

The Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

(Anglican Church of Southern Africa in Limpopo)
Bishop: Martin Breytenbach
martin@stmark.org.za
Tel: (015) 297-3297 Fax 086 509 4629
Bishop's PA: fraukey@stmark.org.za
Diocesan Centre: jacky@stmark.org.za



P.O Box 643
Polokwane, 0700

ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE TENTH SYNOD (2012)

Acts

1 Rule 24.3: To Provide For Nominations.

Every year, between the first day of October and the last day of December, the incumbent and wardens in office at the time, shall call for nominations of registered and confirmed communicants who are willing to serve on the church or parish council for the coming year.

It shall be the duty of the incumbent together with the chapel and parish wardens to set a date for the calling of nominations and of the annual vestry for the chapelry and the parish.

The nominees shall undergo a screening process, the criteria of which shall be determined by the executive council (the incumbent and chapel/parish warden).

A list of nominees shall be published on the notice board to allow for objections and appeals by parishioners. The final list of successful candidates shall be published not later than the last day of January.

2 24.3.1: To Provide For Annual Financial Statements (Read In Conjunction With Rule 25.5.1).

- a) In the event that no audited/verified accounts have been produced on time and after dealing with all other matters of Vestry, the Chairman shall adjourn the Vestry in accordance with Rule 24.16/25.12, and that upon receipt of the audited/verified accounts the Chairman reconvene vestry to approve these accounts.
- b) Such reconvened vestry shall be advertised in accordance with Rule 24.13/25.8.
- c) The Diocesan Treasurer shall be informed of this adjournment within 14 days.
- d) The outgoing church wardens shall remain responsible for the auditing/verifying and presentation of these accounts.
- e) Vestry is to be reconvened no later than the 15th April of the same year.
- f) Should the audited/verified annual financial statements still not be completed the reconvened vestry must take place and the outgoing wardens explain why and what they have done expedite the process. A new vestry date is to be set no later than one calendar

month hence, and the new date and the full reasons therefor be submitted to the Diocesan Treasurer within 14 days.

Resolutions

1 Newly Inaugurated Christ Church Cathedral and Installation of our First Dean

Principle

- 1) The Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist has noted that:
 - a) Christ Church Cathedral is now the principal church in the Diocese
 - b) A Dean and Sub-Dean have been installed
 - c) Christ Church Cathedral will provide a place of meetings and worship for official Diocesan events
 - d) The Dean who is also the Senior Priest has a special role to play in the Diocese, which will entail:
 - i. Being appointed Vicar General in the absence of the Bishop. Additional to this, the Dean will also fulfil certain responsibilities as stipulated in the Canons and Constitution of ACSA and the Rules of the Diocese (see Canons 4, 7, 9, 22 and Article viii of the ACSA Constitution)
 - ii. Functioning as the Archdeacon of the Central Archdeaconry (Canon 15 and Rule 4.2)
 - iii. Convening the Archdeacons' Forum
 - iv. Overseeing the election of Canons as and when required (Rule 4.3.5)
 - v. Being chaplain to the Diocese
 - vi. Being minister to the city of Polokwane and planting churches in the city.
- 2) And, therefore, Christ Church Cathedral is responsible for setting an example of excellence to the Diocese in worship, ministry, pastoral care, mission, discipleship and administration. Notwithstanding these functions and the role attributed to the mission and ministry of the Dean and the Cathedral, it is probably that other roles and responsibilities could still be identified and implemented.

Proposal

It is, therefore humbly proposed that this Synod be requested that:

- 1) The Bishop and Dean, through the existing and statutory bodies of the Diocese explore and implement any other roles and responsibilities pertaining to the mission and ministry of the Dean, Sub-Dean and Cathedral.
- 2) And, that a report be given to the next Synod detailing such mission and ministry with the intention that this be written into the Rule of the Diocese.

2 Establishment of a Board of Trustees Sub-Committee to help Chapelries/Parishes with Major Building Projects After their Plans have been Approved

Principle

The Church today faces critical challenges brought about by the growth in population within our parishes and chapelries. Demands in basic needs particularly in housing and security are increasing

Diocesan Vision: To make disciples in vibrant, self-sufficient congregations established and linked to each other by sharing in resources; ministry & service; outreach & evangelism.

and the Church is also affected one way or the other. Community development projects, erection of new Church buildings, renovation or refurbishment and alteration of old and existing church buildings require the Church's attention.

All these basic needs are not easily attainable. Building industry is quite lucrative and competitive in today's market and so are development projects. The Church needs the capacity to deal professionally with these challenges as and when they arise. The capacity being referred to is not available in more than two thirds of our parishes and chapelries. With this in mind, the Church needs to be pro-active to prepare for the inevitable or eventualities within our parishes and chapelries.

Proposal

That Synod approved the establishment of a Diocesan Board of Trustees Sub-Committee to:

- 1) Assist chapelries/parishes with the complexities of major building projects (over R100,000) and that,
- 2) Diocesan Board of Trustees will place this Sub-Committee under its authority, determining its composition and function, and drawing up appropriate bye-laws.

3 St Michael's United Church

This Synod, noting the desire of the members of St Michael's Church to expand their constitution to include other member churches of the Church Unity Commission, which includes the Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa, accepts and endorses the amended constitution as presented to the Bishop on 25th October 2011.

4 DFB Bye-Laws

Principle

This Synod, noting the sterling work the Diocesan Finance Board has done and continues to do in the area of financial management, wishes to congratulate all its members serving under the Chairmanship of the Bishop of St Mark the Evangelist. Finance Board from time to time passes bye-laws dealing with financial matters in the Diocese. The list of these bye-laws describing briefly what they deal with is attached hereto for Synod members to take cognizance thereof for effective and efficient financial management.

Proposal

This Synod, therefore, thanks the Diocesan Finance Board and calls upon all parishes and chapelries to use these bye-laws as guidelines in managing their finances.

5 Caring for our Planet/Environment

Bishop Martin spoke in his Charge of the amazing universe God created which is being polluted, abused and destroyed by us, its inhabitants, to whom he gave authority to care for his creation.

Tonight, Saturday 31st March, between 20:30 and 21:30 you are asked to support this "Earth Hour" and those who champion the protection of our environment and planet by switching off all lights and plugs.

6 Youth Ministry

The Principle:

Based on the understanding that young women and men, who are deemed to be “Youth” aged 14 – 35 years old by the National Youth Commission Act 1996 (NYC), face differing age-specific developmental and life stage challenges, psychologically, socially, economically and physiologically; based on the Children’s Act of 2005 which defines a child as being between the ages of 0 – 18 years; and also based on the perceived need for developmentally specific care, teaching, guidance, assistance and support of young men and women between the ages of 13 – 18, the Archdeaconry of the South proposes the following motion to this Synod :

The Motion :

That Chapelries and Parishes who have already established Youth Groups or who may plan to establish the same:

- 1) Establish the groups as ministry activity and responsibility of the whole membership of the congregation and its resources;
- 2) With the ages of young women and men who are acknowledged as members of a youth group as being between the ages of 13 years or Grade 6 (or the equivalent) until 18 years of age;
- 3) Also acknowledge that since these persons are legally children, that parents be encouraged to participate in the activities of Youth Groups;
- 4) And that other young men and women (but not exclusive of older men and women), who fit into the category of ‘Youth’ as defined by the NYC (from age 19 – 35), and who express intention to be a part of this group, receive formal Lay Minister training as prescribed by this Diocese for ‘Youth Work’ in order that their participation supports their personal growth as Christian men and women;
- 5) That their participation as ministers to a Youth Group is supported and resourced by the Chapel or Parish Councils and resources;
- 6) And are doing such ministry under the supervision of the Incumbent and Chapel Council.

7 Reception of Reports

This Synod receives and accepts the reports received from the Archdeaconries, Parishes and Organisations as contained in the Second Agenda Book (pages 53 – 103) and the report of Iviyo (which was handed out separately) be received.

8 DFB Bye Law : Receipt of Thank Offerings

Principle

From time to time clergy or other ministers of the church receive gifts from people as thank offerings for ministry performed. This is covered by Rule 11.7 of the Diocesan Rule Book.

This is often the case with, for example, the conducting of a wedding or funeral.

However, confusion may exist as to the tax liability of this gift.

Therefore

This Diocese accepts:-

- 1) Arising from professional advice received and a ruling from the South African Revenue Services which is deemed applicable in our circumstances (Binding Class Ruling : BCR 027),

and supported by Sectoral Determination 14 : Hospitality Sector, South Africa which defines “remuneration” as *‘any payment in money or in kind, or both in money and in kind excluding any gratuity or gift received from a customer for service rendered’*

2) Definition of a Thank Offering and a Payment

A thank offering is any gift, in cash and/or in kind, given by a person entirely out of their free will and which intention is to say thank you for ministry appreciated. This is similar to the tip/gratuity paid to a waitron.

A payment is if under any circumstances the church or minister asks or suggests that this gift, in cash and/or in kind, be given.

3) Tax Implication

According to SARS any payment for a service performed is to be treated as taxable income and must be declared and tax paid on it.

However, because of SARS’ ruling, a thank offering is considered to be a gift given by free will in appreciation of a service rendered. Such a free will gift is not taxable.

4) This Diocese instructs that all payments, in cash and/or in kind, and including the Easter and Pentecost Offering, must be declared to SARS and taxed. These may be declared through the diocesan office.”

9 Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist Sunday

That the 1st Sunday of May of each year be named the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist Sunday.

That the Synod accepts and promotes the need to celebrate this important day in the life of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist. That Synod requests the Bishop to write a special liturgy and collect for the celebration of the Eucharist by all parishes in the Diocese to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist.

The Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist was inaugurated on the 16th May 1987. This year we celebrate 25 years which is the silver anniversary since we have become a Diocese. We thank God for His mercy and blessings on us that we have grown as his children and in His Kingdom.

Though celebrating huge milestones is important, it is essential that Anglican Christians in the Diocese rededicate with thanksgiving to God each year that we are a Diocese. That we have a special day to pray for this Diocese and ask God to strengthen its leadership. That as we grow in numbers we must continue to grow in discipleship to Christ Jesus, sharing the good news of His Kingdom with the people of Limpopo.

10 DFB Bye Law : Arising from debate on Rule 20.7

This Synod notes that :

The proposed repeal of Rule 20.7 (whether accepted or rejected by Synod) has raised considerable debate and exposed certain fears and concerns about the management of money.

Proposal:

Therefore, this Synod respectfully requests that Diocesan Finance Board be tasked to put a bye-law in place that will govern and give financial guidelines for the control and management of funds in the archdeaconries.

11 Accountability Contract

That this Synod takes note of the Accountability Contract which has been drawn up for clergy and encourages parishes to make use of it – especially when new clergy are licensed in the parish.

[A draft contract was included in the Fourth Agenda Book]

12 Diocesan Budget

This Synod approves the Diocesan Budget for 2013.

Unopposed Motions

1 Premier Cassel Mathale

This Synod hears with concern of the accident Premier Cassel Mathale was involved in and:

- 1) Assures him of this Synod's thoughts and prayers for his full recovery
- 2) Asks the Synod President to convey our best thoughts and assurances of prayer for a speedy recovery to him.

2 First Cathedral of This Diocese

This Synod notes with appreciation the inauguration of the first Cathedral of this Diocese, and acknowledges the hard work and sacrifice so many made towards its establishment.

Christ Church Cathedral is the culmination of much prayer and commitment by the entire Diocese: from our Diocesan Bishop Martin, to the Cathedral Inauguration Committee and to parishes and organisations who voluntarily donated money to meet the costs of the inauguration.

This Synod thanks those parishes which contributed money, and acknowledges that R32,974.00 was raised through their generosity.

This Synod notes that the costs for the inauguration amounted to R60, 206.00. The shortfall and other expenses related to the installation of the dean were met by Christ Church Cathedral and the Diocese.

This Synod further notes that moneys budgeted and donations received but not used for the inauguration have been placed into a mission fund held at the Cathedral and will be used to meet expenses related to mission by the Dean and Cathedral. This fund currently stands at R48,000.00.

3 Thanks to the Mothers' Union

This Synod thanks the Mothers' Union for the lunch they had served.

4 Thanks to the Intercessors

This Synod thanks the intercessors and requests that they keep on praying.

5 Thanks to the People of Singapore

This Synod thanks the people of Singapore for its generosity in gifts of clothes for the poor when the Diocesan Choir visited Singapore at Christmas 2011. A suitable letter will be written by someone involved with the Choir.

6 Meal at 2nd Sitting of Synod

This Synod gives thanks to the Mothers' Union of Seshego and all the ladies who assisted them for the delicious meal they served us.

7 25th Anniversary of the Diocese

This Synod gives thanks to God as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist.

8 Diocesan Anglicans Ablaze Conference

This Synod gives thanks to the Diocesan Iviyo for arranging our first Anglicans Ablaze Conference from 15th-17th June 2012 and to the Parish of Seshego for hosting us.

9 Rev Dr Lutz Ackermann

That this Synod send a message of greeting and farewell to Rev Dr Lutz Ackermann who is joining the Lutheran Church as a Pastor in Hillbrow Parish, Johannesburg.

Rev Dr Lutz Ackermann has been a member of Christ Church Cathedral since 2001 and was ordained in 2010 as a self-supporting Priest. He is responsible for a number of ministries that impacted on the spiritual growth of the people of the Cathedral and surrounding areas e.g. the establishment of mission in Ga-Chuene, HIV/AIDS task team, Extension 44 Soup Kitchen, New Pietersburg, and Alpha.

We therefore send to Rev Dr Lutz Ackermann and his family God's love and blessings as he works amongst the disadvantaged and marginalized people of Hillbrow.

10 Ordination of Women

This Synod

- 1) celebrates with joy the 20th anniversary this year of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa;
- 2) notes with appreciation the incredible and God-inspired impact of ministry by the ordained women of this Diocese;
- 3) acknowledges that without the gift of your ministry we would not be anywhere near the level of discipleship and Christian growth that we currently are. You are all a wonderful blessing to us;
- 4) therefore thanks Almighty God for each and every one of you, assuring you of our love and prayer and support;
- 5) respectfully asks Bishop Martin to personally convey these sentiments to every ordained lady in our Diocese.

11 Intercessory Team

This Synod expresses its appreciation for the work of the Intercessory Team which has met quietly at every sitting of Synod to pray for us. We have been very aware of your prayerful presence and thank God for your important ministry. May God continue to use and inspire you.

12 Bishop of Johannesburg

This Synod acknowledges the reality that our Bishop Martin has been included in the list of 5 candidates for election as Bishop of Johannesburg.

We assure him of our prayers as his name is presented to the elective assembly in the coming week and trust our God to bring about His will in the process.

13 Anglicans Ablaze Conference

This Synod

- 1) acknowledges the upcoming Anglicans Ablaze Conference at New Life Conference Centre, Bryanston, Johannesburg, from the 03rd to the 06th October. This conference will explore the new ACSA vision of ACT (Anchored in the love of Christ; Committed to God's Mission and Transformed by the Holy Spirit) under the banner of : A Generation rising Up;
- 2) thanks God for the vision and work of the organising committee, especially that of the Rev Trevor Pearce from Growing the Church, as well as the leadership provided by Bishop Martin in planning this conference; and
- 3) encourages all members of Synod to make every effort to attend this conference, inviting as many others as possible to attend as well.

14 Thanks to the Mothers' Union

This Synod

- 1) expresses its profound appreciation for the generosity and effort that the Mothers' Union has put into providing brunches for each and every sitting of this 10th Diocesan Synod. We have been nourished both physically and spiritually by the tasty and healthy provision of food at each sitting of Synod, and we thank you for this.
May God continue to bless and use you in your ministry in this Diocese;
- 2) respectfully asks Bishop Martin to express this appreciation of Synod to the Diocesan Mothers' Union.

15 Bishop of Swaziland

This Synod

- 1) notes with joy the recent election of Rev Ellinah Wamukoya as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Swaziland – the first woman in our Province, indeed in Africa, to be chosen as Bishop!
- 2) expresses its congratulations to her and promises to pray for her consecration and ministry;
- 3) respectfully requests Bishop Martin to pass our best wishes and prayers to Bishop Elect Rev Ellinah Wamukoya.

16 Bishop Martin and Anglicans Ablaze

This Synod appreciates and commends Bishop Martin for the prominent role he played in the Anglicans Ablaze Conference.

Vote of Thanks

Bishop Martin and Members of Synod.

It gives me great pleasure to stand before you this afternoon and propose this vote of thanks.

We have arrived at the end of another eventful and wonderful sitting of this the tenth Synod of the Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist. It also marks the end of another eventful year in the ministry in which we are joined through the love and calling of Christ.

It is therefore to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that I wish first to express our profound praise and thankfulness for his never-failing love, grace and leadership.

We must also express our appreciation to Bishop Martin for your constant and encouraging love and leadership in this Diocese. Without your support, encouragement and example we would never have achieved all that we have achieved. Neither would we be so enthusiastic for all the ministry potential that lies before us. I know that with your continuing guidance and leadership we will meet all which God places before us. Thank you for being who you are; precious and godly and loving.

We thank you too Bishop Martin for your chairing of this Synod and of all the preparatory work you do before it. You have a gentle touch with a profound ability to hear from God and to guide us in the way of Christ. Thank you.

I wish also to acknowledge the leadership and support shown by all members of this tenth sitting of Synod. The debate and decisions taken have been, as always, of a high calibre and fittingly moves this Diocese forward in obedience to God. To those who presented motions and measures and the budget for 2013 a big thank you for your hard work. I am sure we all are happy we can go home this afternoon and not have to plan to come back!

I must also acknowledge the vitally important supportive and wise role played by our Diocesan Chancellor and Registrar. Two incredibly wise and competent ladies, whose legal expertise guides us all through the minefield that is Canon Law. Your calm and reassuring knowledge and practice of the law makes us all immeasurably richer. Thank you.

There are many who were part of this Synod but who never stood up to speak or sat in this synod chamber or voted on motions and measures. They are the unsung heroes who kept us fed, prayed for and equipped us with agenda books and sundry pieces of paper. So, to the Mother's Union for their tea and brunches, to the intercessory prayer team who unfailing prayed over each of us through each sitting, to the diocesan staff who quite literally slaved in the diocesan office to get ready the agenda books and distribute them, and to those who were here first at every sitting in order to set up the registration tables and who strived to keep us orderly, presentable and registered; a very, very big thank you. May God bless you all for your willing and helpful hearts.

Our grateful appreciation to all those who agreed to stand for election to the various boards and institutions of this Diocese and of the wider Anglican Church of Southern Africa. Congratulations to those who have been elected to these positions of responsibility.

Thank you to those who sacrificed to take our minutes and to those who undertook to scrutinise them and to correct errors before these minutes were presented to us for acceptance. You are all fantastic! To the runners and assistants who distributed and collected and counted; you helped make this Synod a success and you should deservedly be proud. Thank you.

To those who led our worship at each sitting; thank you for the time and effort you so diligently put into this. I think especially today of the choir from the Church of the Good Shepherd who will lead us in song at the close. We appreciate you all and love you for it.

Diocesan Vision: To make disciples in vibrant, self-sufficient congregations established and linked to each other by sharing in resources; ministry & service; outreach & evangelism.

I wish as Dean to express my gratitude to the staff of the Cathedral. They toiled hard before a sitting to make ready this church for us to meet. They toil again after the sitting to ready it for the worship on Sunday. To our administrators and vergers a very big thank you. To our Church Wardens who took responsibility to ensure the availability of this church and for their role in the opening Eucharist, and to the media personnel – particularly James Kwenaita, who made sure the microphones and projectors were working and ready for us. To those who unlocked the church and opened the doors and windows for us, please accept our grateful appreciation. To you all, your commitment and servant heart helped make this Synod the success it was. Thank you.

Finally, should I have inadvertently neglected to mention someone I take full responsibility and apologise unreservedly. You too have been of immeasurable worth to this Synod and we thank you.

I accordingly ask that my vote of thanks be received and accepted.

Luke Pretorius

Dean, Christ Church Cathedral