

Diocesan Liturgical Committee

(A report from a committee of the Standing Committee)

Terms of Reference and Membership

1. The members of the Committee are Miss R. Coleman, Canon R.C. Forsyth, Mrs L. Hicks, the Very Rev B.A. Jobbins (Chairman), Archdeacon P.F. Perini, the Rev D.G. Peterson, Mr K. Richards, the Rev V.W. Roberts, Archdeacon L.M. Stoddart, Mr N. Turner and the Rev E.M. Vaughan.
2. The Committee was appointed -
 - (a) to consider the types of liturgical forms needed for the variety of churches in this Diocese;
 - (b) to evaluate the draft services proposed by the General Synod Liturgical Commission for AAPB 2;
 - (c) to encourage or arrange the writing or revision of suitable forms of service for submission to the General Synod Liturgical Commission, and for their trial use in Sydney as may be approved by the Archbishop;
 - (d) to promote discussion on all the draft services and on the use of such services as may be approved by the Archbishop;
 - (e) to receive the responses of parishes on the services which are used;
 - (f) to make suggestions to the General Synod Liturgical Commission on forms of service which may be appropriate for the Diocese of Sydney; and
 - (g) to report to each session of the Sydney Synod between now and the adoption of a future prayer book, and to the Standing Committee when appropriate.

The Liturgical Commission of General Synod

3. The Committee has reviewed and, to the extent possible, trialed the various draft services issued by the Commission. It has made submissions on A Service for Marriage 1994, Funeral Services 1993, Baptism, The Holy Communion 1993, Morning and Evening Prayer 1994.
4. Throughout, relationships have been cordial and the Committee has been one way this diocese has contributed to liturgical revision in Australia. The published drafts have been revised in light of comments and recommendations: the revisions that the Committee has seen indicate that A Prayer Book for Australia will find broad acceptance and use throughout the church.
5. The Committee considers it has discharged its responsibilities under this head. It is advised that the text of APBA has been largely settled.

The Diocese of Sydney

6. In November 1993, Experimental Sunday Services was produced, of which ten thousand copies have sold. The purpose of ESS was twofold -
 - (a) to assert the value and importance of an agreed liturgy in our denominational life, encouraging those parishes which had discontinued using an agreed liturgy to consider reintroducing one; and
 - (b) to issue a series of forms of service providing flexibility and diversity which could be used, revised in the light of experience and offered to the General Synod as examples of services that were appropriate and had found acceptance in this diocese.
7. Anecdotal reports suggest that the provision of ESS has led to increased interest in and use of agreed liturgies in some parishes; they further suggest its publication was a catalyst for increased participation by Sydney Anglicans in the national process of liturgical revision.
8. More than one hundred surveys were returned: their responses to ESS were recorded and appropriate changes made. A revised ESS communion service was produced in light of the surveys, and submitted to the Commission. The Third Order of Holy Communion APBA is significantly influenced by that submission.
9. In light of the changes made to the drafts of APBA, the Committee does not propose issuing a revised E.S.S. However, ESS continues to be available; because APBA will not be available before the end of 1995, the Committee hopes that permission to use ESS will be extended at least until 31st December, 1995.
10. The Committee considers it has discharged its responsibilities under this head.

Training and Resources

11. APBA will allow a great deal of flexibility and diversity: to be used well, careful and skilled preparation will be necessary. The Committee believes that training and advice will be essential if APBA is to be well received and made the most of.

12. Further, there are many areas, such as church schools, hospitals, where resources for worship are presently scarce.

13. The Committee seeks leave to continue meeting in order to address the matters in 11 and 12 and to prepare a proposal for Standing Committee regarding them. If leave is not granted the Committee recommends that the Archbishop and his Leadership team, or perhaps the Standing Committee, give attention to the matters in 11 and 12.

For and on behalf of the Committee

BOAK JOBBINS

Chairman

14 July 1994