

DIOCESE OF GIPPSLAND

2004 RESOLUTIONS OF SYNOD

16/04 Electronic Funds Transfer

Resolved that this Synod requests Bishop-in-Council to make the necessary banking arrangements so that parishioners who may wish to do so, make their offerings by Electronic Funds Transfer

Proposed Action: Bishop-in-Council to investigate the matter.

17/04 Bishop-in-Council Report

Resolved that this Synod receives the report of the Bishop-in-Council covering the work of the Council since the last session of Synod.

Proposed Action: None.

18/04 2003 Annual Accounts of the Diocese

Resolved that this Synod adopts the Diocesan Accounts for 2002.

Proposed Action: None.

19/04 2004 & 2004/05 Diocesan Budgets

Resolved that this Synod adopts the Diocesan Budget for 1 January to 30 September 2004 and 2004/05.

Proposed Action: None.

20/04 Ordination of Women as Bishops

Resolved that this Synod:

- a) supports the draft General Synod legislation for the ordination of women as bishops and advises General Synod accordingly; and
- b) commends the Bishop for his leadership in the National Church on this matter.

Proposed Action: Letter to the General Secretary of General Synod.

21/04 A'Beckett Park - Future

Resolved that this Synod:

- a) Receives the report on proposals for the future development of A'Beckett Park;

- b) Notes that it may be necessary to sell some of the land at the site to fund any development; and
- c) Encourages Bishop-in-Council to continue in the direction outlined to the Synod.

Proposed Action: Bishop-in-Council to note Synod's view.

22/04 National Code for the Practice of Pastoral Ministry by Clergy and Church Workers

Resolved that this Synod encourages the Bishop to promulgate draft National Code for the Practice of Pastoral Ministry by Clergy and Church Workers released for discussion and comment in April 2004.

Proposed Action: The Bishop to consider promulgating the code.

23/04 Protocol for Responding to Abuse and Harassment (See Appendix B)

Resolved that this Synod:

- a) endorses the principle of maintaining a protocol for responding to abuse and harassment within the Diocese;
- b) encourages the Bishop to put in place as an interim measure the Protocol currently applying in the Diocese of Melbourne with the modifications outlined in his Charge; and
- c) supports the current process of discussion within the Province of Victoria which is directed towards aligning the proposed national protocol and the Melbourne protocol.

Proposed Action: The Bishop to consider putting in place the Protocol.

24/04 Mr Tony Horsley

Resolved that this Synod records and conveys its sincere appreciation to Tony Horsley for his educational leadership at Gippsland Grammar and for commitment to education across Gippsland through the Australian College of Educators (ACE).

Proposed Action: Mr Horsley to be advised of the terms of the motion.

25/04 Parish Council Membership

Resolved that this Synod requests Bishop-in-Council to bring an appropriate amendment to the Parish Administration Act to provide for parishes, if they so desire, to elect members of parish council and church wardens to hold office for up to 3 years on a rolling basis.

Proposed Action: Bishop-in-Council to refer to consider an amendment.

26/04 Retirement and Housing Equity for Clergy

Resolved that in the light of recently announced changes to Federal Superannuation policy, this Synod asks the General Synod Standing Committee to establish an expert group to advise the church on the issues of retirement living and housing equity for clergy.

Proposed Action: A letter to be sent to the General Secretary of General Synod.

27/04 Gratuitous Violence Depicted in Movies

Resolved that this Synod expresses its concern at the increasing level of violence being depicted on television and at cinemas and DVD's and electronic games and requests that a protest be conveyed from this Synod to the relevant government and industry bodies.

Proposed Action: Letter to be sent to the appropriate government body.

28/04 Bush Fire Ministry

Resolved that this Synod acknowledges that post-traumatic stress continues for many of the people of East Gippsland affected by the bush fires of summer 2003. It also recognises the ministry of the Rector of Bruthen, The Rev Laurie Baker and his wife Heather in their ongoing pastoral support of the survivors of this disaster.

Proposed Action: Letter to be sent to the Rev'd Laurie and Mrs Baker.

29/04 Ageing and Declining Congregations

Resolved that this Synod is seriously concerned with the generally, ageing and declining congregations in the Anglican Church in Australia and seeks ways and means to reverse these trends.

Proposed Action: Parishes are encouraged to explore and act on the matter.

30/04 Unordained Vocational Ministries

Resolved that in the light of the fact that increasingly, a wide range of episcopally licensed, but unordained, vocational ministries make a significant contribution in such areas of mission as Evangelism, Pastoral Care, Children's Ministry, Youth Work and Social Action this Synod encourages the Bishop-in-Council to prepare a report for the 2005 Session of Synod on matters relating to their employment, deployment, remuneration and supervision. The report to include specific recommendations in relation to – terms of employment and appointment; their relationship to the Diocese and the Bishop; standards of accommodation provided, just remuneration and supervision, accountability and the nature of their participation in the Diocesan Synod, Retreats and Diocesan Clergy Conferences.

Proposed Action: Bishop-in-Council to consider the issues after asking the Stipends Commission for advice.

31/04 Gippsland Home Mission Fund

Resolved that this Synod commends –

- a) the Gippsland Home Mission Fund and the work of the Venerable Ted Gibson in promoting the Fund;
- c) encourages the parishes to support the Fund.

Proposed Action: Parishes to note.

32/04 Bishops court 100 Years

Resolved that this Synod gives thanks to God for 100 years of hospitality and occupation of Bishops court as a home for the Bishops of the Diocese, and as a place of welcoming and gathering for the people of the Diocese of Gippsland.

Proposed Action: None

33/04 Parish Trusts - Land Sales

Resolved that this Synod requests Bishop-in-Council to review and clarify its policy on Parish Trusts / Land Sale Proceeds (Policy 3, Section 2 – 19 of the Synod Book) to explicitly include use of funds for Capital Works and Assets and not just purchases of land, erection or renovation of buildings.

Proposed Action: Bishop-in-Council to consider the matter after taking advice from the Trusts Corporation.

34/04 Cursillo

Resolved that this Synod –

- a) recognizes Cursillo as an evangelistic tool;
- b) urges Bishop-in-Council to work with Cursillo Secretariat in realizing Cursillo's evangelistic potential; and
- c) Bishop-in-Council reports to the next Synod on progress in using this tool to extend the Kingdom of God.

Proposed Action: Bishop-in-Council to refer the matter to the Outreach and Mission Network for advice.

35/04 Payments to Parishes – Archdeacons

Resolved that this Synod recommends to Bishop-in-Council that amounts allocated to parishes in lieu of Archdeacons' allowances for the balance of 2004 and for 2005 budgets be divided equally between the Parish and the Archdeacon.

Proposed Action: Bishop-in-Council to consider the matter.

36/04 Motion of Appreciation

Resolved that this Synod expresses its appreciation to:

- a) The Bishop for his sensitive chairing of Synod;
- b) The officers of Synod;
- c) The Principal and Staff of Gippsland Grammar for their care, attention and hospitality in hosting the Synod Session;
- d) The Dean and the people of the Cathedral Parish for the synod services;
- e) Bishop Phillip Huggins for his sermon at the Synod Eucharist;
- f) Mrs Pam Schmack and her Cathedral Catering Team for the provision of meals;
- g) Mr John Brehuat for the music at the synod dinner; and
- h) the Registry staff for their preparatory work for Synod.

Proposed Action: Relevant persons to be advised.

ACTS PASSED

- Parish Administration (Amendment) Act 2004
- Church Funds (Amendment) Act 2004
- Appointments (Amendment) Act 2004
- Stipends, Remuneration and Allowances (Amendment) Act 2004