

General Synod — Provisional Canon for the Admission of
Children to Holy Communion 1981 Assenting Ordinance
1982

38
No. 38, 1982

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AN ORDINANCE to give assent to General Synod Provisional
Canon No. 14(P), 1981.

WHEREAS

- 5 A. A certain Provisional Canon entitled "Canon for the admission of
Children to Holy Communion" has been made by the General Synod of the
Anglican Church of Australia.
- B. A copy of the said Provisional Canon is contained in the Schedule
hereto.
- 10 C. Under the Book of Common Prayer those ready and desirous to be
confirmed are entitled to be admitted to the Holy Communion.
- D. It is the understanding of this Synod that the said Provisional Canon
does not significantly extend the class of persons who may be admitted to the
Holy Communion.
- 15 E. In the opinion of this Synod the class of persons who may be admitted to
the Holy Communion should not be extended to children who are not ready
to be confirmed as—
- (a) ~~children who think in concrete, literal categories and not abstract ones,
would not be able to hold a proper understanding of the sacrament, that
is, they would not be able to discern the difference between the sign and
the thing signified; and~~
- 20 (b) ~~the Book of Common Prayer envisages that those who participate in the
Lord's Supper will be those who have been instructed in the Christian
faith, and hold a sufficient understanding of the nature of the sacra-
ment.~~
- 25 F. It is expedient that assent be given to the said Provisional Canon.
- G. In the opinion of this Synod, if the Provisional Canon becomes a
Canon, the regulations made thereunder should require that:—
- 30 (a) adequate instruction shall include instruction as to the nature of the
Holy Communion, being instruction which is in accordance with the
canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and the teachings
of the Book of Common Prayer including the Articles of Religion,
sometimes called the Thirty-nine Articles, and the Catechism; and
- 35 (b) a person shall not sponsor a child unless the admission to the Holy
Communion of that child will be in the interests of that child and will
contribute to the quality of relationships and fellowship within the con-
gregation.

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NOW The Synod of the Diocese of Sydney HEREBY ORDAINS
DECLARES DIRECTS AND RULES as follows:—

- 40 1. Assent is hereby given to the said Provisional Canon.
2. This Ordinance may be cited as "General Synod — Provisional Canon
for the Admission of Children to Holy Communion 1981 Assenting
Ordinance 1982".

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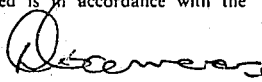
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SCHEDULE

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

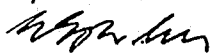
1. This canon may be cited as the "Canon for the admission of children to Holy Communion."
- 5 2. A baptised child not of an age to be confirmed in the diocese in which the child resides who is a member of this Church, but who has not been confirmed, is eligible to be admitted to the Holy Communion if the minister is satisfied that the child has been adequately instructed, gives evidence of appropriate understanding of the nature and meaning of the Holy Communion and has fulfilled the conditions of repentance and faith; and if the child, with the sponsorship of his or her parents or of other confirmed members of the congregation, seeks such admission while awaiting confirmation.
- 10 3. (1) The bishop of the diocese may make regulations, not inconsistent with ordinances (if any) made under sub-section (2), concerning the practice and procedure in relation to the admission of children to the Holy Communion under this canon.
- 15 (2) The synod of the diocese may, by ordinance, regulate the practice and procedure in relation to the admission of children to the Holy Communion under this canon.
- 20 4. This canon affects the order and good government of the Church within a diocese and shall not come into force in any diocese unless and until the diocese by ordinance adopts the canon.
- 25 5. The specified period for the purpose of the submission of assents, dissents, reports and recommendations to the President pursuant to paragraph (ii) of sub-section (3) of Section 28 of the Constitution is the period ending on the 30th day of September 1983.

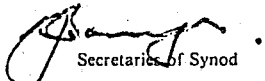
I CERTIFY that the Ordinance, as printed is in accordance with the Ordinance as reported.



Chairman of Committees

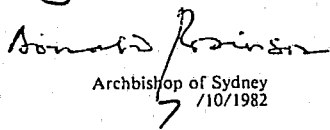
30 WE CERTIFY that this Ordinance was passed by the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney on this 7th day of October 1982.





Secretaries of Synod

I ASSENT to this Ordinance.


Archbishop of Sydney
7/10/1982

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