

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

DIOCESE OF BRISBANE

The Third Session of the Seventy-Eighth Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane resumed in Morris Hall, Anglican Church Grammar School, East Brisbane, on Sunday 24 September 2017 following the Synod Eucharist at which the Synod Sermon was preached by The Rev'd Paul Smith, Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Australia, Queensland Division. His Royal Highness The Duke of York, KG was in attendance.

**1. Opening**

The President, the Most Reverend Dr P J Aspinall, took the Chair at 11.30am.

**2. Adjournment**

The Rev'd Julie Worrall moved, The Rev'd Sharon Baird seconding,  
"That the Synod be adjourned until 12pm."

*Carried*

**3. Opening**

The President's Chaplain read the prayers.

**4. Minutes**

The Rev'd Sharon Baird reported to Synod that the Minutes Committee had read the minutes of the previous day's sitting [Saturday 23 September 2017] and had certified that they were a true record.

The Rev'd Sharon Baird moved, Mr David Sneesby seconding,  
"That the minutes of the previous day's sitting be confirmed."

*Carried*

**5. Appointment of Election Tellers**

The President appointed The Rev'd Sharon Baird and Ms Kay Lauchland as Election Tellers.

**6. Petitions**

The President called for petitions. There were no petitions.

**7. Notices of Motion on Supplementary Business Paper**

There were no Supplementary Business Papers

**8. Formal Motions**

No motions were considered formally

## 9. Memorial Service for Abuse Victims who Died by Suicide

The Very Rev'd Peter Catt sought leave to move the motion in an amended form.

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moved, The Rev'd John Dougherty seconding:

“That this Synod:

1. in acknowledging the lasting damage done to so many by child sexual abuse perpetrated by clergy and other church workers, also acknowledges that some victims of abuse died by suicide following their abuse
2. repents of the abuse and the systems that allowed it to happen
3. mourns the loss of those who died by suicide
4. commends to the church, survivors of abuse and the families and friends of those who died by suicide the Memorial Liturgy to be hosted at St John's Cathedral at a date to be fixed.”

Debate was adjourned.

## 10. 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

The Rev'd Lynda Johnson moved, The Right Rev'd Alison Taylor seconding,

“That this Synod:

- i) acknowledges and commemorates the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the continental Reformation, recognising its significant impact across the whole Church of God in theology, worship, mission and discipleship;
- ii) thanks the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist for providing a liturgical opportunity for a Diocesan Service with guest preacher, Bishop Paul Smith, Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Australia, Queensland District;
- iii) notes and supports attendance at the event organised by the Queensland Branch of EFAC [Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion] on Wednesday September 27, at 7pm being held at St Stephen's Coorparoo with Guest Speaker Rev Dr Rhys Bezzant, speaking on the topic “The Protestant Reformation and its relevance for today.”

The Rev'd Dr Josephine Inkipin moved an amendment, The Rev'd Alan Moore seconding:

“That the words ‘local commemorative events such as that’ be inserted in point iii) after the words attendance at”.

*Carried*

The Rev'd Lynda Johnson moved, The Right Rev'd Alison Taylor seconding,

“That this Synod:

- i) acknowledges and commemorates the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the continental Reformation, recognising its significant impact across the whole Church of God in theology, worship, mission and discipleship;
- ii) thanks the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist for providing a liturgical opportunity for a Diocesan Service.
- iii) notes and supports attendance at local commemorative events such as that organised by the Queensland Branch of EFAC [Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion] on Wednesday September 27, at 7pm being held at St Stephen's Coorparoo with Guest Speaker Rev Dr Rhys Bezzant, speaking on the topic “The Protestant Reformation and its relevance for today.”

*Carried*

**11. 200th Anniversary of the Bible Society Australia**

The Rev'd Lynda Johnson moved, The Right Rev'd Alison Taylor seconding,  
 "That this Synod:

- i. acknowledges and commemorates the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bible Society in Australia, expressing thankfulness to God for His Word which is:
  - 'a light to our feet and a lamp to our path' (*Psalms 119:105*)
  - 'God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that all God's people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work' (*2 Timothy 3:16,17*)
  - 'alive and active; sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart' (*Hebrews 4:12*);
- ii. thanks God for the desire of the young Mary Jones to have a Bible, inspiring the Rev'd Joseph Hughes, and ultimately leading to William Wilberforce and other members of the Clapham Sect to form the British and Foreign Bible Society
- iii. thanks the Bible Society in Australia for its ongoing commitment and desire for all people everywhere to have a Bible, in a language they understand, a format they can use, and at a price they can afford;
- iv. affirms the Bible Society in Australia in its strong commitment to see the Scriptures being translated into more Australian languages;
- v. notes and affirms the Bible Society material which promotes literacy using Bible based materials that teaches people to read
- vi. notes and affirms the Bible Society in providing opportunities for daily interaction with the Scriptures through the Bible Society in Australia Bible App theme and daily emails with Bible verses and comments with its theme "Live Light";
- vii. continues to encourage the ongoing commitment to the daily reading of Scripture for all members of the Anglican Church Southern Queensland, to shape and nurture steady and focussed growth in discipleship;
- viii. asks the Archbishop to send a letter on behalf of Synod, congratulating The Bible Society of Australia on this significant occasion, assuring them of Synod's deep appreciation for its work."

*Carried*

**12. Memorial Service for Abuse Victims who Died by Suicide**

Discussion resumed with the motion presented in an amended form agreed to by the mover and seconder.

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moved, The Rev'd John Dougherty seconding  
 "That this Synod:

1. repents of the child sexual abuse perpetrated by clergy and other church workers of this Diocese, and the systems that failed to protect the safety of children in our care,
2. acknowledges the ongoing and lasting harm experienced by victims of child sexual abuse perpetrated by clergy and other church workers, which in some cases can be a significant factor in death by suicide of some victims,
3. mourns the loss of those who died by suicide and also the loss of hope, trust and relationship by all those who struggle to recover from child sexual abuse,
4. commends to the church, survivors of abuse and their families and friends, including the families and friends of those people who died by suicide, a Memorial Liturgy to be hosted by St John's Cathedral on a date and time to be advised but after the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has released its final report and before Easter 2018."

### **13. Adjournment**

Synod adjourned at 1pm

### **14. Resumption**

Synod resumed at 2pm

### **15. Questions**

Mr Michael Calder asked:

Has land been purchased in Aura, the new development south of Caloundra, for an Anglican Church? If not, are there plans to?

Answer:

The Diocese does not currently own land in the new Aura development which falls within the Parish of Caloundra

The Parish has long been aware of the challenges of and opportunities for ministry in the area and has given much thought and prayer to how best to move forward.

In the next couple of weeks the Rector of Caloundra together with representatives of the Anglican Schools Commission are meeting with representatives of the developer, Stockland, to discuss available parcels of land and opportunities for partnership.

The Rev'd Claye Middleton asked:

At the previous Synod, we resolved that Synod:

"commits to developing and affirming its own policies of gender equity in appointments and elections, taking seriously the responsibility of all to promote women of ability alongside men in all areas of leadership and decision-making;"

"is encouraged in all elections to nominate representative numbers of women and men to all positions, having regard to gender as one of a number of qualifications for election."

What is the proportion of women and men currently on diocesan committees and bodies, either by election or appointment?

Answer:

Statistics on gender representation on Diocesan Council, Commissions and other bodies and committees were prepared in June 2016. Those statistics have not been updated pending the Synod elections in 2017. In the time available this weekend, we will not be able to give updated figures.

However, the June 2016 figures (inclusive of Councils of owned schools but excluding separately incorporated schools) are:

Male members:	295	66%
Female members:	154	34%

A detailed breakdown will be made available on the Synod website.

## 16. Marriage Act

Mr Doug Russell moved, Mr Tony Levick seconding,

“That in the view of the impending plebiscite regarding possible significant changes to the Marriage Act 1961 (Cth), that this Synod reaffirm and uphold the traditional and biblical dynamic of marriage as exclusively of that between a man and woman, consecrated by God.”

Amendment proposed by Mr Michael Calder, The Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconding

- i. Delete all words following – “Marriage Act 1961 (Cth),”
- ii. Insert the following:

“That this Synod:

- (i) recognises that the doctrine of our church, in line with traditional Christian teaching, is that marriage is an exclusive and lifelong union of a man and a woman, and further,
- (ii) recognises that this has been the subject of several General Synod resolutions over the past fifteen years, and also
- (iii) recognises that the nature of marriage is the subject of ongoing conversation within the church and wider community and that we need to listen to each other with care and respect, and therefore
- (iv) awaits the collection of essays, written and compiled by the Doctrine Commission of the General Synod, on marriage and same-sex relationships that explores Scriptural and theological issues relating to:
  - a. The doctrine of marriage expressed in the formularies of the Anglican Church of Australia
  - b. Our current Australian context, exploring the relationship between the State's definition of marriage and the church's doctrine of marriage
  - c. Key Old Testament and New Testament texts on sex, marriage and friendship
  - d. Scripture and hermeneutics
  - e. A theology of blessing
  - f. A theology of desire
  - g. Godly disagreement on this issue
  - h. The case for and against same-sex marriage and/or the blessing of same-sex unions.”

The amendment was put clause by clause with only clause (iv) being carried.

Mr Doug Russell moved, Mr Tony Levick seconding,

“That, in the view of the impending plebiscite regarding possible significant changes to the Marriage Act 1961 (Cth), this Synod awaits the collection of essays, written and compiled by the Doctrine Commission of the General Synod, on marriage and same-sex relationships that explores Scriptural and theological issues relating to:

- a. The doctrine of marriage expressed in the formularies of the Anglican Church of Australia
- b. Our current Australian context, exploring the relationship between the State's definition of marriage and the church's doctrine of marriage
- c. Key Old Testament and New Testament texts on sex, marriage and friendship
- d. Scripture and hermeneutics
- e. A theology of blessing
- f. A theology of desire
- g. Godly disagreement on this issue
- h. The case for and against same-sex marriage and/or the blessing of same-sex unions.”

Mr Francisco Estevo moved, Mrs Hope Nakagawa-Morrison seconding;

“That Synod move on to the next item of business.”

*Carried*

## **17. Scripture Union**

The Ven Christopher Johnson to move; The Rev'd Michael Uptin seconding,  
"That this Synod:

- a) recognises and affirms the ministry of Scripture Union worldwide in this 150th Anniversary Year;  
thanks Scripture Union for its commitment to young people through Chaplaincy, Camps, Beach Missions, ISCF groups in schools, and Bible reading notes;
- b) affirms those parishes that prayerfully and financially support SU Chaplains in their local schools and commends this as an opportunity for mission to parishes looking for local outreach initiatives;
- c) prays for God to continue to bless the work of Scripture Union bringing hope to a young generation."

*Carried*

## **18. Brisbane School of Theology**

The Rev'd Mark Calder to move, The Rev'd Dr Graham Warren seconding,  
"That this Synod respectfully requests the Archbishop to allow formation candidates to undertake their theological studies at the Brisbane School of Theology."

Debate adjourned.

## **19. Adjournment**

Synod adjourned at 3.30pm

## **20. Resumption**

Synod resumed at 4pm

## **21. Brisbane School of Theology**

Debate resumed.

The Rev'd Mark Calder to move, The Rev'd Dr Graham Warren seconding,  
"That this Synod respectfully requests the Archbishop to allow formation candidates to undertake their theological studies at the Brisbane School of Theology."

The Very Rev'd Trevor Sketcher moved an amendment, The Rev'd Andrew Peters seconding,  
After the word "Archbishop" delete the existing words, and insert "with reference to the Ministry Education Commission to take into consideration alternative theological academic preparation, in particular the Brisbane School of Theology, for Formation candidates."

*Carried*

"That this Synod respectfully requests the Archbishop, with reference to the Ministry Education Commission to take into consideration alternative theological academic preparation, in particular the Brisbane School of Theology, for Formation candidates."

*Not carried*

**22. Month for Synod Meeting**

The Rev'd Bill Colbrahams to move, The Rev'd Canon Harch seconding,  
 "That Synod thanks the Archbishop for summoning Synod to meet in September this year and expresses the view that, despite the cold, meeting in mid-year is preferable."

*Not Carried*

**23. Retirement of The Right Rev'd Alison Taylor**

The Rev'd Michael Uptin moved, Mrs Judy Bennett seconding,  
 "That this Synod give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the ministry and witness of the Right Rev'd Alison Taylor as Bishop of the Southern Region from 2013-2017. We commit to continue to pray for her and Trevor as they begin a new ministry journey in Melbourne in 2018."

*Carried with acclamation*

**24. Religious Freedom**

Leave was granted for the motion to be moved in an amended form

Mr Graham Young moved, The Rev'd George Markotsis seconding,  
 "That this Synod:

- notes with concern attacks on freedom of religious belief, using provisions in state legislation similar to S124A in the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, against "hate" speech, such as occurred in Tasmania with respect to Roman Catholic Archbishop Porteous; and in Victoria, in the case of Catch the Fire Ministries;
- notes with concern attacks on freedom of religious belief in Queensland using bureaucratic directions with respect to Religious Education in schools;
- notes with concern proposals to add religion to Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth);
- affirms the right of any person to criticise any religion, or denomination, including the Anglican Church, even if that criticism is unreasonable, as well as the right of any person to respond to that criticism on behalf or in defence of that religion or denomination; and
- therefore calls on the state government to remove "religion" from the list of issues under S124A of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 which may give rise to unlawful discrimination, and add "religious belief" as a defence to prosecution under this act."

Amendment moved by The Rev'd Dr Josephine Inkpin, The Rev'd Gillian Moses seconding,  
 That all words after "That this Synod" be deleted and new words inserted, so that the motion reads as follows:

"That this Synod:

- 1) notes with concern attacks on religious freedom and concerns about the status of religion in state and federal law
- 2) expresses its deep regret at the ways in which religious freedoms have been abused and used to oppress or demean others
- 3) affirms
  - a) the right of any person to criticise any religion, or denomination, including the Anglican Church.
  - b) the right of any person to respond to such criticism in defence of a religious body, and
  - c) the responsibility to do so in a fully respectful manner which furthers constructive dialogue and deeper relationships.

- 4) Calls on the SRC, together with other relevant diocesan bodies, to assist in the development of a coherent and effective response in partnership with others.”

*Amendment Carried*

Mr Graham Young moved, The Rev'd George Markotsis seconding,  
“That this Synod:

- 1) notes with concern attacks on religious freedom and concerns about the status of religion in state and federal law
- 2) expresses its deep regret at the ways in which religious freedoms have been abused and used to oppress or demean others
- 3) affirms
  - a) the right of any person to criticise any religion, or denomination, including the Anglican Church.
  - b) the right of any person to respond to such criticism in defence of a religious body, and
  - c) the responsibility to do so in a fully respectful manner which furthers constructive dialogue and deeper relationships.
- 4) Calls on the SRC, together with other relevant diocesan bodies, to assist in the development of a coherent and effective response in partnership with others.”

*Not Carried*

## **25. Call over of business paper and taking of formal motions**

The President called over the list of motions of which notice had been given and the following were considered formally.

## **26. Prison Ministry Support**

The Right Rev'd Cameron Venables moved, The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves seconding,  
“That this Synod:

- (1) recognises and affirms the value of prison chaplaincy.
- (2) encourages people to consider whether God is calling them to join this important ministry; and – if there is a sense of call - to volunteer their time and gifts as part of the Prison Ministry Team.
- (3) requests parishes and schools to pray for chaplains in their pastoral and spiritual care of prisoners and staff.”

*Carried*

## **27. Deacons**

The Rev'd Jamee-Lee Callard moved, the Rev'd Peter Grevett seconding,

“That Synod acknowledges the valuable ministry that the order of deacons expresses in the life of the Church, affirms its support for the Household of Deacons as it seeks to inspire and enable Deacons throughout the Diocese, and remembering the importance and integrity of the order of Deacons encourages parishes to explore with their people the vocation of the Diaconate as an empowered and missional ministry.

That a link to the video prepared for this motion be made available.”

*Carried*



**28. Season of Lament**

The Rev'd John Dougherty to move, the Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconding:  
 "That this Synod, in response to the historical sexual abuse of children in the Diocese, requests:

- i) that all parishes be encouraged to have a theme of 'Lament' throughout the weeks of Lent 2018, and use the Lament and Lent Study resources that will be made available by the Diocesan Committee for Developing Liturgical and Pastoral Resources in Response to Child Sexual Abuse.

Further,

- ii) that all parishes, Anglican Schools, and Diocesan agencies be encouraged to participate in a commemoration service during Child Protection Week in 2018 to remember the victims and survivors of abuse."

*Carried*

**29. Announcement of Election Results**

The President announced the results of Elections by Ballot.

**30. Thanks of Synod**

By leave of Synod, The Right Rev'd Alison Taylor moved, The Rev'd Mark Calder seconding,  
 "That we give thanks to Bishop Paul Smith for preaching the Synod Sermon and that this be made available to the members of Synod."

*Carried*

**31. Thanks of Synod**

By leave of Synod, The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moved, The Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconding,

"That the thanks of Synod be accorded to –

- His Grace the Archbishop as President of Synod,
- the Chair of Committees,
- the Deputy Chair of Committees,
- the Chancellor,
- the Deputy Chancellor,
- the Chaplain to Synod,
- the Clerical and Lay Secretaries of Synod,
- the Minutes Committee,
- the Committee of Elections and Qualifications,
- the Timekeeper,
- the Deputy Timekeeper,
- the General Manager,
- those assisting, particularly with the secretarial work

for their care and attention to the conduct of Synod and the preparation thereof.

*Carried with acclamation*

### 32. Thanks of Synod

By leave of Synod, The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moved, The Right Rev'd Cameron Venables seconding,

“That the thanks of Synod be accorded to –

- the Headmaster Dr Alan Campbell, and staff of the Anglican Church Grammar School, in particular Ms Diane Cross for the use of facilities of the School;
- Scholarest for their nourishing catering at the school;
- the audio-visual staff and student volunteers;
- the many volunteers who provided informative displays during the Synod;
- all of the Diocesan staff who have made themselves available during Synod and for all their work in the preparations for Synod; and
- the Dean and Cathedral personnel for the inspiring Service on Sunday morning.

*Carried with acclamation*

### 33. Thanks of Synod

The Rev'd Bill Colbrahams to move, The Rev'd Canon Gary Harch seconding,

That Synod notes that for many years we have been assisted by the quiet and behind the scenes work of Mr Denis Wright who is not present this year because of ill health; and expresses its deep gratitude for his willingness over many years to support the smooth and efficient running of our meetings.

### 34. Adjournment

The President adjourned the Synod at 5.59pm and pronounced the Blessing.

### 35. Attendance

Clergy	130
Lay	203

Confirmed  
Phillip Brisbane  
26th October 2017