



Ref: 2359-1024-536

22 October 2024

Circular: Members of Synod

By email

I write in reference to Synod motion 14.3 Amendments to *Faithfulness in Service* ("FIS").

That this Synod amend the version of *Faithfulness in Service* adopted by this Diocese by:

- a deleting the words "by maintaining chastity in singleness and faithfulness in marriage" in section 7.2 after the word "conduct";
- b deleting the current words in section 7.4 which state, "You are to be chaste and not engage in disgraceful conduct of a sexual nature" and replacing them with the words "Your sexual behaviour should be characterised by faithfulness and integrity"; and
- c deleting all the words after "where" in section 7.7 (namely "you are vulnerable to temptation or where your conduct may be construed as a breach of the standards of sexual conduct in this Code") and replacing them with the words "your conduct breaches the standards of sexual conduct in this Code".

I thank members of Synod for their prayerful patience over the last days. I have reflected carefully and prayerfully on the Synod debate in relation to this motion.

I want to be clear that I have responded to those who have written following Synod to share further thoughts or to add to the debate, advising that I have neither personally received nor read their correspondence. To do so I believe would compromise them, myself and the Synod. Those who have written have received a reply explaining this. I will respond to each correspondent following this communication.

I have decided to assent to this motion. Motion 14.3 has therefore passed and the amended Code of Conduct will now come into effect as a resolution of the Synod.

My reasons for given assent are as follows:

- 1 The Code of Conduct is a policy document and as such is able to be amended from time to time. Many policies are amended by Diocesan Council, however, FIS is subject to a wider lens and debate than might otherwise be the case. It is apparent that bringing changes to the Code of Conduct is not unusual across the Anglican Church of Australia. A number of dioceses across the Anglican Church of Australia have adopted various iterations of this Code of Conduct, including the Dioceses of Southern Queensland, Bunbury, Grafton, Wangaratta, Newcastle, Riverina, Ballarat and Gippsland. The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn has adopted its own Code of Good Practice instead of FIS.

Anglican Diocese of Perth

Church House, Level 5/3 Pier Street, PERTH WA 6000

GPO Box W2067, PERTH WA 6846

T: +61 08 9425 7200 | E: archbishop@perth.anglican.org



- 2 A change to the Code of Conduct does not give permission for wrongful behaviour in pastoral or personal relationships. Integrity and faithfulness should be hallmarks of every relationship for Christians. Faithfulness has a far wider implication than sexual fidelity. It requires faithfulness of heart and mind as well as body. This is evident in the responsibility taken by single and married Christians, apart from those who have made promises as members of religious communities which are life vows.

With this in mind I have taken note of the votes in each the House of Laity and the House of Clergy. They were as follows:

House of Laity

For	149	68%
Against	<u>71</u>	32%
Total	220	

*More than **twice** as many people voted in favour of the motion than against it*

House of Clergy

For	62	57%
Against	<u>47</u>	43%
Total	109	

***One third** more Clergy voted in favour of the motion than against it*

All Votes Cast

For	211	64%
Against	<u>118</u>	36%
Total	329	

***Two thirds** more people voted in favour of the motion than against it*

A two thirds majority vote very clearly indicated the mind of Synod on this matter.

Thank you for your prayers during this time.

Yours sincerely

The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO DD
Archbishop