



Dear Members of Synod,

As you will see from the attached Summons to Synod, the Diocesan Council has recommended to me that Synod this year not meet face to face and that those matters on which a decision is required, either by Statute or Ordinance, are voted on by means of circular resolutions and postal ballot. I have accepted that recommendation.

The decision has been made because Synod is an important part of our life as a Diocese and I am concerned that in the current circumstances some Synod members may feel anxious about gathering in large numbers with close proximity (Synod) and may choose to seek leave from attending thus reducing the effectiveness of the Synod as a Diocesan representative voice.

I am also very aware that due to COVID-19 restrictions we have not been able to meet face to face this year and attend to two important resolutions from last year, namely:

20. COLLEGIALLY

MOTION AS AMENDED

That this Synod:

- Affirms as the Archbishop stated in his address that "Unity is so important because it is a mission issue"
- Acknowledges that some members of the church in this Diocese sense a lack of collegiality due to what they understand as disagreement over the things which are necessary for salvation and;
- Respectfully asks the Archbishop to form a representative steering committee to plan, implement and conduct opportunities for dialogue and report back to the next annual session of Synod.

Moved by The Rev'd Mike Russell

Seconded by The Rev'd Dave Brown

CARRIED

21. THE DOCTRINE COMMISSION BOOK

MOTION AS AMENDED

That this Synod:

1. recognise the courageous and thoughtful contributions by the Rev'd Associate Professor Matthew Anstey and the Rev'd Dr Katherine Smith to the Doctrine Commission's recently published collection of essays on Same-Sex Marriage and the Anglican Church of Australia.
2. requests that the Diocesan Council, before next year's Synod, arranges for at least two discussion forums allowing for respectful, mediated and safe discussion of the significant theological, pastoral and practical issues raised by this publication

Moved by The Rev'd Canon Stephen Daughtry

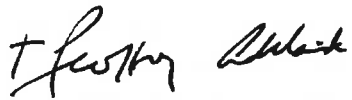
Seconded by The Rev'd Paula Bullock

We had plans to respond to these resolutions but those had to be cancelled with little opportunity between now and this year's gathering of Synod to reschedule. My expectation is that prior to Synod 2021 we will have the opportunity to address these matters and so report back to Synod as requested.

Information about how the voting process for this year's Synod will actually work will be distributed in good time from the Synod Office. In short, it will be a process whereby each member of Synod is asked to vote upon the 8 matters listed in the attached Summons. However, if you have specific queries in relation to the mechanics of the process, please don't hesitate to contact the Office.

With the assurance of my prayers for you,

In Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey Smith', written in a cursive style.

The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith
Archbishop of Adelaide
26th June 2020