

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

DIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN



67th Session of Synod
13-15 June 2024



Motions passed and adopted

MOTION 1: Refining of the Acts of Diocesan Synod

This Synod

Noting that:

The Acts of Diocesan Synod, in its current reading, requires refining to be synergistic with the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa:

Respectfully requests

1. That this Diocesan Synod tasks the Bishop of Table Bay and the Diocesan Secretary or the Diocesan Administrator (if so appointed), together with a maximum of 5 persons with the necessary interest and skills, (bearing in mind the demographics of our diocese), to workshop the refining of The Acts of Diocesan Synod, mutatis mutandis to the Canons of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.
2. That the above task team deliver its first interim report within 6 months of this Diocesan Synod to the Bishop of Table Bay for consideration with Diocesan Chapter and, if necessary, referral back for consultation with the task team to take place.
3. The report shall be finalized by 30 June 2025 to be presented at the next Diocesan Standing Committee meeting.
4. Following adoption by DSC, the final report shall be handed to a drafting committee to prepare measures/ motions in preparation for Diocesan Synod 2027

MOTION 2: Diocesan Safe and Inclusive Church Subcommittee

This Synod Notes:

1. *The expressed intention and overarching aim and ethos of ACT XX of Provincial Synod (Pg 216 of the Constitution And Canons of the ACSA).*
2. *The immense task that rests with the Provincial Safe And Inclusive Church Commission of ACSA, having to deal with matters from across the Province.*
3. *The huge financial expense in managing a Provincial body.*

Proposes that:

1. This synod approves the establishing of a Diocesan Safe and Inclusive Church Subcommittee, which will deal with matters in accordance with ACT XX, more specifically Section 6.3, sub sections (a) – (j);
2. The DSAIC Subcommittee governing body be

comprised of:

- a. The Bishop of Table Bay
 - b. Three (3) legal persons, comprising the Diocesan Chancellor or Registrar, and two others appointed by the Bishop of Table Bay, in consultation with the Archbishop.
 - c. Two (2) members of Diocesan Chapter
 - d. A psychologist or other specialist involved in counselling, spiritual guidance, or support in cases of abuse, appointed by the Bishop of Table Bay from a list of recommended people prepared by the DSIC subcommittee and Diocesan Chapter
 - e. The Diocesan Secretary / Diocesan Administrator (if so appointed)
3. The terms of office of the DSAIC Subcommittee's members will be:
 - a. The Bishop of Table Bay (until his tenure ends)
 - b. Two legal persons, (other than the Registrar) for a period of three (3) years, which may be renewed for no longer than a second 3-year term.
 - c. The two (2) members of Diocesan Chapter, to serve for a period determined by the Bishop of Table Bay in consultation with the Archbishop.
 - d. The psychologist or other specialist, for a period of three (3) years, which may be renewed for no longer than a second 3-year term.
 - e. The Diocesan Secretary/ Diocesan Administrator (if so appointed), for as long as he/she holds this position.

MOTION 3: Ministry To People in Same-Sex Unions

This Synod

Noting that:

1. *As Anglicans, it has been a wrestle for more than 10 years of how to provide pastoral care and ministry to people in same sex unions.*
2. *The Synod of Bishops discussed pastoral guidelines in response to the Civil Unions recognised under South Africa's Constitution in 2010 and has regularly visited the issue ever since.*
3. *In 2013, Provincial Synod urged the Bishops to finalise the guidelines "as soon as possible".*
4. *We are not of one mind on the issue of blessings for same - sex unions.*
5. *The Bishops were asked at their March 2023 session to at least develop prayers of affirmation and acknowledgement for all faithful Anglicans.*
6. *A small committee, including Bishops both accepting of and opposed to blessings for of same-sex couples, has compiled the 15 proposed prayers.*

7. *That the proposed prayers reflect divergent positions, from asking God's blessing on a same-sex relationship to ones which specifically express disagreement with sexual relationships for same-sex couples.*

8. *In order to provide ministry to all our people, we must engage in our parishes with these prayers and the issues they raise.*

9. *Archbishop Thabo wrote a letter to the People of God on the 25th of April 2024, asking for feedback from draft prayers for members in same sex unions, in order to inform the debate by Synod of Bishops and Provincial Synod in September 2024.*

Proposes that:

1. We respectfully request the Bishop of Table Bay to constitute a working committee to provide materials to parishes that will a) facilitate discussion on the content of the prayers, and b) discuss how parishes could more effectively respond to the pastoral needs of people in the LGBTQIA+ communities.

2. These discussions to take place during the 'Month of Compassion' (August 2024).

3. Parishes submit a brief report, by latest 9 September 2024, to The Bishop of Table Bay on the outcomes of the discussions held at parish level.

4. That the working committee compile a report of responses received from parishes to inform the Bishop of Table Bay and Provincial Synod Representatives of the mind of the diocese as they deliberate on these prayers at Provincial Synod.

5. The parishes be encouraged to hold the Provincial Synod in prayer as they continue to wrestle with this very sensitive matter and discern God's will for our Province.

MOTION 4: Violence in our City

This Synod

Noting that:

1. *There has been an increase in violence of all forms on the Cape Flats in recent months.*

2. *Many parishioners live and move amidst the crossfire.*

3. *The rates of gender-based violence remain high across our city.*

4. *Many of our communities have been flagged as red zones, due to the ongoing high levels of violence and crime, resulting in essential and emergency services being limited in those communities.*

5. *The Diocese undertook Processions of Witness in Manenberg and in Hanover Park alongside community partners.*

Resolves to:

1. Respectfully request the Bishop of Table Bay to take appropriate action in order to strengthen the relationships with existing community partners and to establish these relationships where they do not currently exist.

2. Develop a plan for regular Processions of Witness, covering all communities plagued by gang violence and GBV.

3. Encourage greater participation, at parochial and archdeaconry level, in Civic structures.

4. Call for an annual Day of Prayer for an end to violence in our city and

5. Find ways of working with Ward Committees, Non-Profit Organisations and other community-based

Structures, alongside the police serving in our communities.

MOTION 5: Resolution: A call for solidarity with the people of Palestine

This Synod:

Noting:

1. *The history of the dispossession of the Palestinian people of their land and of their systematic oppression for more than 75 years.*

2. *The loss of more than 35 000 lives, the majority of whom are women, children and unarmed men, caused by the State of Israel's response to the Hamas attack of 7 October 2023.*

3. *That hospitals and medical workers, universities and their staff, aid agencies and their staff, schools, mosques, and churches, civilian homes and civilian infrastructure have been targeted, resulting in suffering, death and destruction.*

4. *The ruling by the International Court of Justice in the case of South Africa versus the State of Israel that the Palestinians have a plausible right to be protected from genocide and that there is a risk of irreparable harm to that right and that the residents of Gaza should be protected under the Genocide Convention.*

5. *The finding by the United Nations Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory, occupied since 1967, that apartheid is being practiced by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory.*

6. *The Resolution of Provincial Standing Committee 2023 endorsing the declaration of Israel as 'an apartheid state'.*

Now therefore resolves to:

1. Promote education in our parishes,

1.1 regarding the history of Palestine and Israel and the ways in which Palestinians have been dispossessed of their land;

1.2 regarding the differences between the political State of Israel and the Biblical ideas of Israel as God's chosen people.

2. Call on churches throughout the Diocese to join with people of the Abrahamic faiths – Muslims and Jews, for a Free Palestine in acts of prayer, solidarity and witness against the genocide.

3. Call on all our members to boycott Israeli products and companies associated with Israel.

4. Engage in public acts of witness and solidarity such as candle-lighting in homes and in churches, to remember the 35 000+ Gazan victims;

5. Find other ways to create communities of care and support which foregrounds our belief in the indivisibility of global human rights.

6. Call for an immediate ceasefire, the return of hostages and the release of prisoners.

7. Call on all governments to refuse to send any arms or supply any military or other material support to Israel.

8. Call for food and other aid to be allowed into Gaza safely and without restrictions and for the immediate opening of all entry and access points.

MOTION 6: STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY

This Synod

Noting

- 1. The imperative to be good stewards of both the monetary and property assets entrusted to us, and our responsibility to ensure that such assets are used to their fullest potential for the mission of the church.*
- 2. The changing demographics within the Diocese of Cape Town since 1994 which has negatively impacted on the maintenance and viability of many church properties as either parishes or chapelries.*
- 3. There may be dormant or unused properties within the Diocese of Cape Town that could be used more creatively for the extension of ministry within the diocese.*
- 4. That new areas of ministry are being identified in areas that have seen significant growth since 1994, and that the need to extend ministry into such areas requires a re-evaluation of existing ministry in the Diocese of Cape Town.*

This Synod resolves:

- To respectfully request the Archbishop to form a commission, (as a sub-committee of DTB) inclusive of qualified persons, skilled in the property industry, to investigate the usage of church property with the following mandate:
 - To identify parishes and chapelries that are no longer viable and to make recommendations to either twin with other parishes, merge with other parishes, or to be closed;
 - To make recommendations to the DTB on the potential re-use, development and/or lease/sale of any such non-viable or dormant parish/chapel property assets.
 - To make recommendations on the usage of the proceeds of such property sales or development income with due reference to Article XVIII and XIX of the ACSA Constitution when read with Schedule A together with Canon 42 of the Canons and Constitution of the ACSA.
 - To include affected parishes in all the discussions and deliberations.

MOTION 7: Under Chapter V1 of Canon 34: of Holy Matrimony

This Synod noting,

- 1. The affirmation that 'marriage by divine institution is a lifelong and exclusive union between one man and one woman' remains the church's position, and acknowledging that many congregants, despite their total commitment to this ideal, have found themselves in situations where this is no longer possible despite their best efforts.*
- 2. The efforts to hold an uncompromising biblical view on divorce while at the same time extending pastoral care to the parties and children affected has meant sitting lightly on the former in favour of the latter.*
- 3. The pastoral tools given to clergy in helping those whose marriages have crashed irreparably in order to facilitate their full restoration, has had shortcomings as both parties have been treated on an 'all have sinned and fallen short' basis, resulting in apportioning blame for the break-up where often one party was an innocent victim, while the other was the perpetrator.*
- 4. There has been wide debate on the prevalence of Gender Based Violence in the home and in marriages in particular.*
- 5. That breaking a marriage vow was the lesser of two*

evils and a last gasp attempt at survival.

- 6. That 'blame' in such contexts is both inappropriate and can / may amount to secondary traumatizing of victims in such situations.*
 - 7. The processes recommended in cases of remarriage of divorced clergy have been tedious and often bypassed or ignored.*
 - 8. Similar fractures of bonds occur in same-sex unions and customary marriages and that those so affected are equally in need of the Church's care and restoration.*
- And*
Noting further that this is a matter of Provincial concern and that it will require changes to the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

This Synod respectfully, requests the Archbishop to set up a Commission on marriage to review, gather statistics and make recommendations on changes to Canon 34 to bring it in line with other pastoral guidelines on matters affecting the church and its people like GBV and same-sex unions.

Resolution arising from Conference of Synod on ministry to Anglicans in civil unions

This Synod,

Noting:

- That there have been discussions concerning the LGBTQIA+ community at both Provincial and Diocesan level for more than 13 years,*
- That in 2013, Provincial Synod respectfully requested the Synod of Bishops to work towards finalising guidelines for pastoral ministry as soon as possible, including prayers for those in Civil Unions recognised by the State,*
- Our inability to make decisions causes pain to the LGBTQIA+ communities and their families,*
- That the Church, whilst speaking out publicly on GBV, crime, poverty, corruption, international atrocities and many other areas, remains tellingly silent on crimes of hate and violence against LGBTQIA+ communities,*
- That this Diocesan Synod has already reflected extensively on the theological, biblical and pastoral implications of providing effective pastoral ministry to all people in faithful, committed relationships, no matter their sexual orientation,*
- That we cannot fully be called a Safe and Inclusive Church when we exclude and discriminate against the LGBTQIA+ community, knowing that many of them are hurting, vulnerable and in need of pastoral care,*
- That we are all created in the image of God, and this truth embraces individuals from the LGBTQIA+ community as well,*
- That through our engagements during the Conference of Synod 2024, we recognised the readiness to move from mere discussions on this matter to a practical response as we seek to minister to all of God's people.*

Therefore:

- Acknowledges the pain the Diocese has caused to the LGBTQIA+ community and their families, and
- Refers to Diocesan Standing Committee the task of carrying forward the process of developing clear guidelines for ministry to the LGBTQIA+ community, including the blessing of same-sex unions, and engaging all the Diocese's clergy and parishes on the matter.

Motions Arising from the Archbishop's Charge under Standing RULE 30

A Liturgical Commission for Gender Language and liturgical inclusivity

This Synod

Noting that:

- The Archbishop's charge calls us to "promoting a culture that is hostile to any form of sexism or discrimination, beginning with the language all of us use".
- Our language in worship has often not assisted us to move towards this call with the continued use of language that carries masculine, sexist and patriarchal overtones.
- The church has, over time, sought to address this but continues due to doctrinal and biblical boundaries.

Resolves to:

- Respectfully request the Archbishop and Bishop of Table Bay to task a Liturgical Theological Commission on Gender Language in Worship.
- Task this Commission with the responsibility to peruse our liturgical and biblical material and compile Gender - Inclusive language resources which considers a theological, doctrinal, and pastoral balance, for submission to the Archbishop and The Bishop of Table Bay.
- Equip the Diocesan Liturgical Resource team with such a resource for use in all diocesan worship activity, including parish and small group worship.

Motion of Encouragement to Youth in the Diocese

Noting the,

- a. Disillusionment of our youth, most of whom face the scourge of high unemployment and,
- b. the lack of employment opportunities for our youth.

This synod resolves to,

- a. Encourage parishes in the diocese and other Anglican parishes, where possible, to create sustainable work opportunities for our youth.

Motion on the scourge of Gender Based Violence

Noting,

- a. With great concern the brutal statistic cited by the Archbishop in his charge on GBV in the country
- b. The need for the diocese to be part of dismantling such and all related attitudes.

This synod resolves to,

- a. Encourage every parochial unit and institution to have a subcommittee on GBV, assisted by the diocesan committee on GBV and,
- b. This committee should work towards eliminating the scourge of GBV in the diocese through inclusive language and gender sensitization processes for parishes.

Motion arising out of the Archbishop's Charge: Layworkers pension fund and retirement appeal

Whereas the Archbishop said in his charge to Synod that:

1. "we want to be a community characterized by joy and compassion".
2. "we must, to paraphrase Anthony's words, explore more seriously a people-centred economy".
3. "The church must say unambiguously that a just world is the legacy for all".

And, noting that:

1. The Lay Workers Pension Fund sets out guidelines on the retirement of lay parochial staff.
2. There are several lay employees in Pastoral Charges who are not part of the Lay Workers' Pensions Fund.
3. In some cases, no provision has been made for the retirement of lay parochial staff.
4. There is no diocesan guideline on how pastoral charges should handle staff who have faithfully served the church and are approaching or have already reached retirement age.

This Synod resolves to respectfully request the Bishop of Table Bay to establish a Human Resource Ad Hoc Committee that will:

1. Evaluate the contracts of lay parochial staff to establish what provision has been made for their retirement.
2. Ensure that all statutory requirements, including UIF and PAYE, are being met.
3. Develop guidelines for pastoral charges on the management of lay parochial staff.
4. Develop guidelines and proposals for the retirement of the current lay parochial staff not in the Lay Workers' Pension Fund.

Motion for Ministry of Healing

This Synod recognises that:

1. In the Archbishop's charge, the Archbishop highlights our 'self-identity in the Diocesan Vision Statement, that, we want to be 'a community rooted in the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ' and that having been so rooted, 'we want to work and bring God's healing, wholeness and hope to a broken and wounded world'.
2. God has entrusted the church with the gift of healing in its different forms.
3. Confession is a ministry given by God for God's church (APB'89 pg 447).
4. 'We may receive God's forgiveness and be reconciled to God in various ways, one of which is confession to God in the presence of a priest' (APB'89 pg 448).
5. 'The Church does not require anyone to confess in the presence of a priest in order to receive forgiveness.' (APB'89 pg 448)
6. We have this gift of confession available in our liturgy including, but not limited to, the daily offices, Holy Eucharist and ministry to the sick and healing services.
7. Healing occurs through various pastoral encounters, quiet days, retreats, preaching, teaching, confronting injustices, spaces of honest sharing individually and corporately and various courses offered at churches and other spaces.

8. Healing is also done through the various sciences including that of medicine and the various psychoanalytical and therapeutic fields - for this we thank God.

9. In Luke 4 from vs 18 -19 we are reminded of the Body of Christ's mission in the world through healing.

10. In 2023 the Lay ministers healing service in 2023 allowed those who minister to the people also to be ministered to.

This Synod notes that:

1. Congregants, community members and clergy sit with varieties of 'heaviness of heart' and/or burdens of a 'variety of levels'.
2. Confession is a gift which allows us to unburden ourselves.

Respectfully requests the Bishop of Table Bay to:

1. Enable the establishment of a Diocesan Ministry of Healing Team to be trained in the ministry of healing and train those in our local parishes in the ministry of healing.
2. Encourage our parishes to continue with quiet days and retreats.
3. Encourage our clergy to continue to use the sacrament of confession in the presence of a priest.
4. Teach the congregation members about the sacrament of confession.
5. Create safe spaces to administer the sacrament of confession.

Motion regarding Artificial Intelligence

Noting

- *That we experienced a 'sacred' moment' following the Conference of Synod report back by groups on Ministry to persons in same sex unions.*
- *The Archbishop's invitation to Synod to share what the Spirit is saying to Gods church.*
- *The theme of the homilies of separating from the noise of the world in order to hear God speak in the midst of the noise.*

1) *Affirms that since earliest days the faithful have relied on tried and tested disciplines of listening, reflecting and acting on the Holy Spirit's nudges.*

2) *Expresses deep concern that these ways of hearing God speak are in grave danger with the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its use in all manner of things.*

3) *Cautions that AI is not a panacea for all things.*

4) *That it has the potential to undermine that which the church has held dear and central to our life.*

5) *That AI has the potential to decimate jobs and undermine the sacred gift of work.*

Respectfully asks the Bishops of our Diocese to institute a Theological Commission to explore both the benefits and dangers AI holds for the church.

Congratulations to the congregation of Eluvukweni, Crossroads

Whereas:

- *The congregation of Eluvukweni was founded in 1975 by Rev David Russell (later Bishop); the congregation faithfully worshipped in an informal structure without toilets or running water for several decades; water and temporary toilets were only finally installed in 2021.*

- *The church has faithfully fundraised over the years and raised a total of R2.9 million rand.*

- *The Diocesan Trust Board has given the go-ahead to start building, despite a shortfall of R650,000) knowing that if we leave it the prices will continue to rise.*

This Synod Resolves

- *To send our hearty congratulations to the congregation of Eluvukweni on this exciting moment – and commits to supporting them in the final stages of fundraising to reach the target .*

- *Encourages as many parishes as possible to send reps to the turning of the soil ceremony to take place on the 23rd of June at 3pm.*

- *To support the fundraising concert on the 15th of September at the Cathedral.*

Motion arising from the Election of the new South African President.

This Synod

Noting

- *The successful conduct of free and fair elections on May 29th.*

- *The negotiations that have since been held on the formation of a new Government.*

Therefore, resolves to request the Archbishop:

- *To send the Diocese's warm congratulations to President Cyril Ramaphosa on his re-election to the office of President of the Republic and to assure him of our prayers for him and his family;*

- *To express our appreciation to the President for the way in which political parties have placed peace, stability and prosperity at the forefront of negotiations for a new Government; and*

- *To urge the new Government of the Republic to place the needs of the marginalized and the poorest of the poor at the heart of their administration.*

Motion of notice of greeting for Muslim sisters and brothers for Eid

This Synod, noting that:

Over the next couple of days our Islamic sisters and brothers will be celebrating Eid Al Adha, a celebration marked by the slaughtering of livestock with the aim of sharing with the poor and vulnerable.

This Synod:

Sends its greetings to our Muslim sisters and brothers on this auspicious occasion.

Motion of appreciation for Revd Prof. John Klaasen

This Synod wishes to express our congratulations to the Revd. Prof. John Klaasen following his appointment as Dean of Theology at University of Free State. We extend our appreciation as we give thanks to God for his ministry in the Diocese as our Dean of Studies and wish him well in his new role.

Motion of appreciation for Revd Canon Michael Weeder

This Synod wishes to show our appreciation to Revd Canon Michael Weeder following his retirement from stipendiary ministry. We give thanks to God for his ministry in the Diocese of Cape Town especially as the Dean of St George's Cathedral and senior priest of the Diocese.

We wish him and Bonita well for the next phase of their journey.

Motion of Appreciation - Fikelela

This Synod acknowledges and Gives Thanks:

- 1. That during the time of the worldwide HIV/AIDS awareness drives and campaigns in the late 90's the church was at the forefront of driving HIV/AIDS awareness.*
- 2. That out of this drive, being led by the Spirit of God, the church give birth to the Diocesan HIV/AIDS Task Team and later the registration of the NGO Fikelela (Reach out) which served as the HIV/AIDS arm of the Diocese of Cape Town.*
- 3. That Fikelela served as the HIV/AIDS education and prevention arm of the Diocese of Cape Town for the past 24 years.*

This Synod recognises:

- 1. That the HIV infection rates continue to increase.*
- 2. That the Diocesan Social Responsibility Task Team include the work of HIV/AIDS, as established by Fikelela, where possible.*
- 3. Our continued prayer and support to The Fikelela Children's Home.*

This Synod Thanks Fikelela:

- 1. For the establishment of The Fikelela Children's** Home which has served and continues to serve many orphaned and abandoned children by offering them a home of safety, nurture and development.
- 2. For the work of Fikelela in breaking down stereotypes** and creating awareness through liturgy resources and various events.
- 3. The establishment of HIV/AIDS support groups** in various churches and communities.
- 4. For the establishment and publishing of various youth** and peer education programmes which continue to be used in youth groups and as part of the confirmation programme.
- 5. For bringing to our attention annually the importance** of the HIV/AIDS pandemic especially in the light of the increasing infection rate.
- 6. And the many Bishops, clergy and laity who have** served Fikelela in different capacities.
- 7. For the various directors and staff who, through their** commitment to God, God's church engaged in the fight against the pandemic.
- 8. For being a vehicle of God's mission in the world** especially for the vulnerable.
- 9. For uplifting the lives of so many within God's kingdom.**

Motion of Greeting of Compassion and Support

This Synod wishes to offer our greeting, through messages of compassion and support, to Revd Notemba Ntuli, her family and the parish of Holy Cross in Nyanga. "When one part of the body hurts, the entire body hurts". Be assured of our prayers knowing that God is keeping you in his care.

Prayer offered for Revd Ntuli

Motion of support the Rt Revd Garth Counsell

This Synod wishes to express our prayers and support for our former Bishop of Table Bay, the Rt Revd Garth Counsell, who is experiencing challenges with his health, we assure him and his family of our prayers.

Motion of Greeting of Compassion and Support

The Synod wishes:

To offer greetings through messages of compassion and support to Revd. Sharon De Vos-Franke and her family following her emergency surgery. We assure them of our love and support during this time.