



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

26 September 2020

**ORDINANCES PASSED**

Provincial Synod Tribunal Ordinance 2018 Acceptance Ordinance 2020

Investment Ordinance 1970 Amending Ordinance 2020

The Armidale School Council Ordinance 2020

The Provincial Synod Tribunal Ordinance 2018 Acceptance Ordinance 2020 can be viewed at <http://www.armidaleanglicandiocese.com/provincial-synod-ordinances>

The amended form of the Investment Ordinance can be viewed at <http://www.armidaleanglicandiocese.com/trust-and-fund-ordinances>

The Armidale School Council Ordinance 2020 can be viewed at <http://www.armidaleanglicandiocese.com/school-ordinances>

**MOTIONS PASSED BY THE SYNOD**

11. 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**

12. 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**

## **MOTIONS REFERRED TO DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

13. 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