

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
IN LIMPOPO

DIOCESE OF ST MARK THE EVANGELIST

***Minutes of SESSION 2 and 3 of the ELEVENTH DIOCESAN SYNOD
held at Christ Church Cathedral, Polokwane,
on the 21st August 2015***

1. **Morning Prayer and Bible Study** commenced at 08h00 led by Kopanong & Vhembe Archdeacons. The theme was "Multiplication with Transformation".
2. The Registrar confirmed that a **quorum** was present and Synod resumed at 09h00.
3. **Presentation and Reading of Petitions**
None were presented.
4. **Notice of Motions** (arising from Bishop's Charge / Additional Motions)
None were presented.
5. **Notice of Questions**
None
6. **Report on action taken concerning resolutions passed at the last Diocesan Synod (Rule 7.23.3)**
The report was included in the Second Agenda Book on pages 87 and 88.
7. **Measures to Amend Diocesan Rules: 1st Reading**

Measure 1: Length of Service as Churchwardens and Church Council Members

Proposed by: Ven Gail Blunden

Seconded by: ~~Canon Raphael Malesela~~ (ill) Rev Mike Blunden

Principle:

In smaller chapelries and parishes it is difficult to find suitable people to serve as Churchwardens and Church Council Members once those in office have completed a six year term. In these situations it should be possible for them to be re-elected, provided that certain conditions have been met.

An amendment was proposed with the words "In exceptional circumstances" added as follows:

"In smaller chapelries and parishes, and in exceptional circumstances, it is difficult to find"

This amendment was agreed to.

The principle was then approved and referred to Committee of Synod

8. Motions submitted in advance

8.1 Motion 2 :

Multiplication with Transformation – All-Encompassing Church Planting with Discipleship

Proposed by: Dean Luke Pretorius

Seconded by: Ven Linda Lubbe

This Synod notes that:

- 1) Many people, especially the youth, are not part of an existing church structure and are not likely to join any existing church;
- 2) Much progress has been made in multiplying parishes;
- 3) The Diocese is committed to making disciples of unchurched and de-churched people by developing inter alia Fresh Expressions of Church.

Synod therefore:

- 1) Commends those parishes that have multiplied;
- 2) Encourages all our parishes to plant new churches (Fresh Expressions or more conventional);
- 3) Encourages all parishes to grow the spiritual depth of their members.

This Synod respectfully requests:

- 1) Clergy to enrol for the Mission Shaped Ministry course;
- 2) Archdeacons to promote multiplication and transformation in Archdeaconry Council Meetings;
- 3) The Bishop to continue to promote church multiplication and transformation in his Ad Clerum letters;
- 4) That Multiplication with Transformation be a regular agenda item at all Parish and Diocesan meetings;

Synod commits the Diocese to involve young people in all these processes.

Motion 2 was approved by Synod.

8.2 Motion 5 :

Age Requirements for Church Council Members

The following motion arises from Diocesan Youth Synod held on 27th June 2015

Proposed by: Rev Pat Lennox

Seconded by: Rev Kwena Makgoka

This Synod, noting that it is necessary to clarify for congregations the qualities sought after in prospective chapelry and parish councillors, and the criteria that prospective councillors must meet for them to be nominated and elected as councillors;

Respectfully requests the Diocesan Office to ensure that all nomination forms include the relevant wording from the Diocesan Rules (28.1 and 28.1.2 on chapelry councillors and 29.3 and 29.3.2 on parish councillors), and in so doing, draw particular attention to the absence of any specified age restriction.

Motion 5 was approved by Synod.

Synod adjourned at 10h48 for tea.

Synod resumed at 11h20.

8.3 Motion 6:**Requirement for Lay Ministers**

The following motion arises from Diocesan Youth Synod held on 27th June 2015

Proposed by: Rev Pat Lennox

Seconded by: Rev Kwena Makgoka

This Synod notes that the word “mature” in the Diocesan Rule 19.3 could give the impression that Licensed Lay Ministers should be “mature in years”. This is potentially misleading as it is not the intention of the paragraph to suggest that young age is a barring factor in the Bishop’s licensing of Lay Ministers.

Synod therefore requests the Diocesan legal team to prepare a rule change to correct this at the next Synod of the Diocese. It is suggested that the word “mature” be deleted from Diocesan Rule 19.3, and replaced with the word “God-fearing”.

Motion 6 was approved by Synod.**8.4 Motion 7 :****Co-opted Members of Church Councils**

Proposed by: Dean Luke Pretorius

Seconded by: Ven Robbie Novella

This Synod, noting that

- 1) Two Diocesan Rules are in contradiction with themselves and with the Provincial Canons. Namely, Diocesan Rules 28.7 (Of Chapelry Councils – Power to Co-Opt) and 29.10 (Of Parish Councils - Power to Co-Opt) are in contradiction with the Provincial Canons 28.2 (Members of Council) and 28.3 (Power to Co-Opt). Diocesan Rules 28.7 and 29.10 are also in contradiction with Diocesan Rule 28.1 and 29.3 which speak to those eligible for election; namely that they be communicants in good standing;
- 2) The Anglican Church of Southern Africa a number of Provincial Synods back chose to not restrict leadership in the church to those of a certain age, and that our rules, with the exception of these two rules, were amended to reflect the Provincial Canons;

respectfully requests the Diocesan Legal Team to make the necessary editorial change to bring Diocesan Rules 28.7 and 29.10 into line.

Motion 7 was approved by Synod.

9. **Motion to receive all reports in the Agenda Books**

All the reports in the 1st and 2nd Agenda books were accepted by Synod.

10. **Midday prayers**

The Mothers Union led us in our midday prayers.

11. **First Conference of Synod : The Bishop's Charge**

Synod dissolved into Conference at 12h05 to discuss the Bishop's Charge as well as Bishop's office reports and Organisation reports.

Synod adjourned at 13h04 for lunch.

12. **Second Conference of Synod : Growing the Church**

Conference continued at 14h00

Session 3

Synod resumed at 15h05.

13. †Martin advised that further greetings had been received from :

- †Philip and Charmian Le Feuvre
- Frauke Ackermann
- Tony Lawrence (ACSA Youth)
- Vicentia Kgabe (COTT)
- †Carlos Matsinhe (Lebombo)
- †Thabo Makgoba (Archbishop)
- †Steve Moreo (Johannesburg)
- †Bethlehem Nopece (Port Elizabeth)

14. Minutes of Session 1

The Minutes of Session 1 were duly approved.

Proposed by : Dean Luke; Seconded by: Rev Ron Reiners

Synod adjourned for tea at 15h38

Synod reconvened at 16h05

15. Unopposed Motions

15.1 Proposed by : Ven Linda Lubbe; Seconded by : Rev J Kutumela

Synod extends congratulations to Bishop Dino Gabriel on his election as Bishop of Natal.

15.2 Proposed by : Kgabo Ledwaba; Seconded by : Caroline Chaba-Mamabolo

This synod notes with concern the state of health of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and his frequently reported visits to hospital.

This Synod therefore calls for the Diocese to pray for Archbishop Tutu and his family and for Bishop Martin to send him a message conveying our thoughts and prayers.

16. Notices

†Martin announced that the next **Anglicans Ablaze Conference** will take place in Cape Town from the 5th to the 8th October 2016.

Synod adjourned at 16h10.

17. Evening Prayer

We were lead in Evening Prayer by Lepelle and Waterberg Archdeaconries.

The day's proceedings were concluded at 16h45.

Minutes approved

Bishop

Date