

## Mission 2020

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

*The version of the Mission 2020 document following this report is the form passed by the Synod on 21 October 2014.*

### Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Synod members with some background to, and brief explanation of, the *Mission 2020* document.

### Recommendation

2. Synod receive this report and pass the motions referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8.

### Background

3. At the last session of the previous Synod we received a report from the *What's Next?* Committee, which had been given the task of formulating a draft of the next iteration of the Diocesan Mission. Their preliminary report was tabled at Synod in October last year and Synod resolved as follows –

“Synod, noting the report on the review of the Diocesan Mission and the next phase of Mission, requests its members to provide comment on the draft early exposure of a possible new Diocesan Mission outlined in the report by 30 November 2013, with a view to a new Diocesan Mission being prepared by the Archbishop and Standing Committee, and circulated to Synod members by 1 August 2014 for consideration at the 2014 session of Synod.”

*(19/13 Review of the Diocesan Mission and the next phase of Mission)*

4. In his Presidential Address last year, the Archbishop stressed the fact that there is no need for mission to be put on hold while we await the next form of our Diocesan Mission to come to Synod. Our Risen Lord has given us our marching orders to make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that Jesus has commanded (Matthew 28:19-20). The making and maturing of disciples is our great mission.

5. However, there was substantial feedback from parishes and individuals to the *What's Next?* Committee's survey indicating that people wanted a fresh iteration of this mission for the Diocese as a whole and that such a formulation was helpful in their local situation.

6. At the end of last year Standing Committee formed a subcommittee, the Strategic Research Group (SRG) to further this work. The *Mission 2020* document is the fruit of the SRG's labours in relation to the first of its three specific responsibilities, which are –

- (a) To be an advisory group for the Archbishop and the Standing Committee in their formulation of missional goals for consideration and adoption by the Synod.
- (b) To identify, research, evaluate and develop for Standing Committee's consideration high level vision, strategy and structure which optimise the capacity of the diocesan network to achieve missional goals adopted by the Synod.
- (c) To oversee the objective measurement of and reporting to the Standing Committee on progress toward achieving those missional goals.

7. The *Mission 2020* document is attached to this report.

### Consideration of *Mission 2020* at Synod

8. Consideration by the Synod of the *Mission 2020* document and related matters at its session in October 2014 will be undertaken in the context of the following motions which are being moved by request of the Standing Committee –

#### *Motion 1*

Synod welcomes the *Mission 2020* document circulated to Synod members on 1 August 2014 and agrees to adopt *Mission 2020* set out in that document.

#### *Motion 2*

Synod –

- (a) welcomes the establishment of the Strategic Research Group (SRG),

- (b) encourages the SRG to identify, research, evaluate and develop high level vision, strategy and structure which optimise the capacity of the diocesan network to achieve the Mission goals,
- (c) encourages the SRG to develop strategies to assist parishes to clarify, research, evaluate and implement ways to achieve the Mission goals as appropriate to their local context, and
- (d) invites all Anglican organisations within the Diocese, including schools, to embrace the vision of seeing Christ honoured in their communities and to partner with parishes in light of the four Priorities of the Mission.

9. Suitable procedural arrangements will also be proposed to facilitate consideration of these motions.

**Overview of *Mission 2020***

10. The *Mission 2020* spans the second half of this decade, rather than a ten year period. The document sets out a **Vision Statement** (what we hope to see), a **Mission Statement** (what we want to do) and a **Values Statement** (flowing from our identity in Christ and which undergirds the Mission). There follow four priorities, each addressing three key factors that have been identified as requiring specific attention. For each priority, one or more specific goals are set, based upon data collected through the National Church Life Survey (NCLS). Each goal is therefore measurable, enabling us to determine whether or not we are achieving our goals, either at the local level or across the Diocese.

11. We recognise that the front line of mission is the local church, whether it be the parish church, the school chapel, the retirement village congregation, or the chapel services held in hospitals and prisons. It is therefore our intention that the SRG develop some strategies over the coming months to support churches and congregations in achieving the goals for the Mission.

12. We commend this document to you and to the members of your parish council or diocesan organisation. No document will cover everything that everyone believes should be incorporated in our Mission. Some parishes and organisations will develop their own priorities for their local situation. However, we hope that the Synod will come to a common mind on the kind of vision, mission, priorities and goals that this document proposes for the Diocese as a whole.

13. Our prayer is that this will help Synod formulate a clear Mission for the Diocese, which by God's grace will enable us to see Christ honoured in every community.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

ROBERT WICKS  
*Diocesan Secretary*

17 September 2014

## MISSION 2020

### DIOCESE OF SYDNEY

**Our Vision**            **To see Christ honoured as Lord and Saviour in every community**

**Our Mission**        **We commit ourselves afresh, in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit, to glorify God and love our neighbour by proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ, calling people to repent and living lives worthy of him.**

#### **Our Values**

Our values flow from our identity in Christ. We are created in God's image and redeemed by Christ's blood for the glory of our Heavenly Father.

We therefore value and cherish:

- God's Word, the Bible, as our ultimate authority and guide
- The reading and explanation of the Bible as the basic method of our ministry
- The centrality of the cross of Christ and his resurrection in our proclamation and in our lives
- Lives of holiness and humility that adorn the gospel
- Prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit for power to speak and hearts to change
- An urgent love for people who, apart from faith in Christ Jesus, face certain condemnation under the righteous judgment of God
- Selfless flexibility and creativity to reach the many different peoples in our communities with the gospel
- Partnerships between and among individuals, churches, Anglican schools, diocesan organisations and faithful members of the Anglican Communion
- Repentant hearts and renewal by God's grace

#### **Our Priorities**

##### **Priority 1            Reach all the lost in our Diocese with the life-giving gospel of Christ**

Key factors include

- 1.1 Engaging with our local community and creating opportunities for evangelism at the local and diocesan level
- 1.2 Mobilising more people to share Christ's love in word and deed
- 1.3 Strengthening our invitation, welcoming and integration

*Our first goal is to increase our members reporting their willingness to talk intentionally about their faith from 18% (NCLS 2011 statistic) to 22% across the Diocese by 2020.*

*Our second goal is to increase our members reporting that they have invited someone to church in the last 12 months from 40% (NCLS 2011 statistic) to 45% across the Diocese by 2020.*

*Our third goal is to increase newcomers\* in church from 9% (NCLS 2011 statistic) to 12% across the Diocese by 2020.*

*\* Newcomers are members aged 15 or more who were not regularly attending any church five years ago, as defined by the National Church Life Survey (NCLS).*

##### **Priority 2            Deepen spiritual maturity among our members**

Key factors include

- 2.1 Ensuring congregational gatherings are significant places for spiritual growth
- 2.2 Enriching Christian fellowship through small groups
- 2.3 Strengthening personal and family devotions through prayer and Bible reading

*Our first goal is to increase our members reporting 'much growth' in faith from 47% (NCLS 2011 statistic) to 60% across the Diocese by 2020.*

*Our second goal is to increase our members reporting time spent in prayer, Bible reading, meditation, every day/most days from 43% (NCLS 2011) to 50%.*

**Priority 3 Equip our members to exercise their gifts**

Key factors include

- 3.1 Strengthening leadership skills of clergy, especially rectors
- 3.2 Identifying and unleashing the gifts of church members
- 3.3 Encouraging risk-taking and new initiatives in outreach and discipleship

*Our goal is to increase our members reporting their use of gifts 'to a great extent' from 21% (NCLS 2011 statistic) to 27% across the Diocese by 2020.*

**Priority 4 Respond to the changing face of our society**

Key factors include

- 4.1 Loving our neighbours in local and cultural communities
- 4.2 Reaching children and youth
- 4.3 Connecting with people over 60 years of age
- 4.4 Planting new churches in rapid growth areas

*Our first goal is to increase our members born in non-English speaking countries from 15% (NCLS 2011 statistic) to 20% across the Diocese by 2020.*

*Our second goal is to increase the retention of our members' children in church from 65% (NCLS 2011 statistic) to 70% across the Diocese by 2020.*

*Our third goal is to plant 15 new churches in greenfield areas by 2020.*

*Our fourth goal is to plant at least two new churches per Mission Area by 2020.*

I Certify that the Mission 2020 document as printed is in accordance with the document as reported.

R TONG  
Chairman of Committee

I Certify that this Mission 2020 document was welcomed and adopted by the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney on 21 October 2014.

R WICKS  
Secretary of Synod