

Thursday, 27 June 2019



All Parish Councils and electors

Dear brothers and sisters,

54th Synod of the Diocese of Tasmania

Representatives from all over the Diocese met over two days at Launceston Grammar this June in the First Session of the 54th Synod of the Diocese of Tasmania. It was a very full program considering matters of importance in our shared life in the Diocese and in the wider Anglican Church and Anglican Communion.

Below are some of the highlights and key matters that we were able to consider

Diocesan Vision – progress report

Bishop Richard spent a large proportion of his Presidential Address looking at the progress being made across the Diocese on the Diocesan Vision. Progress on a number of measures has been tracked, including:

- Parishes with identified pathways to engage with people, share the good news of Jesus with them, establish them in the faith, and equip them for ministry,
- Parishes with ministries to young people and their families,
- Parishes with transformative public worship; and
- A culture of safety in our churches.

The Bishop noted that the trends are extremely encouraging – a steady *increase* in the number of parishes that have achieved or started work on key objectives in the Vision, and a *decrease* in the number of parishes that are yet to commence. You can read more on the Diocesan website: <https://anglicantas.org.au/presidential-address-2019/>

Anglican Communion – impaired relationships and new relationships

A sad fact of the worldwide Anglican Communion is that, over the last 20-30 years some parts of our denomination, especially in the West, have moved away from the scriptural moorings of the Anglican Church, and have revised their doctrine especially as it relates to the human person, marriage and sexuality. The actions in this area of some provinces in North and South America, Europe and now New Zealand, have brought about what the Primates' Councilⁱ called 'a tear in the fabric of our Communion'.

A church for Tasmania, making disciples of Jesus.

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Two motions were debated and passed by the Synod – the first lamenting the impaired relationships in our communion, brought about by the decisions to reject the authority of the bible on human sexuality and marriage, and to act against the 1998 resolution of the Lambeth Conference which re-endorsed this authority; and the second expressing a desire to be in communion with provinces which are holding faithfully to the authority of scripture.

Indigenous Reconciliation

One highly significant matter that we as a Diocese need to address is the matter of reconciliation with the indigenous peoples of Tasmania. The Bishop reminded us that, during our Lenten season of lament and repentance last year, we asked for forgiveness for our church's historic involvement in the treatment of the indigenous peoples of Tasmania. The Bishop stated that it is time we take a step from the sins of the past towards a reconciled future in our relationships with indigenous Tasmanians.

The Synod considered and passed a motion that we seek to walk with Tasmanian indigenous communities in reconciliation at all levels of the Tasmanian Anglican Church.

Parish Administration

The Synod spent a significant amount of time working through the detail of a series of new Ordinances relating to Parish Administration. These Ordinances will be published on the Diocesan website and will commence from 1 July 2019. The Ordinance just passed has re-ordered the previous Ordinance to make things easier to find but has not made material changes to the way parishes will operate. The Synod has referred further review of parish administration and governance to a working group to be established by the Bishop

Burial Grounds

One highly significant change in the way that parishes administer property relates to burial grounds. The Synod passed an ordinance to facilitate centralised administration and management of burial grounds. The introduction of this will be a staged process and will allow flexibility for parishes depending on their desire and capacity to continue to be involved in managing burial grounds in their area.

Elections of new members of boards and committees

This Synod, being the first session of the three-year Synod cycle, saw the election of a variety of people to positions on the boards and committees that do so much work for the Diocese throughout the year. A list of people elected to those positions is appended to this letter for your information and prayers.

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Further reading

If you are interested to read further about any of the work of the Synod, you can find the [full text of the motions](#) passed by the Synod on our website: anglicantas.org.au. The Bishop's [Presidential Address](#) is also available on the website.

The full text of Ordinances passed will be available on the website on the [Diocesan Administration page](#) in the coming few weeks.

Yours Faithfully,

James Oakley

Secretary of the Synod

The Primates' Council is a regular meeting of the heads ("Primate") of the different provinces (or national Anglican churches) that make up the Anglican Communion. The Primates Council is one of the four "Instruments of Communion" which help to maintain the Anglican Communion – the other three are the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference (a conference of all the Bishops in the Anglican Communion), and the Anglican Consultative Commission.

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APPENDIX 1

The following people are declared elected unopposed, there being fewer or equal numbers of candidates for positions, and there being no requirement to determine the order of preference of candidates for election:

Anglicare Board

- Mrs Joan Harvey
- Ven Stephen Carnaby

Diocesan Tribunal panel

Clergy members

- Ven John Tongue
- Revd Roger Hesketh
- Revd Joshua Skeat
- Ven Bill Stewart

Lay members

- Ms Noelene Wilson
- Mr David Peters
- Mr Peter Freak
- Mr Andrew Koerbin

Ministry Issues appeals panel

Clergy members

- Ven John Tongue
- Revd James Hornby
- Revd Roger Hesketh
- Revd Joshua Skeat

Lay members

- Mr David Peters
- Mr Andrew Koerbin
- Mr Michael Scanlan

Diocesan Nominators – Northern region

Clergy members

- Ven John Tongue
- Revd Joshua Skeat
- Revd Joel Nankervis

Lay members

- Mrs Rosemary Callingham
- Mrs Heather Eaton

APPENDIX 2

Anglicare Tasmania - ELECTED UNOPPOSED

To be elected by Synod

- Two members of Anglicare Inc who have signed the electoral roll in a parish of the Diocese of Tasmania

Bishop's Retirement and Election Committee

To be elected by Synod:

- Six members of the House of Clergy
- Six lay members of Synod

CLERGY MEMBERS	
RANK	CANDIDATE
1	Ven Stephen Carnaby
2	Ven Dane Courtney
3	Very Revd Richard Humphrey
4	Revd Pete Adlem
5	Revd James Hornby
6	Revd Joshua Skeat

LAY MEMBERS	
RANK	CANDIDATE
1	Audrey Mills
2	Peter Freak
3	Dr Richard Lord
4	Katrina Timms
5	Heather Eaton
6	Sandra Fagan

Diocesan Council

To be elected by Synod:

- Two members of the House of Clergy resident in the Northern Mission Region
- Two members of the House of Clergy resident in the Southern Mission Region
- Two members of the House of Laity resident in the Northern Mission Region
- Two members of the House of Laity resident in the Southern Mission Region

CLERGY MEMBERS - NORTH	
RANK	CANDIDATE
1	Ven Dane Courtney
2	Revd James Hornby

LAY MEMBERS - NORTH	
RANK	CANDIDATE
1	Mr Peter Freak
2	Mrs Noelene Wilson

CLERGY MEMBERS - SOUTH	
RANK	CANDIDATE
1	Ven Steven Carnaby
2	Ven Bill Stewart

LAY MEMBERS - SOUTH	
RANK	CANDIDATE
1	Mr David Peters
2	Mr Malcolm McGinn

Diocesan Tribunal Panel – ELECTED UNOPPOSED

To be elected by Synod:

- Four clerical members of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Tasmania
- Four lay members of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Tasmania. Note that these nominees do not need to be members of Synod.

General Synod Diocesan Representatives Selection Panel

To be elected by Synod:

- Six clergypersons resident within the Diocese of Tasmania
- Six lay persons resident within the Diocese of Tasmania

CLERGY MEMBERS	
RANK	CANDIDATE
1	Very Revd Richard Humphrey
2	Ven Stephen Carnaby
3	Ven Dane Courtney
4	Ven John Tongue
5	Revd Chris Bowditch
6	Revd Joshua Skeat

LAY MEMBERS	
RANK	CANDIDATE
1	Mr James Oakley
2	Audrey Mills
3	Dr Richard Lord
4	Mr David Peters
5	Mr Malcolm McGinn
6	Unfilled

Ministry Issues Appeal Panel – ELECTED UNOPPOSED

To be elected by Synod:

- Five clerical members of Synod
- Five lay members of Synod
- A panel Chair who is a communicant member of the Anglican Church and a legal practitioner of not less than seven years standing, not necessarily a member of Synod

Nomination Committee – Northern Mission Region – ELECTED UNOPPOSED

To be elected by Synod:

- Six beneficed* clerical members of Synod
- Six lay members of Synod

Nomination Committee – Southern Mission Region

To be elected by Synod

- Six beneficed* clerical members of Synod
- Six lay members of Synod

CLERGY MEMBERS	
RANK	CANDIDATE
1	Ven Stephen Savage
2	Revd Pete Adlem
3	Revd Chris Bowditch
4	Revd Joel Kettleton
5	Unfilled
6	Unfilled

LAY MEMBERS	
RANK	CANDIDATE
1	Mrs Sandra Fagan
2	Mr Andrew Koerbin
3	Mrs Debra McAdam
4	Mr Keith Scott
5	Mr Matthew J. Colwell
6	Unfilled