



Anglican Diocese of Grafton Registry Update

Edition 10 – May 2017

For distribution to: Rectors, Locums, Assistant Clergy, Churchwardens, Parish Councillors, Parish Secretaries and Treasurers.

This is the tenth edition of the Registry Update and as usual it contains important information on a variety of topics. These Registry Updates are not only important for reading at the time of receiving but also worthwhile for putting aside for future reference. If you are missing copies from your collection, please contact the Registry and the missing copy can be sent to you.

Please ensure that all those in the above distribution list receive each Registry Update as there is usually information contained in the Registry Update that affects their role. A copy of this Update will also be sent directly to **chaplains, business managers of diocesan organisations and members of diocesan councils and committees.**

The information contained in this Registry Update is not confidential or private, so please feel free to share it with others who would benefit from knowing.

SYNOD

Pre-Synod Meetings

In the lead up to the Synod, three pre-synod meetings are scheduled. At those meetings, which can be attended by any interested member of the Anglican Church, we will not only be previewing the expected synod business but also provide a chance to share and hear views on some of the more complex issues. The times and locations of each pre-synod meeting are:

10am to 12 noon Saturday 3rd June 2017 – St John the Baptist Church Lennox Head
5pm to 7pm Wednesday 7th June 2017 – St John's Coffs Harbour
10am to 12 noon Saturday 10th June 2017 – All Saints Kempsey

Synod

This year the Synod for the Diocese of Grafton will be held on Friday 16th, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June.

From 6pm on Friday 16th June, the Synod will meet at Christ Church Cathedral in Grafton for the Synod Eucharist, Presidential Address and the Opening Session.

On Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June, the Synod will convene at the Clarence Valley Jockey Club, Powell Street, Grafton for the business of synod.

Visitors are welcome to attend to observe the proceedings of synod.

Elections at Synod

As we start a new three year term of synod, 2017 is an "election year" with a wide range of positions that are open for election. Here is a summary of these positions.

Bishop-in-Council

This is the body that takes on the business of the synod between the meetings of synod. The synod will elect 6 clergy and 6 lay persons to the Bishop-in-Council for a period of 3 years. Only members of the synod may be nominated for Bishop-in-Council.

[Note: There is no longer regional representation on Bishop-in-Council.]

Corporate Trustee

The Reverend Canon Dr John Barrett's term as **Corporate Trustee** concludes at the 2017 Synod and an election will be held for this position. While Canon Barrett is eligible to re-nominate, he has chosen not to re-nominate. To be eligible for election as a Corporate Trustee, a person must be a member of the Anglican Church of Australia as defined in the Diocesan Governance Ordinance 2008. Membership of the synod is not required. The person elected as Corporate Trustee on this occasion will serve until the 2022 Synod.

Presentation Board

Eight clergy are elected to the Presentation Board to participate as required in the selection of priests to fill parish vacancies and where an extension of tenure is requested. Those nominated must be clergy but do not have to be members of the synod.

Cathedral Chapter

With the change in ordinance, there will be a new Cathedral Chapter to promote the wider ministry of the Cathedral. The synod will elect up to 4 people as Cathedral Canons – 2 clergy and 2 lay persons – to serve until the 2020 Synod. Any clergy nominating as a Canon must be at least 5 years standing from ordination but not necessarily a member of the synod. Any lay person nominating as Canon must be a member of a church of the Diocese but not necessarily a member of the synod.

Representatives to General Synod

The Diocese of Grafton is represented at the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia by its bishop plus 2 clergy and 2 lay persons. At this synod, those clergy and laypersons are elected to be representatives for any General Synod that is called between June 2017 and our 2020 Synod. [Note: There is a General Synod in September 2017 but representation for that is based on March 2017 information.] Any clergy or lay person nominated as a representative to General Synod must be a member of synod.

Representatives to Provincial Synod

The Diocese of Grafton is represented at Provincial Synod by its bishop plus 3 clergy and 3 lay persons. [Note a reduction of representatives to the bishop plus 1 clergy and 1 lay person is expected.] At this synod, those clergy and laypersons are elected to be representatives for any Provincial Synod that is called between June 2017 and our 2020 Synod. Any clergy or lay person nominated as a representative to Provincial Synod must be a member of synod.

Positions under the Clergy Discipline Ordinance 1966

To enable the operation of the Clergy Discipline Ordinance 1966 when required, the synod elects people to the **Board of Enquiry** (2 clergy, 2 lay persons) and the **Panel of Triers** (4 clergy, 4 lay persons). If the Clergy Discipline Ordinance is activated the Board of Enquiry is asked to enquire into matter and the Panel of Triers makes a decision on what discipline is appropriate, if any. These bodies do not consider matters that are covered by the Professional Standards Ordinance 2004. Election to either the Board of Enquiry or the Panel of Triers is open to members of synod but no person may serve on both bodies simultaneously. Those elected will serve until the 2020 Synod.

Synod Attendance

The Synod can be considered the most important meeting of an Anglican Diocese and is an essential element of the nature and conduct of the Anglican Church. It is also the time where Anglican parishes and agencies have a voice and a vote on key issues affecting their organisations and the mission and ministry of the church.

If your parish or agency has a vacancy in its representation, you are urged to act to appoint a new or replacement representative. The church as a whole suffers if any part of the body is absent and that part of the body suffers from disconnection with the wider church.

FAITHFULNESS IN SERVICE

The Bishop-in-Council has accepted the recommendations of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia and has adopted a number of revisions to Faithfulness in Service - A national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers.

The updated version of GEN-002 Faithfulness in Service can be found on the Diocesan website or by using the following link. <http://www.graftondiocese.org.au/diocesan-procedures>

Those who have been trained in Faithfulness in Service in the past 3 years do not have to renew their training as a result of this revision to the code but are encouraged to read through the updated document.

NEW PROCEDURES

Since the last Registry Update, four policy or procedure documents have been published. These are:

- MUP-002 Clergy Housing Standards (Revision 1)
- MUP-004 Extensions and Alterations of Buildings – Approval Processes
- GASC-002 Schools' Capital Development and Expenditure Policy and Process
- CTS-003 Policy on Parish-Managed Investment of Trust Funds

The Clergy Housing Standards procedure has been amended to include details on the payment of a housing allowance where clergy do not live in a house provided by the parish.

The new procedure MUP-004 Extensions and Alterations of Buildings – Approval Processes provides guidance to parishes undertaking projects involving extension or alteration of buildings. This information was previously in the Second Schedule of the Diocesan Governance Ordinance.

GASC-002 Schools' Capital Development and Expenditure Policy and Process is relevant only to the five Diocesan Schools. Each school has been provided with a copy of this procedure that was developed by the Grafton Anglican Schools Commission.

The new policy document CTS-003 Policy on Parish-Managed Investment of Trust Funds was issued by The Corporate Trustees of the Diocese of Grafton. From time to time, parishes request trust funds with the intention of making a direct investment instead of having this money managed by The Corporate Trustees. In the past, parishes have requested trust funds for investments in residential or commercial property managed by the parish. Aware of the strengths and weaknesses of this approach, The Corporate Trustees developed CTS-003 Policy on Parish-Managed Investment of Trust Funds so consistent decisions for the general benefit of trust beneficiaries and the diocese can be made.

You can access each of these documents on the Diocesan website at: <http://www.graftondiocese.org.au/diocesan-procedures>

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO SUPERANNUATION

As mentioned in the December 2016 Registry Update, the Registry has been advised by the Diocesan auditors that the legislation concerning Superannuation has been amended with a number of the changes taking effect from 1st July 2017.

The key changes, in brief, are:

- Reductions have been made to the concessional contribution cap, lowered to \$25,000 a year for all parties.

- Non-concessional super contributions will be limited to \$100,000 per year from 1 July, 2017 compared to \$180,000 presently.
- Introduction of a \$1.6 million transfer balance cap has been finalised, placing limits on the amount an individual can transfer into the tax-free earnings retirement phase. The measure is also applied to death benefit income streams.
- Introduction of additional income tax rules on recipients of certain defined benefit income streams in excess of \$100,000 per annum.
- Reductions have been made to the threshold at which high-income earners pay Division 293 tax on their concessional taxed contribution to superannuation to \$250,000.
- Members with a total superannuation balance of less than \$500,000 will be allowed to make catch-up concessional contributions from 1 July, 2018. Please note that an individual cannot have an unused concessional contributions cap amount before 1 July, 2018 for the purposes of the catch-up provisions. What this means is that the 2019/2020 financial year is the first year in which you can apply your unused concessional contributions cap amounts.
- Tax offset is now allowed where spouse income is less than \$37,000.
- Allowance of a deduction for personal contributions without testing the proportion of employment income received (the 10% test).
- Introduction of a low income superannuation tax offset to replace the low income superannuation contribution.
- Abolishment of the anti-detriment payment.
- Removal of the tax exempt earnings for transition to retirement income streams.

If you believe that any of the above changes impact on your circumstances, you should consider obtaining advice from an independent qualified source.

Those who salary sacrifice to superannuation should be especially mindful of the new \$25,000 cap for concessional contributions. If this or any other change affects you, it may be important that you contact Mrs Jenny Brock, Payroll Officer, with revised instructions in writing.

IMPORTANT DATES

Bishop-in-Council

20th July 2017

16th November 2017

14th September 2017

Corporate Trustees

6th July 2017

19th October 2017

31st August 2017

7th December 2017

Buildings and Property Committee

24th May 2017

25th October 2017

12th July 2017

22nd November 2017

23rd August 2017

13th December 2017

20th September 2017

If you have any submission to a meeting of Bishop-in-Council, the Corporate Trustees or the Buildings and Property Committee, please provide these to the Registrar at least 10 days prior to a meeting to ensure that your submission can be included in the business of that meeting.

North Coast Anglican

The deadline dates for items for the remaining 2017 editions of the North Coast Anglican are:

August edition: 14 July 2017

October edition: 15 September 2017

December edition: 17 November 2017

Contributions for the North Coast Anglican can be sent to nca@graftondiocese.org.au

Where there are more contributions than space permits, the NCA will typically use those contributions that have the greatest news value and interest across the diocese and are supported by a good quality photograph.

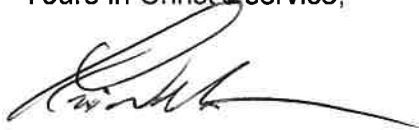
Grafton Public Holidays

Grafton has two half-day Public Holidays in July to coincide with race days. Instead of the disruption of two half-day closures the staff at the Bishop's Registry have agreed to work on one of these holidays and close the office for the whole day on the other holiday. This means that the Bishop's Registry will be closed on Thursday 13th July 2017.

Synod

The 2017 Synod of the Diocese of Grafton will be held on 16th, 17th and 18th June in Grafton.

Yours in Christ's service,



Chris Nelson
Registrar/General Manager
Anglican Diocese of Grafton