

Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney

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Circular to Ministers, Wardens and Parish Councils

I have recently sent to Synod members and others a summary of the proceedings of the recent session of Synod, including a copy of the text of the resolutions passed by the Synod this year.

There are, however, 3 resolutions which I believe warrant your particular consideration.

Could I ask you to raise each of these matters with your parish council.

13/09 Ordination candidates

The first resolution relates to ordination candidates and is in the following terms –

“Synod gives thanks and praise to God for the record number of Sydney Ordination Candidates exiting Moore College at the end of the year (48), as well as the record number of ministry positions so far offered for next year, although some of these positions will be taken by current assistant ministers seeking their second appointment. Quite a number of candidates and existing assistant ministers, approximately 20, are currently without ministry positions organised for 2010, and Synod therefore encourages Rectors and Parish Councils to consider creating new positions, and in particular positions for a number of very fine women who are to be deaconed, so that all our candidates are employed into the Diocesan Mission.”

You will note that Synod has drawn attention to the approximately 20 ordination candidates who are leaving Moore College this year but who do not currently have a ministry position organised for 2010. Could I ask you to consider whether you are able to respond to Synod's encouragement by creating a new position in your parish for an ordination candidate for 2010.

34/09 People affected by disability

The second resolution relates to people affected by disability. The resolution is in the following terms –

“Synod, mindful that meeting together in Christ, we learn of receiving our bodies as given by God; we continue to discover practices of love towards all people in their particular circumstances; we discern with them how to ‘carry each other's burdens’ (Gal. 6:2); and we each learn together how to ‘carry our own load’ (Gal 6:5), therefore –

- (a) recognises that for people with disabilities, their families and carers, daily life can be practically, financially, socially and emotionally more difficult than it is for most people,
- (b) notes that there are many obstacles for people with disabilities, their families and carers, which prevent them hearing the gospel and sharing in Christian fellowship, which we have not always considered,
- (c) requests that all parishes and organisations in the Sydney Diocese of the Anglican Church develop and implement a plan to remove those obstacles that currently prevent people affected by disability from hearing the gospel and

- sharing in Christian fellowship, and
- (d) requests Sydney Anglicans and the Diocese in particular to continue to advocate for Government policy that promotes the wellbeing and interests of people with disabilities and their families and carers.”

To assist in considering your response to the request in paragraph (c) of the resolution, I draw your attention to the following materials –

- Two briefings (#83 and #78) prepared by the Diocesan Social Issues Executive which can be found on their website www.sie.org.au, and
- Materials produced by the Christian Blind Mission (CBM) and in particular the “Luke 14” resources, which can be found on their website www.cbm.org.au.

45/09 Policy on consumption of alcohol in the parish context

The third resolution relates to the consumption of alcohol in the parish context. The terms of the resolution are as follows –

“Synod receives the report on the consumption of alcohol in the parish context and, recognising that drinks containing alcohol are a gift from God to be enjoyed in moderation but also recognising that alcohol abuse has caused significant damage in our community, requests that the minister and parish council of each parish –

- (a) study the information in the report, and
- (b) determine the parish’s own policy on the consumption of alcohol having regard to the Synod’s recommendation –

‘Except for –

- services of public worship where wine is provided as part of the Lord’s Supper,
- private activities in ministry residences, and
- activities undertaken pursuant to a commercial or residential lease of church trust property,

no alcohol should be consumed or made available in the context of any public ministry activity of the parish on church trust property or any private activity held on church trust property, without the approval of the parish council.”

A copy of the report referred to in the resolution can be found on the Secretariat’s website at www.sds.asn.au under For Synod & Standing Committee then Synod This Year, then Special Reports from the Standing Committee.

Yours sincerely



ROBERT WICKS
Diocesan Secretary