

SYNOD

The Synod of the Diocese of Bunbury meets annually over a three-year period (known as the Triennium of Synod) and representatives are elected to attend for a three-year period by the parish at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) held prior to the Synod being called later in the same year. Synod Representatives and Alternate Synod Representatives are elected at the AMP. The qualifications for those considering standing as Synod Representatives are outlined in the Parochial Statute 2017 – 2018.

Synod is the name given to the annual gathering where the affairs of the Diocese are ordered, together with the management of property and the finances, the promotion of discipline of members, the life of the community and the maintenance of sound doctrine as Anglicans, occurs at Synod. The Bishop of the Diocese chairs or presides over the Synod as the President.

Good governance, comprising legislation, rules and how the Anglican community conducts itself are all discussed and necessary decisions and recommendations made to ensure continuous improvement. Canons passed by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia, which meets every three years are also considered at the Diocesan Synod for approval and endorsement, along with any Provincial legislation discussed and recommended by Provincial Council.

Petitions, motions and resolutions are discussed, debated and passed if agreement is reached. The Bishop, the licensed clergy of the Diocese, two lay members elected by each Parish in accordance with the Parochial Statute, the Chancellor, Advocate, Treasurer, Registrar and Secretary of the Diocese all attend.

At Synod, the members also elect Clergy and Lay members of other committees and councils for the triennium of Synod, including the membership of The Trustees, Bishop-in-Council, The Provincial Council, The Bishopric Election Committee, Boniface Care and The Diocesan Tribunal.

Currently, the annual meeting of Synod occurs in October each year and runs over a weekend from Friday to Sunday.

In addition, there are Pre-Synod Gatherings, where the Bishop meets with Synod Representatives, Clergy and other parish members who are interested, to update representatives on the work of the Diocese to enable input at Synod to be informed and helpful. Notices about these dates are put on the website under the Diocesan Calendar and Meeting Schedule. Venues and invitations are sent out in June or July prior to the meetings in August.

Clergy holding the Bishop's Licence are members of Synod. Clergy with PTO licences are not members of the House of Clergy at Synod for voting purposes at Synod, and if they are interested in attending they are welcomed as Observers.

Anglican Communities do not have voting rights at Synod but may attend as Observers.

The rules for the functioning and running of Synod are set out in The Standing Orders of the Diocese of Bunbury 1987-2004 and The Synod Elections Statute 1989 – 2018 and otherwise in

the Constitution. These are all available for reference on the website under Policies and Procedures/Statutes on the opening page of the website.