

## DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE

### COMMISSIONS ORDINANCE No. 7 of 2025

This ordinance is to put in place arrangements to promote and sustain evangelism and mission, education and discipleship and parish and ministry support.

#### **Biblical rationale**

We acknowledge God's sovereignty over all things, and His work in bringing anyone to faith in Jesus and growth as a disciple of Jesus.

Yet the Bible insists that human beings also have a part to play, as God graciously works in partnership with us. In Matthew 28:19 the risen Lord Jesus says to his disciples - "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*" Paul asks the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 9:1 - '*Are you not the result of my work in the Lord?*' In Colossians 1:28-29 Paul notes - '*He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.*'

The three commissions provided for in this ordinance are intended to assist individuals, each parish and the diocese as a whole to do the work to which God has called us.

The Synod of the Diocese of Armidale ORDAINS AND RULES as follows:

1. The *Ministry Council and Commissions Ordinance 2014* is hereby repealed, but such repeal shall not affect the past operation thereof, nor anything done or commenced, nor any right, privilege, obligations acquired, accrued, or incurred thereafter, nor shall it revive any Ordinance heretofore repealed.

#### **Commission Chairpersons**

2. Each Commission shall have a Chairperson appointed by the Bishop, whose appointment has been ratified by Diocesan Council. The responsibilities and duties of a Commission Chairperson shall be, in concert with the Bishop or his nominee, to:
  - a. assist, on behalf of the Synod and Diocesan Council, those involved in ministries across the Diocese to operate in ways which are consistent with the mission and vision of the Diocese that is agreed from time-to-time;
  - b. encourage, facilitate and co-ordinate the work of their Commission;
  - c. act as a conduit between the members of their Commission and, where appropriate, with the other Commissions and/or other Diocesan agencies;
  - d. consider the resource requirements of their Commission;
  - e. report on the work of their Commission to Synod each year and, when requested, and at least annually, to Diocesan Council, or in situations where they consider it desirable to draw matters to the attention of Diocesan Council; and
  - f. undertake such other tasks as the Synod or Diocesan Council may delegate to them.

## The Commissions

3. In addition to ratifying the appointment of a Chairperson for each Commission, Diocesan Council shall make one clergy and one lay appointment to each Commission. These appointments shall be from those persons nominated to that Commission by Synod where that is possible.
4. Each Commission Chairperson may nominate up to a further six members, taking into account those persons nominated to that Commission by Synod, and the other members of that Commission appointed by Diocesan Council (under cl 3 above). Diocesan Council may then appoint to the respective Commissions those people so nominated, as well as other persons they consider appropriate. Consideration should be given by both the Commission Chairperson and Diocesan Council to having a balance between clergy and lay people on that Commission.
- 4A. In order to be eligible to be appointed as a member of a Commission, a person must be:
  - (a) a member of clergy, living within the Anglican Diocese of Armidale and licensed for ministry within the Anglican Diocese of Armidale by the Bishop of Armidale, or
  - (b) a lay person:
    - i) who is not less than 18 years of age;
    - ii) who is a communicant member of the Anglican Church of Australia and not a member of any other denomination;
    - iii) who regularly and usually attends services of public worship in a parish or special district of the Anglican Diocese of Armidale;
    - iv) who has signed a declaration affirming that he or she accepts the Christian faith which is grounded in the Bible, expressed in The 39 Articles and The Book of Common Prayer and is willing to be bound by the Anglican Diocese of Armidale's Faithfulness in Service code of conduct, or any succeeding code; and
    - v) whose nomination to be a member of a Commission is approved by the person's Vicar, or in the absence of a Vicar, the local Archdeacon.
5. The Chairperson of each Commission shall appoint a Secretary to their Commission.
6. Members of the Commissions shall hold office until the first meeting of the Diocesan Council following the First Session of the next Synod of the Diocese unless Diocesan Council declares a member's position vacant because:
  - a. the member has tendered their resignation in writing;
  - b. the member has died; or
  - c. Diocesan Council has so decided in its absolute discretion.
7. All casual vacancies on a Commission shall be filled by the Diocesan Council, having received advice from the Chairperson of the relevant Commission, and those appointed to fill casual vacancies shall hold office until the first meeting of the Diocesan Council following the First Session of the next Synod.
8. The Commissions shall meet on no less than three occasions in each financial year. The travel costs incurred by Commission members in fulfilling their responsibilities can be reimbursed out of funds provided for this purpose in the Diocesan budget each year.

## The Commission for Evangelism and Mission ('CEM')

***"CEM aims to assist parishes to introduce all people to Jesus both locally and globally."***

9. The responsibilities of CEM, in partnership with clergy and/or parish leaders, shall include, but not be limited to:
- a. encouraging, facilitating and supporting the proclamation of the Gospel within the Diocese;
  - b. encouraging, facilitating and supporting evangelistic prayerfulness within parishes and across the Diocese;
  - c. assisting parishes to resource and facilitate evangelism;
  - d. identifying 'unreached people groups' within the Diocese and facilitating outreach to them;
  - e. promoting throughout the Diocese interest in, and active support for, the missionary task of God's people throughout the world;
  - f. recommending to Diocesan Council guidelines for the suitability of target missions, targets for parish missionary giving and the manner of distribution of monies received for unspecified missionary causes, and
  - g. undertaking such other matters which properly relate to the purpose of this Commission as the Synod or Diocesan Council may from time-to-time delegate to it.

**The Commission for Education and Discipleship ('CED')**

***"CED aims to assist parishes to help people home to heaven by growing disciples of Jesus Christ."***

10. The responsibilities of CED, in partnership with clergy and/or parish leaders, shall include but not be limited to:
- a. facilitating the development of lay leadership in local parishes;
  - b. facilitating the development of lay preachers and Bible teachers across the Diocese;
  - c. helping local parishes develop a culture of disciple-making;
  - d. assessing, promoting and facilitating (where appropriate) programs, resources and training related to Christian education, discipleship and leadership development; and,
  - e. undertaking such other matters which properly relate to the purpose of this commission as Synod or Diocesan Council may from time-to-time delegate to it.

**The Commission for Parish Support ('CPS')**

***"CPS aims to assist parishes to help people home to heaven by assisting in and facilitating the provision of support services for risk management, technology, administration and property across the Diocese."***

11. The responsibilities of CPS, in partnership with clergy and/or parish leaders, shall include but not be limited to:
- a. Providing training and/or advice in relation to administrative and governance matters to clergy, wardens, parish councils, treasurers, Safe Ministry Representatives, etc
  - b. Providing advice in relation to the use of technology in parish ministry;
  - c. Providing advice and assessments in relation to the stewardship of physical property of the parish;

- d. undertaking such other matters which properly relate to the purpose of this commission as Synod or Diocesan Council may from time-to-time delegate to it.

**Title**

12. This Ordinance shall be cited and known as the “Commissions Ordinance 2025”