

Questions: 19 October 2009

Mr Robert Mackay to ask –

1. Given the intended requirement for the Appropriations & Allocations Ordinance to take up certain Bishops expenses, previously funded entirely by the Endowment of the See, and the resultant diminution of regional outlays for parish based initiatives, would the Archbishop please advise the Synod as to the financial status of the Endowment of the See, with regard to –
 - (a) 31/12/2008 and current balance sheet positions,
 - (b) financial performance for the year ended 31/12/2008 and during 2009,
 - (c) the financial/investment strategy going forward?

To which the President replied –

1. I am informed the answer is as follows -
 - (a) The EOS Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2008 comprised Total Assets of \$81.4 million, Liabilities of \$9.6 million and Net Assets of \$71.8 million. The Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2009 comprised Total Assets of \$71.1 million, Liabilities of \$1.5 million and Net Assets of \$69.6 million.
 - (b) Over recent years the EOS has achieved a cash income of \$4 million to \$5 million per annum. In 2008 the global financial crisis led to a sharp decline in the value of both its listed investments and its direct property holdings. Due to this impact and some other underlying issues, the total income in 2008 was only \$2.5 million, and projections for the next few years remain around that level.
 - (c) The EOS has therefore taken steps to reduce its expenses accordingly. The largest expense is the stipends/wages and related expenses for staff (Bishops, Archdeacons and support staff) and that is where the bulk of the savings will need to be made. The key elements of the restructure of the EOS are spelt out in the Strategic Directions 2010-2012 document and the EOS is committed to addressing these issues, as demonstrated by the cost reductions recently announced. It is expected that work will continue over the coming months with the objective of achieving a sustainable future for the real value of the EOS.

Questions: 19 October 2009

The Rev Robert Denham to ask –

2. Concerning the duties of an Area Dean as outlined in clause 9.10 of the First Schedule to the Parish Administration Ordinance, in the past two years –
 - (a) In how many parishes has any Area Dean carried out those duties?
 - (b) Has the Archbishop or any Assistant Bishop asked an Area Dean about the results of such duties?
 - (c) Has the Archbishop or any Assistant Bishop directly instructed an Area Dean to carry out such duties?

To which the President replied –

2. I am informed that the answer is as follows –
 - (a) This information is not available.
 - (b) No.
 - (c) No.

Questions: 19 October 2009

The Rev Robert Denham to ask –

3. At which point of the recovery from the Global Financial Crisis will the Archbishop consider it appropriate to appoint an Assistant Bishop with regional responsibility for the Georges River Region?

To which the President replied –

3. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The financial pressures confronting the Endowment of the See, which pays for the stipend and expenses of Bishops, are much more complex than simply the Global Financial Crisis. Financial projections provided by SDS indicate that there is no likelihood in the next few years at least of being able to provide for five bishops rather than four.

Questions: 19 October 2009

Mr Justice David Lloyd to ask –

5. (a) Can a comparison be prepared, preferably in the form of a graph, showing the performance of the Diocesan Clergy Superannuation Fund since the current stewardship took over the administration of that Fund from the Glebe Administration Board, with that of the Endowment of the See administered by the Glebe Board for the same period?
- (b) If so, can and will this information be made available in time for the debate on motion 16.6?

To which the President replied –

5. I am informed that the answer is as follows –
 - (a) It is not possible to answer the question as it contains a number of factual errors. The Glebe Administration Board has never had stewardship of the Sydney Diocesan Superannuation Fund. The fund was managed by its own Board. The Glebe Administration Board is also not responsible for administering the Endowment of the See. The Property Trust is the trustee of the property of the Endowment of the See.
 - (b) Question (b) therefore lapses.

Questions: 19 October 2009

Mr Ian Cousins to ask –

6. With respect to item 15 Commitments – premises rental of the 2008 Audited Accounts of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat –
 - (a) What property was newly acquired in 2008 and current year 2009 that is rented/leased and where is the location of these properties?
 - (b) What are the terms of the leases/agreements in respect to CPI or/and market review and outgoing in respect to these properties?
 - (c) Are there any leases/rental agreements that have a time frame greater than 5 years as at 31 December 2008 and as at 30 June 2009. What are these lease/rental commitments?

To which the President replied –

6. I am informed that the answer is as follows –
 - (a) The Secretariat occupies office space in some parts of levels 1 & 2 of St Andrew's House. No additional office space was leased by the Secretariat in 2008 or 2009. The lease commitments detailed in note 15 (i) of the Secretariat accounts increased from \$1m in 2007 to \$3.3m in 2008 due to the signing of leases to occupy the office space.
 - (b) The leases for levels 1 & 2 in St Andrew's House include provision for a fixed annual rental increase of 3% from the base rent. In respect of outgoings the leases require SDS to reimburse St Andrew's House Corporation (the landlord) for increases in outgoings over a base year of 2006.
 - (c) The leases for levels 1 & 2 in St Andrew's House are for a term of 15 years from commencement of occupancy in April and August 2007 respectively. There are no other leases / rental commitments that have a time frame greater than 5 years.

As noted in the annual report, staffing numbers have declined from 74.5 in December 2008 to 62 in September 2009. In light of this the Secretariat is actively pursuing opportunities to sub lease some of the excess space. The Secretariat expects to have a transaction finalised in the very near future.

Questions: 19 October 2009

Mr Ian Cousins to ask –

7. What is the update of the Secretariat on its objection to the Pay-roll tax assessment as detailed in Note 16 on page 347?

To which the President replied –

7. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

On 8 May 2009 the Office of State Revenue made a favourable determination in relation to the payroll tax status of the Secretariat.

Subsequently, Secretariat staff and its legal advisors have been in extensive dialogue with the OSR to finalise the calculation of the assessments for 2004 – 2007. The Secretariat staff expect that no amount of the contingent liability detailed in note 16 on page 347 will be payable when the assessments are finalised.

Questions: 19 October 2009

Deaconess Margaret Rodgers to ask –

8. (a) When will the Anglicare Council inform the Synod of the results of consultation into Kingsdene Special School?
- (b) What are the decisions about Kingsdene's future role and ministry?

To which the President replied –

8. I am informed that the answer is as follows –
 - (a) The Council of ANGLICARE will receive a report on a stakeholder consultation regarding the future of Kingsdene's role and ministry at its November meeting. They will then consider the available options for Kingsdene, make a decision and inform Synod in 2010. The stakeholder consultation was based on the 2008-09 formal review of Kingsdene by Dr Jacqueline Roberts (University of Sydney). Stakeholders included staff, parents, guardians, families and caregivers along with all relevant funding bodies who have been kept informed regularly throughout this process.
 - (b) No decisions about the future of Kingsdene's role and ministry have yet been made. The school and residential program will continue as normal for the 2010 school year.

Questions: 19 October 2009

Ms Alicia Watson to ask –

9. (a) Is the President able to confirm that land has been purchased or is about to be purchased in the new Oran Park Town development in Sydney's South West Growth Corridor for the purpose of the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation establishing a new Anglican Kindergarten to Year 12 co-educational school?
- (b) If a new Anglican school is to be established in this development –
 - (i) When are the building works proposed to commence and when is it planned for the school to open?
 - (ii) Is it the case that the proposed site for this new Anglican school is within walking distance, no more than four (4) kilometres, from an existing Anglican K-12 school?
 - (iii) Is it also the case that the proposed fee structure per student for the new school is approximately \$8,000 per annum for the primary years, almost identical to the fee structure of the existing school down the road?
 - (iv) Has the SASC commissioned a detailed demographic study of the area, if so by whom and when, examining the viability of establishing a new school in this area considering that there are already five (5) Anglican schools drawing students from this area, another three (3) Christian schools, at least five (5) Catholic schools and more already planned?
 - (v) Has the SASC commissioned a detailed study, if so by who and when, examining the short, medium and long term financial viability of establishing a new school in this development as well as the ongoing financial impact such a new school would have on the three (3) closest existing Anglican Schools operating within the same drawing area?
 - (vi) If reports mentioned above were conducted, are the results, or a précis thereof, available for public access and/or comment and are the results still considered relevant in light of the impact the global economic crisis has had on the population in the south west of Sydney?

To which the President replied –

9. I am informed that the answer is as follows –
 - (a) A critical part of the mission of the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation is to establish new strategically placed Anglican schools offering quality education in the developing areas of the Diocese of Sydney. The South West Growth Corridor is expected to see an influx of between 250,000 and 300,000 people in the next 20-25 years. The Corporation has been charged with this mission by the Synod and it would be negligent if it did

not seek a number of schools sites in this growth corridor. This future growth will present the Anglican Church as a whole with a series of Gospel and Kingdom opportunities.

The Oran Park Town development is the first major area to be developed in that growth corridor. The Corporation has been in discussions with the principal developer, LandCom, for a number of years. LandCom has also had direct discussions and/or negotiations with a number of other educational providers as well as Macarthur Anglican School, the nearest existing Anglican school.

During this time representatives of the Corporation have also had a series of discussions with representatives of Macarthur Anglican School. During these discussions various co-operative models have been explored as Macarthur considered but decided against undertaking any development in Oran Park themselves. It is prayerfully hoped that future discussion may continue in a spirit of co-operation.

Recently the Corporation has finally reached a commercial agreement for the purchase of a suitable school site adjacent to the Oran Park Town Centre. The proposed school site is part of what is hoped will be an Anglican precinct which will also include an Anglicare retirement village and a new Anglican Church on a site to be purchased by the Mission Property Committee.

- (b) (i) It is proposed that construction would commence no later than 3 months after the vendor has notified the Corporation that contracts for the sale of at least 350 residential lots have been exchanged.
- (ii) Yes, Macarthur Anglican School is within that distance.
- (iii) Financial modelling has been performed on a number of school fee structures. The school fees ultimately charged will be highly dependent on the Socio-economic Status (SES) of the surrounding area. If the advertised school fees are too high then it is likely that insufficient enrolments will be achieved to ensure long-term financial viability.
- (iv) A detailed study of current demographics in the area has not been commissioned as the enrolments in this future school are dependent upon the future population and not the current population. As explained earlier the South West Growth Corridor is expected to see substantial growth in the next 20-25 years. There are a number of new schools, particularly state schools, planned for within the Oran Park Town development. It is understood that only one independent school is envisaged and that is the site being offered for an Anglican school.
- (iv) The Corporation has completed its own internal financial viability studies. It is not possible to predict the effect on any existing

schools given the significant expected increase in population in the schools' natural catchment area. However Macarthur Anglican School has advised the Corporation that their current ideal maximum enrolment is no more than 1,000 K-12 students. The school's most recent available Annual Report indicates that it had a K-12 enrolment of 912 in 2008, leaving a current growth capacity of only 88 students. Given the expected growth in the South West Corridor and the nearest Anglican school is close to being at ideal capacity then there is an opportunity for the establishment of several more Anglican schools in this developing area.

- (vi) The impact of the current global economic crisis is uncertain, but as construction of the proposed new school will only commence after the vendor has notified the Corporation that contracts for the sale of at least 350 residential lots have been exchanged, then it is likely that any ongoing negative effect of the global economic crisis will delay the commencement of the new school.

Questions: 19 October 2009

The Rev David Clarke to ask –

10. During 2008 who were the members of the GAB Board Risk and Compliance Management Committee? How many times did they meet? Has the membership of this committee changed during 2009, and if so, who are the current members?

To which the President replied –

10. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Information on the Board and its committees is contained in the GAB Audited Accounts (Pages 358- 361). This provides the following information for each of the committees –

- Functions of Committee
- Names of Members
- Number of meetings attended

To date there have been no changes in the membership of the committee in 2009.

Questions: 19 October 2009

Dr Stephen Judd to ask –

11. My question is prompted by a letter received last Friday by synod members from Anglican Retirement Villages (ARV), in which it was stated that “ARV has adopted a governance model consistent with established governance principles”.
 - (a) Is it appropriate for a diocesan organisation to “run a ticket” for its *own* Board and in doing so make negative judgments on other qualified nominations?
 - (b) Does this campaigning against other qualified nominees by ARV’s Board constitute interference in the election processes of the Synod?
 - (c) Is such campaigning by incumbent diocesan boards deemed best practice?
 - (d) Given ARV’s Board stated concern for best practice governance, why is ARV almost alone among Anglican bodies not to have its statutory accounts and annual reports freely available on its website or sent to Synod members – and is this practice in breach of Resolution 20/07 of Synod?
 - (e) As the abovementioned letter was sent to all 700 Synod members via expensive Express Post what was the cost of this mailing?
 - (f) Finally, has any ARV Board member who has served in the past three years received remuneration or any other benefit from the organisation and, if so, has the required approval from the Minister been sought and received in accordance with s.48 of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (which section does apply to religious organisations exempt under s.7 of that Act to hold an authority to fundraise)?

To which the President replied –

11. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

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

Questions: 19 October 2009

The Rev Philip Griffin to ask –

12. Pursuant to Resolution 14/08 of the 2008 session of Synod –
- (a) What missional plant experiences has the Archbishop's Liturgical Group taken into account in preparing a new range of templates for Christian Assembly? Has any of these missional plants included –
 - (i) a congregation with low literacy levels?
 - (ii) a congregation in which the majority of members have a Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox background?
 - (iii) a congregation whose membership is largely not Anglo-saxon, and where English is not the native language of many of the members?
 - (iv) a congregation with any other distinctive feature?
 - (b) Has there been any theological assessment of the statement that the role of the service leader is, according to the "better gatherings" website 'The responsibility is to lead others to encounter God.'? If not, what is the process for expressing concerns about the theology expressed in this and other statements on this website?
 - (c) Has there been any theological assessment of the two versions of the prayer of humble access drawn from Sunday Services and Common Worship also on this website?
 - (d) Has this Synod ever approved the liturgy known as Common Worship?

To which the President replied –

12. I am informed that the answer is as follows –
- (a) The Archbishop's Liturgical Panel, consisting of Bishop Forsyth (Chairman), the Rev Dr David Peterson, the Rev Dr Andrew Shead, the Rev Dr Michael Stead, Dr Greg Clarke, the Rev Alan Lukabyo, the Rev Chris Allan and the Rev Peter Tong, sees itself as having a long task in working to provide assistance to the churches of the Diocese and beyond to create better gatherings which both serve the needs of the people and honour God. So far, the panel has produced three simple templates for use in a range of congregations which are on the bettergatherings.com website. There is much more to be done and as yet the Panel has not been able explicitly to focus upon missional plant experience mentioned in the question - although it could be said that the first three iterations of the Book of Common Prayer were indeed especially written for congregations the majority of whose members were ex-Roman Catholics.
 - (b) The statement in the bettergatherings.com website that the responsibility of the leader is to lead others to encounter God is exactly what the Panel believes should occur when we meet with each other in the Christian

assembly, as we let the word of Christ dwell richly among us and as we lift our hearts to the Lord.

The Panel is aware how difficult it can be at times to truly 'to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.' This is why the Panel aims to equip service leaders to craft meetings that by their shape, their contents and their tone proclaim the gospel of Christ, build his body in the unity of the Spirit, and bring honour and glory to God.

There is a place on the bettergatherings.com website for expressing concerns about the theology or any other issue of relevance.

- (c) There has been theological assessment of all the resources on the bettergatherings.com website, and Panel members are satisfied that they do not contravene any principle of doctrine or worship of the Book of Common Prayer and the Thirty-Nine Articles. The two prayers of humble access referred to in the question, are believed to be simply various translations of the original prayer from the Book of Common Prayer.
- (d) The Panel believes that the only canonically authorised liturgies in this Diocese are the Book of Common Prayer of 1662 and An Australian Prayer Book of 1978. The bettergatherings.com website does not include liturgies from Common Worship from the Church of England but does occasionally provide resources from it and other liturgical resources which are consistent with the principles of the doctrine and worship of this Church.

Questions: 19 October 2009

Mr John Paul to ask –

13. This question relates to both the Standing Committee's report and the Strategic Directions 2010-2012 documents. Both documents refer to the Endowment of the See experiencing losses as well as the Diocesan Endowment –
 - (a) Will copies of the audited accounts for this Endowment of the See be made available to Synod noting that the Endowment of the See's financial reports are provided to Standing Committee, which in turn is a Committee of Synod?
 - (b) If not, why not?

To which the President replied –

13. I am informed that the answer is as follows -

Consistent with previous years, the audited accounts for the EOS have been tabled at Standing Committee and Synod, and are available for inspection by any member.

Questions: 19 October 2009

Mrs Jane Strickland to ask –

14. In referring to paragraph 4.25 of the 2009 Report of the Standing Committee (page 16 of the 2009 Session of Synod Book) regarding a summary of the Harvest Living Investment Review –
- (a) What was the monetary value of the investment loss to the Glebe Administration Board (GAB) in the Harvest Living group of companies?
 - (b) What are the changes that have been made to investment policies and procedures of the GAB that will not allow any investment of a similar nature to be made in the future?

To which the President replied –

14. I am informed that the answer is as follows –
- (a) The total losses from the Harvest investments were approximately \$10.5m and all were fully written off or provisioned by December 2007.
 - (b) The Committee that reviewed investment processes in the light of the Harvest Living losses found that investment policies and procedures had changed in a number of significant ways since those investments were made. The GAB no longer invests in small unlisted entities which have any one or more of the following characteristics –
 - we would have a large percentage holding
 - there are linkages between the entities invested in, or
 - there is potential for us to have active involvement in the management of the companies.

The investment process now involves external funds managers and we no longer engage in “stock picking”.

Questions: 19 October 2009

Ms Lyn Bannerman to ask –

15. This question refers to the Diocesan Endowment (DE) audited accounts for 2008 –
- (a) The five year financial summary at pages 362-363 of the Annual Report states that the total liabilities to net assets ratio of the DE for 2008 was nearly 200% (195.8%), up from 139.3% in 2007. Noting that all bank debt was repaid, could you please advise Synod what the liabilities of \$205.4 million consist of?
 - (b) What was the projected liabilities to net asset ratios for the years 2009 and 2010?
 - (c) What do the Glebe Administration Board and Standing committee consider to be an appropriate ratio for the DE?
 - (d) Are there strategies in place to reduce the current liabilities to net asset ratio? If so what are they?
 - (e) P.397 of the Annual Report refers to “Doubtful Debts” over \$1 million. What are these?
 - (f) Referring to pages 333 and 401 of the annual report, please explain to Synod, in laypersons language, what “impairment of investments” means? Which investments fall into this category? On what is \$1.7 million for this purpose being spent?

To which the President replied –

15. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The liabilities of \$205.4m consist of the following items -
 - Glebe Income Account deposits \$154.5m
 - Bank loan \$14.0m
 - External investors share of Glebe Equities Trusts investments \$23.9m
 - Provision for distribution to Synod \$10.7m
 - Interest and other payables \$2.3m

The details of these amounts maybe found in notes 16 – 19 of the GAB audited accounts on pages 403 – 406 of the Synod book. The bank loan was repaid in April 2009.

- (b) The projected liabilities to net asset ratios for the years 2009 and 2010 are 179% and 156% respectively.

- (c) The Board's focus is to manage liabilities by matching the Glebe Income Account deposits with cash and loans. Currently no GIA deposits are invested in growth assets.
- (d) The Board has in place a range of strategies to manage the liabilities to net assets ratio including matching deposits with cash and loans and allocating a proportion of capital to loans.
- (e) The provision for doubtful debts referred to on page 397 of the annual report relates to an intercompany transaction between the Diocesan Endowment and one of its subsidiaries. At a consolidated level this provision has no effect on the net assets of the group.
- (f) Impairment of investments refers to a charge against income reflecting a decision to write down the value of an asset. This arises when the carrying value of an asset exceeds its realisable value. The provision for impairment on page 401 relates to a write down of the Diocesan Endowment's investment in a wholly owned subsidiary, Glebe Australia Limited. At a consolidated level this provision has no effect on the net assets of the group.

Questions: 19 October 2009

The Rev Gwilym Henry-Edwards to ask –

16. Concerning three General Synod 2007 canons aimed at providing a nationally coherent and consistent policy in matters concerning professional standards and clergy discipline; namely the National Register Canon 2007; the Special Tribunal Canon 2007; and the Offences Canon Amendment Canon 2007 –
- (a) What is their status in the Sydney Diocese?
 - (b) Did Sydney representatives oppose the passing of these canons at the 2007 General Synod?
 - (c) Is it true that Sydney Standing Committee has declared that these canons affect the order and good government of the church within the diocese of Sydney?
 - (d) If so, why was the declaration made?
 - (e) What flows from that declaration, and what effect does that declaration have on the promotion of a nationally consistent scheme for clergy disciplinary matters?

To which the President replied –

16. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Strictly speaking parts of this question, namely, the assertion at the beginning and parts (a) and (e), express opinions or seek a legal opinion and are out of order under business rules 6.3(4)(b) and (f). Nonetheless I am able to provide the following information -

- (a) Canons of the General Synod which affect the order and good government of the church within a diocese do not have force and effect in that diocese unless and until the Synod of that diocese adopts the canon by ordinance. The National Register Canon 2007 was adopted by our Synod in 2008. A canon to adopt the Offences Canon Amendment Canon 2007 is before the Synod this year for its consideration. At this stage the Standing Committee does not propose to recommend to the Synod that it adopt the Special Tribunal Canon 2007.
- (b) This is not known. No record is kept of how Sydney representatives on the General Synod vote on any issue.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) There is no record as to how the individual members of the Standing Committee voted or as to why those who supported the declaration voted the way they did. It has been proposed that the sub-committee of the Standing Committee which recommended that the declaration be made prepare a submission in support of the declaration for the benefit of the Standing Committee of the General Synod.

- (e) The implications of the declaration are governed by section 30 of the 1961 Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

There is no national scheme for clergy discipline. Clergy discipline is principally a matter for each diocese to determine. For example it is understood that Faithfulness in Service has not been adopted by all diocesan synods and that many of the diocesan synods that have adopted it have made their own amendments to it.

Questions: 19 October 2009

The Rev Greg Olliffe to ask –

17. How many unique visits to the Connect09.com site have there been each month since its inception to the end of September 2009?

To which the President replied –

17. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

In 2008 connect09.com was the internal (and only) web-site.

From 22 January 2009, connect09.com became the "public" site designed to interface with the distribution of resources. It has received 7,781 unique visits year to date (an average of 31 unique visits per day).

The former connect09.com site was relocated to –

connect09.sydneyanglicans.net

to make way for the new site whilst continuing its role of communicating, networking and informing. Year to date, this "internal" site has received 10,900 unique visits (an average of 43 unique visits per day).

The month by month break down (as requested) for both sites will be posted on the notice board in the foyer.

Connect09.com External site (went on-line on January 22)

January 09644

February 09 2,405

March 09 1,199

April 09 606

May 09 598

June 09 436

July 09 462

August 09 475

September 09 682

TOTAL to end of September 7,507

Average unique visitors/day 31

October 09274 (to 20th)

TOTAL for year to date 7,781

Connect09.sydneyanglicans.net Internal site

January 091,586

February 09 2,039

March 09 1,266

April 09 1,071

May 09 1,084

June 09 891

July 09 823

August 09 814

September 09 894

TOTAL to end of September 10,468

Average unique visitors/day 43

October 09432 (to 20th)

TOTAL for year to date 10,900

Questions: 19 October 2009

Ms Caroline Bowyer to ask –

18. My question refers to the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2009 –
- (a) What are the reasons for the discontinuation of all funding for the following –
 - (i) the Primate's Assistant (para 63 of the Ordinance)?
 - (ii) The Anglican Consultative Council (para 65)?
 - (iii) The Australian Defence Force Board (para 66)?
 - (iv) The NSW Ecumenical Council (para 68)?
 - (b) Noting that these items are small in the overall budget, why were they not reduced by some percentage, as many other budget items were, rather than discontinued?
 - (c) Is there an intention to reinstate funding to any or all of these items in the future, as finances allow? If not, why not?
 - (d) In the context of these decisions, and in view of the need for fiscal constraint in 2010, why is funding in 2010 for the NSW Council of Churches –
 - (i) to be continued at all?
 - (ii) continued with a significantly increased allocation (p.314 of the Annual Report)?
 - (e) In view of the proposed discontinuation of funding for the NSW Ecumenical Council, what is the policy of this Diocese towards ecumenism?

To which the President replied –

18. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

It is not possible to answer this question, other than to refer the questioner to the Strategic Directions document, as the Synod has not yet made determinations on these matters. The question has been drawn to the attention of those moving the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2009.

Questions: 19 October 2009

The Rev Gavin Poole to ask –

19. (a) What was the total amount of money realised from the sale of shares sold by the Glebe Board between 15 September 2008 and 31 December 2008?
- (b) What independent professional advice was obtained by the Glebe Board prior to selling those shares?
- (c) What was the total value of those same shares on the Sydney Stock Exchange on 1 March 2008?
- (d) What was the total value of those same shares on the Sydney Stock Exchange on 15 October 2009?

19. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Between 15 September 2008 and 31 December 2008 the Board sold \$76m of Australian Equities.
- (b) Paragraphs 32 to 39 of the GAB Annual Report sets out the advice taken from various parties over the period leading up to and including 2008. While the GAB regularly considers economic and market reports from a range of sources, no specific external advice was taken on the sale of the shares during the December 2008 quarter.
- (c) The total value of the Australian Equities sold was \$111m on 1 March 2008.
- (d) The total value of the Australian Equities sold was \$102m on 15 October 2009.

Questions: 19 October 2009

The David O'Mara to ask –

20. (a) What is the current practice and future plans of Moore Theological College to equip Anglican ordination candidates for cross-cultural ministry in the Diocese of Sydney?
- (b) What is the current practice and future plans of Moore Theological College to develop and equip its theological staff to prepare Anglican ordination candidates for the unique challenges of cross-cultural ministry in the Diocese of Sydney?

To which the President replied –

20. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The whole program at Moore College aims to provide the proper Biblical world view and understanding of the gospel to “make disciples of all nations.” Particular emphases worth mentioning include:
1. All students undertake a compulsory unit in Ministry in each year of their BD course. Those units contain modules on relating ministry to the culture of the hearers, especially in the area of preaching.
 2. Other subjects equip students to engage with contemporary world-views.
 3. As a result of a review presently being undertaken, commencing in 2010, new subjects will be introduced to the BD which will further strengthen training for ministry in a multi-cultural context. This will include further attention to world religions, in particular Buddhism and Islam, and cross-cultural communication in a mission context.
 4. At least one College Mission each year is planned to involve outreach to Muslims in Sydney. There is also usually at least one Mission team that goes to an overseas setting and/or a very different context in Australia.
 5. Each week there is a ‘Ministry and Missions Hour’ in which students learn of ministry in a particular context directly from practitioners.
 6. Each year there is a Missions Week in which representatives of various mission agencies spend a week at the College engaging in various ways with the College community.
- (b) Since the late 1990s the Faculty of the College has included a Head of the Missions Department, who is a person with cross-cultural missions experience and training.

Over recent years progressively more Faculty members have availed themselves of invitations to engage in and gain exposure to ministry in cross cultural contexts. Over half have now had that privilege.

Considerable effort has also gone into assembling a curriculum within the MA(Theology) for engagement with Islam and Faculty members have teamed with visiting specialists to learn more. Other specialists have been invited for the future. As experience is gained through these courses, many other aspects of the College program are enhanced to strengthen engagement with the contemporary multi-cultural context of ministry.

Questions: 19 October 2009

The Rev Philip Bradford to ask –

21. This question refers to several items in the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2009 –
- (a) \$35,000 has been allocated in 2010 under Policy 1a for spiritual renewal through prayer (p. 308 of the Annual report). Please advise –
 - (i) How this estimate has been derived?
 - (ii) What are the costed components that make up this allocation?

 - (b) Para 49 of the proposed Ordinance states that: “Synod provides as much funding as possible for Moore Theological College”. In view of the cuts to funding across the board, including some previous budget lines being allocation \$0 for 2010:
 - (i) What does “as much funding as possible” actually mean?
 - (ii) Is there an intention to allocate more to the College than the budget contained in the Ordinance before Synod currently specifies?
 - (iii) Is Synod being asked to endorse an open ended amount for the College?

 - (c) \$288,000 has been allocated under Policy 1b, to the “Work Outside the Diocese Committee”. The only item mentioned at para 30 of the Ordinance in respect of this item is GAFCON.
 - (i) Does this mean that all the allocation of \$288,000 is to support the Diocese’s involvement in GAFCON?
 - (ii) If not, how much of these funds will be GAFCON related and what other activities will be funded under this line?

21. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) (i) Over the past few years the amount allocated to Policy 1a has been 0.5% of the total allocations. In making a recommendation for 2010, the use of the money in the past was taken into account, for example Bishop Reg Piper’s former responsibility for this area and his preparation of ‘40 Days with the Risen Lord’ etc, and more recently the promotion of prayer through Connect09.

While the recommended allocation is only a small amount, the strategic directions document makes the comment “It would be too easy to make this a perfunctory element of the mission when it is really the heart of the matter.”

- (ii) As also stated in that document “the emphasis on prayer must be continued. The essence of this policy remains as important now as

ever. The Archbishop commits Episcopal leadership to implement Policy 1.”

(b) The line “as much funding as possible for Moore College” is a statement of principle that guided the allocations. The amount is not open ended and is limited to the allocation in the ordinance. The committee in allocating the finances sought to invest in the future leaders and their theological development hence the priority of the College. Note that Moore College is accepting costs for the Social Issues Executive which appears as a zero in policy 4.

(c) (i) No

(ii) Approximately \$40,000.

Based on previous experience, it is expected that the Committee will provide support to several other dioceses inside Australia, and for a large variety of projects in overseas countries including theological education, provision of PTC etc.

Questions: 19 October 2009

Professor Jocelyn Chey to ask –

22. This question refers to the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2009 and the Strategic Directions paper –
- (a) What provision has been made in 2010 to meet the Diocese's obligation to ensure pastoral support and professional development to its clergy?
 - (b) Is it true that the cost of such support (see paras 33 and 47 of the Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance) will be dependent on fund raising by parishes?
 - (c) What will the Diocese do to assist clergy if such fund raising is not adequate?
 - (d) Who will provide pastoral support to clergy, given that the new structures proposed in the Strategic Directions paper appears to eliminate the traditional roles of Archdeacons and Deaneries, and given that Assistant Bishops will have increased workloads implementing policies in the Strategic Directions?

To which the President replied –

- 22.
- (a) Almost all of the existing provision will remain in place, including that provided by bishops, the Archdeacon for women and by Ministry Training and Development, and this will be complemented by training in each mission area.
 - (b) No. Fund raising in paragraph 33 of the Ordinance refers to administrative assistance to bishops.
 - (c) Not applicable.
 - (d) The pastoral care and professional development of clergy is a matter in which I have a specific ongoing interest. Naturally, therefore, the bishops and others have been consulted about any necessary changes which need to be made in our new circumstances to keep pastoral care in place and to improve what we do as a Diocese.

Questions: 19 October 2009

The Rev Martin Robinson to ask –

23. (a) How many ordained priests were in active service in the Diocese in 2001?
- (b) How many are there in 2009?

To which the President replied –

23. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) An approximate figure from the records available is 400.
- (b) 374

Questions: 19 October 2009

The Rev Martin Robinson to ask –

24. Is it the case that the Diocese has withdrawn from ICCOREIS (the Inter-Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools)? If so,–
- (a) When was this decision taken?
 - (b) How and when was it drawn to the attention of the Diocese at large?
 - (c) Why was this action taken?

To which the President replied –

24. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

After careful consideration of the matter, the Anglican Education Commission, on behalf of the Diocese, made a strategic decision towards the end of 2008 that it could play a more significant and politically effective advocacy role on behalf of Bible-believing teachers of Anglican and Protestant SRE (Scripture) by engaging personally and directly with the Department of Education and Training and the Ministry of Education than through the maintenance of its membership of the Inter-Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools.

As a consequence, the Diocese has been given representation on the Director-General's Consultative Committee on Religious Education, is consulted directly on matters of policy and has had the opportunity to offer policy advice on matters affecting the teaching of religious education in schools.

The thousands of dollars and time that would have been expended in 2009 by two senior persons attending frequent meetings of the Inter-Church Commission on Religious Education has been used so far:

- to strengthen the promotion and support of Anglican SRE throughout the Diocese,
- to upgrade the quality of training programs for new SRE teachers
- to troubleshoot and resolve quickly problems arising between SRE teachers and schools, and
- to provide support to Christian principals and teachers in Government primary and secondary schools of a kind never previously provided by the Anglican church.

None of this could have been achieved, especially in the light of reduced budgets, had the Diocese continued its membership of ICCOREIS. ICCOREIS was informed of this decision late last year.