

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA  
DIOCESE OF BRISBANE**

**The Third Session of the Eightieth Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane**

Synod met in St John’s Cathedral, Ann Street, Brisbane  
on Friday 23 June 2023 following the Synod Eucharist  
at which the Synod Sermon was preached by The Ven Elizabeth Gaitskell.

**1. Opening and Prayer**

The President, The Right Rev’d Cameron Venables, took the Chair at 8:41pm. The Chaplain led the Synod in prayer.

**2. Welcome**

The President welcomed members of Synod, both Lay and Clerical.

**3. Election and Appointment of Office Holders of Synod**

The General Manager moved, The Rev’d Canon Sarah Plowman seconding:

That Ms Amy Norman and The Rev’d Jonathan Kemp be appointed as additional members of the Minutes Committee.

*Carried*

**4. Reports laid on the Table**

The Reports of the Diocesan Council, Cathedral Chapter and various Commissions with Statements of Accounts were noted as having been tabled.

**5. Petitions**

The President called for petitions. No petitions were presented.

**6. Diocesan Council procedural motions**

On behalf of the Diocesan Council, the General Manager moved, Dr Chris Gourlay seconding:

That consideration of the following business be made an Order of the Day in accordance with the following table:

<i>Business being considered</i>	<i>Order of the Day for</i>
Motion No.1 ABM November Appeal	Saturday 24 June at 3:15pm
Finance and Diocesan Services Commission Report	Saturday 24 June at 4:00pm
Motion No. 2 Auditors Report and Statement of Accounts	Business to be considered consecutively
Motion No. 3 Budget 2024	
Motion No. 4 Appointment of Auditors	

On behalf of the Diocesan Council, the General Manager moved, The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves seconding:

That Synod give leave to the following persons to address Synod or the Committee if called upon by the President or Chairman of Committees:  
Meagan Schwarz (ABM Motion)

*Carried*

## **7. Notices of Questions or Motions [see SO C.6 & SO C.13]**

The following notice of motion was given.

### **Uganda**

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt to move; The Rev'd Deborah Bird, seconding:

That this Synod;

1. Noting that:
  - a) The Anglican Church in Uganda actively supported the passing of the Homosexuality Act which legislates for penalties that include life imprisonment and death<sup>1</sup>;
  - b) The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a statement issued on 9th June 2023<sup>2</sup> :
    - i. reaffirmed the Anglican Communion's Commitment to honouring the dignity of every human;
    - ii. stated that the criminalisation of homosexuality is not consistent with honouring that dignity;
    - iii. called on the Anglican Church in Uganda 'to reconsider their support for [the] legislation and reject the criminalisation of LGBTQ people';
    - iv. called on 'the leadership of GAFCON and Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches (GSFA), to make explicitly and publicly clear that the criminalisation of LGBTQ people is something that no Anglican province can support';
  - c) In 2022 The General Synod of the Anglican church of Australia issued an apology to LGBTIQ+ people for past treatment of them; and
  - d) This Synod, at its session in 2022, initiated a process to prepare its own apology to LGBTIQ+ people,
2. Affirms and echoes The Archbishop of Canterbury's Statement of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and the calls to the church in Uganda, GAFCON and GSFA it contains.
3. Calls on the Primate of The Anglican Church of Australia, The Bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia, and Diocesan Synods to publicly affirm their support for the Archbishop of Canterbury and to publicly affirm and echo his statement of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
4. Requests the Bishop Administrator to convey the text of this motion to the Primate of The Anglican Church of Australia, The Bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia, and Diocesan Registrars.

Notes

<sup>1</sup> <https://churchofuganda.org/blog/2023/05/29/church-of-uganda-grateful-for-anti-homosexuality-act-2023/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statements/archbishop-canterburys-statement-church-uganda>

*Accepted for inclusion on the Business Paper and became Motion 28*

## **8. Thanks to the Cathedral Team**

The President offered his thanks to the Cathedral Team for its hospitality and for preparing and hosting the Synod Eucharist.

## **9. 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 taken formally.

### **Thanks to Archbishop Aspinall**

Justice Debra Mullins AO moved; The Rt Rev'd Jeremy Greaves seconding:

That the Synod gives thanks to God for the ministry and leadership of Archbishop Phillip Aspinall AC from 2002-2023: in particular, for his part in systematically making the Church safer for children and vulnerable people, and more compassionate in its responses to survivors of sexual abuse. Further, that the Synod records particularly its gratitude for Archbishop Phillip's presiding role at the sessions of the Synod which was undertaken with patience and fairness and facilitated respectful debate on the difficult issues. Further, that the Synod prays for God's blessing upon Archbishop Phillip and Christa in their next season of life.

*Carried with acclamation*

### **Thanks to The Rev'd Canon Dr Ralph Bowles**

Coral McVean moved; Kelinda Black seconding:

That this Synod acknowledges the impending retirement at the end of July 2023 of The Rev'd Canon Dr Ralph Bowles, and expresses its gratitude for his service across the Australian Anglican Church and in this Diocese. Since 1975 when Rev'd Ralph graduated, he has served in parishes such as Broadway, Dundas/Telopea, and Coorparoo, and been Brisbane Anglican Natural Church Development Project Officer, is an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral and particularly for the last five years, when he came out of retirement for his ministry in the Nambour Parish which was an example of God's perfect timing for this community.

*Carried*

### **St Francis College transition to University of Divinity**

The Rev'd Dr Ruth Mathieson moved; The Rev'd Michael Stalley seconding:

That this Synod congratulates the staff of St Francis College for the smooth transition to membership of the University of Divinity, conveying thanks to:

1. The Rt Rev'd Jonathan Holland, Dr Sheilagh O'Brien, Mr Jonathan Sargeant, Dr Peter Kline, Dr Douglas Porter, Dr Robin Ray and all who contributed to preparing the application to join the University of Divinity early in 2022;
2. Dr Peter Kline, Dr Sheilagh O'Brien and The Rev'd Dr John Rolley who led the process of developing new curriculum in consultation with other members of the St Francis College faculty, including collaboration with sessional lecturers;
3. Associate Professor Richard Colledge from the School of Theology and Philosophy, Australian Catholic University for generously providing his expertise and time as the required "external academic" to the St Francis College Academic Committee;
4. Ms Eve James, Mrs Susan Thomas and the volunteers of the Roscoe Library in ensuring the availability of resources and readings for the new units being taught;
5. Mr Rod Mengel, property and finance manager, and Ms Linda Burrige, marketing and administration officer for making necessary changes to business processes; and especially

6. Dr Sheilagh O'Brien, Dean of Students (Registrar), and all the administration staff at St Francis College who processed the enrolments of both continuing and new St Francis College students as students of the University of Divinity in readiness for Semester 1, 2023.

*Carried*

### **Anglican Identity Course**

The Rev'd Dr Ceri Wynne moved; the Rt Rev'd Jeremy Greaves seconding:

That this Synod:

1. congratulates Jonathan Sargeant and Fiona Hammond, the FormEdFaith (Lay Formation, Education and Faith Development) team of St Francis College for the development of the online Anglican Identity resource located on the website <https://anglicanidentity.au>.
2. commends the use of this resource to all the parishes and agencies of the Anglican Church Southern Queensland.

*Carried*

### **Vote of thanks – Ms Erica Skerman, Anglican Youth Children and Families (AYCF) camping ministry**

The Rev'd Dr Ann Edwards moved; The Rev'd Jane Markotsis seconding:

That this Synod conveys its gratitude to Erica Skerman, who coordinated the Anglican Youth Children and Families Ichthus Camping Ministry for the Anglican Church of Southern Queensland for seven years until September 2022. Thanks are expressed for the significant ministry with young adults undertaken by Erica with the development of youth leaders who take on increasing levels of responsibility with camp leadership as appropriate.

*Carried*

### **The Diaconate**

The Rev'd Dr Rodney Wolff moved; The Rev'd Canon Sarah Plowman seconding:

That this Synod:

1. gives thanks to God for life-long Deacons in this Diocese, both individually and corporately within the Household of Deacons, and throughout the wider Church;
2. notes the 2017 Report of the Commission Concerning the Diaconate; and
3. encourages the presentation of a vision for the ministry and mission of life-long Deacons in this Diocese to those exploring a vocation to Holy Orders, where such vision embraces evangelism through
  - a) linking the Church with the wider community,
  - b) bringing Church resources to meet the needs of the sick and the marginalised, and
  - c) teaching the faith to those on boundaries of the Church, and beyond.

*Carried*

### **Annual Clergy Summer School**

The Ven Susan Barker moved; The Rev'd Shane Hubner seconding:

That this Synod:

1. notes the exhortation at their ordination to deacons and priests, to study the Scriptures, and to undertake such other studies as will help them in their ministries;
2. recognises the opportunities to undertake such studies which are provided by the annual Clergy Summer School, organised by clergy of this Diocese for clergy;

3. encourages members of the clergy to register for and attend the 2024 Summer School, to be held at The Southport School from 15-17 January 2024.

*Carried*

## **10. Consideration of Motions**

### **Youth Justice**

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moved; Dr Stephen Harrison seconding:

This Synod:

1. Affirming that all citizens have the right to feel safe and acknowledging the difficulty governments often face in seeking to guarantee public safety, and
2. Noting:
  - a) that research has demonstrated that incarceration of juveniles leads to increased criminality as adults
  - b) the ongoing efforts of the SRC and Anglicare to advocate for evidence-based policy and practice, and to contribute to that body of knowledge through youth-centred projects such as Youth Voices and Young Women's Voices
3. Expresses concern at the passing of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill (2023) by the Queensland Parliament, which is likely to result in an increased rate of incarceration of juveniles and have a disproportionate effect on the disadvantaged, most notably on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
4. Encourages the Queensland Government to re-commit itself to the development of evidence-based policy, including a focus on effective prevention and early intervention strategies that support young people into positive life pathways.

*Carried*

## **11. Adjournment**

The President adjourned the Synod at 9.23pm and pronounced the Blessing.

## **12. Attendance**

Clergy	115
Lay	182

# ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA DIOCESE OF BRISBANE

## The Third Session of the Eightieth Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane

Synod resumed in Morris Hall, Anglican Church Grammar School,  
Oaklands Parade, East Brisbane, on Saturday 24 June 2023.

### **1. Opening and Prayer**

The President, the Right Rev'd Cameron Venables, took the Chair at 8:30am, and the Chaplain read prayers.

### **2. President's Inaugural Address**

The President welcomed Members of Synod and delivered his inaugural address, which was received with applause.

### **3. Motions without Notice**

The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moved, The Right Rev'd John Roundhill seconding:

That Synod express its thanks to the President for his address and asks that it be made available to Synod members for further reflection and discussion.

*Carried*

The Rev'd Canon Gary Harch moved, The Rev'd Jilleen Chambers seconding:

1. That this Synod commend the Ven Elizabeth Gaitskell on her inspiring and challenging sermon at the Synod Eucharist.
2. That a copy of this sermon be made available to the members of Synod.

*Carried*

The Hon Justice Debra Mullins moved, The Rev'd Canon Gary Harch seconding:

That so much of Standing Orders be suspended to enable The Rev'd Canon Dr Marian Free, as a member of the Archbishop Election Committee ("AEC"), to give a report to Synod from the AEC for no more than five minutes immediately after the Presidential address.

*Carried*

### **4. Report from Archbishop Election Committee**

The Rev'd Canon Dr Marian Free gave a brief report to Synod on behalf of the Archbishop Election Committee.

### **5. Minutes**

Dr Chris Gourlay reported to Synod that the Minutes Committee had read the minutes of the previous day's sitting (Friday 23 June 2023) and had certified that they were a true record of proceedings.

Dr Chris Gourlay moved, Mr David Sneesby seconding:

That the minutes of the previous day's sitting be confirmed.

*Carried*

The Rev'd Bill Colbrahams moved, The Rev'd Nicholas Whereat seconding:

That the report of the Archbishop Election Committee presented by The Rev'd Canon Dr Marian Free be circulated to members of Synod.

*Carried*

## **6. Petitions**

The President called for petitions. There were no petitions.

## **7. Notices of Questions and Motions**

The President called for Notices of Questions and Motions.  
There were no Notices of Questions or Motions.

## **8. Formal Motions**

The President called over the list of motions on the Business Papers.

The following motions were taken formally.

### **Anglicare Southern Queensland**

Dr Stephen Harrison moved, The Rev'd Suzanne Grimmer seconding:

That this Synod:

1. Affirms Anglicare's vision to create a more loving, just and inclusive society, reflecting the life and teachings of Christ and the coming Kingdom of God.
2. Supports Anglicare's efforts, as part of the Anglican Church Southern Queensland, to work in partnership with Anglican parishes, schools and organisations.
3. Thanks all those within the Diocese including individuals, parishes, schools and organisations that support the work of Anglicare through prayer, participation and donations.
4. Notes Anglicare's current missional fundraising priorities in the areas of youth homelessness, domestic violence and social isolation and loneliness.
5. Welcomes the initiation of Anglicare Sunday on 13 August 2023.
6. Encourages the people of this Diocese to:
  - a) Learn about the work of Anglicare Southern Queensland
  - b) Give to the missional work of Anglicare.
  - c) Celebrate Anglicare Sunday in 2023.

*Carried*

### **Diverse Worship Participation**

The General Manager moved, Mr Allan Thomson seconding:

That this Synod:

1. Note the update report in the Business Papers regarding the legal opinion and consultation arising from the 2022 Synod resolution – Diverse Worship Participation;
2. Requests Diocesan Council to:
  - a) analyse further the responses received to see if there are regulatory changes that could be made that would likely have broad support;

- b) engage in further consultation with a view to bringing a proposal regarding the meaning of Parishioner and Elector to Synod in 2024.

*Carried*

#### **9. Report of the Diocesan Council**

The Rev'd Canon Nicki Colledge presented the report of Diocesan Council.

The Rev'd Canon Nicki Colledge moved, The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves seconding:

That the report of the Diocesan Council be adopted.

*Carried*

#### **10. Report of the Cathedral Chapter**

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt presented the report of the Cathedral Chapter.

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moved, Dr Christopher Gourlay seconding:

That the report of the Cathedral Chapter be adopted.

*Carried*

#### **11. Report of the Community Services Commission**

Mr Gary Brady presented the report of the Community Services Commission.

Dr Stephen Harrison moved, Mrs Cathy Grant seconding:

That the report of the Community Services Commission be adopted.

*Carried*

#### **12. Report of the Ministry Education Commission**

Dr Robin Ray presented the report of the Ministry Education Commission.

The Rev'd Dr Ruth Mathieson moved, The Rev'd Prof Rodney Wolff seconding:

That the report of the Ministry Education Commission be adopted.

*Carried*

#### **13. Report of the Parishes and Other Mission Agencies Commission**

The Right Rev'd John Roundhill presented the report of the Parishes and Other Mission Agencies Commission.

The Right Rev'd John Roundhill moved, The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves seconding:

That the report of the Parishes and Other Mission Agencies Commission be adopted.

*Carried*

#### **14. Motion without Notice**

The Rev'd Michael Calder moved, The Rev'd Lynda Johnson seconding:

That this Synod,



1. noting the resignation of Stephen Harrison and Belinda MacArthur from the PMC Staff;
2. noting that Stephen served in his role for around four years and that Belinda has served in the ACSQ office for nine years across multiple commissions;
3. gives thanks to God for the work of Belinda as Administrator in the PMC and her work among the other commissions and Stephen Harrison as the Executive Director of the PMC.

*Carried*

#### **15. Report of the Anglican Schools Commission**

The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves presented the report of the Anglican Schools Commission.

The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moved, The Right Rev'd John Roundhill seconding:

That the report of the Anglican Schools Commission be adopted.

*Carried*

#### **16. Consideration of Canons**

##### **Diocesan Governance Canon Amendment (CSC Membership) Canon 2023**

Dr Stephen Harrison moved, Mr Duncan Unwin seconding:

That the general principles of the Diocesan Governance Canon Amendment (CSC Membership) Canon 2023 be agreed.

*Carried*

Dr Stephen Harrison moved, Mr Duncan Unwin seconding:

That the Diocesan Governance Canon Amendment (CSC Membership) Canon 2023 do now pass.

*Carried*

##### **Diocesan Governance Canon Amendment (MEC) Canon 2023**

The Rev'd Dr Ruth Mathieson moved, The Hon Justice Debra Mullins seconding:

That the general principles of the Diocesan Governance Canon Amendment (MEC) Canon 2023 be agreed.

*Carried*

The Rev'd Dr Ruth Mathieson moved, The Hon Justice Debra Mullins seconding:

That the Diocesan Governance Canon Amendment (MEC) Canon 2023 do now pass.

*Carried*

##### **General Synod Legislation Canon Amendment Canon 2023**

The Hon Justice Debra Mullins moved, The General Manager seconding:

That the general principles of General Synod Legislation Canon Amendment Canon 2023 be agreed.

*Carried*

The Hon Justice Debra Mullins moved, The General Manager seconding:

That the General Synod Legislation Canon Amendment Canon 2023 do now pass.

*Carried*

### **17. Assent to Canons**

The President announced that he has assented to the Diocesan Governance Canon Amendment (CSC Membership) Canon 2023.

The President announced that he has assented to the Diocesan Governance Canon Amendment (MEC) Canon 2023.

The President announced that he has assented to the General Synod Legislation Canon Amendment Canon 2023.

### **18. Order of the Day: ABM Motion**

#### **Anglican Board of Mission November Appeal**

Leave was granted for Ms Meagan Schwarz to make a presentation to the Synod.

The Rev'd Eron Perry moved, the Rev'd Dani Clark seconding:

That this Synod:

1. Commends the people of the Diocese for their support of ABM, generally, with \$102,664 being raised for ABM in 2022 (through parishes and church organisations).
2. Commends the people of the Diocese for their support of the 2022 Archbishop's November Appeal, through which over \$30,000 was raised to date, to help support Newton Theological College in Papua New Guinea.
3. Encourages the people of our Diocese to support the forthcoming 2023 Archbishop's November Appeal. The appeal will support the Solomon Islands; raising funds to support Climate Change awareness, Disaster Management and Social Inclusion Projects. Specifically, this will include:
  - a) Climate Change awareness and Disaster Preparedness training in communities.
  - b) Building Sea walls and buffer zones to protect coastal villages from sea level rises and coastal erosion.
  - c) WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene): Hygiene awareness, Hygiene Packs, installing a new water tank and handwashing basins.
4. Commends the Anglican Schools as they support ABM Projects.
5. Encourages the people of the Diocese to collect used stamps, the sale of which benefited ABM by over \$10,000 last financial year.

*Carried*

### **19. Order of the Day: Financial and Diocesan Services Commission Report and Motions**

#### **Financial and Diocesan Services Commission Report**

Mr Bruce Wilson presented the report of the Financial and Diocesan Services Commission.

The Right Rev'd John Roundhill moved, The Rev'd Canon Stewart Perry seconding:

That the report of the Financial and Diocesan Services Commission for the year ended 31 December 2022 be adopted.

*Carried*

## **Appointment of Auditors**

The General Manager moved, Mr David Sneesby seconding:

That this Synod appoints Ernst & Young as Auditors of the Diocese of Brisbane for all Diocesan audits for the year ending 31 December 2024.

*Carried*

## **Auditor's Report and Statement of Accounts**

Joanne Stone presented the Statement of Accounts.

The General Manager moved, Mr David Sneesby seconding:

That the Auditor's Report and Statement of Accounts of The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane and related entities, and The Corporation of the Lesser Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Brisbane for the year ended 31 December 2022 as incorporated in the Report Book, be adopted.

*Carried*

## **Budget 2024**

Joanne Stone presented the 2024 Budget.

The General Manager moved, Mr David Sneesby seconding:

That this Synod approves the Budget for the year ending 31 December 2024 as detailed in the attached summary and in so doing notes that:

1. this Budget has been prepared eight months in advance of the year of operation;
2. the Budget will need revision and approval by Diocesan Council in the light of any unforeseen external economic factors and more up-to-date estimates of revenue and costs which may emerge in the intervening period; and
3. whilst Synod acknowledges that the budget may require a refresh in light of changed circumstances, the intent of operational initiatives included in the budget as submitted will be honoured where possible.

*Carried*

## **20. Consideration of Motions**

### **Compassion for refugees and people seeking asylum**

The Rev'd Nicholas Whereat moved, The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt seconding:

That this Synod:

1. Commends the Federal Government for:
  - a) providing pathways to a permanent Resolution of Status (RoS) Visa for 19,000 refugees on a Temporary Protection Visa and Safe Haven Enterprise Visa, once their need for refugee protection is determined; and
  - b) implementing promptly this policy, announced in February 2023, already enabling refugees who have been contributing to Australian society for more than a decade to feel finally that this country is their home
2. In light of the 4th Anglican Mark of Mission, to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation, calls on the Federal Government to:
  - a) extend this provision to approximately 10,000 refugees and people seeking asylum rejected under the previous Federal Government's "Fast Track" process which

- include people from countries where the risk of persecution has become more acute in recent years, particularly Afghanistan, Myanmar and Iran;
- b) allow family reunification through the Split Family Provisions and Global Special Humanitarian Program of the Refugee and Humanitarian Visa Program, for family members of those on a permanent RoS Visa
  - c) provide a safety net for people seeking asylum by restoring basic social support which was cut by nearly 95% between 2016-2022, and ensure people have the right to work and study.
3. Expresses concern that offshore processing is budgeted to cost \$1.5 billion over the forward estimates to 2026-27, despite only approximately 30 people remaining on Nauru and the Government's commitment to resettle all people to third countries, and calls for their evacuation as soon as is practicable.

*Carried*

### **Insurance of heritage listed properties**

The Ven Elizabeth Gaitskell moved, Mr Lewis Von Stieglitz seconding:

That this Synod:

1. recognising the number of heritage listed properties owned by the Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane and the Corporation of the Lesser Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Brisbane;
2. recognising that the custody of most of these heritage properties is held by Parishes as places of worship;
3. recognising that the insurance premium cost of insuring heritage buildings is substantial and increasing;
4. recognising that many factors, including climate change fuelled weather events, are increasing the risk profiles for properties and in some cases making them uninsurable; and
5. recognising the payment of this insurance premium significantly reduces the financial capacity of such parishes to resource ministry;

requests the Diocesan Council to research rising property risks, along with our property profiles (in particular our heritage buildings); to generate a range of potential options, central funds and strategies going forward for our Diocese to more sustainably address this insurance crisis and that a full response to this proposal be provided to the next meeting of Synod in 2024.

*Carried*

### **RAP (new Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan)**

The Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase moved, The Ven Bronwyn Pagram seconding:

That this Synod:

1. Gives thanks to God and recognises the great steps forward that this Diocese has taken towards fulfilling the actions of our July 2021-July 2023 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.
2. Thanks all who have been involved in the formation and implementation of this plan. Especially thanks all who have been involved in the RAP Working Group including our RAP Coordinator Sandra King, and all those in parishes, schools, Anglicare, the Ministry Education Commission, the Finance and Diocesan Services Commission, the Justice Unit and other areas who have embraced the opportunity to build relationships and amend and build structures to facilitate true reconciliation.
3. Gives leave for the RAP Working Group and the RAP Coordinator to seek to apply for another Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan within one year of the completion of our

current Innovate Plan in July 2023. This is in accordance with advice received from Reconciliation Australia. This will enable the RAP Working Group to:

- a) complete RAP reporting by participating in the RAP Impact Measurement Questionnaire which is required by Reconciliation Australia each year.
- b) Publicly report on our RAP commitments and
- c) Register with Reconciliation Australia to develop the next RAP within 12 months of the Anglican Church of Southern Queensland's RAP expiry date. (July 2023).

The debate was adjourned.

## **21. Adjournment**

The President adjourned the Synod at 6.15pm, after Evening Prayer.

## **22. Attendance**

Clergy:	137
Lay:	242

# ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA DIOCESE OF BRISBANE

## The Third Session of the Eightieth Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane

Synod resumed in Morris Hall, Anglican Church Grammar School,  
Oaklands Parade, East Brisbane, on Sunday 25 June 2023.

### 1. Opening and Prayer

The President, the Right Rev'd Cameron Venables, took the Chair at 11.30am and the Chaplain read prayers.

### 2. Minutes

Ms Amy Norman reported to Synod that the Minutes Committee had read the minutes of the previous day's sitting (Saturday 24 June 2023) and had certified that they were a true record.

Ms Amy Norman moved, The Rev'd Jonathan Kemp seconding:

That the minutes of the previous day's sitting be confirmed.

*Carried*

### 3. Petitions

The President called for petitions. There were no petitions.

### 4. Motion without Notice

The Right Rev'd John Roundhill moved, The Rev'd Dr Timothy Nicholson seconding:

That Motion 19 regarding the 2022 Annual Returns Data Report be made an Order of the Day for 12pm today or as soon as possible after.

*Carried*

### 5. Call over of Business Paper and Formal Motions

The President called over the list of motions of which notice had been given.

The following motions were taken formally:

#### **Parishioner safety in domestic and family violence situations in Church ministry**

The Ven Dr Lucy Morris moved, The Rev'd Deb Bird seconding:

Jesus said: 'Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.' (Matt.5:4) Victims and survivors of domestic and family violence (DFV) are often hidden and misunderstood in our parish communities and its prevalence underestimated. Our responses to parishioners affected by Violence Restraining Orders (VROs) together with the overall duty of care requirements in public worship and home visiting situations are not clear.

Consequently, this Synod requests the Archbishop-in-Council prioritise in its Safe Church culture:


1. the establishment of policies and practices, including updating the 10 Commitments, to manage safe worship access by individuals with a lived experience of DFV, or who are known to have current VROs.
2. the education, training, preaching and teaching policies and practice guidelines for all clergy and ordinands, working in parish DFV contexts, enabling informed responses to be made to safety risks in parishes.

*Carried*

### **Modern slavery**

The Rev'd Deb Bird moved, The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt seconding:

That this Synod:

1. gives thanks to God for the faithful work of Parishes, Schools, Commissions and other agencies who have been conducting audits, completing annual returns, building awareness, and establishing controls around Modern Slavery Risks, according to the ACSQ Modern Slavery Policy (  Modern Slavery Policy.pdf );
2. thanks ACSQ Risk and Compliance Manager Teresa Day for her work on collating resources published on the 'Combatting Modern Slavery Risks' page on the Anglican Resources Community (ARC) (located here: <https://dioceseofbrisbane.sharepoint.com/sites/TheAnglicanResourceCommunity/SitePages/Modern-Slavery-Obligations.aspx>);
3. in line with the Anglican Mark of Mission of transforming unjust structures of society, encourages all Parishes, Schools, Commissions and other agencies to
  - a) utilise the resources provided and adapt for use in their own context to combat Modern Slavery
  - b) collaborate with the Risk and Compliance Manager, Justice Enabler and Social Responsibilities Committee around ACSQ's annual Modern Slavery reporting, education and campaigning efforts where possible.

*Carried*

### **Sustainability**

The Rev'd Shane Hubner moved, The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt seconding:

That this Synod:

1. notes that, in response to the 2022 Synod Motion, the Sustainability Committee developed the ACSQ Sustainability Roadmap 2023-2030 which was approved by Diocesan Council at the December 2022 meeting and launched 23 March 2023;
2. thanks the Sustainability Committee for its work on the Roadmap;
3. encourages all Parishes, Schools, Commissions and other agencies to adopt the actions and targets therein and establish their own Sustainability Action Plans using the resources provided on the ACSQ website (<https://www.anglicanchurchsq.org.au/sustainability>); and
4. notes that Angligrreen will provide support for parishes, as required, in the development of plans.

*Carried*

## **6. Order of the Day**

### **The 2022 Annual Returns Data Report**

The Rev'd Adam Lowe moved, The Right Rev'd John Roundhill seconding:

That the 2022 Annual Returns Data Report be received with specific reference to identified trends of parish growth and utilisation of digital technology for online ministry.

*Carried*

## **7. Consideration of Motions**

### **RAP (new Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan)**

The Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase moved, The Ven Bronwyn Pagram seconding:

That this Synod:

1. gives thanks to God and recognises the great steps forward that this Diocese has taken towards fulfilling the actions of our July 2021-July 2023 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan;
2. thanks all who have been involved in the formation and implementation of this plan. Especially thanks all who have been involved in the RAP Working Group including our RAP Coordinator Sandra King, and all those in parishes, schools, Anglicare, the Ministry Education Commission, the Finance and Diocesan Services Commission, the Justice Unit and other areas who have embraced the opportunity to build relationships and amend and build structures to facilitate true reconciliation;
3. gives leave for the RAP Working Group and the RAP Coordinator to seek to apply for another Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan within one year of the completion of our current Innovate Plan in July 2023. This is in accordance with advice received from Reconciliation Australia. This will enable the RAP Working Group to:
  - a) complete RAP reporting by participating in the RAP Impact Measurement Questionnaire which is required by Reconciliation Australia each year.
  - b) publicly report on our RAP commitments and
  - c) register with Reconciliation Australia to develop the next RAP within 12 months of the Anglican Church of Southern Queensland's RAP expiry date. (July 2023)

*Carried*

### **Establishment of First Nations Ministry Benefit Fund**

The Rev'd Suzanne Grimmett moved, The Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase seconding:

That this Synod:

1. affirms the good work being done across parishes and agencies of the diocese to achieve full implementation of the 2021-2023 Reconciliation Action Plan;
2. recognises that provision of appropriate pathways and avenues of support for First Nations future theologians and ordained leaders remains an outstanding need;
3. welcomes the establishment of a ministry benefit fund for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates with an advisory committee well represented by First Nations leaders; and
4. encourages parishes, schools, and other agencies to support continued funding for this resource.

*Carried*

### **Active Peacemaking as our Church's response to the noise of war and violence**

The Ven Dr Lucy Morris moved, The Ven Bronwyn Pagram seconding:

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5.9). As we consider the increasing potential for war in our region, this Diocese requests the Archbishop to energise our 3rd Mark of Mission, "To transform unjust structures of society, to



challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation” by appointing a working group to:

1. explore the theological bases for peacemaking;
2. make recommendations on how to lead and facilitate public discourse about what peacemaking means and how it is practiced, including consideration of the complexity of war and conflict; the impact of deaths, trauma, and physical and moral injuries on the community at large; the role and care of serving and former members of defence services; and the essential spiritual care provided by defence force chaplains;
3. make recommendations on how to disagree well, how to build peace at all times, and be willing to lead true reconciliation with an enemy (Luke 6.27);
4. produce by Synod 2024, a practical study guide to engage Diocesan parishes, agencies and schools, exploring peacemaking and working actively for peace; and
5. report back to Synod and Archbishop-in-Council on the progress of the Church’s position on active peacemaking and non-violent resistance in our Church’s response to the noise of war and violence annually.

*Carried*

### **Policy review**

The Rev’d Dr Margaret Wesley moved, The Rev’d Dr Ann Edwards seconding:

That this Synod:

1. expresses appreciation for the work of the Diocesan staff and leadership team in creating, disseminating, and maintaining policies to help parishes remain safe, healthy, and compliant with legislation;
2. acknowledges that parishes sometimes need policy support but find such support unavailable or inaccessible, with the result that clergy and Parish Councils must develop their own policies and procedures;
3. acknowledges that ad hoc policy development can result in:
  - a) different standards being applied to policies and practices across the Diocese,
  - b) time wasted in redundancy when parishes are not aware of policy work done in other places, or time wasted when a diocesan policy does exist but cannot be found,
  - c) an unnecessarily heavy load of legal responsibility being carried by parishes and clergy;
4. therefore, requests that the General Manager and Diocesan Council undertake a review process to ensure that parishes have the capacity to access policy support in a timely fashion, with such a review being informed by a survey of parish leadership (paragraph 5);
5. recommends that Diocesan Council establishes a small task force comprising of clergy and lay leaders to create a survey to hear from parishes about:
  - a) What clergy and lay leaders perceive to be the strengths and weaknesses of current diocesan policy infrastructure,
  - b) Suggestions for improvement,
  - c) Examples of situations where parishes have needed policy support that has not been forthcoming, and
  - d) Any policies parishes have developed in-house that could be shared across the Diocese;
6. requests that this task force report findings to Diocesan Council and to 2024 Synod.

*Carried*

### **Settlement support package**

Kim Kimber moved, Peta Tierney seconding:

That this Synod requests Diocesan Council to appoint a Working Group (in consultation with the FDSC) to be tasked with the exploration of how best to recruit, select and onboard clergy sourced internationally. Support also needs to be extended to the family of the clergy person.

*Carried*

### **Review process for the discernment of Clergy**

Kim Kimber moved, Peta Tierney seconding:

That the Diocesan Council be requested to undertake a review of the process for the discernment of clergy for parishes including the role of the presentation board and parish nominators and report during the life of the next Synod.

*Carried*

### **The crisis of homelessness**

The Ven Bronwyn Pagram moved, The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt seconding:

In Matthew 25, Jesus calls his followers to share hospitality particularly with those who are most vulnerable. This motion is focused on the homelessness crisis in this country and in our Diocese. That this Synod:

1. commends those Parishes, Schools, Anglicare, and other diocesan agencies actively contributing to human flourishing by advocating for affordable housing, providing affordable housing or homelessness services, and caring for people experiencing homelessness in various contexts; and
2. recognises that there is a homelessness and housing crisis across the nation, particularly in Queensland where homelessness has increased by 22%, almost three times the national increase, in the last twelve months and that it is a complex issue which requires collaboration across government, community, faith, and corporate sectors to address; and
3. notes that the Queensland Government undertook to deliver a range of social and affordable housing programs and encourages the Government to complete current undertakings promptly; and
4. requests the Social Responsibility Committee through Diocesan Council to engage across the Diocese in a collaborative process to evaluate what resources this Diocese may be in a position to offer towards further tangible alleviation of homelessness – directly or in partnership with other stakeholders; and
5. requests the SRC to report findings to Synod in 2024.

*Carried*

### **Uganda**

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moved, The Rev'd Deborah Bird seconding:

That this Synod:

1. Noting that:
  - a) the Anglican Church in Uganda actively supported the passing of the Homosexuality Act which legislates for penalties that include life imprisonment and death<sup>1</sup>;
  - b) the Archbishop of Canterbury, in a statement issued on 9th June 2023<sup>2</sup>:
    - i. reaffirmed the Anglican Communion's Commitment to honouring the dignity of every human,
    - ii. stated that the criminalisation of homosexuality is not consistent with honouring that dignity,

- iii. called on the Anglican Church in Uganda ‘to reconsider their support for [the] legislation and reject the criminalisation of LGBTQ people’,
  - iv. called on ‘the leadership of GAFCON and Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches (GSFA), to make explicitly and publicly clear that the criminalisation of LGBTQ people is something that no Anglican province can support’;
  - c) in 2022 The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia issued an apology to LGBTIQ+ people for past treatment of them, and
  - d) this Synod, at its session in 2022, initiated a process to prepare its own apology to LGBTIQ+ people;
2. affirms and echoes The Archbishop of Canterbury’s Statement of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and the calls to the church in Uganda, GAFCON and GSFA it contains;
  3. calls on the Primate of The Anglican Church of Australia, The Bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia, and Diocesan Synods to publicly affirm their support for the Archbishop of Canterbury and to publicly affirm and echo his statement of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023;
  4. requests the Bishop Administrator to convey the text of this motion to the Primate of The Anglican Church of Australia, The Bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia, and Diocesan Registrars.

Notes

<sup>1</sup> <https://churchofuganda.org/blog/2023/05/29/church-of-uganda-grateful-for-anti-homosexuality-act-2023/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statements/archbishop-canterburys-statement-church-uganda>

*Carried*

## 8. Motion of Thanks

By leave of Synod, The Right Rev’d Jeremy Greaves moved, The Right Rev’d John Roundhill seconding:

That the thanks of Synod be accorded to those involved directly in the Synod processes:

- The Bishop Administrator as President of Synod and for his address;
- the General Manager;
- the Chair of Committees;
- the Chancellor and Mr Dan O’Connor, Chair of the Legal Committee, who has stepped in in the absence of the Deputy Chancellor;
- the Chaplain to Synod;
- the Clerical and Lay Secretaries of Synod;
- the Minutes Committee; and
- the Timekeeper;

And those whose work supports, enables and enriches the Synod event:

- the Dean and the Cathedral team for the inspiring worship and wonderful hospitality on Friday evening;
- the Headmaster Dr Alan Campbell, and staff of the Anglican Church Grammar School for the use of facilities of the School, in particular Mr Brian Bowen and Ms Casey Glazebrook;
- Annabel McKenzie and Chartwells Catering for the Boarding House catering, our lunches, and the tea and coffee;
- the audio-visual student volunteers who give up their school holidays to help;
- the support staff from Blue Apache;
- all of the Diocesan staff who have made themselves available during Synod and for their work in the preparations for Synod;

- the medical and First Aid volunteers,
- the volunteers and staff from Anglican Agencies for the Synod Stalls; and
- the Synod Helper volunteers who assisted with the sign in procedure.

*Carried with acclamation*

## **9. Adjournment**

The President led a sung blessing for the Synod and adjourned the Synod *sine die* at 5.38pm.

## **10. Attendance**

Clergy: 117

Lay: 211