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**FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD SYNOD****6 October 2021****The Synod assembled in The Nex at 8.30am**

- 1. OPENING PRAYERS** were led by Bishop Charlie Murry and Bishop Sonia Roulston
- 2. ROLL OF BISHOP, CLERGY AND LAY REPRESENTATIVES**

Bishop, Clergy and Lay Representatives notified attendance

**A Leave of Absence was granted to following members of Synod****Clergy Leave of Absence:**BALDWIN, The Reverend Nicole  
CONNOR, The Reverend DanGILBERT, The Reverend John  
HAZEL-JAWHARY, The Reverend Michelle  
INMAN, The Reverend Peter  
LEWIS-QUINN, The Reverend Robin  
QUINN, The Reverend Helen  
SHORTEN, The Reverend Matt  
SHRUBB, The Reverend Stephen  
VITTALI-ROSS, The Reverend Lissy  
WARES, The Reverend Kevin  
WOODEN, The Reverend Alison  
ZOHRAB, The Reverend (pm)Branxton Greta Lochinva  
Senior State Chaplain, NSW Police  
Force  
Singleton  
Singleton  
St Alban's  
Cessnock  
Foster Tuncurry  
Chaplain, Lakes Grammar  
Stockton  
Nelson Bay  
Director of Formation  
Swansea  
Chaplain at the John Hunter Hospital**Laity Leave of Absence**ELLIOTT, Mrs Kay  
FOX, Mr Darrell  
FRANCES, Ms Maureen  
HOWARD, Ms June  
JENKINS, Ms Margaret  
SOMMER, Mr BarryWyoming  
Belmont North Redhead  
Williamtown, Mallabula, Medowie  
Swansea  
Denman  
Kincumber**Bishops Appointments Leave of Absence****Statutory Appointments Leave of Absence**

HANNAH, Mr Michael

Principal – Lakes Grammar An  
Anglican School**Apologies from invited members**MCEWAN, Mrs Lyn  
THOMAS, Mrs EricaNAC Board Member  
NGS**Members of the Diocesan Office staff were in attendance to assist the smooth running of the Synod.**

**3. THE PRESIDENT DECLARED SYNOD CONSTITUTED**

**4. The following items laid upon the table by the President**

**4.1 Reports**

- Diocesan Council
- Diocesan Ministry Council (including Formation and Mission Giving)
- Newcastle Anglican Church Corporation
- Anglican Care
- Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation
- Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College
- Lakes Grammar - An Anglican School
- Manning Valley Anglican College
- Scone Grammar School
- Samaritans Foundation
- Anglican Care Accounts as at 30 June 2019
- Anglican Savings & Development Fund Accounts as at 31 December 2019
- General Fund and Budget Accounts as at 31 December 2019
- Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation Accounts as at 31 December 2019
- Newcastle Anglican Schools Consolidated Accounts as at 31 December 2019
- Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College Accounts as at 31 December 2019
- Lakes Grammar - An Anglican School Accounts as at 31 December 2019
- Manning Valley Anglican College Accounts as at 31 December 2019
- Scone Grammar School Accounts as at 31 December 2019
- Samaritans Foundation Consolidated Accounts as at 30 June 2019
- Trustees of Church Property Accounts as at 31 December 2019
- Christ Church Cathedral Board
- Christ Church Cathedral Financial Reports as at 31 December 2019
- Cessnock Correctional Centre Chaplaincy
- Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre
- John Hunter Hospital Chaplaincy
- Mission to Seafarers Newcastle
- University Chaplaincy – Callaghan Campus
- Anglican Cursillo Movement
- Anglican Men's Society
- Anglican Women of Australia - Diocese of Newcastle
- Mothers' Union of Australia - Diocese of Newcastle

**4.2 Ordinances passed by Diocesan Council:**

- Birmingham Gardens Land Sale Ordinance 2018
- Woodrising Land Sale Ordinance 2018
- New Lambton (Fleet Street) Land Sale Ordinance 2018
- St Margaret's Jesmond Land Sale Ordinance 2018
- Diocesan Support for Redress Ordinance 2018
- Newcastle Anglican Church Redress Corporation Guarantee Ordinance 2018
- St Mark's Church Comboyne Land Sale Ordinance 2018
- Central Mangrove Vacant Land Land Sale Ordinance 2018

- St David's Teralba Land Sale Ordinance 2018
- St Luke's Village Scone Leasing Ordinance 2018
- The Administration of Places of Burial Ordinance 2019
- Point Clare Land Sale Ordinance
- Lockstock Land Sale Ordinance
- Newcastle Anglican Church Redress Corporation Appointment and Authorisation Ordinance 2019
- Newcastle Anglican Church Corporation Ordinance Amendment Ordinance 2019
- The Samaritans Housing and NSW Land and Housing Corporation (Edgeworth Housing) Transfer Ordinance 2019
- Newcastle Grammar School Lease Consolidation Ordinance 2019
- St Andrew's Seaham Land Sale Ordinance 2019
- Weston Rectory Land Sale Ordinance 2019
- Catherine Hill Bay Land Sale Ordinance 2019
- Charlestown (St Alban's) Land Sale Ordinance 2019
- Croudace Bay Land Sale Ordinance 2019
- The New Lambton (Fleet Street) Land Sale Indemnity Ordinance 2019
- Singleton (Gibson Close) Variation of Land Sale Ordinance 2019
- Singleton (High St) Variation of Land Sale Ordinance 2019
- St John's Dyers Crossing Land Sale Ordinance 2019
- Glen William Land Sale and Boundary Adjustment Ordinance 2019
- Samaritans Housing and NSW Land and Housing Corporation (Edgeworth Housing) Transfer Ordinance Amendment Ordinance 2019
- St Johns Stratford Landsale Ordinance 2019
- St Marks Laguna Land Sale Ordinance 2019
- St Lukes Coopernook Land Sale Ordinance 2019
- St James Jerrys Plains Land Sale Ordinance 2019
- Gundy Leasing and Land Sale Ordinance 2019
- The Closure of All Saints Close Retirement Village Trusts Ordinance 2019
- Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation Ordinance Amendment Ordinance 2019
- Quint and O'Neill Bequests Variation of Trusts for the Parish of Woy Woy Ordinance 2019
- Professional Standards Ordinance (Change of Definition of Church Worker) Ordinance 2019

**Carried**

## **5. ADDRESS TO THE SYNOD**

- 5.1.** The Presidential Address was delivered by the Bishop of Newcastle, Dr Peter Stuart.

*The Presidential Address was received.*

**Carried**

**6. MOTION OFFICERS OF SYNOD**

**6.1. Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moved:**

*"That the Reverend Scott Dully be elected Clerical Secretary and Ms Wendy Love be elected Lay Secretary of the Fifty Third Synod."*

**Seconded: Dean Katherine Bowyer**

**Carried**

**6.2. Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moved:**

*The Synod deferred consideration of the motion*

*"That a Chair of Committees and a Deputy Chair of Committees be appointed for the Fifty Third Synod."*

**Seconded: Dean Katherine Bowyer**

**Item Deferred**

**6.3. Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moved:**

*"That this Synod appoints Mr Darren Smith (Head of ICT Operations) as the Returning Officer for the Fifty Third Synod."*

**Seconded: Dean Katherine Bowyer**

**Carried**

**7. ELECTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

**7.1. Bishop Charlie Murry moved:**

*"That the Chancellor, Archdeacon Arthur Copeman and Dean Katherine Bowyer be the people appointed to the Committee of Elections and Qualifications of the Fifty Third Synod."*

**Seconded: Bishop Sonia Roulston**

**Carried**

**8. FURTHER MOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF A PROCEDURAL NATURE AFFECTING THE FUNCTIONING OF SYNOD**

**8.1. Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moved the amended motion:**

*"That so much of Standing Orders be suspended so as to allow Synod Elections for appointments to councils, boards, committees, panels and canonry positions to be conducted electronically via Vero Voting, and as such that a scrutineer will not be required"*

**Seconded: Dean Katherine Bowyer**

**Carried**

**8.2. Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moved the amended motion:**

*"That this Synod appoints the Reverend Andrew Eaton and Ms Sue Williams to the Synod Minute Reading Committee of the Fifty Third Synod."*

**Seconded: Dean Katherine Bowyer**

**Carried**

**9. Questions of which previous notice had been given were answered**

**9.1 Question**

**Mr Robert Scott (Raymond Terrace) asked**

Could the Synod please be provided with the list of Churches and/or Church Properties that have been sold since January 2019 up until the present, along with the selling prices of same?

**Answer**

The reporting period for this session of Synod covers the period to 31 December 2019.

Information about the 15 properties sold for \$7,206,000 is detailed on page 37 of the Synod papers.

The report for the period to 31 December 2020 will be presented to the next session of the Synod.

**9.2 Question**

**Mr Robert Scott (Raymond Terrace) asked**

Could the Synod please be provided with specific details of the distribution/allocation of proceeds of these sales?

**Answer**

The report on page 37 of the Synod papers provides the strategic overview of the distribution of the proceeds of sale of properties.

The land sale ordinances on the Diocesan website outline the distribution of the sale proceeds where that was known at the time of sale.

**9.3 Question**

**Mr Robert Scott (Raymond Terrace) asked**

Could the Synod please be provided with a list of what Churches and/or Church Properties are “ear marked” for possible sale during the next three years along with the expected selling price of each of these properties.

**Answer**

The land sale ordinance section of the Diocesan website indicates the properties for which the approval for sale has been given by the Diocesan Council.

To identify other properties would be purely speculative as matters relating to their future use and/or possible sale have not been finalised through processes involving the key stakeholders of the parish, Newcastle Anglican Corporation Board, Diocesan Council and the Bishop.

The practice of the Newcastle Anglican Corporation Board is to secure the best price for properties but anticipated prices for property sales must remain commercial in confidence.

**9.4 Question**

**Mr Robert Scott (Raymond Terrace) asked**

Could the Synod please be provided with details as to whether the Newcastle Anglican Diocese, at any time, received and distributed Federal Government National Redress Scheme funds to compensate survivors of child sexual abuse harmed within the Diocese? If so, to how many survivors and what is the total amount?

**Answer**

The question is based on an erroneous assumption. The National Redress Scheme charges each registered institution for the redress paid by the scheme on behalf of the institution. The National Redress Scheme is founded on the basis that each institution, like the Diocese, will take responsibility for harm caused in their midst.

**9.5 Question**

**Mr Robert Scott (Raymond Terrace) asked**

Could the Synod please be provided with details of how many survivors of child sexual abuse, harmed within the Newcastle Anglican Diocese, were awarded compensation pay-outs following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse? What is the total amount of the compensation paid to these victims from the Newcastle Anglican Diocesan funds alone?

**Answer**

All redress payments are funded by the Diocese. Since 2007 the Diocese has paid or made provision for redress payments totalling \$18.7 million. For key confidentiality reasons, the Diocese does not make public details of the number of claimants, the range of payment and average payments.

**9.6 Question**

**Mr Robert Scott (Raymond Terrace) asked**

Could the Synod please be provided with details as to how much the Diocese has outlaid in legal fees and advice in relation to the settlements or otherwise of claims by victims of child sexual abuse within the Diocese of Newcastle, since the completion of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse.

**Answer**

I advise that in 2019 the legal fees paid by the Diocese in relation to matters under the auspices of the Redress Corporation was \$113,701. The next session of the Synod will receive audited reports of the Redress Corporation which are explicit about legal fees.

**9.7 Question**

**The Reverend Greg Colby (Belmont North Redhead) asked**

On April 2, 2008 the two Catholic Diocese which intersect with our Anglican Diocese, covenanted with us in the spirit of what unites us. There were many commitments entered into as part of the "tri-Diocesan Covenant" one of which was an annual joint clergy day for the clergy of the three Diocese to come together to reflect on pastoral, social or theological issues which we faced together. Has this event ever occurred? If not, why not? Are there any plans to ensure this part of the covenant is seen as being as important to achieve as the Episcopal dialogues which occur each year.

**Answer**

The annual joint clergy day was held for many years in a variety of formats. An Ecumenical Working Party negotiated a revised covenant which was put on hold prior to Bishop Peter Comensoli being translated to the Archiepiscopal See of Melbourne. There was then a delay in progressing this revision until his successor was appointed and then a further delay because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was evident in those discussions that there is not equal affection for the joint clergy days and a strong desire for greater local ecumenism.

**9.8 Question**

**The Reverend Greg Colby (Belmont North Redhead) asked**

In 2019 Synod embraced the Statement of the Heart as a basis of relationship between our parishes and the First Nations upon whose land we meet. Synod committed to the establishment of a R.A.P committee who would begin developing a first level, what is now called a Reflect RAP, to bring to this session of Synod. A RAP as a strategic document supporting our diocesan business plan needs to include practical actions that will drive the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle's contribution to reconciliation both internally and in the communities in which we operate. Has work begun on this? If not, why not? Will work start on this soon? If not, why not?

**Answer**

Progress on a Diocesan Reconciliation Action Plan based on meaningful engagement with aboriginal people was severely impacted by COVID-19. It is a critical part of the Better Together process aimed at bringing the arms of the Diocese together. It is regarded as vital work by the Diocesan Council and Newcastle Anglican Corporation Board. The timing is impacted by ensuring that key areas of the Diocese are structured for meaningful dialogue. I am encouraged to say that an important piece of conversation with the Wonnarua people will recommence at the end of this month.

**10. Notices of Questions to be given**

The President gave leave for the following questions to be asked which the President then answered during the course of the Synod.

**10.1 Question**

**Fossil Fuels - Dr Di Rayson (Wingham) asked**

Could the Bishop update Synod on any outstanding Diocesan investments in fossil fuel industries and especially any that are operational in the Hunter Valley?

Could the Bishop indicate what circumstances might have changed since the motion of General Synod in 2015 urging divestment from fossil fuels, in particular the increasing risk associated with holding fossil fuel investments and the emerging opportunities in sustainable energy sources, that might prompt the Diocese to develop plans for divestment from these companies?

Could the Bishop please speak to the pastoral concerns for communities needing to transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy industries?

**Answer**

I advise that our investments are managed by independent investment advisors within a policy set by the Board of the Newcastle Anglican Corporation. The policy provides for ethical screening but at this time does not screen out investments in companies involved in fossil fuel industries. The basis of that decision was the number of employed or engaged in fossil fuel industries in Newcastle and the desire of the Diocese to see a just transition from fossil fuel industries in this region to ensure the care for its citizens.

The mechanism for screening is not activated by region but by industry and occasionally by individual company. The Board of the Newcastle Anglican Corporation divested itself of shares in Rio Tinto following its destruction of Juukan Gorge.

Decisions of the General Synod are not binding on a Diocese. Relevant decision makers heard the views of the General Synod and resolved differently taking into account local considerations.

There is substantial evidence identifying the impact of the use of fossil fuels on our ecosystem and clear indication of alternatives which are beneficial to the planet and its people. The experience of the closure BHP in Newcastle is that communities take time to integrate and respond to industry changes. The experience is that with good planning communities adapt and adapt well. The worst outcome would be for government to fail to plan appropriately with the result that changing geopolitics forces rapid change which does not take into account the needs of people transitioning in their employment.

The Board of the Newcastle Anglican Corporation will be advised of the question.

**10.2 Question**

**Tree Planting Program - The Reverend Andrew Eaton (Wallsend) asked**

Can the Bishop inform the Synod if the House of Bishops is aware that the Anglican Church of Burundi planted 12 million trees in ten years to combat climate change, deforestation and desertification?

Could the Diocese explore a tree planting program across our diocese which aims to plant five trees in five years for every person who identifies as Anglican, which would amount to around 1 million trees?

**Answer**

I am only aware of the work of the Anglican Church of Burundi through our own Environment Commission. It is stunning work. I have learnt that the Anglicans were affirmed for their aim to plant one tree to represent each of the 10 million members of the population over five years and that they were supported by the Episcopal Church of the United States which set up nurseries throughout the country.

It is not a matter which is on the agenda of the House of Bishops. I will seek to communicate this program to the Primate.

In 2016, over 240,000 people identified as Anglican in the census. We know that this number will have declined in the next census. I am intrigued by the idea of asking every person who calls themselves an Anglican to plant a tree a year for five years. That would be 1.2 million trees. I wonder if the Environment Commission could come up with a plan.



**10.3 Question**

**Indue - The Reverend Bryce Amner (Georgetown) asked**

Indue is a company which on behalf of the Federal Government manages the Cashless Welfare card, which is predominantly deployed in Aboriginal communities. The purpose of the cashless welfare card is to prevent welfare recipients from spending their income on alcohol or tobacco. The effect on beneficiaries has been described as financial abuse – similar to what might be experienced in an abusive domestic relationship.

As Indue seems to have a role in online giving to parish ASDF accounts, what is the relationship between ASDF and Indue?

If a parish or other entity did not wish to support Indue, what processes are there to enable this to occur?

**Answer**

The question makes some statements which technically are out of order and would be best tested in the Synod by way of motion. It would not be lost on Synod that there are concerns expressed about the debit card process put in place by the Commonwealth Government.

It would be wise for us to be cautious about any assumptions about the contractual requirements of the Commonwealth Government on Indue (and other service providers).

The ASDF contracts with Anglican Funds SA for software and banking products. Anglican Funds South Australia contract some of this work to Indue. There is no direct relationship between the Diocese and Indue.

Parishes are obliged to use the ASDF.

The Board of the NAC as the Board of the ASDF monitors social issues closely, for example security investments for pay day lending and like products. The NAC Board will be advised of this question.

**10.4 Question**

**Small Trust Funds - Mr Stuart Southwell (All Saints ANeW) asked**

Is there a significant administrative burden in time or money to running so many small trust funds? If so what might be done to address this?

**Answer**

There is a burden in managing small trusts. The Diocesan Council has passed all the ordinances to enable change.

Diocesan staff established the framework for parish trust consolidation which involves some parish-based consultation. I have directed that Diocesan Trusts be consolidated at the same time. The timing and effective implementation is affected by workload. Realistically this is proposed for 2022 or later.

**10.5 Question****Diocesan Office - Ms Judy Hall (Forster Tuncurry) asked**

With the easing of COVID Restrictions and the Diocesan commitment to the statements made under supporting clergy, staff and volunteers is it possible to have Diocesan Office staff answer the phone rather than the current system of having Anglican Care staff answer and then get someone to call back? (Because parish offices are mainly staffed by volunteers the response time is not always when the volunteer in the Parish Office).

**Answer**

The reality is that we now have greater access to diverse skills by creating cross-agency teams including the Diocesan Office Team. The staff member specializing in the service response is not always able to respond immediately. Continued work is being done on call receipt and allocation as our systems continue to evolve.

The Parish Hub is being developed and slowly released which may increase some access to information. We are focused on the customer service experience - with our parish volunteers being customers of the support and resources. An 8am to -6pm availability isn't workable but we can work to manage what might be helpful.

**10.6 Question****Professional Standards - Ms Jane King (Stroud) asked**

Professional Standards Board - The report in the Supplementary Business Papers suggests under-staffing in this important Board.

How much longer is Michael Elliott going to be on sick leave? He was on sick leave according to my memory in 2019 and how much is this costing the Diocese?

**Answer**

At times our professional standards and safe ministry resources are stretched and supplemented by casual staff and contractors. An inference of under-staffing is incorrect. There is a large workload which is prioritized. Ms Cathy Rose became the Director Professional Standards last year.

The Diocese does not comment on individual sick leave arrangements and related funding.

We have previously acknowledged the affirmations of Mr Elliott and his work.

**11. Late Notices of Motion to be given**

The President gave leave to Mrs Lyn Wickham, Bishop Charlie Murry, Dean Katherine Bowyer, Mr John Weedon, the Reverend Michael Marklew and Dr Di Rayson to give late notices of motion.

**Carried**

**12. General Motions for which notices has been given**

The Synod considered a motion for which notice had been given by Archdeacon Arthur Copeman and Dean Katherine Bowyer.

In the course of debate, amendments to the motion were received from the Reverend Nathan Killick and the Reverend Canon Andrew Eaton in relation to clause 6.

At the request of the President, the mover and seconder of the original motion met with the movers of the amendment during an adjournment in the debate.

Leave was given for the withdrawal of the previous amendments and a revised amendment was put to the Synod and passed.

**Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moved:**

**Being a church engaged in mission in which there are significant and conscientiously held differences of opinion on ethical matters including the blessing of same sex marriages.**

**12.1** *That this Synod:*

1. *Understands that, following the Opinion of the Appellate Tribunal in November 2020, Clergy within the Diocese of Newcastle may undertake the blessing of two people who have been previously married in a same sex marriage, where that blessing is undertaken in a reverent and edifying manner.*
2. *Notes that the Opinion of the Appellate Tribunal was formed in response to the referral by the Primate to the Tribunal of two Ordinances which were intended to permit the blessing of same sex marriages, passed in principle by this Synod in 2019.*
3. *Acknowledges that there are those in the Diocese for whom the fact that Clergy may still not celebrate same sex marriages is a source of ongoing grief.*
4. *Acknowledges that there are also those in the Diocese who grieve the decision to permit the blessing of same sex marriages.*
5. *Recognises that as a result of this diversity within a comprehensive Diocese, there will need to be ongoing work across the Diocese focused on how we continue to undertake Christ's mission together.*
6. *Calls on the Bishop of Newcastle to convene intentional conversations that give laity and clergy across the Diocese the opportunity to be more fully informed about the range of understandings (Biblical, Theological, Pastoral and otherwise) on being a church engaged in mission in which there are significant and conscientiously held differences of opinion on ethical matters, and urges the Bishop to use his best endeavours to make those conversations a safe space for all involved, especially LGBTQI+ people.*
7. *Requests Diocesan Council to bring to the next session of this Synod a Regulation under the Canon Concerning Services (1992) with regard to the liturgical Blessing of civil marriages.*

**Seconded: Dean Katherine Bowyer**

**The Motion as amended was Carried**

### **13. Diocesan Ordinances**

Nil

**14. MOTIONS CONSIDERED FORMALLY BY THE SYNOD (REPORTS AND FINANCE)**

**14.1 Report from the Diocesan Council and Diocesan Ministry Council**

**Bishop Sonia Roulston moved:**

*"That the Report of the Diocesan Council and Diocesan Ministry Council be received."*

*Note: Professional Standards Report in Supplementary Paper is an attachment to the Diocesan Council Report*

**Seconded: Mr Phillip Weston**

**Carried Formally**

**14.2 Report from the Newcastle Anglican Church Corporation**

**Ms Coralie Nichols moved:**

*Note: Endowment Fund Schedule in Supplementary Paper is an attachment to the Diocesan Council Report*

*"That the Report of the Newcastle Anglican Corporation and the reports of:*

- *Anglican Care;*
- *Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation;*
- *Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College;*
- *Lakes Grammar - An Anglican School;*
- *Manning Valley Anglican College;*
- *Scone Grammar School;*
- *Samaritans Foundation;*

*and the Accounts of:*

- *General Fund and Budget Account as at 31 December 2019;*
- *Anglican Care as of 30 June 2019;*
- *Anglican Savings and Development Fund as at 31 December 2019;*
- *Trustees of Church Property as at 31 December 2019;*
- *Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation as at 31 December 2019;*
- *Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College as at 31 December 2019;*
- *Lakes Grammar - An Anglican School as at 31 December 2019;*
- *Manning Valley Anglican College as at 31 December 2019;*
- *Scone Grammar School as at 31 December 2019;*
- *Samaritans Foundation as at 30 June 2019*

*be received."*

**Seconded: Bishop Charlie Murry**

**Carried Formally**

**14.3 Christ Church Cathedral**

**Dean Katherine Bowyer moved:**

*"That the Report of the Christ Church Cathedral Board be received."*

**Seconded: Mr Phillip Weston**

**Carried Formally**

**14.4 Chaplaincies**

**The Reverend Di Langham moved:**

*"That Report of the Cessnock Correctional Centre Chaplaincy; the Report of the Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre Chaplaincy; the Report of the John Hunter Hospital Chaplaincy; the Report of the Mission to Seafarers Newcastle; and the Report of the University Chaplaincy – Callaghan Campus be received."*

**Seconded: The Reverend Roger Zohrab**

**Carried Formally**

**14.5 Anglican Organisations and Bodies**

**Bishop Sonia Roulston moved:**

*"That the Report of Anglican Cursillo Movement; the Report of Anglican Men's Society; the Report of Anglican Women of Australia - Diocese of Newcastle; and the Report of Mothers' Union Australia - Diocese of Newcastle be received."*

**Seconded: Mrs Lyn Wickham**

**Carried Formally**

**15. Consideration of late notices of motion**

**15.1 Assisted Dying Legislation**

**Mrs Lyn Wickham moved:**

*That this Synod requests the Bishop of Newcastle to ask the Faith and Order Commission to develop resources to assist conversations around the issues raised by Assisted Dying Legislation*

**Seconded: Ms Sue Cook**

**Carried**

**15.2 Financial Reports – Synod**

**Bishop Charlie Murry moved:**

*That this Synod:*

1. *Authorises the publication on the Diocesan Website of all financial reports normally printed for Synod on the basis that:*

- a. *The financial reports are published within 3 months of the organisational annual meeting or presentation to Diocesan Council (whichever is the sooner)*
- b. *Members of Synod are advised when the financial reports are published*
- c. *Synod members are provided with links to the financial reports as part of the Synod Business Paper*
- d. *The financial reports remain on the website for 3 years*

2. *Directs that the financial reports do not need to be printed in future Synod Business Papers and report books.*

**Seconded: Bishop Sonia Roulston**

**Carried**

**15.3 Palliative Care**

**Dean Katherine Bowyer moved:**

*That this Synod calls upon the New South Wales State Government and the Australian Federal Government to increase funding and support for Palliative Care, recognising the truth in the words of Archbishop Philip Aspinall in 2019:*

*"If good palliative care is available, the choice for the great majority of people is very different and many of their concerns and fears can be allayed".*

*We ask that this be communicated to Federal and State members of Parliament.*

**Seconded: The Reverend Barbara Bagley**

**Carried**

**15.4 Sustained Governance**

**Mr John Weedon moved:**

*That this Synod authorises the initiation of a sustained dialog with the Sydney Diocese to ensure that Newcastle/Hunter Valley parishes are provided with sustained governance should the Newcastle Diocese fail due to unsustainable financial decline.*

**Seconded: Mr Keith Griffith**

**Lost**

**15.5 Amendment to Administration of Parishes Ordinance 2010**

**The Reverend Michael Marklew moved:**

*That this Synod requests the Diocesan Council to amend the Administration of Parishes Ordinance 2010 to remove the following clause from point 53 that states:*

*"provided however that no parish may authorise expenditure in excess of \$2,500 without the prior approval of the Diocesan Chief Executive or her/his delegate with the exception of expenditure arising from invoices raised by the Diocesan Office, utilities expenses or expenses related to ensuring health and safety".*

**Seconded: Mr Harry Pallett**

**Lost**

**15.6 Retirement of School Principals - Mr Michael Hannah and Mrs Sandra Langford  
Bishop Charlie Murry moved:**

*That this Synod celebrates and honours the leadership and ministry of Mr Michael Hannah as Foundation Principal of Lakes Grammar an Anglican School.*

*That this Synod celebrates and honours the leadership and ministry of Mrs Sandra Langford as Principal of Manning Valley Anglican College.*

*As they approach retirement*

**Seconded: Mr Richard Turnbull**

**Carried**

**15.7 Sacred People Sacred Earth Global Interfaith Day of Action**

**Dr Di Rayson moved:**

*That parishes of the Diocese consider participating in the Sacred People Sacred Earth Global Interfaith Day of Action on 11 March 2021 at 11am by ringing their church bells as an action of sounding the alarm for the climate emergency.*

**Seconded: The Reverend Andrew Eaton**

**Carried**

**16. Motions of Thanks**

**16.1 Mrs Sue Williams moved:**

*This Synod gives thanks to the President, Bishop Peter Stuart for:*

- *His leadership of this Synod and this Diocese;*
- *His ongoing full commitment to ensuring the safety of this church and affirming that all are welcome; and*
- *His vision and energy in ensuring our church has the right foundations to ensure ongoing effective ministry in our parishes, schools and agencies.*

**Seconded: Mr Richard Turnbull**

**Carried**

**16.2 Mr Richard Turnbull moved:**

*This Synod expresses its thanks and appreciation to those who have contributed to the running and reporting of Synod.*

**Seconded: Mrs Sue Williams**

**Carried**

The President pronounced the Blessing at 2.40pm and the First Session of the Fifty Third Synod concluded.