

Questions and Answers – Synod 2011

10 October 2011

1. 1.14% parish levy

The Rev Craig Roberts asked –

Is the Archbishop aware of –

- (a) Any ministries or ministry positions that have been curtailed as a result of the 1.14% levy placed on parishes in 2011?
- (b) What, if any, gospel good his assistant bishops have done in 2011?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) At its meeting on 15 November 2010 the Standing Committee requested all Parish Councils to report the impact, if any, of the 1.14% assessment levy on their 2011 budgets following their 2011 annual general meeting.

On 9 December 2010 the Diocesan Secretary sent an email to all parishes conveying the terms of the Standing Committee's request. A total of 12 responses were received.

Many of the responses noted the levy would place further pressure on parish finances. Three outlined particular ministries or positions that would need to be curtailed.

One parish commented that: "Other ministry priorities will need to be laid aside" but did not outline what those priorities were. One noted the parish council needed to rescind a previous resolution to provide two small scholarships for two ministry apprentices. Another parish noted, had its levy not been paid by an individual from another parish, it would have needed to make cuts to its Sunday School and Youth Ministry.

- (b) Part (b) of the question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(e) because it is expressed in language which, in my opinion, could be regarded as disrespectful. Doubtless this is unintentional.

10 October 2011

2. Surpluses held by Synod funded organisations

Mrs Susan Hooke asked –

How much money is held in the balance sheets of the entities (whether, Committees, councils, colleges or other organisations) in receipt of funds from Synod Appropriations in 2010 and 2011 described as surplus, accumulated surplus, accumulated funds or reserves, as at 31 December 2010?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

There were 16 entities that received Synod funds in 2010 and 2011. The significantly different nature of these entities creates a practical difficulty in answering this question –

- (a) Some organisations, such as the Work Outside the Diocese Committee and the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee, exist purely as an intermediary to determine an appropriate application of the Synod allocation for that purpose and disburse those funds to the work of particular ministries. They have no other sources of income and hold no assets apart from the Synod funds they receive.
- (b) Other organisations, such as the Regional Councils, may have other sources of income and/or may hold assets related to their function that have not been derived from funds they received from Synod. The amount of accumulated funds held by such organisations is therefore not an indication of their cash reserves.
- (c) For a third group of organisations, such as Moore Theological College and Youthworks, the funding they receive from Synod represents only a small portion of their total income and they also have substantial capital assets, such as land and buildings, used to in the pursuit of their objects or purposes. These organisations typically show substantial accumulated funds, but the majority of that is represented by fixed assets and is certainly not an indication of their cash reserves. Furthermore, what reserves they do hold may not have been derived from the Synod funding they have received.

Given these factors it would be misleading to provide a list of figures for each entity in receipt of Synod funds without an explanation as to what each of those figures represent having regard to the nature and operation of the organisation.

It is noted that Mrs Hooke moved an amendment to the motion concerning Funding Principles and Priorities, that was accepted by the movers, which requires a review of the reserves held by a body seeking funds from the Synod. The matter will therefore be considered in that context.

10 October 2011

3. St Andrew's House parking

Canon Warwick de Jersey asked –

The surrender of St Andrew's Cathedral property to allow the development of St Andrew's House to go ahead provided guaranteed parking. Will that be affected by the current restructuring?

To which the President replied –

This question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(a) because it contains several assertions concerning the parking arrangements.

10 October 2011

4. Availability of annual reports

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked –

Concerning access by Synod members to Diocesan organisations' Annual Reports –

- (a) Why do some diocesan organisations, required to report under the AAAR Ordinance, not make publicly available their annual reports, which include their full audited financial accounts, (eg, Moore College and Anglican Retirement Villages) while others do (eg, Anglicare)? (In this context, it is noted that the Annual Reviews, or so-called Annual Report from Moore College, do not constitute an “annual report” as commonly accepted by that term, due particularly to the lack of the audited accounts.)
- (b) Given all diocesan organisations have access to either their own website, or that run by SDS, why cannot all diocesan annual reports be published on the web providing free public access (as does Anglicare, for example)?
- (c) Why is Sydney Standing Committee insisting to General Synod that audited financial statements of bodies subject to its ultimate control should be published on General Synod's website “promptly after the signing of the relevant audited reports” (Standing Committee's Report, Attachment 3, page 84) but it continues to make accessibility of similar documents so difficult in Sydney, even to Sydney Synod members?
- (d) Will the governance review by the Chairman's Committee, as proposed at paragraph 3.2.7 in the Report of the Archbishop's Commission, or the current Governance Review Group, reconsider the current arrangements, whereby some diocesan organisations refuse to make their Annual Reports publicly accessible, particularly noting the established best practice for Australian corporations, as reflected in the Corporations Act 2001?

To which the President replied –

This question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(a), (b), (c) and (d) because it contains assertions, makes inferences, expresses an opinion and offers an argument.

10 October 2011

5. Surpluses and acquittal process

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked –

This question seeks a costed breakdown of certain Synod Appropriations and advice on surpluses and acquittal processes –

- (a) Could Synod please be provided with a costed breakdown for items in the funding lines for 2012 (actual column on pages 71 and 72 of the Document “Reports and Papers for the pre-Synod briefings and the Synod session”) – specifically for –
 - (i) policy 1(b) (Gospel Work Outside the Diocese); and
 - (ii) all items listed under policies 2 and 3.
- (b) Where such a breakdown cannot be provided, please explain on what basis the size of the allocations have been determined?
- (c) Are recipients of the monies for the line items specified in part (a) of this question allowed to keep as surplus any unspent funds from year to year? If so, please provide for each item a statement of expected surplus held by the recipients for 2011 and 2012.
- (d) What is the acquittal process in place for expenditure under Synod’s Appropriations and Allocations? Will a formal acquittal be sought for each of the above items and, if not for some items, how will Synod know –
 - (i) that the funds were spent for the purposes given and
 - (ii) how much surplus is being retained each year?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Policy 1b - Work Outside the Diocese: The Work Outside the Diocese Committee reports to the Standing Committee the detail of all allocations made from these funds as individual projects/payments are approved.

Regional Councils administrative support: The Mission Board will approve the allocation of this amount.

On-going support and assistance for Mission Areas: Bishop Ivan Lee will approve quarterly payments to each of the parishes to which a Mission Area leader is licensed.

Each of the other organisations listed will receive an allocation of the amount shown to be used for the purposes listed. No costed breakdown for the intended application of these funds is available.

- (b) The amount of each individual allocation has been recommended by the Mission Board Strategy Committee based on detailed work undertaken by each of the Policy Groups. These recommendations were then reviewed by the Mission Board before being incorporated in an ordinance passed by the Standing Committee.
- (c) With the exception of a few particular line items for which the funds are held in the Synod Fund until particular applications are approved by the Mission Board, each of the other line items are paid in full to the recipient organisation and then expended in the year in question or retained by that organisation for the purpose identified in the Ordinance. The line items for funds which may be retained in the Synod Fund are –

Policy 2 – Support for Mission Areas

Policy 3 – Training for Mission Areas

Policy 4 – Reform of structures

Administration – General Synod Assessments, Provincial Synod costs, Contingencies

- (d) There is no formal acquittal process for expenditure under the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance. However the use of funds is monitored by the Mission Board in strategic conversations with the organisations.

10 October 2011

6. Access to Standing Committee minutes

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked –

Relating to Synod members' access to Standing Committee minutes –

- (a) In what way is Standing Committee's need (identified in May this year) to access the minutes of the Mission Board different from Synod's need, as owner, for access to Standing Committee minutes?
- (b) Why is access by Synod members to Standing Committee minutes on an ongoing basis not now granted in view of –
 - (i) the example of adequate precautions regarding confidential matters having been made in Standing Committee's access to Mission Board minutes,
 - (ii) we now know that Perth Diocese has led the way with a policy granting such access in their diocese, also with relevant precautions (Policy dated 14 April 2011).

To which the President replied –

This question is out of order under business rules 6.3(4)(a) and (c) as it contains assertions and offers an argument.

10 October 2011

7. Diocesan Archives

The Rev Philip Griffin asked –

What percentage of parishes and provisional parishes store their archival material in the Diocesan Archives?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

A precise percentage cannot be obtained. The Sydney Diocesan Archives now holds the church and parish records of some 300 churches in the Diocese, mostly still open but some of which have closed. Churches continue to deposit their non-current records into the archives each year and many request the assistance of the archivist in preparing their records for deposit, many of them very large quantities. The records created by churches and parishes represent a substantial and steadily increasing section of the Sydney Diocesan Archives holdings.

10 October 2011

8. Resignation and appointment of Mission Area Leaders

The Rev Philip Griffin asked –

- (a) How many of the originally appointed Mission Area Leaders have now resigned?
- (b) Have any or all of them been replaced?
- (c) If any or all of them have not been replaced, when is it expected new appointments will be made?
- (d) Is there any consultation with those in the mission area before new appointments are made?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Of the twenty mission area leaders, two have resigned, one due to ill health, the other due to special parish commitments. Two others have moved out of their mission areas.
- (b) Two have been replaced.
- (c) Discussions are underway and appointments will be announced as soon as possible.
- (d) Yes.

10 October 2011

9. Partnership between Moore Theological College and Youthworks College

The Rev Philip Griffin asked –

In light of the diocesan finances –

- (a) Has Standing Committee and/or the relevant councils entered into any discussions regarding ways in which Moore Theological College and Youthworks College might partner with each other in order to reduce the costs associated with operating these two colleges?
- (b) If so, have any conclusions been drawn?
- (c) If no, why not?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The Standing Committee has not entered into any discussions. However the Policy 3 Committee of the Mission Board has discussed with Youthworks and Moore College whether it would be advantageous to establish a Diocesan Training Precinct at Newtown. Youthworks and Moore College have also themselves been in conversation about possible campus co-location for a number of years.
- (b) Consideration was given to housing Youthworks College and Ministry, Training and Development within Moore College as the departments of youth ministry and parish ministry respectively, however it was concluded that such a move would be unlikely to save significant expense and unlikely to be effective for ministry training.

Youthworks and Moore College have continued to discuss the possibility of sharing campus facilities. However, if there are any savings, they are unlikely to be of a magnitude that would significantly change the financial position of the Diocese overall.

Youthworks and Moore College continue to partner to improve their ministry effectiveness. This has led to –

- (i) Youthworks College graduates (with a credit average) being able to apply for entry to second year of Moore College,
 - (ii) Moore College first year students joining Youthworks College classes for foundational units in youth ministry
 - (iii) Youthworks College faculty being visiting lecturers at Moore College to teach degree units in youth ministry, and
 - (iv) Youthworks College faculty having membership of the Moore College library.
- (c) Not applicable.

10 October 2011

10. St Andrew's House retail assets

Dr Robert Mackay asked –

Further to the Final Report of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission on Structure, Funding and Governance and with reference to the Standing Committee report on the work of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission/Financial Sustainability of the Endowment of the See –

- (a) What is the known value/most recent valuation of the retail assets comprising the St Andrew's House Arcade?
- (b) What is the current yield of this asset group?
- (c) What percentage of the tenancies is church related?
- (d) What strategies are intended to enhance these retail spaces, the leases and yield return?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The latest valuation of St Andrew's House was completed on 31 December 2010. The commercial office tower, retail arcade and car park were valued as a single asset. However, the valuer, as a guide only, notionally apportioned a value of \$32 million to the retail arcade as at 31 December 2010.
- (b) The budgeted net operating income from the retail arcade for the year ending 31 December 2011 is \$1.7 million, which when applied to the notional value apportioned to the retail arcade of \$32 million as at 31 December 2010 provides a yield rate of 5.3%.
- (c) There are currently 3 church related tenancies in the arcade or about 8% of the total arcade tenancies. The 3 church related tenancies are Mothers' Union, Kidzlink and the St Andrew's Cathedral School Uniform Shop.
- (d) The strategies include –
 - (i) External management of the arcade: Colliers International was appointed as the property and leasing agent for the arcade in early 2010.
 - (ii) Review of the retail tenancy mix: An appropriate tenancy mix for the retail arcade has been developed and is being implemented to meet the needs of the core customer base.
 - (iii) Cost control: The appointment of Colliers provides the opportunity to benchmark and manage the costs of operating the arcade.

10 October 2011

11. Mission Area funding

The Rev David Clarke asked –

In response to the 2010-2012 Strategic Directions document, in 2009 the Synod agreed to allocate \$300,000 for Mission Area training “to work together in mission”. How much of this allocated funding has been spent so far, and can an itemised list of how it has been spent please be provided?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The amounts paid to date total \$6,799.

In many cases training has taken place where the presenter or site hire has been provided without charge, or participants have covered the costs themselves. It is anticipated that there will be further opportunities for training to be held in future years.

10 October 2011

12. Christian teachers

Miss Jennifer Flower asked –

As the Archbishop from time to time has emphasised how important he regards the employment and ministry of Christian teachers in our Government, Anglican and other Christian schools –

- (a) Does he know approximately how many of the current Christian teachers are likely to retire from the teaching profession in the next 3 years?
- (b) What steps is the Diocese or any other Christian organisation taking to ensure that there is a sizeable pool of applicants who are academically well qualified and strongly committed to Christ from which principals can appoint appropriate replacements?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) It is estimated that about 4,000 Christian teachers are likely to resign or retire from teaching in government, Anglican and other Christian schools in Sydney and the Illawarra over the next three to four years. Many of these will be Principals and very experienced teachers and Christian role models.
- (b) As far as we know, this is the only Anglican Diocese in Australia which is addressing this significant challenge. We have been doing so through the employment of Ian Keast by the Anglican Education Commission for the past seven years. No other Christian organisation has yet risen to this enormous challenge. To date, Mr Keast considers there are 500 Christians who have entered the teaching profession as new graduates or mid-life career changers who have been influenced to do so by his influence.

Anglican schools are encouraging between 10 and 20% of their graduating Christian students to become teachers. Our parishes can play an important role in promoting teaching as a worthy vocation and ministry.

10 October 2011

13. Parish donations

Canon Sandy Grant asked –

- (a) For each of the years 2008, 2009 and 2010, please advise the total amounts listed as Parish Donations for the following categories –
 - (i) To Christian organisations outside the parish from general parish funds (Item No 6-2310);
 - (ii) Passing on donations designated for organisations outside the parish (Item No 6-2320);
 - (iii) To another Parish from general parish funds (Item No 6-2330).
- (b) In addition, please express the combined donations from general funds (the combined totals under 6-2310 and 6-2330) as a percentage of Net Operating Receipts for each year?
- (c) Please also express designated donations passed on to outside organisations (Item No 6-2320) as a percentage of Offertories and Donations (Item No 4-1000) for each year?
- (d) Please also list the total amount being directed to the capital or working funds under the control of Synod or its committees, Regional Councils or other diocesan organisations such as Youthworks or SAIPMC, arising from the operation of parish property ordinances (principally from the large receipts provision) for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010.

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The answer to part (a) of the question will be given in tabular form. A copy will be given to the questioner and a copy will also be posted on the notice board in the foyer.

	2008	2009	2010
Amount received as donations designated for an organisation, body or society outside the control of the parish (Item No. 4-2100)	2,663,777	2,646,368	2,848,616
Amount paid to Christian organisations outside the parish from general parish funds (Item No. 6-2310).	3,325,751	3,349,313	3,403,722
Amount paid to other parishes from general parish funds (Item No. 6-2330).	110,919	94,816	100,761

- (b) 2008: 4.56%
2009: 4.38%
2010: 4.23%
- (c) 2008: 4.34%
2009: 4.05%
2010: 4.14%.
- (d) It is not possible to answer this question. It is not known which entities received funds from the operation of parish property ordinances in those years, let alone the amounts received and the purposes for which those funds could be applied. In some cases the ordinance authorising the distribution would have been passed some years ago by the Standing Committee and may not have come up for review in recent times. Further, some distributions, particularly those arising from lease income, would be made by the relevant parish directly to the entity.

10 October 2011

14. New Churches and Oran Park town

Archdeacon Deryck Howell asked –

Noting the purposes of ‘New Fellowships’ as defined in last year’s explanatory report for the Department of Evangelism (New Churches) Reconstitution Ordinance 2010, namely –

“to reach a particular ethnic group, affinity group, or to begin new gospel work in some geographic area where local churches do not have the resources or people to begin such a new fellowship”,

- (a) Is it true that ‘New Churches’ will enable the commencement of a ‘New Fellowship’ in Oran Park town?
- (b) If so, why is it deemed appropriate and necessary that ‘New Churches’ be used to commence this work given that Oran Park Town is within the existing and recently reclassified full Parish of South Creek, a 9 year old church-planting ministry which has well-developed plans for church-planting in Oran Park Town, and has, for example, recently raised funds and appointed a second full-time minister to enable expansion of ministry within the Parish?

To which the President replied –

This question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(c) as it offers an argument.

10 October 2011

15. Payment of parish levy by others

The Rev Gary Haddon asked –

How many parishes received the benefit of having another parish, known or anonymous, making payment to the SDS on their behalf, amounts to cover in part or in full, the cost of their levy for the purposes of contributing towards the EOS?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The answer to this question is not known. Anecdotally SDS is aware of three instances where one parish (or an individual from it) has paid the levy for another parish.

10 October 2011

16. Restorative justice

Mr Andrew Frank asked –

Has Standing Committee or Synod in the last 10 years considered any reports regarding principles of restorative justice with an emphasis on restitution and reconciliation with regard to the workings of the Diocesan Tribunal? If yes please identify the reports considered.

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

No.

11 October 2011

17. Cathedral parking in St Andrew's House

Canon Warwick de Jersey asked –

What plans have been made to secure the continuing practice of Cathedral parking in St Andrew's House?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

A number of meetings and discussions have been undertaken between representatives of St Andrew's House Corporation and the Cathedral to confirm and understand the current parking arrangements in St Andrew's House. The St Andrew's House Corporation is progressing with a proposal to lease the St Andrew's House car park to an external operator, although no agreement has yet been reached. The current Cathedral parking arrangements have been conveyed in detail to the proposed external car park operator and again were confirmed in a recent meeting at which a Cathedral representative was in attendance. It is the intention of the proposed external car park operator and the St Andrew's House Corporation to continue the practice of providing concessions for Cathedral parking in St Andrew's House.

11 October 2011

18. Membership of Long Service Leave Fund

Mr Robert Tong asked –

How many Sydney persons are members of the Long Service Leave Fund?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

As at 30 June 2011 there were 544 Sydney members of the Fund out of a total fund membership of approximately 2,200.

Clarification to answer

17 October 2011

Last Tuesday Mr Robert Tong asked a question concerning the number of Sydney members in the General Synod Long Service Leave Fund.

There is a need to clarify the answer given to Mr Tong's question as it is relevant to amendments that Mr James Flavin has indicated he wishes to move to item 7.11 of today's business paper.

Last Wednesday I stated that as at 30 June 2011 there were 544 Sydney members of the Fund out of a total fund membership of approximately 2,200 persons.

The 2,200 includes approximately 500 inactive members of the fund, whereas the number of Sydney members, namely 544, only includes those with active membership.

Inactive members are those who have not yet achieved an entitlement to leave but have ceased making contributions to the fund and have not resigned as members. It is possible that in the future some of these inactive members may resume service and accrue further leave. The SDS staff do not presently have access to data to determine how many of those 500 inactive members are from Sydney.

Therefore if the question were to be answered only on the basis of active membership the answer would be that there are approximately 1,700 active members of the fund, of which, 544 are from Sydney.

11 October 2011

19. Churches planted by the Department of Evangelism and New Churches

Mr Garry Allen asked –

- (a) What churches have been planted under the auspices of the Department of Evangelism and New Churches since the passage of the Department of Evangelism (New Churches) Reconstitution Ordinance 2010?
- (b) What churches does it expect to be planted in the next year?
- (c) How many of these churches will be in the so-called (desert) areas, particularly the Western, Georges River and Wollongong Regions?
- (d) What opportunities does the Department see in the next 3 years?
- (e) How can individuals and churches support the work of the Department?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The Vine Church (Surry Hills).

Soma Church (Ryde), which was brought under New Churches in 2011.

Connect Church (with Seti Latu as Pastor), and planted in connection with Canterbury Anglican.

It is planned that Berkeley Community Anglican Church will come under the ENC umbrella later this year.

ENC is also consulting with a number of Parish “Mother-Daughter” church plants which are not yet directly under the ENC umbrella.

In addition ENC has made the following appointments –

- Jonathan Howse and Christian Anderson – church planters working with the Canterbury Parish
- Paul Tait - Evangelist at Arncliffe
- Andrew Mahaffey - part-time itinerant evangelist (based at St Stephens Penrith)

- (b) Oran Park, among others that are yet to be finalised.
- (c) What constitutes a “desert area” is subjective. Arguably Oran Park, Surry Hills and Berkeley are all such areas. The evangelists in Arncliffe and Auburn are working with a particularly difficult ethnic and religious group.
- (d) The best results will come with linking ENC to the planned Moore College Diploma in Church Planting which is proposed to start in 2013. ENC’s future church planters will come from the College, and linking ENC to the College will give time for mentoring and planning with students and potential planters. It is also vital that ENC develops cross cultural and multi-cultural church planting. Bruce Hall is making excellent progress in coordinating the recruiting of non-Anglo gospel workers.
- (e) Prayer, people can register to receive the quarterly prayer and news letter. Encourage those who are gifted in appropriate ways to consider being assessed as church planters. ENC is developing a bequest program, which long time supporters of Department of Evangelism may wish to consider.

11 October 2011

20. Complaints against clergy and church workers

The Rev Craig Schafer asked –

How many individuals brought complaints of abuse or misconduct by clergy or church workers to the PSU in each of the years from 2005-2011 (inclusive)?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

2005:	17
2006:	18
2007:	10
2008:	19
2009:	8
2010:	7
2011:	5

11 October 2011

21. Paid assistance for the Primate

The Rev Andrew Sempell asked –

For how long has the Primate of Anglican Church of Australia had some sort of paid assistant? It would be appreciated if the Synod staff could contact the General Synod Office to ascertain the exact extent of support for the office of the Primate both financially and the length of time that such support has been provided in the form of personal staff or assistance.

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

It is understood that the General Synod Standing Committee first decided to provide an allowance for assistance in the mid 1980's, during Archbishop Grindrod's time as Primate and that, for the most part, this allowance was equivalent to half a clergy stipend.

During Archbishop Aspinall's time as Primate the assistance has been increased by the addition of a full-time research assistant.

11 October 2011

22. Benefit of risk management program

Ms Janice Liddiard asked –

How is expenditure on risk assessment determined and what benefits result?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

It is assumed that this question relates to the Parish Risk Management Program.

The costs of the Program are included in the parish cost recoveries as approved by the Synod. The Program includes the provision of parish training, development of resources, giving advice on risk management issues, particularly in the area of legal risk and also the cost of SDS managing the Program.

The Program is designed to identify and mitigate the key risks faced by our parishes. This includes the risk of harm to church workers, congregation members and visitors to parishes. This risk is primarily managed through various Parish Risk Management Modules and associated risk management returns to give assurance that relevant risks are being appropriately managed by parishes.

In the area of legal risk, year to date SDS has responded to 235 separate requests for assistance from parishes in areas such as employment, occupational health and safety, defamation, local government, real property and tax, among many other areas.

While it is difficult to quantify the benefit to parishes (both direct and indirect) of being able to deal with legal and other risks at an early stage, the Diocesan Insurance Brokers have indicated that the Program provides a direct benefit when the annual Diocesan Insurance is negotiated on behalf of parishes.

11 October 2011

23. Financing the construction of new churches in greenfield areas

The Rev Simon Elliott asked –

Will the money raised by the Mission Property Committee for the construction of new churches in Greenfield areas need to be repaid by the parishes who conduct ministry in these buildings? If so will the rate of return be determined by a percentage of giving to the church or income gained from the building or a flat rate of repayments?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Mr Elliott put a similar question to the Chairman of the Mission Property Committee, Mr Geoff Kyngdon, during the open question forum yesterday evening. Mr Kyngdon's response was that the Mission Property Committee continues to evaluate options for potentially "recycling" scarce capital that is raised for specific greenfields and brownfields projects, with a view to the Committee making a recommendation to the Mission Board in due course. In view of the ongoing deliberations by the Committee it is considered premature to speculate on the potential recommendations.

11 October 2011

24. Provisional Recognised Churches

The Rev Peter Chung asked –

Could the Provisional Church's levy be waived under the following condition? Church without own property and annual offertory income not exceeding \$100,000.

The said income could not meet the annual expenses including –

Minister's minimum stipend	\$55,867
Superannuation	\$9,497
Travel fixed	\$8,047
Housing	\$26,000
Rental for services	\$8,000
General cost for ministries	\$8,000
Total	\$115,411

To which the President replied –

This question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(a) and (f) as it makes an assertion and seeks a legal opinion. However Mr Chung raises an important issue and Bishop Davies will be in touch with him to discuss the matter.

11 October 2011

25. Youthworks Outdoors Division

Mr Warren Irwin asked –

Have several members of the Youthworks Outdoors team written to the Youthworks Committee expressing their concerns about the culture developing in this branch of Youthworks?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The factual answer to the question is 'no'. However I am informed that some concerns about the Outdoors Division have been brought to the attention of the Youthworks' Council who have acted upon them.

11 October 2011

26. Youthworks unfair dismissal claim

Mr Warren Irwin asked –

Was there an unfair dismissal claim made against Youthworks Outdoors this year which was later settled out of court?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

No claim has been made this year, although there was one in 2010 which was settled.

11 October 2011

27. Regional bishops and new fellowships

Archdeacon Deryck Howell asked –

- (a) What is the role of the regional bishop in moving mission forward in his region?
- (b) What steps are taken by Evangelism and New Churches in establishing each new fellowship to ensure that goodwill is both obtained and maintained?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The promotion of mission in his region is integral to the role of the regional bishop. Each of the bishops is involved with clergy and mission area leaders to discuss and encourage initiatives in their area, while recognising that the parish is the basic unit for mission.
- (b) Evangelism and New Churches has kept the regional Bishops informed with each new project, church plant or evangelist employed. New ministry workers have been encouraged to attend regional conferences and to keep in touch with the relevant Regional Bishop.

11 October 2011

28. Relocation of staff to Bishopscourt

Mr Neville Voges asked –

- (a) Is it appropriate, feasible and cost effective from an administrative point of view, obviously with the Archbishop's concurrence and bearing in mind that under no circumstances should His Grace be inconvenienced in any way, whatsoever, temporarily to relocate his personal staff and/or a select number of other staff members, from St Andrew's House to Bishopscourt?
- (b) If this is so, would it be advantageous to the Archbishop, administratively?
- (c) Furthermore, would this free up more space to generate additional income from St Andrew's House?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) We have thought about this matter. It is not considered that Bishopscourt is a suitable site for the office of the Archbishop's staff. The cost of moving and setting up would outweigh any advantages, and being removed from the other staff of SDS in St Andrew's House would be disadvantageous.
- (b) No.
- (c) This matter has been investigated, and it would not be possible to do so in a cost effective manner.

11 October 2011

29. Finance and Loans Board

The Rev Antony Barraclough asked –

How has the Finance and Loans Board (FLB) been affected by the diocesan financial situation and proposed strategic restructure? In particular –

- (a) What profits or losses the FLB had in the last 12 months?
- (b) What resources does the FLB still have for lending to parishes?
- (c) What changes apply to FLB in the proposed strategic restructure?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Finance and Loans Board has not been directly affected by the Diocesan financial situation, nor has there been a noticeable impact on its loan portfolio with parishes as a result of the GFC

The Board has continued to make loans to parishes for a variety of purposes. In the three months to 30 September 2011, the FLB made loans aggregating \$2.7 million. There are no loans in arrears.

In answer to the particular questions asked –

- (a) The FLB made a net surplus of \$580,083 in the 12 months to 31 December 2010 and has made a net surplus of \$658,905 (unaudited) in the 12 months to 31 August 2011. These funds have been retained to meet future loan applications.
- (b) The FLB currently has \$2.4 million of uncommitted funds to lend to parishes. The FLB's day to day operations are undertaken by staff of SDS who are available to discuss potential loans with parish representatives and to assist the loan application process. The FLB's Board members are focussed on assisting parishes finance the upgrading of parish facilities and the acquisition of additional facilities to enhance mission opportunities. The Board welcomes all enquiries.
- (c) There are no known changes to the way the FLB will operate in the future as a consequence of the proposed strategic re-structure

11 October 2011

30. Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation

Mrs Pamela Shaw asked –

I note the 31 August 2011 story in the SMH (“Gonski research projects set to guide debate on school funding”) which stated –

“NSW Upper House MPs have supported a motion that says Malek Fahd Islamic School in Greenacre may have breached the NSW Education Act, which prohibits payment of state funding to private schools that operate for profit.”

Can the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation confirm that its schools are not operated for profit? Are there any non-arms length fees or charges such as the “management fees” at Malek Fahd? What steps are taken to ensure that developments between the Corporation and other Diocesan organisations such as Anglicare (eg, Oran Park) do not use school funding for non-school uses?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Yes, this is confirmed in that the Corporation operates as a ‘not-for-profit’ entity.

No, there are no ‘management fees’ paid to external entities.

All steps necessary are taken to ensure that developments between the Corporation and other Diocesan organisations such as Anglicare do not use school funding for the uses that the NSW Upper House MP’s have raised. With regard to Oran Park, in actuality there is no ‘joint venture’ project with Anglicare. The two individual projects will co-exist on adjacent sites and it is not planned that any money will be exchanged for any purpose. The only commercial transaction that has occurred in recent times between the Corporation and Anglicare has been some demographic studies that the Corporation contracted Anglicare to perform on its behalf. This is certainly not prohibited under the Education Act 1990.

11 October 2011

31. Distributions from St Andrew's House Corporation

Mr Peter Wilson asked –

Noting the President's optimistic comments in his Presidential Address with regard to the financial performance of the two Diocesan Endowments can someone please tell the Synod –

- (a) when is St Andrew's House Corporation currently hoping it may be able to recommence making distributions to the Endowment of the See and the Glebe Administration Board, and
- (b) what might be the approximate quantum of other distributions when they recommence?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Until leases have been signed for levels 3, 4 and 5, no accurate answer can be given, although it is expected that distributions will recommence in 2014.
- (b) The exact quantum is currently unknown, although it is hoped that distributions will slowly increase from 2014, with an initial distribution of around \$2 million in 2014.

12 October 2011

32. Donations to ORAF

Associate Professor Alan Watson asked –

Concerning levels of donations to ORAF over the past decade, can you inform Synod of –

- (a) the annual totals of donations given to ORAF over the past ten years in current values, and
- (b) the Synod budgeted funding for the conduct of the ABAU over that period in current values

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The answer will be provided in tabular form and a copy will be provided to the questioner and posted on the notice board in the foyer.

2001	\$431,269
2002	\$628,688
2003	\$540,673
2004	\$711,847
2005	\$1,822,859
2006	\$961,803
2007/08	\$1,554,935
2008/09	\$966,123
2009/10	\$672,722
2010/11	\$732,182

Notes:

- 1. In 2007 the financial year changed to June/July.
 - 2. The spike in 2005 was due to the Boxing Day tsunami appeal.
 - 3. The spike in 2007/2008 was due to reporting covering an 18 month period in changing from a calendar to a financial year.
- (b) Synod did not provide any funding.

12 October 2011

33. Complaints of abuse or misconduct by clergy or church workers

Ms Caroline Bowyer asked –

Of the 84 complaints of abuse or misconduct by clergy or church workers to the PSU from 2005-2011 how many were determined at first instance to be without substance and not pursued?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

None. At first instance, all complaints are taken seriously and assessed.

12 October 2011

34. Property Trust's management fee

Mr Michael Toull asked –

Does the Anglican Church Property Trust have any immediate intention of changing its current method of calculating its management fee of 1.10% per annum on the funds it holds as trustee for parishes?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

No.

12 October 2011

35. Teaching Christianity in line with Diocesan Education Policy

Mr Hans Norved asked –

What steps has Standing Committee taken over the last 4 years to ascertain the extent to which Anglican schools are developing their staff (both Christian and non-Christian) in thinking and teaching Christianity in line with the Diocesan Education Policy?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Standing Committee has not taken any steps because it is not directly responsible for this matter. However, for the past four years the Anglican Education Commission, as the responsible body established by the Synod, has undertaken the following actions –

- deploying curriculum consultants to work in schools with teachers,
- conducting professional development courses across schools which carry accreditation by the NSW Institute of Teachers,
- commending participation in courses and programs offered by various tertiary institutions, and
- promoting a suite of over 30 half-day and full-day whole-school development seminars professionally delivered by staff from Moore Theological College, the Centre for Public Christianity, CASE and the Wesley Institute.

The schools and teachers who have availed themselves of the programs and services offered by the Commission speak very positively about them.

12 October 2011

36. Authority of Archbishop to plant new parishes

The Rev Michael Williamson asked –

Does the Bishop or Archbishop have the authority to trump the work of Mission Area Leaders and Rectors to plant new churches or parishes within existing parishes?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Yes. The Parishes Ordinance 1979 has for many years given the Archbishop the authority to form a new ecclesiastical district, being a provisional parish.

12 October 2011

37. Membership of and attendance at General Synod Standing Committee

The Rev Andrew Sempell asked –

Concerning attendance at Standing Committee of General Synod, who are the Sydney Diocesan members of the General Synod Standing Committee, how many meetings of the Standing Committee were held in the past 12 months and how many times did each Diocesan member attend those meetings?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

A diocese has no direct say in who will be elected or whether any person will be elected from that diocese.

The names of the persons from Sydney who were elected to the General Synod Standing Committee at its last session are set out at page 104 of the Synod Book. These persons are –

Mr Garth Blake SC
Bishop Glenn Davies
Bishop Robert Forsyth
Mr Robert Tong
Mr Justice Peter Young

As Metropolitan I am also a member.

The Standing Committee has met on 2 occasions in the last 12 months.

We do not keep, nor have access to, an attendance register for meetings of the General Synod Standing Committee. It is therefore not known how many meetings were attended by each person.

12 October 2011

38. Third party risk assessment

Professor John Clark asked –

Does the Standing Committee plan to obtain a third party risk assessment of the revised investment management structures which it will bring to the 2012 Synod?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Synod only resolved last Tuesday to refer the recommendations in the report of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is therefore yet to consider those recommendations.

12 October 2011

39. Access to minutes of the Standing Committee

Mr Peter Hanson asked –

My question concerns access by Synod representatives to Standing Committee minutes. Are Synod representatives able to obtain access to the minutes of the Standing Committee as is the case in the Anglican Diocese of Perth? If not, why is this the case? If so, then can consideration be given to giving Synod members access to the minutes on a secure section of the SDS website?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Strictly speaking this question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(a) as it contains an assertion.

However since I understand this is a second attempt to ask a question about this matter, could I make the following comments as a courtesy to Mr Hanson.

The appropriate balance between the provision of information to Synod members about decisions made by the Standing Committee and the need for confidentiality in certain circumstances as a key requisite for effective management is an important matter that is raised from time to time at the Synod. The matter has been addressed again this year in the report printed at page 59 of the Synod Book. I believe the report addresses many of the issues that underlie Mr Hanson's question.

The appropriate balance between the provision of information and the need for confidentiality will vary from body to body depending on the nature of the body and the context in which it operates.

In his question, Mr Hanson asserts that Synod representatives in the Diocese of Perth are able to access minutes, presumably of their diocesan council. Leaving aside the fact that this assertion renders the question out of order (and without commenting on the correctness of the assertion), I simply observe that any arrangements which exist in Perth may be appropriate in their context. It would equally be possible to point to the situation reported from the Brisbane Diocese that access to their diocesan council minutes (and other committees of the diocese) is "closed for 30 years" pursuant to their Records and Archives Canon.

As indicated in this year's report to Synod, the Standing Committee has considered this matter and has reached the view that existing arrangements for the provision of information to Synod members about the decisions of the Standing Committee remains appropriate in our context for the reasons set out in the report.

12 October 2011

40. Availability of annual reports of diocesan organisations

Mr Peter Hanson asked –

My question concerns the annual reports of certain Diocesan organisations –

- (a) Do Moore Theological College, Anglican Retirement Villages and the Anglican Schools Corporation make their annual reports (including full audited financial statements) publicly available? If not, why not?
- (b) Would the Archbishop consider encouraging all organisations required to provide Synod with annual report, to provide them (with full audited financial statements) on either own website or on the website of SDS?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) No. The financial obligations of our diocesan organisations are set out in the Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995. They do not extend to making audited accounts publicly available.

The annual reports and audited accounts of each of the three organisations are tabled at Synod in the required form and are reviewed on behalf of the Synod by the Finance Committee. They are therefore subject to internal checks.

In addition this year the Standing Committee also agreed to commence making copies of annual reports and audited accounts available for a reasonable fee to any member of the Synod on request to the Diocesan Secretary. Copies are available after review by the Finance Committee and on condition that the member agrees to treat the information as confidential unless the organisation has itself made the information publicly available.

The finances of those three organisations are also subject to external checks –

Moore College produces an additional annual report that meets the requirements of the Higher Education legislation under which the College operates as a self-accrediting higher education institution.

Anglican Retirement Villages makes its full audited accounts available to the Department of Health and Ageing. It also makes the finances of each individual independent living village available to the residents of that village as is required under the Retirement Villages Act.

The Schools Corporation sends the audited accounts for each school that it operates to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations on an annual basis. Some financial data for each school is made publicly available by that Department on the MySchool website, as is 'annual census' enrolment and staffing information.

It is important to note that some, perhaps many, of our diocesan organisations operate in a competitive environment. To ensure competitive neutrality, it is important that all operators in those environments have common financial disclosure obligations. It would be unwise for our organisations to make more information available publicly than do their competitors.

- (b) No.

12 October 2011

41. Circulation of printed material

Mr Peter Hanson asked –

My question relates to me receiving at my private home address unsolicited mail from the Anglican Church League and the Anglican Church Record –

- (a) What part, if any, did the SDS or any other diocesan body play in me receiving at my private home address, addressed mailed material from the Anglican Church League (on two occasions) and the Anglican Church Record?
- (b) If a part was played by the SDS or any other diocesan body –
 - (i) Under what rule, policy or procedure was that action taken?
 - (ii) Has that rule, policy or procedure been tested against the SDS (or other diocesan body's) Privacy legislation compliance program and if so, what were the results of that test?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Given the nature and purpose of the Synod, an essential part of its functioning involves dialogue and the exchange of views between its members about the business of the Synod. The exchange of views between Synod members is facilitated, in part, through the circulation of material in accordance with guidelines published on the Secretariat's website, www.sds.asn.au. This is available to all members.

Part (b)(ii) is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(f) as it seeks a legal opinion. Suffice to say that these guidelines have been assessed against relevant privacy principles.

12 October 2011

42. Strategies for responding to growing Indigenous population

Mr Raymond Minniecon asked –

Is it at all possible at this stage to indicate how the Diocese, in developing strategies for ministry as we move towards 2050, may give proper regard to the growing Indigenous population in the Diocese?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

I understand the committee responsible for developing the report is aware of these issues but is yet to specifically engage with them.