of APBA in the 1995 General Synod was marked by passionate debate and division. The defence of Reformation Theology, represented in its Anglican form in BCP and the Articles, was a principal motivation for Evangelicals in the General Synod.

This is not the place to tell the story of why APBA passed General Synod. What is clear is that Anglican liturgical change—worldwide—has moved from its plain Reformation structure to embellished pre-Reformation forms. Or, to quote from the book, *Thomas Cranmer: Essays in Commemoration of the 500th anniversary of his Birth*:

‘...now that many parts of the Anglican Communion have largely abandoned worship in the Prayer Book tradition... will it be possible to say what the character and ethos of Anglican worship is, in brief and simple terms, on a worldwide basis at this end of this century.’

This is seen most clearly in the Lord’s Supper. The centre and essence of the Canon of the Mass was the Prayer of Consecration. Cranmer broke this up to more truly reflect biblical doctrine. However, the trajectory of liturgical change in the Anglican Communion is to restore in Anglican Prayer Books the structure of the Roman Canon. The 1997 Diocesan Year Book (pp 450-473) has a full discussion of the problems with APBA. Sydney did not adopt the Prayer Book for Australia canon 1995. Sydney did adopt the 1992 Canon Concerning Services which gives much flexibility in drawing suitable new forms for services. Additionally, the 2012 Sydney Liturgical Panel’s *Common Prayer* provides further resources.

## Note 5 – The Anglican Communion

The Anglican Communion is a fellowship of Churches historically associated with the Church of England and which are in conformity with the faith and doctrine of that Church. There are some 40 independent national Churches in this fellowship. Military and mercantile reasons lie behind the growth and development of the Church of England overseas.

The Bishops of the Anglican Communion have met at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, at ten year intervals, the first being in 1867 and the most recent in July 2008. In addition to the *Lambeth Conference*, the *Anglican Consultative Council* has been in existence since 1971 and meets every three years. Each member national Church can send three persons, a Bishop, a Priest and a lay person. The Primates, since 1979, also meet regularly. None of these bodies exercise synodical or legislative functions and there is no legal jurisdiction over member churches. While any resolutions passed by these meetings are of persuasive value only, the resolution on Human Sexuality passed by Lambeth 1998 carries significant weight as senior leaders of the Communion voiced their endorsement of the Biblical standard.

The blatant disregard by the Diocese of New Westminster in Canada (the authorisation of a Public Rite for the blessing of same sex unions) and The Episcopal Church in America (the election of a practising homosexual as a Diocesan Bishop), of the clear terms of the Lambeth Resolution on human sexuality spurred the Primates of the various national churches into an emergency Primates Meeting which prevailed upon Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to commission a report on these developments. The *Windsor Report* (2004) was the fruit of that Commission and contained theological and legal reflection on the presenting problems and the nature and character of the international Anglican instruments available to meet the challenge. The North American churches have refused to repent of their actions and the Communion instruments have been unable to resolve the crisis.

As a counterpoint to the crisis, more than 1100 Anglican Christians gathered in Jerusalem in June 2008 for the *Global Anglican Future Conference*, 'GAFCON'. This number included nearly 300 bishops representing about two-thirds of worldwide Anglican Communion membership. The Jerusalem Declaration was written and endorsed as a statement of Anglican orthodoxy. (See page 41.)

GAFCON held a further conference in Nairobi in 2013.

The ACL's website, [acl.asn.au](http://acl.asn.au), features articles on developments in the Communion.

## 5. Glossary

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### 1662

See BCP.

### 1902 Constitution

This refers to the *Anglican Church of Australia Constitutions Act 1902*. It is a NSW Act which has a Schedule of some 13 clauses giving categories of power to Diocesan Synods. This Act applies to each of the seven Dioceses in the State of New South Wales. Pursuant to this Act, Synod passed the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* and the *Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000*.

### 1961 Constitution

This refers to the *Anglican Church of Australia Constitution Act 1961*. It is a NSW Act with a Schedule setting out the constitution of the federal body known as the Anglican Church of Australia. This constitution is often referred to as the "1961 Constitution". Each State and Territory Parliament passed a similar Act.

### 1917 Property Trust Act

This refers to the *Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917*. This NSW Act applies to each of the seven New South Wales Dioceses. A Property Trust is created to hold church property and extensive powers are given to the Synod to manage, sell, mortgage and vary trusts for church property.

### AAPB

An Australian Prayer Book (1978).

### Amendment

This is when you propose a change to a motion being considered by the Synod. You may wish to delete words, add words or change the structure of a motion. The amendment cannot be so extensive that

you reverse the direction of the motion. Your amendment should be in writing, preferably two copies and handed up to the Chairman. See Rule 4.9.

### **Anglican Church of Australia**

This is the federation of Dioceses which came into existence upon the coming into effect of the *Anglican Church of Australia Constitution Act* 1961. Before 1961, the confederation at the national level was much looser and the Anglican Church in Australia was an extension of the Church of England. The ACA operates by way of a Synod made up of representatives from each of the 23 Dioceses.

### **APBA**

A Prayer Book for Australia (1995).

### **Appellate Tribunal**

This is created by the 1961 Constitution. Three bishops and four lawyers are elected by various sections of the General Synod. One function is to act as the final court of appeal on discipline charges against clergy. Another function is to rule on whether General Synod Canons are consistent with the Fundamental Declarations and Ruling Principles of the ACA. See Sections 1–4 1961 Constitution. The third and most frequently used function is to give opinions on matters arising under the Constitution. These Section 63 opinions are only advisory. They have no binding effect.

### **Assessments**

This is the term given to the payments made by parishes to Synod funds. The amount and basis of the assessment is fixed each year by Synod. The term is also used for the payments made by the Sydney Synod to the Provincial (NSW) Synod and the payments by the Sydney Synod to the General (National) Synod.

### **BCP**

This is the *Book of Common Prayer* 1662. It is also referred to as “1662”. In the years of the Reformation, the English Church fundamentally revised its liturgy, principally under the hand of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. The first Book was in 1549, revised significantly in 1552 and again in 1559. On the Restoration of the monarchy (1660) and following the Savoy Conference, the 1559 Book with many minor amendments became the Book annexed to the *Act of Uniformity* 1662. This Act required use of the Book—**and no other**—in all public services in the Church of England.

### **Bill**

A proposed Ordinance, in draft form. When the Bill has been passed by the Synod and is assented to by the Bishop it becomes an Ordinance.

### **Business Paper**

This sets out the text of each motion and the order of business for the day. A new business paper is produced each day.

### **Business Rules**

These are the rules, previously known as Standing Orders, which determine how business will be conducted by the Synod. It is possible to set aside a Business Rule if you give notice to the Synod on the previous day. If you have not given notice then you can ask the Synod to suspend the Rule, however, 8 members can object and you can be prevented from doing what you wish. (Rule 6.5)

### **Calling Over the Motions**

Rule 4.5 allows the President, at the beginning of each day of sitting, to call over the motions by number to see if any can be dealt with formally, i.e. without debate. It is a method of clearing the business paper.

**Canon**

A name for church legislation. In Sydney we call them *Ordinances*. In Melbourne they are *Acts*. General Synod calls its legislation *Canons*.

**Chairman of Committees**

This is the person who takes the chair when the Synod turns itself into one big Committee, 'a committee of the whole', to discuss on a more informal basis an issue or more commonly the text of a Bill.

**Committee**

A very Anglican way of solving problems is to give it to a Committee.

**Constitution**

See '1961 Constitution' and '1902 Constitution'.

**Core Standing Committee Members**

These are the clerical (4) and lay (8) members of the Standing Committee elected by the whole Synod.

**Diocese**

Geographically, it is the territory for which the Bishop and the Synod have the care and responsibility.

**Endowment of the See**

A trust fund to produce income to pay the Bishop of the Diocese, Assistant Bishops, Archdeacons, Deans and includes payment of housing, travel, etc.

**GAFCON**

This is the Global Anglican Future Conference held in Jerusalem in June 2008 and in Nairobi in 2013.

**General Synod**

This is the national Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia. See *Anglican Church of Australia Constitution Act 1961*.

**Glebe Administration Board**

Administers funds held on trust for the Diocese.

**Metropolitan**

The Metropolitan is the Senior Bishop of a Province. In the Province of NSW there are seven dioceses. Sydney is the Senior Diocese and its Bishop is the Metropolitan and has the title Archbishop.

**Motion**

The name given to a proposal made by a member of the Synod.

**Mover**

The person who moves the motion.

**Notice of Motion**

Motions cannot be sprung on the Synod by way of surprise. You must give notice, usually the day before, of any motion you wish to move. It is possible to ask the Synod to give its consent to you 'moving a motion without notice'. You should tell the Synod the substance of the motion you wish to move.

**Orders of the Day**

On the first day of Synod each item of business is in the form of a motion. Some items will be dealt with by giving them a special place on the business paper for the next, or some other, day of Synod. Where an item is specially fixed it becomes an 'Order of the Day' for that particular day.

## **Ordinance**

This is the name given to the domestic legislation when it is enacted by the Synod.

## **Ordination**

This has become the generic term for admission to any of the three orders of clergy—namely deacons, priests and bishops. BCP ‘*makes*’ deacons, ‘*ordains*’ priests and ‘*consecrates*’ bishops.

## **Part 6, Part 7, Part 8 and Part 9 Members**

In addition to the Rectors and the elected lay representatives, the Diocesan Bishop may call to the Synod a number of additional clergy (Part 7 members). This number is capped at 10% of the rectors summoned to Synod. The Assistant Bishops and Archdeacons come to Synod under this provision. Standing Committee elects an equivalent number of lay persons (Part 8 members).

Long ago, when St. Paul’s College was the only Anglican university college in the only university in New South Wales, it was deemed right to have the Warden and two others as members of the Synod. These three are Part 9 members, together with the Chancellor and the Registrar of the Diocese.

## **Petition**

A formal request to Synod for action or to register a complaint.

## **President**

The chairman of the Synod—the Archbishop.

## **Procedural Motion**

Any motion dealing with the procedure of the Synod takes precedence over any other motion, even if you are half way through a debate. A procedural motion might be to adjourn and go home, or to stop the debate on this question and go to the next question.

## **Reading**

The consideration of a bill by Synod. Each bill has 3 ‘readings’ or in the streamlined procedure, ‘stages’.

## **Regionalisation**

This term is used interchangeably with Regionalism although some argue about differences. Either word is a reference to the process where the 1995 Synod acted to create Regional Councils in each of the five episcopal areas and to give to those Councils regional initiatives in ministry areas. See *Regions Ordinance 1995*.

In addition, part of the Standing Committee is now elected by regions and part by the Synod as a whole.

## ***Scandrett v. Dowling***

The New South Wales Court of Appeal judgment reported in 27 NSWLR 483. The plaintiffs sought an injunction against the Bishop of Canberra/Goulburn to prevent him ordaining to the priesthood a number of female deacons. Rodgers J refused to grant the injunction but the Court of Appeal, (Gleeson CJ, Samuels JA and Meagher JA) granted an interim injunction pending a full hearing. Various questions were framed to focus the issues. In the end it was held (Priestly JA, Hope A-JA, Mahoney JA) that the only parts of the 1961 Constitution which have statutory force are those relating to church property. The remaining terms of the Constitution have no contractual force but are binding in conscience only (Priestly JA, Hope A-JA). This is a NSW decision which turned on a particular form of words in the 1961 NSW Act which adopted the 1961 Constitution.

## **Secunder**

The person who supports the mover of a motion.

## **Standing Committee**

This is a committee elected by the Synod at the beginning of each triennium. The Synod has delegated to this committee many of its functions so that, when Synod is in recess, the Standing Committee

can act in the place of the Synod. It has delegated power to pass Ordinances and to fill casual vacancies on Boards and Committees. See *Delegation of Powers Ordinance 1998*. It also acts as a committee of advice to the Archbishop.

The 1995 Synod put in place a measure of regional representation which means that, from 1996, part of the Standing Committee is elected by the whole Synod and part elected by Synod members from a particular region. There are four clergy and eight lay persons to be elected by the whole Synod by postal vote before the Synod meets. In addition, each region will elect two clergy and four lay persons from its own region to be members of this Committee. The Bishops and Archdeacons are *ex officio* members, as are the Chancellor, the Registrar and the Dean. The Archdeacons have no vote unless their Regional Bishop is absent.

### **Standing Orders**

See Business Rules

### **Triennial Elections**

These are elections which happen once every three years.

### **Triennium**

A period of three years. Our Synod meets over three years. Each year is called a session. In 2014, the First session of the 50th Synod meets.

## **6. Resources**

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### **Lambeth Conference 1998: Resolution 1.10 Human Sexuality**

This Conference:

1. commends to the Church the subsection report on human sexuality;
2. in view of the teaching of Scripture, upholds faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union, and believes that abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage;
3. recognises that there are among us persons who experience themselves as having a homosexual orientation. Many of these are members of the Church and are seeking the pastoral care, moral direction of the Church, and God's transforming power for the living of their lives and the ordering of relationships. We commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and we wish to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ;
4. while rejecting homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture, calls on all our people to minister pastorally and sensitively to all irrespective of sexual orientation and to condemn irrational fear of homosexuals, violence within marriage and any trivialisation and commercialisation of sex;
5. cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions nor ordaining those involved in same gender unions;
6. requests the Primates and the ACC to establish a means of monitoring the work done on the subject of human sexuality in the Communion and to share statements and resources among us;

7. notes the significance of the Kuala Lumpur Statement on Human Sexuality and the concerns expressed in resolutions IV.26, V.1, V.10, V.23 and V.35 on the authority of Scripture in matters of marriage and sexuality and asks the Primates and the ACC to include them in their monitoring process.

### **The Jerusalem Declaration (agreed at GAFCON, June 2008)**

In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit:

We, the participants in the Global Anglican Future Conference, have met in the land of Jesus' birth. We express our loyalty as disciples to the King of kings, the Lord Jesus. We joyfully embrace his command to proclaim the reality of his kingdom which he first announced in this land. The gospel of the kingdom is the good news of salvation, liberation and transformation for all.

In light of the above, we agree to chart a way forward together that promotes and protects the biblical gospel and mission to the world, solemnly declaring the following tenets of orthodoxy which underpin our Anglican identity.

1. We rejoice in the gospel of God through which we have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Because God first loved us, we love him and as believers bring forth fruits of love, ongoing repentance, lively hope and thanksgiving to God in all things.
2. We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God written and to contain all things necessary for salvation. The Bible is to be translated, read, preached, taught and obeyed in its plain and canonical sense, respectful of the church's historic and consensual reading.
3. We uphold the four Ecumenical Councils and the three historic Creeds as expressing the rule of faith of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
4. We uphold the Thirty-nine Articles as containing the true doctrine of the Church agreeing with God's Word and as authoritative for Anglicans today.
5. We gladly proclaim and submit to the unique and universal Lordship

of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, humanity's only Saviour from sin, judgement and hell, who lived the life we could not live and died the death that we deserve. By his atoning death and glorious resurrection, he secured the redemption of all who come to him in repentance and faith.

6. We rejoice in our Anglican sacramental and liturgical heritage as an expression of the gospel, and we uphold the 1662 Book of Common Prayer as a true and authoritative standard of worship and prayer, to be translated and locally adapted for each culture.
7. We recognise that God has called and gifted bishops, priests and deacons in historic succession to equip all the people of God for their ministry in the world. We uphold the classic Anglican Ordinal as an authoritative standard of clerical orders.
8. We acknowledge God's creation of humankind as male and female and the unchangeable standard of Christian marriage between one man and one woman as the proper place for sexual intimacy and the basis of the family. We repent of our failures to maintain this standard and call for a renewed commitment to lifelong fidelity in marriage and abstinence for those who are not married.
9. We gladly accept the Great Commission of the risen Lord to make disciples of all nations, to seek those who do not know Christ and to baptise, teach and bring new believers to maturity.
10. We are mindful of our responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation, to uphold and advocate justice in society, and to seek relief and empowerment of the poor and needy.
11. We are committed to the unity of all those who know and love Christ and to building authentic ecumenical relationships. We recognise the orders and jurisdiction of those Anglicans who uphold orthodox faith and practice, and we encourage them to join us in this declaration.
12. We celebrate the God-given diversity among us which enriches our global fellowship, and we acknowledge freedom in secondary matters. We pledge to work together to seek the mind of Christ on issues that divide us.
13. We reject the authority of those churches and leaders who have denied the orthodox faith in word or deed. We pray for them and call on them to repent and return to the Lord.

14. We rejoice at the prospect of Jesus' coming again in glory, and while we await this final event of history, we praise him for the way he builds up his church through his Spirit by miraculously changing lives.

Jerusalem

*Feast of St Peter and St Paul*

29 June 2008

## What is the Anglican Church League?

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The ACL is an association of evangelical Anglican Christians who desire to maintain the reformed, protestant and evangelical character of the Anglican Church.

This character is based on Scripture and is expressed in the Book of Common Prayer and the Thirty Nine Articles of Religion.

The League has been active in the Anglican Church for the last 100 years, mainly in the Diocese of Sydney but also by encouraging evangelical Christians elsewhere.

### What Does the ACL Do?

The League is active in Synod affairs. It offers advice to Synod members about people suitable for election to committees and other bodies which influence the quality and direction of Church life.

The Council, through its members, nominates people for positions on committees within the Diocese.

It also appoints task forces to promote the League's policies and to consider other relevant matters and convenes regional and local meetings for its members. The League encourages the study of relevant issues through literature, lectures and conferences. A newsletter is published several times a year. Papers on theological and diocesan matters are released from time to time and a website (acl.asn.au) is maintained.

### How is the ACL Operated?

The League is governed by the Council elected at the Annual General Meeting. Members work with the Council to implement the ACL's objectives through task forces as well as regional groups. All members are encouraged to take part in these activities.

### Who May Join?

The League is always seeking like-minded evangelical men and women to join in this vital and strategic work.

Anyone who is a member of the Anglican Church of Australia may apply to join. Those seeking membership declare that they accept the authority of Scripture and the teaching of the Thirty Nine Articles. Their application is supported by someone who is already a member and then considered by the Council.

The annual membership subscription is currently \$30 (\$15 for students or retired people). Joint husband and wife memberships are \$35 (\$20).

### Policy Objectives

As an evangelical fellowship, the Anglican Church League is committed to these policy objectives –

- **To defend and advance** the protestant and reformed principles of the Anglican Church based on Holy Scripture and as set out in the Book of Common Prayer and the Thirty Nine Articles.
- **To uphold and promote** the local church as the fundamental sphere of Christian ministry, teaching and fellowship.
- **To promote** the ministry of lay men and women to strengthen the outreach of the gospel within the churches and the community.
- **To support** the training of godly, competent and biblically committed pastors and teachers to equip the churches to serve Christ through loving obedience to his Word.
- **To uphold** the supremacy of the Synod in the governing of the Diocese, subject to the Scriptures, and to affirm the need for diocesan committees and organisations to be accountable to the Synod which established them.
- **To reform** the structures and practices of (Sydney) Diocese to increase their effectiveness in assisting local church-based evangelism and ministry.

**From the late John C. Chapman**

“It has been interesting to me to see how the churches in the New Testament, who were founded by the apostles, so soon fell into such error that the apostles say that they have lost the gospel itself (see 2 Corinthians 11:4). There is, in the Pastoral epistles, a strong call to guard and preserve the gospel. The ACL was founded and exists to do that.

The way they seek to do it is to help us by finding people who are committed to this cause who will serve us on the committees and boards of the various agencies of this vast Diocese.

I have been a member of ACL for more than 30 years and commend its activities.”

**From Phillip D. Jensen**

“ACL has played a major role in keeping the Diocese of Sydney committed to Biblical and Reformation principles. As a member of ACL I am glad to be associated with its objectives and activities.

I would urge all Evangelicals who wish to preserve the gospel in our Diocese to join ACL and support its endeavours.”

To learn more about the ACL, please visit

**acl.asn.au**

**Application for Membership**



I wish to apply for membership of the Anglican Church League.

I declare that I am a member of the Anglican Church of Australia and accept the authority of the Holy Scriptures and the teaching of the Thirty Nine Articles of Religion.

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone .....

E-mail .....

Church attended .....

Occupation .....

Signature .....

Date ..... Sydney Synod Member? .....

Nominated by .....  
(A member of the League)

Please forward the completed form to –

**The ACL Hon. Secretary  
P.O. Box R746  
ROYAL EXCHANGE NSW 1225.**

## Some useful websites

### **Diocese of Sydney**

[sydneyanglicans.net](http://sydneyanglicans.net)

### **The Sydney Diocesan Secretariat**

[sds.asn.au](http://sds.asn.au)

### **Anglican Church League**

[acl.asn.au](http://acl.asn.au)

### **Australian Church Record**

[australianchurchrecord.net](http://australianchurchrecord.net)

### **Anglican Church of Australia**

[anglican.org.au](http://anglican.org.au)

### **GAFCON**

[gafcon.org](http://gafcon.org)

### **Anglican Communion**

[anglicancommunion.org](http://anglicancommunion.org)

For links to web pages mentioned in this *Synod Survival Guide*, as well as a PDF version of the book, please see

**[acl.asn.au/guide](http://acl.asn.au/guide)**