

24 Apr 2008 DC Paper

It was resolved:

“That the Venerable D.S. Simpson and Mr. J.P. Cleary be authorised to sign the financial statements.”

2008.029 STORM RETIREMENT VILLAGE – Application for Permission to Borrow Monies

An application from the Village was tabled on pages 192-195 of the business papers.

The Village Board sought to borrow up to \$10M from an approved financial institution.

The purpose of the borrowing was to construct a new 75 bed facility on land owned by the church at Cundletown.

Mr. J.C. Price moved, seconded by The Venerable D.S. Simpson:

“That this matter be deferred for consideration and referred to the Trustees of Church Property for the Diocese of Newcastle.”

Carried

2008.030 BISHOP TYRRELL ANGLICAN COLLEGE – Application for Permission to Borrow Monies

An application from the School to borrow monies was tabled on pages 196-220 of the business papers.

The School sought to borrow \$750,000 as an overdraft facility for recurrent expenditure.

Mr. J.C. Price moved, seconded by The Venerable D.S. Simpson:

“That this matter be deferred for consideration and referred to the Trustees of Church Property for the Diocese of Newcastle.”

Carried

2008.031 GENERAL SYNOD CANONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY SYNOD

These Canons for consideration by the Diocesan Synod in October would be presented to the May meeting of Diocesan Council.

The Bishop indicated that it would be essential to select urgent Canons with the remainder being dealt with by subsequent Synods.

2008.032 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS MATTERS:

The Standing Committee of General Synod had recommended that each Diocese amends its Professional Standards Ordinance so as to ensure that it was consistent with the National Register Canon.

The General Synod Office had provided a copy of the Model Professional Standards Ordinance amended by the Standing Committee and this was tabled on pages 232-246 of the business papers.

The Professional Standards Ordinance as passed by the Synod of the Diocese of Newcastle was tabled on pages 222-231 of the business papers.

24 Apr 2008 DC Paper

The General Synod sitting in Canberra in October 2007 had also passed resolution 65/07 regarding a Professional Standards Commission and such resolution had requested dioceses to ensure that its web site contained certain information regarding its Professional Standards policies and procedures and included a link to the Professional Standards Information of the General Synod web site.

Such resolution also required dioceses to introduce a policy for the selection and accreditation of lay parish church workers who have the opportunity to be alone with a child in their ministry, the development of procedures for the disclosure of whether there is any and, if so, what information on the National Register for the appointment of persons to professional standards roles, election of a bishop and the election of persons by a Church authority and the requirement that a diocesan web site include a list of all licensed clergy of the diocese.

Correspondence from the General Synod Office detailed the resolution 65/07 and also specified further detail regarding the information to be included on the diocesan web site. This correspondence was tabled on pages 247-248 of the business papers.

The Bishop indicated that the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee of the Diocese would be asked to check through both ordinances and to draw to our attention any differences which may exist.

Mr. J.C. Price reminded the Council that the Synod last year established a committee to review the Professional Standards Ordinance and pointed out that that committee was having difficulty in dealing with its Terms of Reference in that information which it believed it should have, was unable to be provided.

Mr. Martin Rush expressed reservations about the Diocesan Professional Standards Ordinance and believed it should have review provisions included in its content.

The Bishop indicated that our own ordinance had deviated from the Model Professional Standards Ordinance. There was a need to have a standard ordinance across Australia, and our ordinance had not been amended subsequently. It was not in synchronisation with the ordinances applying to the rest of the Australian Church.

With regard to the review committee established by the last Synod, Mr. J. C. Price and the Reverend S.R. Williams, as members of that committee, expressed their frustration as to how they were to proceed given that the committee was not able to obtain the information it believed it required.

Mr. J.C. Price moved, seconded by The Reverend S.R. Williams:

“That the committee reviewing the Professional Standards Ordinance suspend its operation until the Diocesan Business Manager resolves the matter currently under discussion with the Chair of the Diocesan Professional Standards Committee. Secondly, that the ‘new Terms of

24 Apr 2008 DC Paper

Reference' be presented to Diocesan Council for adoption at its next meeting so that the reviewing committee can recommence its enquiries."

Carried

The Bishop encouraged Mr Martin Rush to make submissions regarding his concerns about the diocesan ordinance to the reviewing committee.

With respect to the General Synod resolution 65/07, detailed on page 247 of the business papers, the Diocesan Business Manager indicated that information on the web site was already available, was in the process of being provided, or required further discussion before such information could be provided.

2008.033 GENERAL SYNOD – Strategic issues for the life of the 14th General Synod

The General Synod Office indicated that the Standing Committee of General Synod, at its February meeting, had indicated that certain issues were identified as strategic priorities for the life of the 14th General Synod covering the triennium 2008 to 2010.

The strategic priorities were listed on pages 249 of the business papers as:

- 1) Fresh Expression (including Pioneer Ministry)
- 2) Governance of General Synod Commissions required for the good order of the Church
- 3) Drought/Climate Change/the Environment
(to be addressed by the Drought Task Force and Environment Working Group)
- 4) Commission a Report on the Context of Ministry Issues for the Anglican Church of Australia
- 5) Indigenous Ministry (including the development of a conference involving Anglicare Australia, ABMA, CMS, BCA, Church Army, NATSIAC)

The Standing Committee had particularly asked dioceses to note that strategic issue number 3 was especially drawn to dioceses' attention.

The Diocesan Council **noted** this advice.

2008.034 MORPETH – Capitalization of interest money received from the sale of St John's Centre of Ministry property

The Reverend Beatrice Pate had written to the Diocesan Business Manager indicating that she was of the view that the Council should discuss the question of capitalization of interest money from the sale of St John's Centre of Ministry site.

To enable that debate to occur, the Reverend B. Pate had submitted a resolution for consideration of the Council. The resolution read as follows:

'That this Diocesan Council requests the Diocesan Business Manager to apply an appropriate amount of capitalization to the interest from the sale