

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTIETH SYNOD OF THE
DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE**

ONLINE (HYBRID) MODE, WITH HUBS IN: ARMIDALE, INVERELL, MOREE, NARRABRI,
AND TAMWORTH. CHAIRED FROM THE REGISTRY, ARMIDALE, NSW.

26TH SEPTEMBER 2020

SATURDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER 2020

The ZOOM meeting was commenced from the Registry at 09:00 on Saturday, 26th September 2020.

INTRODUCTION

Bishop Rick Lewers opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 100.

A practice vote was undertaken.

A Quorum was attained, consisting of 37 Clergy members, and 62 lay members of Synod.

WELCOME, PRAYERS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Bishop Rick Lewers prayed the Synod prayer.

The Bishop led the Synod in an Acknowledgement of Country.

The Bishop advised the synod that the Zoom meeting would be recorded for the purposes of ensuring that the minutes are correct. All recordings will be destroyed after the minutes have been finalised.

REPLACEMENT OF NORMAL STANDING ORDERS WITH SPECIAL STANDING ORDERS FOR 2020 SYNOD

Diocesan Council, recognising the restrictions on Synod meeting caused by Covid19, requests that this synod approves the suspension of Standing Orders and that they be replaced with the special Covid19 Standing Orders provided with the synod papers, so as to facilitate the conduct of this Second Session of the Fiftieth Synod by way of electronic means using the Zoom platform.

Moved: The Rev Brian Kirk
Seconded: The Rev. Rod Chiswell
Carried unanimously

NOTICE OF THE ORDERS OF THE DAY

At 3:00pm, the Synod will consider a special motion giving thanks for Bishop Rick Lewers and his wife Janene.

At 4:00pm, the Synod will conclude with prayer in each of the hubs.

No Presidential address was given during the Synod, however a pre-recorded Presidential Address was uploaded to Youtube for Synod members to watch, and a written copy was provided as a report to the Synod.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

That the Bishop and the Registrar be authorised to peruse and amend, where necessary, the minutes of this session to enable them to be signed as a true and correct record thereof and then the Bishop to sign them as such once they have been ratified by Diocesan Council at its November 2020 meeting.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried unanimously

PETITIONS

No petitions were registered

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

No questions were registered

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

No further motions were registered.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

That the 'Provincial Synod Tribunal Ordinance 2018 Acceptance Ordinance 2020' be read a first time:

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

That the 'Investment Ordinance 1970 Amending Ordinance 2020' be read a first time.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

That 'The Armidale School Council Ordinance 2020' be read a first time.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

CALL OVER OF MOTIONS

In the call over of motions, motions 10, 11, 12 in the business paper were objected to, and so will be debated later in the Synod proceedings.

TABLING OF REPORTS

That all Synod reports included in the Synod papers be taken as read and received:

Moved: The President
Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET

The Registrar presented the Diocesan audited financial reports to the Synod.

The following motions were passed:

That the Diocesan audited financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2020 be received.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

That the Diocesan audited financial statements for the year ending the 30 June 2020 be adopted.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

The Registrar presented the Diocesan Development Fund audited financial report to the Synod.

The following motion was passed:

That the audited financial statements of the Diocesan Development Fund for the year ending 30 June 2020 be received.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

The Synod adjourned for Morning Tea at 10:38am, and recommenced at 11:00am.

The Registrar presented the 2020-21 Quota Assessment, and 2020-21 Draft Budget to the Synod.

The Registrar proposed a few changes to the 2020-21 Draft Budget to correct several transcription errors that occurred during the production of the Synod papers.

The following motion was moved:

That the Bishop vacate the chair and Synod resolve into a Committee of the Whole to consider the draft budget for 2020-21.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

The following amendments to the draft budget were accepted by the Synod:

Income

- That the Safe Ministry/Professional Stds budgeted income for 2020-21 be \$0, and the Chaplains budgeted income for 2020-21 be \$39,240.
- That the Ongoing Ministries budgeted income for 2020-21 be \$100,187.
- That the 2020-21 Budget Total Income and Gross Profit both be \$1,508,320
- That the Gross Profit for the Variance of Actuals against 2019-20 Budget be \$38,656.
- That the Total Income and Gross Profit for the Variance of the 2020-21 Budget against the Actuals both be \$273,408.

Expense

- That the Operating Profit for the Variance of Actuals against the 2019-20 Budget be (\$53,448).
- That the Operating Profit for the 2020-21 Budget be (\$174,965).
- That the Operating Profit for the Variance of the 2020-21 Budget against the Actuals be \$28,050.

Capital Expenditure Budget

- That the Operating Income be 1,508
- That the Net Cashflow be 175
- That the Net be (263.5)

Within Committee of the Whole, the following motions were put:

That the 'Expenses' of the 2020-21 Draft Budget stand as written.

Moved: The Chairman of Committees
Carried

That the proposed 'Quota Assessments' item stand as written.

Moved: The Chairman of Committees
Carried

That the proposed diocesan budget 'income statement' stand as amended.

Moved: The Chairman of Committees
Carried

That the 'Capital Expenditure Budget 2020-21' item stand as amended.

Moved: The Chairman of Committees
Carried

The Synod resolved out of Committee, and the following motions were moved:

That the report of the committee that the draft budget for 2020-21 passed through the committee with amendment be received.

Moved: The Chairman of Committees
Seconded: The Registrar
Carried

That the Diocesan budget, schedule of the assessments and missionary target figures for 2020-21 be adopted.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

That the audited financial statements of Calrossy Anglican School for the year ending 31 December 2019 be tabled.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Rev. Steve Cimarosti
Carried

SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCES & MOTIONS

That the 'Provincial Synod Tribunal Ordinance 2018 Acceptance Ordinance 2020' be read a second time.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

That so much of standing orders be suspended so as to allow the Synod to move immediately to the third reading of the 'Provincial Synod Tribunal Ordinance 2018 Acceptance Ordinance 2020'.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Rev. Simon Carter
Carried

That the 'Provincial Synod Tribunal Ordinance 2018 Acceptance Ordinance 2020' be read a third time and carried.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

Ordinance No. 2, 2020: 'Provincial Synod Tribunal Ordinance 2018 Acceptance Ordinance 2020'

That the 'Investment Ordinance 1970 Amending Ordinance 2020' be read a second time.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

That so much of standing orders be suspended so as to allow the Synod to move immediately to the third reading of the 'Investment Ordinance 1970 Amending Ordinance 2020'.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Chairman of Committees
Carried

That the 'Investment Ordinance 1970 Amending Ordinance 2020' be read a third time and carried.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

Ordinance No. (3), 2020: 'Investment Ordinance 1970 Amending Ordinance 2020'

That the 'The Armidale School Council Ordinance 2020' be read a second time.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

That so much of standing orders be suspended so as to allow the Synod to move immediately to the third reading of the 'The Armidale School Council Ordinance 2020'.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Rev. Simon Carter
Carried

That the 'The Armidale School Council Ordinance 2020' be read a third time and carried.

Moved: The Registrar
Seconded: The Ven. Geoff Hearne
Carried

Ordinance No. (4), 2020: 'The Armidale School Council Ordinance 2020'

The President adjourned the Synod for Lunch at 12:20pm, with prayer.

The Synod recommenced at 1:30pm.

The Rev. Brian Kirk asked the Synod to pray for the process of electing a new Bishop. He reminded the Synod that nominations were due by 12th October 2020, that the nominations would be advised to Synod by 12th November 2020, and that the Election Synod would be held on 12th December 2020.

MOTIONS

Motion 10:

That Synod asks the Diocesan Council to develop a policy, within the next 12 months, to actively encourage and support women in pursuing their God-given gifts and calling to service within the Diocese. Such a policy should contain reference to gender-inclusive language in the public reading of Scripture, singing and preaching; provision of training and education; and, encouragement to participate in roles such as leading church services and preaching.

Moved: Rev. Brian Kirk
Seconded: Mrs. Isabel Strutt

Procedural motion: That the motion be put.

Moved: Rev. Simon Carter
Seconded: Mr. James Kahl
Carried

The Motion was put:

That Synod asks the Diocesan Council to develop a policy, within the next 12 months, to actively encourage and support women in pursuing their God-given gifts and calling to service within the Diocese. Such a policy should contain reference to gender-inclusive language in the public reading of Scripture, singing and preaching; provision of training and education; and, encouragement to participate in roles such as leading church services and preaching.

Moved: Rev. Brian Kirk
Seconded: Mrs. Isabel Strutt
Lost

Motion 11:

The Movers of Motion 11 in the Synod business paper agreed to amend and move their motion in the following form:

Synod asks the Diocesan Council to investigate the need for an Archdeacon of Women in the Armidale Diocese, and to investigate the purpose, cost and possible means of funding, and to consult with women in the Diocese.

Moved: Mrs. Isabel Strutt
Seconded: Mr. Mark Allen
Carried as amended

That the president vacate the chair, and the Vicar-General preside over Synod.

Moved: Rev. Brian Kirk
Seconded: The Registrar
Carried

Motion 13:

Recognising the gracious provision of God to his people for all that they need to be his people, this Synod gives thanks to God for the more than eight years ministry and leadership of Rick and Janene Lewers within the Anglican Diocese of Armidale.

This Synod gives thanks for the leadership and ministry of Rick as Bishop, in the faithful proclamation of the Word of God, the faithful proclamation and representation of Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and the dependence on the Spirit for guidance, counsel and assurance.

This Synod gives thanks for the ministry and leadership of Janene, as she has encouraged women across the Diocese to meet and know Jesus, and as she has enabled the safe and faithful proclamation of Jesus in the context of Special Religious Education and Safe Ministry practices.

This Synod prays that both Rick and Janene will continue to walk with Jesus as Lord, faithfully proclaim and love the Word of God, and serve the people of God by pointing them to our Lord and Saviour, until they are both safely home in the presence of God.

Moved: The Ven. Bernard Gabbott

Seconded: Mr. Phil Firth

Carried unanimously with acclamation

The Bishop resumed the chair

Motion 12:

That this Synod gives thanks to our Lord for those people He has placed over us in government in Australia. We give thanks for their leadership and many hours of service to the communities of Australia. We thank our Lord that until now this nation has been spared much loss of life from this global pandemic.

This Synod likewise gives thanks for the many health professionals who, at risk to their own health, have served the needs of the communities of this nation through this time. (1 Timothy 2;1 and 2).

This Synod is specifically not anti-vaccine in its theology and prays for the speedy development of a vaccine for the prevention of Covid-19. However, this Synod draws attention to the ethical concerns that many people, including this Synod, have with the use in vaccine development of cell lines derived from electively aborted fetuses. We request that every possible effort be made to source an alternative vaccine that does not use such cells in the process of development or manufacture.

We do note that at this time the government has negotiated two potential sources of supply for a vaccine. We give thanks that one of these does not raise the same ethical concerns.

We pray that the government will take up vaccines that do not make use of foetal cell lines at any point in their development. If such a regrettable step is taken, we encourage the government to have a comprehensive information programme for the public regarding the sources and methods of development of any such vaccine that is supplied to the Australian people. Such transparency will enable people with similar concerns to those outlined above to make an informed choice that reflects their ethical position.

This Synod also notes with concern that there are presently a number of vaccines in use (e.g. Rubella, Chicken Pox, Hepatitis A) that have been produced using cell lines from electively aborted fetuses. This Synod requests that the government

inform the public regarding the process of development and manufacture of such vaccines; again, so that people can make an informed choice that reflects their ethical position. We strongly encourage the sourcing of alternatively produced vaccines that do not raise the same ethical concerns.

This Synod requests that its Bishop communicate the contents of this motion to the Prime Minister and the Federal Health Minister and to any other parties the Bishop thinks most expedient.

Moved: Mr. Phil Firth
Seconded: The Rev. Neil Hunt

That the aforementioned motion be referred to Diocesan Council for debate and further consideration, and for the Diocesan Council to respond to the movers and Synod regarding this motion.

Moved: The Ven. Bernard Gabbott
Seconded: Mr. Phil Firth
Carried


That this Synod expresses its appreciation to all who have worked so hard to make Synod take place: noting particularly Simon Carter, Neil Hunt, Matthew Sheridan, Tim Stevens, Steve Cimarosti, The Archdeacons, and the lay assistance of David Innes, Isaac Biggs, Peter Caddey, Peter Merchin, Robin Wark, Michael Allen and Randall Boughton.

Moved: The President
Carried unanimously

CONCLUSION AND PRAYERS

The Synod concluded at 4:05pm with prayers in each of the hubs.

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting:


Bishop

3rd December 2020
Date

