



**SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES FROM  
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTIETH SYNOD  
OF THE DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE**

27-29 September 2019

**ORDINANCES PASSED**

General Synod "Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017" Adopting Ordinance 2019

General Synod "Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Persons) Canon 2017" Adopting Ordinance 2019

General Synod "Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise) Canon 2017" Adopting Ordinance 2019

General Synod "Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017" Adopting Ordinance 2019

Parish Governance and Administration Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2019

St. Mark's Chapel University of New England Ordinance 2019

Governance of the Diocese Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2019

The General Synod canon adopting ordinances can be viewed at <http://www.armidaleanglicandiocese.com/general-synod-assenting-and-adopting-ordinances>

The St. Mark's Chapel UNE Ordinance can be viewed at <http://www.armidaleanglicandiocese.com/parish-ordinances>

The amended form of the Parish Governance and Administration Ordinance and the Governance of the Diocese Ordinance can be viewed at <http://www.armidaleanglicandiocese.com/diocese-and-parish-administration-ordinances>

## MOTIONS PASSED BY THE SYNOD

11. That this Synod rescinds part 2 of the motion that was passed at the 2016 synod concerning the sale of property, that motion being:

*That this Synod moves:*

*1) that unless Diocesan Council so varies, in the future 15 per cent of the gross proceeds from the sale of parish and special district properties vested in The Corporate Trustees that parishes and special districts wish to dispose of be given to the Diocese to underwrite financially the pursuit of the Diocesan mission and vision;*

*2) that previously unused properties, or unknown properties uncovered through the work the former Registrar, Mrs. Marion Ainsworth, be sold and the proceeds returned to the Diocese; and*

*3) where the proceeds, or part thereof, from any sale that are not able to be used immediately by a parish or special district or the Diocese, or both, the normal expectation would be that the parishes and special districts would invest the proceeds of property sales in the Diocesan Development Fund as a means of further contributing financially to realising the mission and vision of the Diocese.*

**Moved:** Mr. John Hansen

**Seconded:** Mr. James Levingston

**Carried**

14. That this Synod reaffirms the authorised standard of worship and doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia as set out in the Fundamental Declarations and Ruling Principles of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

**Moved:** Ven. Bernard Gabbott

**Seconded:** Mr. Andrew McClenaghan

**Carried unanimously by the Synod**

15. That this Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Armidale, in light of the upcoming scheduled review of the diocesan protocol for resolving grievances and addressing conflict; requests the Diocesan Council to update and expand the protocol with a view to it being the standard by which the diocese and parishes handle grievances and conflict.

The synod recommends that the update and expansion:

- a) Include a focus on conflict resolution at the local parish level whilst not subverting the Bishop, Professional Standards and Safe Ministry in accordance with current ordinances, or the previous protocol.
- b) Include and encourage appropriate conflict resolution practices from biblically faithful groups. This would be with a view to encourage input from biblically faithful groups to try to achieve relationship reconciliation at a local level.
- c) Cite relevant Bible passages on conflict.
- d) Contain clear procedural steps in keeping with the principles outlined above.
- e) Provide avenues for support for both the complainant and the respondent during the process.

**Moved:** Rev. Phillip Brown

**Seconded:** Mrs. Claire Dunlop

**Carried**

16. The Synod of the Armidale Diocese is thankful to God for the partnership between the Armidale and North Kigezi Dioceses. We commend and support Bishop Benon Magezi in his ongoing endeavours to encourage and promote *deep roots in Christ*, according to the word of God, throughout the North Kigezi Diocese. We commit to praying that his leadership will stand firm in the knowledge and love of Christ. We ask that our Bishop or his delegate express these sentiments to Bishop Benon in writing.

**Moved:** Rev. Simon Carter

**Seconded:** Mrs. Anita Thomas

**Carried**

17. That this Synod acknowledges and give thanks to our Lord for the faithful and wise contribution of the late Rev. Stephen Millar to the ministry of this Diocese over many years.

Stephen was a Christ-centred man who had a servant heart which he displayed in many roles as a parishioner of the Quirindi Parish and which led him to be a member of Synod. He was also willing to take on other roles to help in the work of the gospel in this Diocese and further afield.

We acknowledge and give thanks for his roles of leadership in many areas, but we highlight his contribution as the Vicar of Nundle, his role in Synod as Deputy Chair of Committees and then Chair of Committees, his service as a Corporate Trustee, a representative of this Diocese on Provincial Synod and General Synod, and a board member of NEGS, and his long serving contribution to Calrossy school, including being Head of the Calrossy Commission for many years.

This Synod also conveys our condolences and recognition of our thanks to his wife Wendy and family.

**Moved:** Ven. Geoff Hearne  
**Seconded:** Mr. James Levingston  
**Carried**

18. Recognising:

- i) the importance of clarifying the legal relationship between Calrossy Anglican School and William Cowper Anglican School,
- ii) the recently received advice from Prolegis law firm concerning the draft Calrossy Anglican School Ordinance and the draft William Cowper Anglican School (Election of Separate Trustee) Ordinance as prepared for this synod, and
- iii) the importance of getting these ordinances right,

this synod asks the Registrar to liaise with Calrossy Anglican School and Prolegis to produce updated versions of the draft Calrossy Anglican School Ordinance and the draft William Cowper Anglican School (Election of Separate Trustee) Ordinance and that Diocesan Council be authorised to consider these updated draft ordinances, and to pass them if the Diocesan Council considers that to be appropriate.

**Moved:** The Registrar  
**Seconded:** Mr. Neil Smith  
**Carried**

19. That this Synod notes with deep regret the decision by the NSW State Government, under the leadership of the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, to pass the legislation known as the "Abortion Law Reform Act 2019" (previously known as 'The Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019') which was introduced and rushed through the Parliament providing limited opportunity for the legislation to be discussed within the NSW community.

Further, this Synod:

- 1) notes that the 'Abortion Law Reform Act 2019' ignores the human dignity of the unborn children who are distinct, whole, living, human beings who have an equal right to life;
- 2) encourages all Anglicans in the Diocese of Armidale to continue to engage in the public debate on abortion in an informed way which recognises the social, ethical and medical consequences of any legislation; and,
- 3) encourages all Anglicans to seek practical ways to serve and support vulnerable pregnancies, including consideration and support of foster care and adoption.
- 4) encourages all Anglicans in the Diocese of Armidale to pray for the State Government "that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:2 NIV).

**Moved:** Rev Brian Kirk

**Seconded:** Mrs. Isabel Strutt

**Carried**

20. That this Synod:

- a) reaffirms that all human life is precious in God's sight, and that the Bible prohibits the purposeful killing of innocent people,
- b) re-iterates its opposition to patient-assisted suicide and doctor-assisted euthanasia,
- c) recognises that there are no adequate legal safeguards possible for any proposed legalisation of euthanasia or assisted suicide that can protect the vulnerable and frail aged,
- d) calls on Anglicans in the Diocese of Armidale to engage in the public debate on euthanasia/assisted suicide in an informed way which recognises the social, ethical and medical consequences of any new legislation, and,
- e) calls on the NSW Parliament –
  - i. to reject any legislation that promotes euthanasia or assisted suicide, and,
  - ii. to continue to prioritise the improvement of palliative care services.
- f) asks the Bishop to convey the sentiments of this synod as expressed in this motion to the Premier, and other appropriate members of the NSW Parliament.

**Moved:** Rev Brian Kirk

**Seconded:** Mr Mark Allen

**Carried**

21. The great thing about the Armidale Diocese is that we are on about "Introducing people to Jesus and helping them home to heaven." However, the one area we have struggled to make much headway in with this mission is with Indigenous people.

According to the last census over 10% of people in our diocese are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, which makes this the largest minority people group in our region.

In order to stay on the front foot in this important mission field I move that this Synod establish "The Aboriginal Ministry Initiatives Fund" to encourage and support parishes right around our diocese to have a go at reaching out to Aboriginal people with the life transforming news of Jesus.

**Moved:** Rev. Rod Chiswell

**Seconded:** Rev. Jum Naden

**Carried**

22. That this Synod:

- a) affirms that the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia is that marriage is a life-long union between one man and one woman;
- b) affirms that this doctrine of marriage is the "doctrine" of Christ (Matthew 19:3-12), is part of the "rule and standard of faith" established by the Scriptures, and is therefore the unalterable doctrine of this Church (in accordance with Section 66 of the Constitution);
- c) notes that this doctrine of marriage is also a "principle of doctrine" of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), and that Section 4 of the Constitution prohibits that which would "contravene any principle of doctrine or worship laid down" in BCP;
- d) declares that a blessing of a civil same-sex marriage is both inconsistent with the doctrine of Christ and the teaching of the Scriptures and also a contravention of the principles of doctrine established by the Order for the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony in the BCP;
- e) declares that the blessing or other affirmation of a same-sex marriage is contrary to the Scripture's teaching about human sexuality which calls for faithfulness in marriage between a man and woman and chastity in singleness in all other circumstances;
- f) notes that the blessing of same-sex marriages in Anglican jurisdictions overseas was a key catalyst for the "tear in the fabric of the Anglican Communion" that has widened over the past two decades;
- g) declares that the Anglican Diocese of Armidale is in a state of impaired fellowship with any diocese that, or bishop or other minister who, has allowed or participated in the blessing or solemnisation of a marriage that is contrary to the doctrine of marriage of Christ and this Church, and with any bishop who fails to take disciplinary action against a minister holding a licence in that bishop's diocese, in regards to blessing same-sex marriages solemnised by non-Anglican celebrants, or for entering a same-sex marriage via a non-Anglican celebrant;
- h) respectfully asks the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Armidale to decline any request to exercise ministry in the Anglican Diocese of Armidale from any bishop or other minister who has allowed or participated in a blessing or purported solemnisation of a marriage, which is contrary to the doctrine of Christ and of this Church;
- i) asks the Diocesan Council to consider not providing financial support, whether directly or indirectly, to any Anglican diocese or body which has acted, or has

- allowed others to act, in a way that is contrary to the Church's doctrine of marriage; and
- j) requests the Diocesan Registrar to send this motion to the meeting of the General Synod Standing Committee in November 2019.

**Moved:** Ven. Bernard Gabbott

**Seconded:** Mr. Phil Firth

**Carried unanimously by the Synod**

23. That Synod requests the Diocesan Council to:
1. prepare a draft Ordinance for the 2020 session of synod which will provide
    - i. a basis for practical fellowship to be offered to congregations outside this Diocese who are theologically Anglican in belief and polity,
    - ii. a basis for more deliberate engagement with GAFCON as that movement seeks to support faithful, biblical Anglicans who are marginalised by the unorthodox actions of others; and
  2. consider any other measures, including encouraging the bishop to actively explore avenues to extend fellowship with the theologically Anglican in belief and polity in the interim, which will be useful for facilitating and encouraging the above 'practical fellowship' and 'deliberate engagement'.

Such drafting and consultation and consideration should review the operation of the Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005 of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney.

**Moved:** Ven. Bernard Gabbott

**Seconded:** Mr. Paul Robinson

**Carried**

24. That this Synod commends:
1. the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Scott Morrison, for his announcement for a new drought package to deliver almost \$100m to drought-hit communities across four states 'to help people make sure that they can maintain viability'; and
  2. the contents of this motion be passed onto the Prime Minister by the Bishop.

**Moved as amended:** Rev. Brian Kirk

**Seconded:** Mr. David Goodman

**Carried**

25. That this Synod asks the Bishop to ask the State Government to keep and make publicly available data related to abortion in NSW.

Non-identified data should include:

- i. Number of procedures,
- ii. Term of Pregnancy,
- iii. Reason for abortion,
- iv. Demographic of patients,
- v. Any ongoing effect on the mother (mentally & physically).

all for the purposes of a more complete discussion of this difficult issue.

**Moved:** Very Rev. Chris Brennan

**Seconded:** Mrs. Clare Dunlop

**Carried**

26. That this synod gives thanks for the ministry to our Diocese of the Revs. Gus Robinson, Mark Evers, Phil Coghlan and their families.

We acknowledge their faithful and gospel focussed ministry to us over a number of years in various parishes and special districts.

While we miss their fellowship and service to us, we give thanks for the opportunities they have to serve in other Dioceses across Australia. We pray they will be used by Christ to continue to preach the Gospel and serve his church.

**Moved:** Ven. Geoff Hearne

**Seconded:** Rev. Adam Draycott

**Carried with acclamation**

27. That Synod appreciates greatly the generosity and hospitality of Calrossy Anglican School and acknowledges the outstanding support of the Principal, Mr David Smith, his staff and the School Council.

**Moved:** The President

**Carried**

## **SYNOD ELECTION RESULTS**

Clergy Synod Secretary: Rev. Steve Cimarosti

Lay Synod Secretary: Mrs. Marion Ainsworth

Chairman of Committees: Rev. Tory Cayzer

Deputy Chair of Committees: Mr. Peter Smith

Clergy Members of DC: Rev. Rod Chiswell

Rev. Simon Carter

Rev. Scott Dunlop

Rev. Danny Morris

Lay Members of DC: Mr. James Levingston

Mr. Paul Harvey

Mrs. Lesley Hathway

Mr. Andrew McClenaghan

Note: the Bishop has appointed the following as members of DC:

Mr. James Kahl

Mr. Andrew Draney

Appointment of Corporate Trustees:

Ven. Geoff Hearne

Mr. John Hansen

Clergy Provincial Synod Rep: Very Rev. Chris Brennan

Lay Provincial Synod Rep: Mr. John Hansen

Clergy General Synod Reps: Rev. Rod Chiswell

Ven. Bernard Gabbott

Lay General Synod Reps: Mr. Paul Harvey

Mr. James Levingston

Clergy Members of Presentation Board:

Rev. Simon Carter

Very Rev. Chris Brennan

Ven. Geoff Hearne

Rev. Brian Kirk

Lay Members of Presentation Board:

Mr. John Hansen

Mr. Andrew McClenaghan

Mr. Peter Smith

Synod nominations to be considered for the Commission for Evangelism and Mission:

Mr. Robert Cooper

Rev. John Cooper

Rev. Tory Cayzer

Rev. Scott Dunlop

Mr. Dean Blomfield

Rev. Dub Gannon

Rev. David Robinson

Mr. Andrew McClenaghan

Synod nominations to be considered for the Commission for Education and Discipleship:

Rev. Xavier Lukins

Mrs. Kaylene McClenaghan

Synod nominations to be considered for the Parish and Ministry Development Commission:

Mr. John Griffiths

Rev. Danny Morris

Rev. Steve Cimarosti

Rev. Nick Stone

Mrs. Samantha Brennan