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# THE CONSTITUTION of the ANGLICAN CHURCH OF MELANESIA

The following is the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Melanesia first agreed to on the 7th day of January, 1975, with subsequent amendments to and including the 12th General Synod in November, 2008.

## ARTICLE 1. FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

The following are the foundations of faith and practice which are acceptable by the Province of Melanesia.

- A.** We accept and teach the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teachings, sacraments and discipline of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church as the Anglican Communion has received them. We accept the following as standards setting forth this faith and these teachings, sacraments and discipline:-
1. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.
  2. The Catholic Creeds.
- B.** We also give honour to the teachings of the early Church, especially the decisions of those General Councils of the Church as are accepted by the Eastern and Western Church.
- C.** The Holy Scriptures are accepted as the final rule and standard of faith, given by inspiration of God and containing all things necessary to salvation.
- D.** The Church of this Province has no right to alter or depart from these standards, but has the right to make alterations in its forms of worship and discipline, so long as these are agreeable to Holy Scripture and other standards of faith as the Anglican Communion has received them.

## ARTICLE 2. THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH

In explaining the meaning of the standards of Faith, Teachings, Sacraments and Discipline accepted in Article 1 and in dealing with all questions on these matters and those of worship, the Church of the Province is not bound by any decisions except those of its own Church Courts provided in this Constitution.

## ARTICLE 3. THE AREA OF THE PROVINCE

- A.** The area of the Province of Melanesia includes Solomon Islands, the Republic of Vanuatu and the Territory of New Caledonia.
- B.** This area is divided into nine dioceses namely –
- |                |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
| <b>Malaita</b> | - | consisting of the islands of Malaita, Sikaiana and Ontong Java;   |
| <b>Ysabel</b>  | - | consisting of the Isabel Province, the Russell Islands and Western and Choiseul Provinces of Solomon Islands; |
| <b>Temotu</b>  | - | consisting of the Temotu Province of Solomon Islands;   |

- Hanuato'o** - consisting of the Province of Makira-Ulawa;
- Central Melanesia** - consisting of the City of Honiara and the islands of Rennell and Bellona;
- Central Solomons** - consisting of the islands of Gela and Savo;
- Vanuatu** - consisting of the Republic of Vanuatu (excluding the Torba Province), and the Territory of New Caledonia;
- Banks & Torres** - comprising the Banks & Torres Islands (the Torba Province) of the Republic of Vanuatu;
- Guadalcanal** - consisting of the islands of Guadalcanal but omitting the City of Honiara.

- C.** The area of the Province may be increased from time to time by the General Synod. The General Synod shall have power:
1. to admit to the Province other Anglican dioceses or provinces to form a new province or provinces;
  2. to divide so as to make two or more provinces;
  3. to seek to enter into a uniting church.
- D.** If the Diocesan Synods and the General Synod agree, the Province may enter into association with other Provinces.

#### **ARTICLE 4. THE MINISTRY TO PERSONS**

The Church of this Province declares that all persons are of equal value in the sight of God and will take care to provide for the needs of all people committed to its charge.

#### **ARTICLE 5. THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH**

- A.** The General Synod has the power to authorise forms of worship of the whole Province so long as these do not go against the provisions of Article 1. The aim and desire of the Church of this Province is to have one liturgical pattern for the whole Province as far as possible.
- B.** The General Synod should also make provision for reasonable experiment in liturgical matters under the control of the Diocesan Bishops.

#### **ARTICLE 6. THE ORDAINED MINISTRY**

- A.** The Church of this Province declares that the orders of Bishops, Priests and Deacons are agreeable to the Holy Scriptures and the teaching and practice of the Catholic Church.
- B.** No one shall be accepted as a lawful Bishop, Priest or Deacon in the Church of this Province or allowed to do any of the duties of these Orders unless he has been ordained according to the Ordinal of this Province or has been ordained by a Bishop of some other Church whose Orders are accepted by this Province as being Episcopal Orders.\*

*(\* "Episcopal Orders" means Orders given by a Bishop in the historic succession of Bishops from the early Church but this Article does not mean that other forms of ministry in other Communion are not real, nor does it mean that only those who are ordained share in the ministry of the Church. The whole people of God, clergy and laity, share in this ministry.)*

- C. Priests and Deacons who receive authority to minister in any diocese of this Province must promise obedience under the laws of the Church to their Diocesan Bishop, and the Bishops of the Province must promise obedience under the laws of the Church to the Archbishop.
- D. All Bishops, Priests and Deacons licensed in the Province must say that they accept and will obey the Constitution of the Church of the Province and will keep the laws of the Synod of their Diocese.

#### **ARTICLE 7. THE GENERAL SYNOD**

- A. The General Synod shall make Church laws for the Province and has final authority in matters of spiritual discipline in the Church of this Province. It shall consist of the following members:-
  - 1. The Archbishop and all the Diocesan Bishops;
  - 2.
    - (a) All the Assistant Bishops;
    - (b) Representatives of the Clergy who may be Senior Priests, Priests or Deacons, elected by the Clergy of each Diocese;
    - (c) The Dean of the Provincial Cathedral;
    - (d) The Principal of the Bishop Patteson Theological College.
    - (e) The Mission Secretary of the Province
  - 3.
    - (a) Representatives of the Laity elected by the lay members of each diocese;
    - (b) two persons to represent the Religious Communities working in the Province, chosen by those Religious Communities and endorsed by the Religious Life Council;
    - (c) One lay representative chosen by the staff and students of the Bishop Patteson Theological College;
    - (d) One Representative of the Mothers' Union of each Diocese chosen by each Diocesan Council of the Mothers' Union;
    - (e) One Lay Representative between the ages of 17 and 25 chosen by the Melanesia Board of Mission;
    - (f) The Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor of the Province and the Vice Chancellor for Vanuatu;
    - (g) The General Secretary;
    - (h) One representative of the Provincial Council of the Mothers' Union chosen by the Provincial Council of the Mothers' Union.

*(A "Senior Priest" is one appointed by the Bishop to do the work of an Archdeacon in a Diocese.)*

- B.** If any of the Representatives chosen under Clause A (3) above happen to be ordained persons, they shall take their place in the General Synod and vote with the Representatives chosen under Clause A (2) above.
- C.** The General Synod shall make rules to say how many clergy and lay members shall be elected from each diocese.
- D.**
  - 1. At any meeting of the General Synod, any member may propose changes to the Constitution, or the Canons, or the Standing Resolutions of the Church, but he must do so by way of a Bill.
  - 2. In voting on a Bill, any member may request that voting be conducted in Houses, in which case a majority of members of each of the Orders set out in Clause A, sub-clauses 1, 2 and 3 of this Article shall be required for the Bill to be approved.
- E.** The General Synod shall also make rules to say how the General Synod is to be conducted.

#### **ARTICLE 7A. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

- A.** There shall be an Executive Council which will act on behalf of the General Synod in matters which require urgency or in respect of decisions which cannot wait until the next sitting of the General Synod, and will do those things which the General Synod directs it to do or the Council of Bishops specially asks it to do (provided, however, that any request from the Council of Bishops is not in conflict with any direction of the General Synod).
- B.** The membership and other matters relating to the meetings of the Executive Council shall be decided by a law of the General Synod.

#### **ARTICLE 8. THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ARCHBISHOP**

- A.** There shall be an Archbishop of the Church of the Province whose See shall be at Honiara in Solomon Islands. The Archbishop shall also be Bishop of the Diocese in which Honiara is situated.
- B.** The Archbishop shall be elected by the Provincial Electoral Board which shall consist of:-
  - 1. the Council of Bishops as provided in Article 10 but excluding the incumbent Archbishop;
  - 2. one ordained person and one layperson elected by each Diocesan Synod by simple majority;
  - 3. those members of the Diocesan Electoral Board of the Diocese of Central Melanesia elected under Article 13 Clause A. 1.
- C.** The election of the Archbishop shall be decided upon when the members of the Provincial Electoral Board present in person at a duly constituted meeting, voting separately in the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity, by a simple majority in each House, have agreed upon a single candidate.

- D. If at the time of the resignation or death of an Archbishop there is any other diocese in the Province without a Bishop, a Bishop must be elected to this diocese before an election can be held for a new Archbishop.
- E. The Archbishop must resign the office of Archbishop at an age to be fixed by a law of the General Synod.

#### **ARTICLE 9. THE WORK OF THE ARCHBISHOP**

- A. Besides the work of a Diocesan Bishop the Archbishop shall also have the following work:-
  - 1. As Chief Pastor the Archbishop will have leadership and care of the whole Province and its Bishops according to the laws of the Church of this Province and those of each of its Dioceses.
  - 2. The Archbishop shall call meetings of the General Synod and the Council of Bishops and be chairperson of those meetings.
  - 3. The Archbishop shall be chairperson of any meetings to hear appeals allowed by the laws of this Province from decisions of a Diocesan Court to a Provincial Court, except in the case of an appeal from the Archbishop's own Diocesan Court when the Senior Bishop will be chairperson.
  - 4. The Archbishop shall make official visits to the dioceses of the Province.
  - 5. The Archbishop shall represent the Province to the rest of the Anglican Communion and to other Communion and shall correspond with other Archbishops in the name of the Province.
  - 6. The Archbishop shall do any other work given by the General Synod.

#### **ARTICLE 10. THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS**

- A. The Archbishop and the other Diocesan Bishops of the Province shall together form the Council of Bishops.
- B. The Council of Bishops shall from time to time appoint a New Zealand Advisory Council consisting of four or more citizens of New Zealand resident in or within fifty miles of Auckland the members of which Council shall hold office at the pleasure of the Council of Bishops and subject to the control and direction of the Council of Bishops shall advise the Council of Bishops of their opinions and recommendations in all matters affecting the Province of Melanesia in New Zealand.
- C. In the event of the resignation, serious illness or death of the Archbishop or one of the other Diocesan Bishops of the Province, the remaining members of the Council of Bishops shall form the Council of Bishops and perform all its functions and duties until a new Archbishop or Diocesan Bishop has been consecrated and installed or until the Archbishop or Diocesan Bishop as the case may be, has recovered from serious illness.

- D.** The Bishops who form the Council of Bishops at any one time (excluding any Archbishop or Bishop who is seriously ill and unable to attend or otherwise make his or her views known or who because of conflict of interest or personal involvement is disqualified from voting), shall seek to act unanimously in all things and their acts, deliberations or directions shall be valid only when no more than two participating members of the Council of Bishops oppose any act, deliberation or direction. Dissenting votes in the Council of Bishops may not be disclosed without the agreement of the Council.

**ARTICLE 11. THE SENIOR BISHOP**

- A** The Bishop who has been a Diocesan Bishop in the Province for the longest time shall be the Senior Bishop and shall do the work which the Archbishop is unable to do through sickness or any other such cause or absence from the Province.
- B.** When the Archbishop resigns or dies the Senior Bishop will do the work of the Archbishop until a new Archbishop is appointed. All official acts undertaken by the Senior Bishop shall be reported to the Council of Bishops.
- C.** If the Senior Bishop resigns or dies or is absent from the Province the next senior Diocesan Bishop will do the work of the Senior Bishop.

**ARTICLE 12. THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

There shall be a General Secretary whose work shall be set out in a law of the General Synod.

**ARTICLE 13. THE APPOINTMENT OF DIOCESAN BISHOPS – DIOCESAN ELECTORAL BOARD**

- A.** A Diocesan Bishop shall be elected by the Diocesan Electoral Board which shall comprise:-
1. ten persons (five ordained and one alternate, and five lay persons and one alternate) elected by the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese which requires the new Bishop; and
  2. six persons (three ordained and one alternate, and three lay persons and one alternate) elected by the General Synod.
- B.**
1. When a new Diocesan Bishop is to be elected the Archbishop will chair the meeting or shall appoint another Diocesan Bishop to chair the meeting of the Diocesan Electoral Board. The Archbishop will also fix a date for the meeting of the Diocesan Electoral Board.
  2. Any member of the Diocesan Electoral Board wishing to nominate a particular person for the office of Bishop shall provide each member of the Board with written information relevant to the person the member is nominating, such information to include accurate details such as age, marital status, nature of family (if any), educational background, past and present positions held in the Church and (if relevant) before ordination, and any other information which may be pertinent.
  3. In any case where the written information required by the immediately preceding sub-clause is not provided, the Chairperson shall have authority to reject the nomination.

- C.
1. If one of the ordained persons referred to in Clause A 1 or Clause A 2 hereof is unable to attend (because of sickness or some other good reason accepted by the Archbishop) or is outside the Province on the day fixed for the meeting of the Electoral Board, that person's place will be taken by the alternate ordained person referred to in Clause A 1 or Clause A 2 hereof, or if one of the ordained persons referred to in Clause A 1 or Clause A 2 hereof should happen to be nominated for the office of Bishop and accepts the nomination, that person shall immediately withdraw from the meeting. The nominee will cease to be a member of the Diocesan Electoral Board and the alternate ordained person referred to in Clause A 1 or Clause A 2 hereof will take the nominee's place.
  2. If one of the lay persons referred to in Clause A 1 or Clause A 2 hereof is unable to attend (because of sickness or some other good reason accepted by the Archbishop) or is outside the Province on the day fixed for the meeting of the Electoral Board, that person's place will be taken by the alternate lay person referred to in Clause A 1 or Clause A 2 hereof.
  3.
    - i) An alternate ordained person may only take the place of an ordained person and a lay alternate may only take the place of a lay person.
    - ii) Any alternate member, whether lay or ordained, elected by the Diocesan Synod may only take the place of a person elected by the Diocesan Synod and likewise for alternate members elected by the General Synod.
  4. If more than one of the eight ordained persons referred to in Clause A 1 and Clause A 2 hereof, are nominated for the office of Bishop and they accept the nomination they shall immediately withdraw from the meeting and they will cease to be members of the Diocesan Electoral Board. After filling their places with the alternate ordained person as provided for in sub-clause 1 hereof, the total number of members of the Electoral Board may thereafter be reduced in number but this will not affect the requirement that at least twelve members of the Electoral Board shall vote in favour of a particular nomination for a vote to be passed (as provided for in Clause D hereof).
  5. Any member of the Electoral Board who has been nominated and left the meeting shall not be allowed to return to the meeting.
  6. The alternate ordained persons elected in terms of Clause A 1 and A 2 hereof shall attend the meeting of the Diocesan Electoral Board in case any one of the clergy members is nominated for the office of Bishop and they accept the nomination thereby causing the withdrawal of that person. The alternate ordained persons shall neither speak nor vote unless they are required to take the place of an elected ordained person who has withdrawn from the meeting.
  7. The alternate lay persons elected in terms of Clauses A 1 and A 2 hereof shall only attend the meeting of the Diocesan Electoral Board if they are required to act as full members because the lay person they are there to replace is unable to attend (in terms of Clause C 2 hereof).

- D. 1. No vote shall be considered to have been passed until all the nominated candidates have been fully discussed and at least twelve of the sixteen members have voted in favour of a particular nomination.
- 2. The Chairperson shall not have a vote.
- E. 1. The Diocesan Electoral Board shall choose the person to be the new Bishop and shall send the name of the successful candidate to the Archbishop. The Archbishop and the Council of Bishops shall consider the name. If they do not agree the Diocesan Electoral Board shall choose again and make another nomination to the Archbishop.
- 2. If within six months of the date fixed by the Archbishop the Diocesan Electoral Board has not made any nomination to the Archbishop or has not made a nomination which is acceptable, the Council of Bishops shall choose a Bishop for the Diocese in question.
- F. When the first Diocesan Bishop of a new Diocese is to be selected, the members of the Electoral Board of the new Diocese may be elected by a fully representative Regional Conference before the Diocese actually comes into existence. The Bishop-elect of a new Diocese may be selected in the manner required by this Article of the Constitution and consecrated a Bishop before the date on which the new Diocese comes into existence, but shall not assume the powers and duties of a Diocesan Bishop until after that date.
- G. All members and alternate members of the Diocesan Electoral Board shall be bound for all time to keep the proceedings of the Board secret.
- H. Laws for the disciplining of Bishops shall be made by the General Synod.

#### **ARTICLE 14 ASSISTANT BISHOPS**

- A. If a Diocesan Bishop, with the approval of the Diocesan Council, wishes to have an Assistant Bishop or Assistant Bishops, the Diocesan Bishop shall ask the Council of Bishops and if they agree the Diocesan Bishop will ask for the approval of his Diocesan Synod.
- B. 1. If the Synod agrees to have an Assistant Bishop or Assistant Bishops, they will then discuss suitable names.
- 2. After such discussion the Bishop shall call for nominations. Any member of Synod including the Bishop may nominate, and any other member of Synod may second, but the name may be placed on the ballot paper only if the Bishop approves.
- 3. There shall be a secret ballot to find out whether, in the case of one name only, that person is approved of by the majority, or in the case of more than one name, which person is approved of by the majority. If necessary a further ballot or ballots shall be held to find out which person has the clear majority of votes.
- 4. Two scrutineers elected by the Diocesan Council shall count the votes and report in confidence to the Diocesan Bishop. The name of that person will not be announced unless and until he or she is appointed as Assistant Bishop.

- 5. The person who receives the majority of votes shall then be nominated in confidence by the Diocesan Bishop to the Council of Bishops for their approval. If the Council of Bishops agrees, the Diocesan Bishop shall then appoint the person, and, if the person is not consecrated already, the Archbishop shall then make arrangements for the Consecration.
- C. The Diocesan Council or the Diocesan Synod has the right to request the Diocesan Bishop to consider appointing an Assistant Bishop. In this case, if the Bishop agrees, the Diocesan Bishop may ask the Council of Bishops for their agreement before taking the matter to the Diocesan Synod.
- D. An Assistant Bishop shall have no right of succession to the Bishopric and shall be licensed by the Diocesan Bishop and shall undertake such work and perform such episcopal acts as may be required by the Diocesan Bishop and shall have a seat in the Diocesan Synod and in the General Synod as a member of the clergy with full rights.

**ARTICLE 15. PROMISES TO BE TAKEN**

- A. Every Archbishop when Consecrated and Installed shall make the following promises:-

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF MELANESIA**

**Promise of Obedience by . . . . as Archbishop of Melanesia and Bishop of the Diocese of Central Melanesia.**

I, . . . . . , now to be made Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and Bishop of the Diocese of Central Melanesia, DO SOLEMNLY MAKE THE FOLLOWING PROMISES:-

I promise to be faithful to the Teaching, Ordering and Faith of the Church of this Province, which I believe to be a true part of the Holy Catholic Apostolic Church of Christ. I promise to be faithful and true to the Holy Bible and to the Prayer Book of this Province. So help me God.

I promise that I will uphold, defend and obey the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and lawfully and honestly keep the Church Laws of the Province of Melanesia and the Diocese of Central Melanesia. So help me God.

**SIGNED:**

The above promises were made on . . . . . in my presence.

- B. Every Bishop when Consecrated or moved to a new Diocese shall make the following promises:-

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF MELANESIA**

**Promises to be Made to the Archbishop by Every Diocesan Bishop when Consecrated**

I, . . . . . , now to be made Bishop of . . . . . , DO

SOLEMNLY MAKE THE FOLLOWING PROMISES:-

I promise to be faithful to the Teaching, Ordering and Faith of the Church of this Province, which I believe to be a true part of the Holy Catholic Apostolic Church of Christ. I promise to be faithful and true to the Holy Bible and to the Prayer Book of this Province. So help me God.

I promise that I will obey the Archbishop of Melanesia and his successors in all things lawful and honest, and will keep the Church Laws of the Province of Melanesia and the Diocese of . . . . . So help me God.

**SIGNED:**

The above promises were made on . . . . . in my presence.

C. Every Assistant Bishop when Consecrated will make the following promises:-

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF MELANESIA  
Promises to be made by an Assistant Bishop**

I, . . . . . , now to be made Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of . . . . . , DO SOLEMNLY MAKE THE FOLLOWING PROMISES:-

I promise to be faithful to the Teaching, Ordering and Faith of the Church of this Province, which I believe to be a true part of the Holy Catholic Apostolic Church of Christ. I promise to be faithful and true to the Holy Bible and to the Prayer Book of this Province. So help me God.

I promise that I will obey the Archbishop of Melanesia and the Bishop of . . . . . and their successors in all things lawful and honest, and will keep the Church Laws of the Province of Melanesia and the Diocese of . . . . . So help me God.

**SIGNED:**

The above promises were made on . . . . . in my presence.

**ARTICLE 16. DIOCESAN SYNODS**

- A. Every Diocese of the Province shall have a Diocesan Synod consisting of the Diocesan Bishop, Clergy and representatives of the laity.
- B. Each Diocesan Synod may make regulations to govern its life and work provided they agree with and are not against those of the General Synod, but regulations for voting must be as provided for in Article 7.
- C. Each Diocesan Synod shall appoint a Diocesan Council to carry out the duties given to it by the Diocesan Synod and to perform when the Synod is not meeting.

**ARTICLE 17. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PROVINCE AND THE DIOCESES**

- A. The General Synod shall deal with those matters which
  - (1) are the business of the whole Province;

- (2) deal with relations of the dioceses with one another and the relations of the Province with other Provinces of the Anglican Communion or with other Communion;
  - (3) are referred to it by any Diocese of the Province.
- B.** The General Synod shall leave those matters which are the business only of a particular Diocese to that Diocese. It is the General Synod which shall decide whether any matter should be dealt with by the General Synod or by a Diocese.
  - C.** The division of existing Dioceses, the changing of the boundaries of a Diocese and the making of new Dioceses are the business of the Province, but the boundaries of an existing Diocese may not be changed nor the Diocese divided without the agreement of that Diocese in its Diocesan Synod.
  - D.** Any new Diocese created or any Diocesan boundary changed under the provisions of this Article shall automatically amend Article 3 of this Constitution without requiring further Constitutional Amendment as provided in Article 20 of this Constitution.

#### **ARTICLE 18. CHURCH COURTS**

- A.** The General Synod shall make provision for Church Courts to be set up in each Diocese to hear and decide all cases concerning the following matters:-
  - 1. Church laws and discipline;
  - 2. the way in which the Diocese is organized and administered;
  - 3. the teaching, life and worship of the Church.
- B.** It shall also provide for appeals from these Diocesan Courts to a Provincial Court which shall be set up by General Synod. The decision of the Provincial Court shall be final.

#### **ARTICLE 19. TRUSTEES**

The General Synod shall appoint a Board of Trustees in Solomon Islands and a Board of Trustees in Vanuatu to receive and look after the property, funds and endowments belonging to the Province in each country. The General Synod may make provision for the appointment of Diocesan Boards of Trustees.

#### **ARTICLE 20. CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION**

- A.** When the General Synod wishes to make a change or add to any part of this Constitution the General Synod shall make a draft law including the changes or additions and submit it to the Diocesan Synods for their agreement.
- B.** The Diocesan Synods shall indicate in writing to the General Secretary their assent or otherwise to the draft law and the General Secretary shall report the results of

their deliberations to the next meeting of the General Synod. The General Secretary shall then propose a motion in the following terms: 'That those draft laws which have received the assent of all Diocesan Synods be confirmed and that the Constitution now stands amended accordingly'.

- C.** If any Diocesan Synod does not agree to the draft law the General Synod shall consider again the change or addition bearing in mind the opinions of the Diocesan Synods, and then, if desired, shall submit a new draft law to the Diocesan Synods for their agreement.
- D.** The provisions of this Article shall not apply to the special provision relating to the list of Dioceses in Article 3 which may be amended automatically under the provisions of Article 17.

#### **ARTICLE 21.**

The provisions of this Constitution shall not in any way affect or be deemed to affect the Trusts at present set up in New Zealand or elsewhere for the benefit of the Church in Melanesia and any such provision which jeopardizes or adversely affects the interests under the said Trusts shall automatically be void and of no affect.

## LIST OF CANONS

I certify that the following is the List of Canons of the Anglican Church of Melanesia as now in force.

### Title A (Sacraments)

- Canon 1 Baptism
- “ 2 Holy Communion or the Holy Eucharist
- “ 3 Confirmation
- “ 4 Marriage
- “ 5 Holy Anointing
- “ 6 Penance
- “ 7 Holy Order

### Title B (Other Services & Rites)

- Canon 1 Liturgy and Authorized Books
- “ 2 Burial of the Dead
- “ 3 Ministry of Deliverance
- “ 4 Ministry of Healing

### Title C (Ministers of the Church)

- Canon 1 Resignation of Bishops and Clergy and Compulsory Retirement Ages
- “ 2 The Disciplining of Ordained Persons
- “ 3 Church Courts
- “ 4 Certificates & Licenses
- “ 5 The General Secretary
- “ 6 Chancellor & Vice-Chancellor
- “ 7 Archbishop's Commissaries
- “ 8 Vicars-General

### Title D (General Synod)

- Canon 1 Rules for Running the General Synod (Standing Orders)
- “ 2 Membership of the General Synod
- “ 3 The Executive Council
- “ 4 List of Canons

### Title E (Bodies, Organizations, Trustees)

- Canon 1 The Provincial Cathedral
- “ 2 Selwyn College Council
- “ 3 Bishop Patteson Theological College
- “ 4 The Church's Commercial Organization
- “ 5 The Anglican Church of Melanesia Salaries & Service Commission
- “ 6 Church of Melanesia Trust Board
- “ 7 Bishops' Lump Sum Retirement Allowance
- “ 8 Commission on Liturgy, Worship & Doctrine
- “ 9 The Anglican Church of Melanesia Board of Mission
- “ 10 Religious Communities
- “ 11 Christian Care Centre

- “ 12 Constitutional Review Committee
- “ 13 The Church’s Disaster Relief Committee
- “ 14 Commission for Evangelism & Renewal
- “ 15 The Mission to Seafarers Society
- “ 16 The Anglican Church of Melanesia (Solomon Islands) Education Board
- “ 17 The Anglican Church of Melanesia (Vanuatu) Education Board
- “ 18 The Church of Melanesia (Vanuatu) Trust Board
- “ 19 Commission on Justice, Reconciliation and Peace
- “ 20 Scholarships Committee
- “ 21 St Patrick’s College Council
- “ 22 Diocesan Commercial Undertakings
- “ 23 Mission to Seafarers in Vanuatu

Date: .....

Signed: .....  
Chairperson of the General Synod

**TITLE A**  
**THE SACRAMENTS**  
**(Constitution Articles 1, 2)**

The Church of this Province accepts and teaches that the following are Sacraments of the Church of God:-

Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Holy Marriage, Holy Anointing, Penance and Holy Order.

**CANON 1**  
**BAPTISM**

- A. Baptism is the rite by which we become members of the Church, which is God's family, God's own People and the Body of Christ.
- B. It is necessary for those who come to be baptised to have faith and repentance.
- C. Baptism is given in this Province either by the immersion of the person in water or by the pouring of water on the person's head, with the words: "I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
- D. The normal minister of public baptism is the priest. A deacon may baptise publicly in the absence of a priest for any good reason.
- E. Except in the case of serious sickness, the sacrament of baptism must always be given at a public service before the congregation. In this way it is made clear that the person is welcomed into the Church because the local Church has met together for the purpose of welcoming the newly baptised member(s).
- F. This Province accepts the baptism of infants as lawful. As it is impossible for the infant to have faith and repentance this is provided by the congregation and especially by the parents and godparents of the child.
- G. Infants who are to be baptised must have at least two godparents, one male and one female. Godparents must be baptised and normally confirmed members of the Church. If there are three godparents, two of them may be the parents of the child. A person ***who is under public penance*** may not be a godparent.
  - 1. Before public baptism there must always be proper preparation.
  - 2. In the case of infant baptism it is the parents and godparents who must receive instruction. The arrangements for this instruction are at the discretion of the priest.
  - 3. In the case of adult baptism candidates must receive teaching for at least one year. However, it is better that they should be confirmed either at their baptism or as soon as possible afterwards. In this case they will need at least two years teaching before baptism and confirmation.
  - 4. An adult who wishes to be baptised must show ***a real desire to put away ways*** which are not Christian, ***a real desire*** to live the Christian life ***and a true repentance*** for past sin.

- a. If an unbaptised child of any Church member is very sick and may die, it is the duty of anyone present to baptise it. If a priest or deacon cannot be got quickly, any baptised lay person, male or female, should baptise the child. **The person baptising** should afterwards report **what has been done** to the priest.
  - b. If the parents of this sick child belong to another denomination and wish the child to be baptised, it should be baptised. But if the parents of another denomination do not want the child to be baptised, it should not be baptised.
  - c. If the child of heathen parents is very sick and may die, it may be baptised if the parents ask for baptism for the child and if they agree that if the child lives it will receive Christian teaching and be brought up as a Christian.
- H. The child of parents who are under public penance may be baptised if the parents agree that the child will be brought up as a Christian and if the child has godparents who are regular communicants.
- J.
- 1. If it is not certain that a candidate for baptism has not already been baptised, **that person** should be baptised conditionally, using the form: "If you are not already baptised, I baptise you . . . ". This form should be used for any person whose valid baptism is in doubt.
  - 2. If there is doubt whether the person to be baptised is still alive, **baptism should proceed** conditionally, using the form: "If you are living, I baptise you . . ."

## TITLE A CANON 2

### HOLY COMMUNION OR THE HOLY EUCHARIST

- A. In this Sacrament, given by Christ Himself, we believe we receive the true Body and Blood of Christ for our strengthening and for the offering of our souls and bodies to Him as a Sacrifice.
- B. In this Sacrament we show forth the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, we proclaim His Resurrection and Ascension, and we await His coming in glory.
- C. Only bread and pure wine mixed with water may be used in this Sacrament, and the consecrated Bread and Wine which remain should be reverently consumed after Communion.
- D. The Sacrament may be reserved for the Sick, with permission of the Bishop of the Diocese, in a safe place in the Church.
- E. Only those who have been confirmed or are preparing for confirmation may receive the Blessed Sacrament, but we welcome baptised communicant members of other Churches who wish to receive the Holy Communion with us if they come in faith, in penitence and with preparation.
- F. Members of the Church of this Province, if their conscience allows, may accept the invitation to accept Communion in other Churches.
- G. Only Bishops or Priests may celebrate the Holy Eucharist in the Anglican Church of Melanesia. Deacons, and **laypersons** specially licensed by the Bishop of the Diocese, may assist in the distribution of the Holy Communion.
- H. The customary Eucharistic vestments will normally be worn when the Holy Eucharist is celebrated - Alb, Stole, and Chasuble or Cope.
- I. The Reserved Sacrament may be used to communicate the Sick and Dying and those in special need. Permission to use the Reserved Sacrament for Devotional Services must be obtained from the Bishop of the Diocese.

## CONFIRMATION

- A.** Confirmation is the rite in which baptised persons receive the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen them for their Christian Life.
- B.** Normally a person will be confirmed only if he is at least 12 years old. It is at the discretion of the Bishop only to confirm someone who is not yet 12 years old.
- C.** The candidate for confirmation must normally receive teaching for two years. This teaching will include teaching of the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments and all other things including the Provincial Catechism. Besides the Provincial Catechism the book "Lessons for Confirmation" should be used in the time of preparation.
- D.** It is first of all the responsibility of the priest to prepare the candidates for Confirmation. He may ask deacons, catechists, teachers or religious education workers to help him but the final duty of preparation is his. Before he presents the candidates to the Bishop for Confirmation he must try to be sure of their faith and repentance and their wanting to try to live the Christian life. He must give them the chance to make their confession before Confirmation.

## TITLE A CANON 4

### MARRIAGE

- A.** Marriage is the sacramental relationship in which a man and a woman become one as husband and wife. Their intention must be to enter into a union until the death of one of them.
- B.** All Christians and Catechumens should marry with the Church's Marriage Service which includes the promises that the couple make to each other and the Church's blessing on their union. Civil marriages in which the couple have made promises that they accept each other as husband and wife until the death of one of them are recognised as valid by the Church of this Province, but it is expected that all Christians and Catechumens who have been married by civil rites will ask the Church's blessing on their marriages.
- C.** For a marriage to be valid the couple must:
  - (1) agree to become husband and wife freely and without being forced;
  - (2) be old enough to marry according to the laws of the country, and have their parents' or guardians' consent where this is needed by the law of the country;
  - (3) not be related to each other in a way that forbids marriage according to the rules of the Church or of custom where the custom is still in force.

If any of these conditions are broken, the marriage is not valid and may be declared null as provided for in Section K.

- D.** The Marriage Service must normally be conducted by a priest. The names of those priests who are authorized to conduct marriages must be registered with the Government by their Diocesan Authorities. Where there is no priest, the Bishop may give permission to a deacon or a catechist to conduct the Marriage Service but without giving the Marriage Blessing. In this case the Bishop must register the name of the deacon or catechist with the Government, and a priest should give the Marriage Blessing as soon as possible to the couples so married.
- E.** The Government regulations concerning putting up a written notice or calling banns at least three weeks before the marriage must be followed. It is the duty of the priest during this three weeks or more to give instruction to the couple in preparation for marriage.
- F.** In order to make it possible for young people to marry and to avoid the hardship caused by very high bride-prices, the Church of this Province recommends to the Diocesan Synods that where bride-prices are excessive, Diocesan Synods set a maximum bride-price for the Diocese.
- G.** All marriages must be registered with the Government where there is provision for such registration.
- H.** Marriages should not take place in Lent unless the Bishop gives his permission.

- (1) The marital status of an unbaptised couple at the time of the baptism of one of them is accepted by the Church and they may not separate because the marriage took place when they were not Christians. If there is any question about the marital status of the unbaptised couple this should be dealt with before either of them is baptised.
- (2) Where only one partner is baptised, he or she must not separate from the unbaptised partner because the latter does not wish to become a Christian, but if the non-Christian partner refuses to stay with the Christian because of his or her baptism, the Christian partner is free to marry someone else. This is in agreement with the teaching of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 7:12-15.
- (3) It is good for marriages contracted before baptism to be blessed after the couple are baptised. The form used is that provided in Appendix 1.
- (4) When a man seeking baptism has more than one wife, he may keep only one of them when he is baptised. He must make proper provision for the welfare of the other wives, who are free to marry someone else.

**J.** When a couple have been married with a civil rite as described in Section B and then want the blessing of the Church, this is given in the Form for Blessing a Marriage authorized by the General Synod and given in Appendix 1 of this Canon. This blessing is not to be given for a couple who have been living together without any kind of marriage no matter how long they have lived together or whether they have children. Also it is not to be used for those who have only had a custom ceremony. In all these cases they must be married with the ordinary full Marriage Service. The Form of Blessing provided in Appendix 1 is to be used only in the following cases:-

- (1) Those who were married while still heathen should have their marriage blessed with this form after baptism;
- (2) Those who have been married with the civil rite should have their marriages blessed with this form.

**K.** When a Marriage Service has been conducted but one or both of the persons –

- (1) did not consent freely to the marriage or were forced to marry through fear or any other cause, or
- (2) were under the age of marriage allowed by the law of the country, or
- (3) are related in a way forbidden by the rules of the Church or by custom where this is custom is still in force, or
- (4) entered the marriage with the expressed intention of its not being life long, then the marriage is invalid and null. Such a case must be reported to the Bishop who will declare it null and the partners concerned will be free to marry.

Where there is a government law about nullity, a couple must first do what the law requires before they are free to marry if either or both have had a previous marriage which has been annulled.



## TITLE A CANON 4

### APPENDIX 1 A SERVICE FOR THE BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

*(This is to be used in the case of a couple who were married while still heathen but are now baptised, and in the case of a couple married before a Registrar of Marriage.)*

***The man and woman will stand before the Altar, the Priest saying these words:-***

My dear people, these two persons have already been married, but now come for their marriage to be blessed, and they promise in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to live together in Holy Marriage until their lives' end, following the Teaching of Christ and His Church.

***The Priest shall say to the man and woman:-***

I call on you both, as you will answer at the dreadful Day of Judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be known, if either of you knows any reason why your marriage should not be blessed you tell it out now. For be sure that any who do not come together in the way God's Word allows, are not joined together by God, and their marriage is not real.

***The Priest shall say to the man:-***

**N**, you have already received **M** as your wife in marriage, but now you must promise that you will live with her in the holy custom of marriage. Will you love her, cheer her, honour and keep her, whether she is sick or well, and turning from all others, keep to her alone, as long as you both shall live?

***The man shall answer:-***

I will

***The Priest shall say to the woman:-***

**M**, you have already received **N** as your husband in marriage, but now you must promise that you will live with him in the holy custom of marriage. Will you love him, cheer him, obey him and honour and keep him, whether he is sick or well, and turning from all others, keep to him alone as long as you both shall live?

***The woman shall answer:-***

I will

*(HERE THE PRIEST MAY BLESS A RING)*

***The Priest shall say to the people:-***

**N** and **M** have promised to live together in Holy Marriage, and have done so before God and you. Let no man put apart those whom God has joined together.

## THE BLESSING

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit bless and keep you, the kind Lord look on you with love and fill you with all the blessings of the Spirit. May you so live together in this life that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. Amen.

Let us pray

Lord, have mercy on us.

**Christ, have mercy on us.**

Lord, have mercy on us.

Our Father in heaven, holy be your Name, your Rule come, your will be done in the world as it is in heaven. Give us this day our food for today. Forgive us what we do wrong as we forgive those who do wrong to us. Bring us not into trouble to try us, but save us from evil. Amen.

God of our fathers, bless these your servants and sow the seed of everlasting life in their hearts; may they truly do what they learn from your Holy Word, and so, obeying your will and being always safe in your keeping, may they remain in your love to their lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who from the beginning joined man and woman in marriage and made them holy, pour on you the riches of His love, make you holy and bless you, that you may please him in body and soul, and live together in holy love till the end of your lives. Amen.

The Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be on you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.

## TITLE A CANON 4

### APPENDIX 2

#### A SERVICE FOR THE REMARRIAGE OF DIVORCED PERSONS

*[This form of Service is used for officiating marriage or blessing of a civil marriage when one (or both) of the partners to the marriage is (are) divorced and the spouse of the former marriage is still living.*

*It is used only with the permission of the diocesan bishop in accordance with Clause L (1) of Title A Canon 4 (Marriage).]*

#### INTRODUCTION

*The priest addresses the bride and groom and the congregation.  
The congregation sits.*

*Priest:* We come together in God's presence to celebrate the marriage of N. and M., to ask his blessing on them and to share in their joy.

The Anglican Church of Melanesia affirms that marriage by divine institution is a lifelong and exclusive partnership between one man and one woman. The union of husband and wife in heart, mind and body is a gift from God for their mutual joy.

Marriage is given for the companionship, help and comfort that one ought to have of the other in good times and in bad times.

It is given that the natural instincts and desires, given to humankind by God, should be used in a sanctified and acceptable manner.

It is given that the husband and wife may have children and nurture them in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

A Christian marriage is both a civil contract and a spiritual union into which the couple enter by making promises to each other before God. It is a serious matter to break a civil contract. It is a much more serious matter to break a promise which one has made for life before God.

Those of you who are aware that N. (and M.) has (have) been married before and that the partners(s) of the marriage(s) is (are) still alive may wonder how it is that this marriage can have the Church's blessing. It is not a matter which has been lightly decided. Unfortunately, some marriages fail. The breakdown of a marriage is always a falling short of the ideal of marriage which God sets before us in Scriptures.

The Bishop of this Diocese of ..... is satisfied that, in this instance, there is no prospect of re-establishing a true marriage relationship between the partners of the former marriage(s). N. and M. have been carefully interviewed and the Bishop is assured that there is sincere penitence for the failure of the previous marriage(s) and a knowledge of God's forgiveness as well as a desire to forgive. They are pledged to live their marriage life within the worshipping and witnessing community of the Church.

In 1 John 1: 8 we read these words:

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is just and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.”

We all need to know the forgiving and healing power of God's love, for God's forgiveness brings healing of all the hurts of the past which sin has inflicted.

Let us therefore together ask God's pardon and, in joy and forgiveness, ask God's blessing of the marriage of N. and M.

*Silence.*

*All kneel and say -*

Most merciful God  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Priest says -*

Almighty God, our merciful Father, who has promised forgiveness of sins to all who are truly sorry, turn to him in faith and are ready to forgive others; have mercy on you, pardon and save you from all your sins, make you strong in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*A hymn may be sung.*

*The congregation stands and the priest says -*

N. and M. come now to be joined in the holy state of marriage. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married you must say so now.

N. and M., if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

*The Marriage Service continues as in A Melanesia Prayer Book pp. 260ff, omitting the Introductory Address.*

## TITLE A CANON 5

### HOLY ANOINTING

- A.** Holy Anointing is the rite used in the ministry to the sick for their healing both in body and soul, according to the teaching of Saint James (James 5: 14-15).
- B.** This sacrament is given by a priest with oil made from a plant and consecrated by the Bishop.
- C.** This sacrament may be given to any baptised person who is seriously ill and especially to those who are dangerously ill through sickness or old age. A sick person should be anointed before surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery.
- D.** Sick children may be anointed if they are old enough to get comfort from this sacrament.
- E.** The sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers and later becomes sick again, or if, during the same sickness, the danger becomes more serious.
- F.** The priest should prepare the sick person for anointing as far as it is possible. If possible, the sick person should make his confession and receive Holy Communion also. The priest should teach about this sacrament in his ordinary teaching so that the people are ready to ask for this sacrament when they are sick.
- G.** A sick person who is unconscious or has lost the use of reason may be anointed and may receive conditional absolution if he is a Christian believer who would have wanted to receive these sacraments if he had been in control of his senses.
- H.** When a priest is called to attend a person who is already dead, he should pray for the dead person, asking God to forgive his sins and receive him into his kingdom. The priest must not anoint the dead person but if he is doubtful whether a sick person is dead or not, he may anoint him conditionally, beginning the form of anointing with the words, "If you are alive . . .".

## TITLE A CANON 6

### PENANCE

The Church of this Province teaches that there are two uses of this word:-

1. Private Penance, and
2. Public Penance.

#### A. Private Penance

1. Penance is the rite by which sins we have done after Baptism are forgiven according to the teaching of –

Luke 5: 32                      Luke 13: 3  
Matthew 16: 9                  John 20: 21-23

2. The Church of this Province believes and teaches that the power to forgive sins is given by God to a priest at his Ordination and the priest uses this power when he forgives sins.
3. Private Confession to God in the presence of a priest can be made when a person comes with sorrow for the past and intends to lead a new life in the future.
4. When a person makes a private confession, the priest will do three things:-
  - (a) he will give advice to the person;
  - (b) he will give a Penance. A Penance is not a punishment, but heavenly medicine to help the person live the new life of Christ, to give thanks for forgiveness and to put right what has been wrong. Thus a Penance may have more than one part to it.
  - (c) he will give absolution if he thinks this is right.
5. When the person does not know the language of the person, he may not refuse to hear his confession, but before giving absolution he will say -

"You have made your confession to God in a language I do not know. God forgives those who come to him with real sorrow, speak the truth, and intend to lead a new life; and therefore, believing this in His Name, I say the Absolution."

Then he will say the words of absolution from the Melanesian Prayer Book.
6. Under no circumstances may the priest or the person repeat to any other person what has been said by the priest or the person in the Confessional. This is called "the Seal of Confession". However, a person may give the priest permission to seek advice so that more help may be given to him to overcome his difficulties and temptations. The priest may not at any time reveal to anyone the name or identity of the person who has given this permission, and at any time the person may withdraw the permission.

## **B. Public Penance**

1. Public Penance has two objects:-
  - (a) to help a person who has sinned seriously to come to true repentance and to be fully restored to the fellowship of the Church, and
  - (b) to guard the Church against the scandal of its members continuing in unrepentant sin and to give the Church the opportunity of receiving back penitents into its fellowship. Public Penance must not be thought of as a punishment for sin.
2. Public Penance must be used only if the person has committed a serious sin which is known publicly and has not already been confessed privately. If the sin is not known to the people, the priest must give other pastoral care to the sinner: he may not give him Public Penance.
3. When a person has committed a serious sin which has become public, the priest should see him and ask if he has already confessed it and received absolution. If he has, the priest will not give him a Public Penance, but will tell the people that he has already received absolution and ask them to forgive the sinner, just as God has already forgiven him.
4. If the person who has committed a serious sin which has become public has not already confessed it and received absolution, the priest may put him under public penance for a time of not more than three months. The penance means that the person may not receive Holy Communion during the time of his penance until he is restored to communion as provided for in Section 7. The priest will explain to the sinner that he is under public penance, but will not announce this publicly to the people. If he is asked by anyone what he has done about the particular case of public sin, the priest may tell the person who asks. The penitent should understand that while he is under public penance he should attend the prayers and the Eucharist regularly.
5. During the time that a penitent is under public penance the priest has a heavy pastoral duty to visit him and try to help him to come to true repentance.
6. The priest should write the details of every person put under public penance in a note-book, so that he does not forget and neglect the penitent during his time of penance. This note-book is to remain private and confidential.
7. At the end of the time of public penance, if the person is penitent, he will be received back before the congregation with the form provided, after having made his confession privately. This rite of restoring a penitent to communion should be a joyful occasion and the priest should explain that it gives the congregation the chance to forgive and receive back the former sinner. If, however, for serious pastoral reason, the priest believes it would be better for the penitent to be received back privately, the priest may do so.
8. If at the end of the time of public penance the person is not penitent, the

priest may not restore him to communion, but may lengthen the time of penance by not more than three months. If at the end of that time the person is still not penitent, the priest will report the matter to his senior priest or bishop, who will see the sinner and try to bring him to repentance.

9. If a priest or deacon commits a serious public sin, the case should be reported at once to the Bishop who alone can give him a public penance.
10. When a person under public penance is seriously ill or in childbirth, the priest should help him or her to be truly repentant. If he or she is penitent, the priest should hear the person's confession and give absolution. In this case the penitent does not need to be restored before the congregation, but may be admitted at once to Holy Communion.
11. A priest should not restore a penitent under public penance who comes from another district without the authorization by letter or otherwise of the priest of that other district. For this reason, it is the duty of a priest, when a penitent under public penance moves out of his district, to inform the priest of the district to which the penitent goes of the fact that the person is under public penance, for what reason he is under public penance, and when that priest may restore him, if penitent.
12. **Excommunication.** - This word is used only for those people who do not want to follow the Way of Christ and do not want to have anything to do with the teaching and life of the Church. Only a Diocesan Bishop can announce that a person is excommunicated and only the Bishop can bring a person back again to be a full member of the Church.

If an excommunicated person is near to death and it is not possible to tell the Bishop, a priest who is sure that the person is sorry for his sins can absolve the person and free him from excommunication. If the priest does this, he must tell the Bishop by letter at once.

## TITLE A CANON 6

### APPENDIX 1

#### THE ORDER FOR RECEIVING BACK THOSE DOING PUBLIC PENANCE

***The people will stand for all of the Service. The penitent will stand before the people and the priest will say -***

Dear Friends, this person wishes to come back into the full fellowship of the Church. Therefore, I will ask him some questions so that you may see that he is truly sorry and promises to do better, and so that we may welcome him with joy.

***Priest:*** My son (daughter), do you wish to say before God and these people that you have sinned and are very sorry and promise to do better.

***Answer:*** Yes, I do.

***Priest:*** Do you promise to lead a truly Christian life?

***Answer:*** Yes, I do.

***Priest:*** Have you already received absolution for your sin?

***Answer:*** Yes.

***The penitent kneels and the priest takes him by the hand and says-***

My son (daughter), God has already forgiven your sin: you have done public penance: you have promised to do better and to follow the Way of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore we welcome you back into our full fellowship, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***The priest raises him up and leads him to his place in the Church with the other people.***

***Priest:*** Dear friends, let us now give thanks to God and say together –

Almighty and merciful God, we thank you that you have received back your son (daughter) into the Way of Life; and we pray that he (she) and all of us may live good and holy lives and do Your Will, so that we may all enter into Your heavenly kingdom, where you live and rule with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

***Priest:*** Let us bless the Lord.

***People:*** Thanks be to God.

## TITLE A CANON 7

### HOLY ORDER

- A. Holy Order is the rite in which the ministers of the Church are ordained. This Province accepts and intends to continue the three Orders of the Catholic Church, Bishop, Priest and Deacon, as stated in Article 6 of the Constitution of the Province.
- B. Those who feel that God is calling them to the Sacred Ministry of the Church should first tell their priest who will tell the Bishop. If it is thought that it is their vocation to enter the full-time ministry in which a deacon or priest may be asked to serve in any place, the Bishop will recommend that they will sit the entrance examination for the Bishop Patteson Theological College. The Principal of the College will tell the Bishop which applicants have been successful in the examination, and if the Bishop and his advisers agree, the Principal shall then offer places at the College to these successful applicants.
- C. Appropriate persons will be ordained Deacon or Priest only after they have been trained at the Bishop Patteson Theological College or elsewhere and after the Bishop has considered the recommendations of the Principal and Staff of the College and the Bishop's other advisers. Deacons must be over 22 years of age. Priests must be over 23 years of age. Bishops must be over 29 years of age.
- D.
  - 1. Those persons who feel called by God to seek ordination but who do not wish to enter the full-time ministry may offer themselves for the village ministry to become deacons or priests. These persons normally work under a full-time district priest and may not be asked to serve in any place other than their home area. The people of the village where they are to serve must accept them and must agree to be fully responsible for their salary. Before these candidates are ordained they must receive training at a Training Centre or elsewhere as the Bishop shall direct.
  - 2. Notwithstanding anything contained in the preceding sub-clause, in exceptional circumstances a Diocesan Bishop may request a priest who has been ordained for the village ministry to transfer to a District or Parish appointment whereupon that priest shall receive the normal stipend and allowances of a District or Parish priest.
  - 3. Appropriate persons who feel called by God to seek ordination but who are in, and who wish to remain in, secular employment, may offer themselves for the non-stipendiary ministry to become deacons or priests. These persons must first undergo a course of training and preparation as directed by their Diocesan Bishop.
  - 4. Subject only to the provision for the payment of a salary to a deacon or priest in a village ministry by the people of that village, (as indicated in sub-clause 1 hereof), no stipend or allowances shall be paid to deacons or priests in either a village ministry or a non-stipendiary ministry.
- E. The Ordinal of the Anglican Church of Melanesia will be used for Ordinations and Consecrations.

F. As required by Article 6 Clauses C and D of the Constitution, priests and deacons, when ordained, must make promises of obedience as required by Article 6 Clauses C and D of the Constitution and those promises shall be in the following form:-  
I, (name of person to be ordained), now to be ordained to the Holy Order of (Deacons/Priests) do make the following promises:-

I promise to be faithful to the teaching, ordering and faith of the Church of this Province, which I believe to be a true part of the Holy Catholic Apostolic Church of Christ. I promise to be faithful and true to the Holy Bible and to the Prayer Book of this Province. So help me God.

I promise that I will obey the Bishop of (name of the Diocese in which the priest or deacon shall be licensed) and his successors in all things lawful and honest, and will keep the Church Laws of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and the Diocese of..... So help me God.

**SIGNED**

The above promises were made on . ..... . . in my presence.

## **TITLE B**

### **OTHER SERVICES AND RITES OF THE CHURCH**

(Constitution Articles 2, 5)

#### **CANON 1**

##### **LITURGY AND AUTHORISED BOOKS**

- A.** The General Synod accepts the forms for administering the Sacraments and for conducting other Services provided in the Melanesian Prayer Book and hereby authorises such alterations, amendments or additions to the said Prayer Book or the publication of a Priests' Manual as are thought appropriate by a commission whose membership is given in Title E Canon 8, Clause A, provided such alterations, amendments or additions are agreeable to Holy Scripture and the other standards of faith as the Anglican Communion has received them.
- B.** The General Synod accepts the forms for the Ordering of Deacons, Priests and Bishops in the book called the Ordinal of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.
- C.** All translations of Services into any language should be made from the Melanesian Prayer Book and the Ordinal. Before such translations are finally printed they should be approved by the Bishop for the Diocese and he may appoint a group of advisers to help him in checking the translation.
- D.** Without taking away the powers of the Council of Bishops referred to in Section G hereunder, any change or changes in the Services referred to in Sections A and B made by the Commission referred to in Section A shall be provisional only until the next General Synod when the validity of such change or changes shall be automatically confirmed unless a resolution disapproving of any change or changes is passed at that General Synod.
- E.** The General Synod accepts the Kalendar and Lectionary called the Melanesian Lectionary. Proposals to change the Kalendar or Lectionary shall be submitted to the Council of Bishops who will report the changes to the Executive Council for approval. The Provincial Lectionary shall normally be used in the churches for public worship and by the clergy in the saying of the Divine Office throughout the Province, but where there is no translation of the lessons appointed or for any other good reason, the Bishop of the Diocese may allow other lessons to be read.
- F.** The General Synod accepts for experimental use in any Diocese of the Province whose Diocesan Synod agrees to the experiment, the following alternatives to the readings at the Sunday Eucharist:-
1. the two year scheme proposed by the Church of England Liturgical Commission;
  2. the three year scheme now used in the Roman Catholic Church.

The General Synod gives permission to the Diocesan Bishops to allow for experimental use alternative Collects and Readings for the weekday Eucharists on days which are not otherwise provided for.

- G.** The Council of Bishops may give permission for the use by any part of the Province of experimental forms for the Sacraments or other Services under the control of the Diocesan Bishop. The Diocesan Bishop must report on the use of such experimental forms to the next General Synod which will either
- (a) approve the form in question as binding on the Province, or
  - (b) approve the form in question as an optional alternative (as provided for in Section D above), or
  - (c) allow the experimental use to continue for a further period, or
  - (d) Order the experiment to come to an end.
- H.** The following versions of the Bible may be used in this Province:-
1. The King James Version
  2. The Revised Standard Version
  3. The Good News Bible
  4. The New English Bible
  5. The Jerusalem Bible
  6. The New Jerusalem Bible
  7. The New International Version
  8. The New Testament in Solomon Islands Pijin (Niutestamen)
  9. Baebol Long Bislama
  10. The New Revised Standard Version
  11. Such Bibles and New Testament translations in local languages as may be approved by the appropriate Diocesan Council.
  12. The Holi Baebol long Solomon Aelan Pijin.

## TITLE B CANON 2

### BURIAL OF THE DEAD

- A. Each village should have a special burial ground or cemetery which should be consecrated by the Bishop.
- B. It is the duty of the people of the village to keep the cemetery clean and tidy.
- C. The normal Burial Service is used for baptized people who die in the peace of God. Other forms of Burial Service are provided for those who died unrepentant while under public penance or who died unrepentant by their own hand, unbaptized children and still-born babies.
- D. If the body is buried in ground not consecrated by the Bishop, the priest should first bless the grave before the body is buried in it, using the form provided in Appendix 1.

### APPENDIX 1

#### A FORM FOR BLESSING A GRAVE WHICH IS NOT IN CONSECRATED GROUND

God, through your mercy the souls of the faithful are at rest: bless this grave, we pray you, and send your holy angel to guard it. Free from all chains of sin the soul of N. whose body is to be buried here, so that he may find joy in your company with all the saints for ever and ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### APPENDIX 2

#### A SPECIAL FORM FOR THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

***The Service starts at the grave and Psalm 130 is said.***

The Lesson - Isaiah 55: 6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

***The Minister will then say –***

Man that is born of a woman has but a short time to live and is full of sorrow. He comes up and is cut down like a flower, he passes away like a shadow and can never stay.

In the midst of life we are in death; from whom may we seek for help but from you, Lord, who for our sins are rightly angry with us?

Yet, Lord God, most Holy; Lord God, most strong; holy and most merciful Saviour, let us not come into the pains of everlasting death. You know, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not your kind ears to our prayers, but save us, Lord most holy; God most strong; holy and merciful Saviour, just and good Judge Eternal; let us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, fall from you.

***Then the body is laid in the grave and the Minister says –***

Do not remember, Lord, our evil doings nor the evil doings of those before us, and do not punish us for our sins: pity your people whom you have set free with your dear Blood and do not be angry with us forever.

Let us pray  
Lord, have mercy on us.  
**Christ, have mercy on us.**  
Lord, have mercy on us.

**Our Father . . . . from evil. Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and always give more than either we desire or deserve, pour down on us the riches of your mercy, forgiving us those things which we know were wrong, and giving us those good things which we are not fit to ask but through the life and death of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, we pray you, set your people free from all their sins, that by your great goodness we may be loosed from the sins that hold us fast that we have done in our weakness. Grant this, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

Father in heaven, your blessed Son, Jesus Christ, wept at the grave of Lazarus, his friend: look with pity, we pray you, on those who are now in sorrow and trouble. Merciful God, make strong their hearts and teach them that all things lead to good for them that love you, and give them sure trust in the care and love of their Father in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE GRACE**

## **TITLE B CANON 3**

### **MINISTRY OF DELIVERANCE**

- A.** The Ministry of Deliverance is a ministry for setting people and places free from evil spirits.
  
- B.** Evil spirits may affect a person in either of two ways:-
  - (a) by entering the person and living in him, or
  - (b) by attacking him from the outside.
  
- C.** This Ministry of Deliverance must be under the general control of the Diocesan Bishop. He will decide who is allowed to exercise it and will make sure that they have received sufficient instruction about it before he gives his permission. This ministry may be exercised by lay people as well as priests.

## TITLE B CANON 4

### MINISTRY OF HEALING

- A.** In addition to Title A Canon 5 (Holy Anointing), the sacrament which follows the teaching of Saint James (James 5: 14-15) and which the Church recognises as the primary form of healing, there are also other forms of healing which the Church accepts when they are performed in accordance with the biblical precedents set by the Holy Apostles and referred to in such biblical passages as Acts 2:43; 5:12 and 8:7.
- B.** One such form is the Service for The Laying on of Hands for the Sick as contained in the Church's *A Melanesian English Prayer Book*. In this Service the priest may be assisted by deacons, professed members of Religious Orders, catechists or senior respected lay leaders.
- C.** The Diocesan Bishop shall, where necessary or advisable, provide training for those who assist in the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Anointing or in administering other Services of healing.
- D.** Professed members of Religious Communities may anoint the sick with oil blessed by a priest or a bishop.
- E.**
1. Deacons and lay persons who are not members of Religious Communities may be licensed by the Diocesan Bishop, after training and examination, to lay hands on the sick with prayer using the form in *A Melanesian English Prayer Book* or authorised alternatives.
  2. Before the Bishop may issue the licence, the Parish Priest and the Parish or District Council, after consultation with the people of the community as appropriate, must give approval.
  3. Any deacon or lay worker who has been licensed by the Bishop pursuant to this clause may work only in the parish or district in which he has been licensed unless he has the permission of the Parish or District Priest of another parish or district or unless otherwise directed by the Diocesan Bishop.
- F.** Holy Water is water blessed by the priest with solemn prayer to ask God's blessing on those who use it and to ask for protection from the powers of darkness. It also reminds us of our baptism by which we were made clean from sin and raised to new life with Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- G.** Clergy may bless traditional medicines (including plants and tree bark) for healing provided that they are satisfied that the custom medicine will be used in a good way.
- H.** Healing is a gift given by the grace of God mediated through Jesus Christ in his Body, the Church, in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Church does not accept those who claim to heal by relying on visions, dreams, angels, spirits, custom, the saints, secret knowledge, powers of evil, the departed, bones, or any other such objects or things, rather than the free gift of grace in Jesus Christ.
- I.** Because the Ministry of Healing belongs to the whole Church, any thanksgiving offering must be given to the Church, rather than to the lay healer.

**TITLE C**  
**MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH**  
(Constitution Articles 10, 12, 13, 14, 15.)

**CANON 1**  
**RESIGNATION OF BISHOPS AND CLERGY**  
**AND COMPULSORY RETIREMENT AGES**

- A.** The Archbishop of Melanesia must retire at the age of 60 unless he is asked by the Executive Council and the members of the Diocesan Electoral Board of the Diocese of Central Melanesia elected under Article 13 A.1. of the Constitution, meeting together, to remain in office for a further period and the Archbishop must retire when that period expires.
- B.** If the Archbishop wishes to resign he must observe the following procedures:-
1. He will inform the Council of Bishops, either collectively (if they are assembled together) or individually (by confidential letter), of his resignation and the reasons for it. His advice should include the suggested date on which he would cease to discharge the duties of Archbishop.
  2. At this point, the Council of Bishops, may accept the Archbishop's decision, in which case they will negotiate with him the most suitable date on which the resignation should take effect. No announcement of the resignation is to be made at this point.
  3. The Council of Bishops may decide that the Archbishop should be asked to remain in office for a further period, in which case, if they are in agreement, they will then consult the members of the General Synod if it is meeting at that time. If the General Synod is not meeting at that time, the Council of Bishops will consult the members of the Executive Council. The General Synod or Council alone may make a request to the Archbishop to delay his resignation for a further period. The Executive Council need not meet to discuss such a request, but it will be the responsibility of the Senior Bishop to ensure that all members of the Executive Council are consulted. If there is a request made to the Archbishop to delay his departure from office, the length of any further period must be specified by the Executive Council. No announcement of the resignation is yet to be made.
  4. If the Archbishop's resignation is to take effect as stipulated by him despite any request under sub-clause 3 of this clause to delay, the Archbishop will then inform the General Secretary and the Vicar-General of the Diocese of which he is the Bishop that he intends to resign and the date on which he will cease to hold office.
  5. The public announcement of the resignation will be made by the General Secretary. It will be made at such a place and time or in such a manner as will be agreed upon between the Archbishop, the Senior Bishop and the General Secretary, but if possible it should be made in such a manner as to allow as many members of the Anglican Church of Melanesia as possible to hear the news of the resignation at the same time.

- C. An Archbishop retiring at age 60 or any later date pursuant to a request from the Executive Council to remain in office shall play a major role in the Installation and Enthronement of his successor as Archbishop. An Archbishop who resigns will only play such a role if requested by the Council of Bishops.
- D. A Diocesan Bishop in the Province of Melanesia must retire at the age of 60 unless he is asked by the Diocesan Synod to stay in office for a further number of years. If this happens, the Diocesan Synod will say for how long they want the Bishop to continue in his work and the Bishop must retire when that period expires.
- E. If a Diocesan Bishop wishes to resign, he must send his resignation, together with the reasons for it, to the Archbishop, giving the date on which he wishes to relinquish office as a Diocesan Bishop. The Archbishop will notify the other Bishops of the Province and when he has received their consent to the resignation, he will announce to the Church the resignation of the Diocesan Bishop and shall make provision for the well-being of that Diocese and shall act according to Article 13 of the Constitution from the date on which the Bishop ceases to be the Diocesan Bishop until a new Diocesan Bishop is installed.
- F. An Assistant Bishop in a Diocese of the Province of Melanesia must retire at the age of 60 unless he is asked by the Diocesan Bishop and the Diocesan Council to continue in his work for a further number of years. If this happens, the Diocesan Bishop and the Diocesan Council will say for how long they want the Assistant Bishop to continue in his work.
- G. If an Assistant Bishop wishes to resign, he must send his resignation, together with the reasons for it, to the Diocesan Bishop giving the date on which his duties as Assistant Bishop will cease. The Diocesan Bishop will notify the Archbishop and the other Diocesan Bishops of the Province, and when he has received their consent he will announce to the Diocese the resignation of the Assistant Bishop.
- H. Notwithstanding anything contained in the above sections, no Archbishop or Diocesan Bishop or Assistant Bishop may continue in his work after his sixty-fifth (65th) birthday.
- I. The provisions of this Canon are retrospective and apply irrespective of the date of appointment of the Archbishop or any Diocesan Bishop or Assistant Bishop. It is expressly provided, however, that if it is found in the future that any Archbishop, Diocesan Bishop or Assistant Bishop would suffer financial detriment as a result of the optional retirement age of 55 years having been deleted from this Canon then such benefits as would have been paid were it not for the deletion, shall still be paid. But this proviso will not apply to any Archbishop, Diocesan Bishop or Assistant Bishop appointed after the first day of September, 1999.
- J.
  1. The retirement age of clergy shall be 55 years PROVIDED HOWEVER that by special arrangement with the Diocesan Bishop and with the concurrence of the Diocesan Council, clergy may serve beyond the age of 55.
  2. Any member of the clergy may, at his own option, resign before reaching the age of 55 years.

If a Diocesan Bishop considers that a priest in his diocese has become physically or mentally incapable of holding a full-time appointment, then the Bishop may –

- (i) counsel retirement to the priest in private.
- (ii) If the priest declines to retire the Bishop will then consult with the experienced priests and the lay persons referred to in (iii) hereunder.
- (iii) Two senior lay persons from the Parish or District or Institution of the priest in question, and two experienced priests, shall be selected, one of each by the Diocesan Bishop and the priest respectively.
- (iv) After the consultation referred to in (ii) and (iii) above the Diocesan Bishop shall further carefully consider the position and if the priest in question requests it within seven days of the completion of the consultation, he shall again counsel the priest.
- (v) Finally, the Diocesan Bishop will decide whether or not the priest is to retire. If the priest is to retire, the Diocesan Bishop will first give him the option to retire voluntarily, but thereafter may withdraw his License and announce his retirement.

**K.** A priest who has not served at least ten years from the date of ordination and who retires pursuant to clause 3 above shall receive six months stipend by way of pension.

The term "clergy" in paragraph J of this Canon includes all ordained persons except the Archbishop, Diocesan Bishops and Assistant Bishops."

## TITLE C CANON 2

### THE DISCIPLINING OF ORDAINED PERSONS

- A.** The Archbishop or any Bishop, Priest, or Deacon of the Church who has done any of the following will be liable to discipline in accordance with the procedures set out in this Canon and must submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Church Courts and the procedures in these Canons:
- 1) Taught wrong teachings against the Foundations of Faith as contained in Article 1 of the Constitution; or
  - 2) Been convicted in a court of law of any crime punishable by imprisonment (which shall be conclusive proof that the person has committed the crime); or
  - 3) Been guilty of immorality; or
  - 4) Been guilty of dishonest or grossly negligent dealings with Church funds; or
  - 5) Been guilty of neglect of duty as required by ordination or consecration promises; or
  - 6) Been guilty of drunkenness or abuse of drugs or other substances; or
  - 7) Been guilty of serious violence towards any person causing personal injury.
- B.** Disciplinary procedures shall be commenced as follows:
- (1) Except where a complaint is made by the Archbishop or a Diocesan Bishop, a complaint must be made in the first instance in writing delivered personally to the ordained person concerned:
    - (a) In the case of the Archbishop, the complaint must be signed by six communicant members of any diocese or combination of dioceses;
    - (b) In the case of a Diocesan Bishop, or an Assistant Bishop, the complaint must be signed by six communicant members of the Bishop's Diocese, or six communicant members of the diocese in which the offence is alleged to have taken place;
    - (c) In the case of a Priest or a Deacon, the complaint must be signed by three communicant members of the Diocese or three communicant members of the Diocese in which the offence is alleged to have taken place.
  - (2) In a case to which clause B. (1) of this canon applies, the person complained against may respond to the complaint in writing within a period of 28 days after the date the letter is received. If no response is received or if the complainants are not satisfied with any response received, then they may initiate formal disciplinary procedures in the way described in clause B. (4) of this canon.
  - (3) If the complaint is made by the Archbishop or a Diocesan Bishop, the formal disciplinary procedures may be initiated in the way described in clause B.(4) of this canon without the need to comply with the initial process described in clause B.(1) of this canon.

- (4) Formal disciplinary procedures may be initiated as follows:
- (a) In the case of the Archbishop, by a written complaint to the Senior Bishop signed by six communicant members of any diocese or combination of dioceses;
  - (b) In the case of a Diocesan Bishop, or an Assistant Bishop, by the Archbishop or by a written complaint to the Archbishop signed by six communicant members of the Bishop's Diocese, or six communicant members of the diocese in which the offence is alleged to have taken place;
  - (c) In the case of a Priest or a Deacon, by the Diocesan Bishop or by written complaint to the Bishop of the Diocese signed by three communicant members of the Diocese, or three communicant members of the diocese in which the offence is alleged to have taken place.

**C.** Where disciplinary procedures are initiated under Clause B(4) (a) or (b), the following procedures will apply:

- 1) The case shall be referred to the Chancellor who may rule that the complaint is frivolous, vexatious, or that there is no sufficient case to answer. A complaint relating to matters arising prior to Consecration or more than three years before the complaint is received shall be a prima facie case of abuse of process. If the Chancellor so rules, the matter will proceed no further. The Chancellor may require the complainant or complainants to provide further evidence and particulars of the allegations before ruling within such period as the Chancellor directs.
- 2) If the Chancellor rules there is a case to answer, the person who is complained against shall be given written notice of the allegations and a reasonable opportunity to respond in writing.
- 3) The Archbishop may discuss the matter privately with the Bishop complained against. The Senior Bishop may discuss the matter with the Archbishop if it is the Archbishop who is complained against.
- 4) After any discussion as envisaged by clause (3) hereof, the complaint shall be discussed privately by the Council of Bishops with the Bishop or Archbishop concerned. If satisfied that any one or more of the disciplinary offences in section A of this Canon is established, the Council of Bishops will decide what discipline shall be done including counseling, admonishment, requiring the person to put right what is wrong, and suspension from all or some duties for such period as the Council of Bishops deems fit but not exceeding six months. Discipline by the Council of Bishops shall not include requiring resignation but the Council of Bishops may request or recommend resignation and if the person chooses to resign the complaint will proceed no further.
- 5) The matter may be referred by the Council of Bishops to the Provincial Court under Title C Canon 3 in any of the following circumstances:
  - a) Where the Council of Bishops decides that the matter is sufficiently serious to warrant consideration being given to requiring the resignation of the person complained against;

- b) Where the person complained against does not accept or carry out any discipline decided upon by the Council of Bishops;
  - c) Where the person complained against is not satisfied with the outcome and requests referral to the court.
- 6) The result of the private discussions of the Council of Bishops (including any disciplinary measure decided upon) is to be notified in writing forthwith to the person who is complained against and, where applicable, to the complainants. Any request for referral to the Provincial Court under clause (5)(c) hereof must be notified in writing to the Archbishop within 28 days of receipt of advice of the outcome of those deliberations.
  - 7) Where a disciplinary matter is referred to the Provincial Court under clause (5) hereof, the Council of Bishops may, after giving an opportunity for submissions, suspend the person who is complained against from any or all duties pending the outcome of the case in the Provincial Court and may also require such other steps to be taken as may be necessary to ensure the due and proper administration of the affairs of the Diocese in the interim.
  - 8) The person who is complained against shall not take part in any deliberations of the Council of Bishops under this Canon (except for the purpose of presenting his or her case) and, where the Archbishop is charged, the Senior Bishop shall exercise all the Archbishop's functions under this Canon.
- D.**
- 1) When a Priest or Deacon who is alleged to have committed any of the offences in section A is reported to the Diocesan Bishop, the Diocesan Bishop shall first refer the allegations and supporting information to the Priest or Deacon concerned and give ample opportunity for the Priest or Deacon to respond and to challenge the allegations and information. If after due consideration of all the representations, information, and evidence, the Diocesan Bishop is satisfied that the allegations are established, the Diocesan Bishop may suspend the Priest or Deacon from exercising all or part of their ministry for any period up to a maximum of six months.
  - 2) The Diocesan Bishop may also impose other conditions to be observed by any Priest or Deacon while on suspension, including requiring the Priest or Deacon to put right what has been wrong or accepting counseling and the suspended Priest or Deacon shall not leave the Diocese during the period of suspension or move to another Diocese without the Bishop's express written permission, and if such permission is given, the Priest may be recalled orally or in writing at any time.
  - 3) If, in the opinion of the Diocesan Bishop, the suspended Priest or Deacon is likely to travel to another Diocese, or if the Diocesan Bishop has given express written permission for the suspended Priest or Deacon to travel to another diocese, the suspending Bishop shall inform the Bishop of the other Diocese who will not license the Priest or Deacon during the term of the suspension.
  - 4) The Diocesan Bishop may also refer the matter to the Diocesan Court under Title C Canon 3 A.

- E. Any Priest or Deacon who has been suspended from duties by the Diocesan Bishop under section D of this Canon, shall, on the first occasion, receive half stipend but on any subsequent suspension shall receive no stipend.

**F. INCAPACITY TO PERFORM NORMAL DUTIES**

- 1) Where two duly qualified medical practitioners certify that by reason of physical or mental illness of an on-going nature, the Archbishop is incapable of carrying out normal duties the Diocesan Council within the Diocese concerned will inform the Senior Bishop who will declare the office of the Archbishop to be vacant and make the necessary arrangements for the election of a new Archbishop according to Article 8 of the Constitution.
- 2) Where two duly qualified medical practitioners certify that by reason of physical or mental illness of an on-going nature, a Diocesan Bishop is incapable of carrying out normal duties the Diocesan Council of the Diocese concerned will inform the Archbishop who will declare the office of the Bishop of that diocese to be vacant and make necessary arrangements for the election of a new Bishop according to Article 13 of the Constitution.
- 3) Where two duly qualified medical practitioners certify that by reason of physical or mental illness of an on-going nature, an Assistant Bishop is incapable of carrying out normal duties the Bishop of the Diocese concerned will revoke the License of the Assistant Bishop. The Bishop of the Diocese concerned will inform the Archbishop and a new Assistant Bishop may be appointed according to Article 14 of the Constitution.

## TITLE C CANON 3

### CHURCH COURTS

#### A. Diocesan Courts

- 1) In each diocese of the Province there will be a Diocesan Court to hear and decide cases concerning the matters set out in Article 18 of the Constitution.
- 2) The Court may be convened on the initiative of the Diocesan Bishop or the request in writing made to the Diocesan Bishop by six communicant members of the diocese.
- 3) The Diocesan Court will sit only when all other efforts to settle the matter have failed. The Diocesan Bishop will have the final say whether the Diocesan Court will sit and shall take the advice of the Provincial Chancellor (or if not available the Vice-Chancellor of the Province) before deciding.
- 4) The Diocesan Court will comprise the following members who will all take part in the Court's deliberations:
  - a) The Provincial Chancellor (or if not available the Vice-Chancellor of the Province);
  - b) Three Priests appointed by the Council of Bishops, at least two of whom shall come from outside the Diocese concerned;
  - c) Three lay assessors, two appointed by the Council of Bishops from outside the Diocese concerned and one appointed by the person charged.
- 5) The Court will be presided over by the Chancellor (or Vice-Chancellor as the case may be) who shall cause the evidence to be recorded.
- 6) The Chancellor (or Vice-Chancellor as the case may be) shall have the following powers and duties:
  - a) To rule on all matters of evidence and procedure;
  - b) To give such directions as may be necessary to ensure the efficient and just management of the case, including any pre-hearing issues such as the giving of particulars; the disclosure of documents; the preparation and delivery of written statements of evidence; and the preparation of a bundle of documents for the assistance of the Court;
- 7) The hearing will take place in private unless the President of the Court decides otherwise.
- 8) Those people bringing the case and the person who is complained against may be represented by counsel and the person complained against may instead choose three friends to assist.
- 9) The Court is at liberty to determine the procedures to be followed by the Court in such manner as it deems fit and may receive such evidence as it deems fit, whether or not it would otherwise be admissible in a court of law.

- 10) After hearing from those bringing the case, the person complained against and such witnesses as either side may wish to present, the Court will determine whether the charges are established and pass the Court's judgment to the Diocesan Bishop in writing within 14 days of completion of the hearing; Provided that if the matter charged is one affecting doctrine or ritual, the verdict shall be a special verdict stating in writing the facts of the case as the Court finds them to be proved, but leaving to the judgment of the Diocesan Bishop the question whether or not, upon the facts, the person concerned is guilty of the matter charged.
- 11) The Diocesan Bishop will then decide what will be done and if the verdict is a special one, whether or not the offence has been committed. Within 30 days of the judgment being given, the Diocesan Bishop will notify all the members of the Court, those bringing the case and the person charged, of what action will be taken. The Diocesan Bishop may:
  - a) Require the person charged to put right what has been wrong; or
  - b) Take away the licence of the person charged for a specified time not exceeding twelve months; or
  - c) Require the resignation of the person charged from any ministry (ordained or lay) in the Church.
- 12) If the person charged is not satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings, an appeal may be made to the Provincial Court within three calendar months of the date of notification by the Bishop of the action to be taken against the person charged.

## **B. The Provincial Court**

- 1) The Provincial Court will deal with:
  - a) Appeals from any Diocesan Court under clause A(12) of this Canon;
  - b) Disciplinary procedures against the Archbishop or a Diocesan Bishop or an Assistant Bishop referred to the Provincial Court under Title C Canon 2 clause C(5).
- 2) The Provincial Court will comprise the following members who shall all take part in the Court's deliberations:
  - a) The Archbishop;
  - b) The Chancellor of the Province (or if not available the Vice-Chancellor of the Province).
  - c) Two Diocesan Bishops appointed by the Archbishop;
  - d) Two lay assessors, one appointed by the Archbishop and one by the person who is complained against; Provided that where the Archbishop is the person who is complained against, the Senior Bishop shall undertake the Archbishop's functions under this provision.
- 3) The Court will be presided over by the Archbishop (or the Senior Bishop as the case may be) who shall cause the evidence to be recorded.

- 4) The Chancellor (or Vice-Chancellor as the case may be) will have the following powers and duties:
  - a) To advise the President of the Court on all matters of evidence and procedure and, if requested by the President, to make any necessary rulings on those matters;
  - b) To give such directions as may be necessary to ensure the efficient and just management of the case, including any pre-hearing issues such as the giving of particulars; the disclosure of documents; the preparation and delivery of written statements of evidence; and the preparation of a bundle of documents for the assistance of the Court;
- 5) The hearing will take place in private unless the President of the Court decides otherwise.
- 6) Those bringing the case and the person who is complained against may be represented by counsel and the person complained against may instead choose three friends to assist.
- 7) The Court is at liberty to determine the procedures to be followed by the Court in such manner as it deems fit and may receive such evidence as it deems fit, whether or not it would be admissible in a court of law.
- 8) After hearing from those bringing the case, the person who is complained against and such witnesses as either side may wish to present, the Court will determine whether the charges are established and if so, what is the appropriate discipline to be imposed. The Court may decide by a majority and, in the case of equality of votes, the Archbishop (or the Senior Bishop as the case may be) shall have the casting vote. The Court's decision shall be given in writing within 30 days of completion of the hearing.
- 9) The discipline imposed on the person against whom charges have been established may be one of the following:
  - a) To require the person to put right what is found to have been wrong;
  - b) To require the person to resign with immediate effect from any ministry (ordained or lay) in the Church.
- 10) The decision of the Court shall be final.
- 11) The fact that the Archbishop or a Diocesan Bishop sitting on the Provincial Court may already have considered the matter as a member of the Council of Bishops shall not be a bar to membership of the Provincial Court nor a ground for challenge in any respect.

**TITLE C CANON 4**  
**CERTIFICATES & LICENCES**

**A. CERTIFICATES**

The following Certificates shall be issued in the Province:-

1. Certificate of Ordination of a Deacon (to be signed under Seal by the Ordaining Bishop);
2. Certificate of Ordination of a Priest (to be signed under Seal by the Ordaining Bishop);
3. Certificate of Consecration of a Bishop (to be signed under the seals of the Consecrating Bishop and at least two other Bishops who shall be present and assisting on that occasion).

**B. LICENCES**

All lay workers, catechists, deacons, priests and Assistant Bishops must have a licence from a Diocesan Bishop to do any of the following:-

1. Preach and lead Public Worship;
2. Assist with the Distribution of the Holy Communion;

**C.** The Council of Bishops will review the wording of the licences from time to time and report any changes to the General Synod.

**D.** The following licences will be given and they must be kept up to date and signed by the Bishop of the Diocese in which the licence is valid:-

1. **Licence of a Deacon** - which licence will state the name of the priest under whom the deacon will serve and the District in which he will work.
2. **Licence of a Priest** - which licence will state the place to which the priest is licensed to work.
3. **Licence to Officiate in a Diocese** - which licence will state the office to which the holder is licensed and the Diocese or the area in the said Diocese.
4. **Licence of a Catechist** - which licence will state the name of the district, village or region for which the licence is given.
5. **Licence to Assist at the Distribution of the Holy Communion** - which licence will state the name of the Church in which the person is licensed.
6. **Licence of a Lay Worker (entitling a lay person to preach and to lead Public Worship)** - which licence will state clearly the area of a Diocese to which the licence applies.

7. **Licence of a Senior Priest** - which licence will state clearly the area for which the Senior Priest is appointed.
8. **Licence of a Dean** - which licence will state clearly the Cathedral Church to which the Dean is appointed.
9. **Licence of a Vicar-General** - which licence will state clearly the Diocese to which the Vicar-General is appointed.
10. **Licence of a Layperson (to engage in the Ministry of Healing)** – which Licence will state clearly the Parish or District in which the lay person is licensed to exercise this ministry.

**Provided always**, however, that the Diocesan Bishop shall be entitled to withdraw the licence at any time should he, in his discretion, think it necessary to do so.

## TITLE C CANON 5

### THE GENERAL SECRETARY

- A.** The General Secretary will be a communicant member of a Church of the Anglican Communion and he will be appointed by the Executive Council.
- B.**
1. Any person appointed to the office of General Secretary shall enter into a contract with the Executive Council, such contract to last for an initial period of five years.
  2. Six months before the completion of the five-year term of appointment, the Executive Council shall review the appointment of the General Secretary who may be re-appointed by the Executive Council under a new contract for any period not exceeding five years.
  3. The contract shall make provision for the salary of the General Secretary, and the terms and conditions relating thereto shall be included therein upon the advice of the Salaries & Service Commission.
  4. The contract shall contain a Clause giving the General Secretary and the Anglican Church of Melanesia the right to terminate the contract upon the giving of three months notice by either one to the other.
- C. The General Secretary's special work will be:**
1. To be the chief administrative and executive officer of the Anglican Church of Melanesia;
  2. To establish, under the direction of the General Synod and the Executive Council, an overall plan to implement the Church's aims and objectives as specified in the Constitution and Canons of the Church of Melanesia and the various decisions of the General Synod and the Executive Council.
  3. In consultation with the Provincial Accountant, to develop an effective financial plan as part of an overall strategy, and to prepare such financial reports and budgets as may be necessary for the proper administration of the Church's affairs;
  4. To control and co-ordinate the strategic direction of the Church administration and its Divisions (e.g. Accounts, Works, Stores, Shipping, Personnel & Education), and through the Divisional Heads, to achieve the desired goals;
  5. To develop a training programme for all staff in conjunction with and including Divisional Heads and Diocesan Secretaries;
  6. To advise the Church of Melanesia Trust Board (Inc.) on suitable investment of Provincial Funds;
  7. To prepare and look after all Deeds, Documents and Records of the Province, the Clerical Directory of the Province and the Manual of the Province;

8. To be the Secretary of such Provincial Bodies as may be required in terms of these Canons and the Constitution and to carry out the functions and duties of those bodies as required but in this regard the General Secretary shall have the authority to delegate the responsibility of recording the Minutes of such meetings and to delegate such other secretarial functions as each such body of which he is Secretary shall approve;
9. To call meetings of the Diocesan Secretaries of the Dioceses of the Province from time to time to discuss matters which are the concern of all the Dioceses and the Province;
10. In co-operation with the Melanesia Board of Mission (where appropriate), to correspond with our Partner Churches on all matters concerning finance, personnel, publicity, opportunities and challenges of the Anglican Church of Melanesia;
11. To co-ordinate the work of all activity centres of the Province (e.g. Administration, Shipping, Clinics, Education) and present reports of these centres to the Executive Council and Synod;
12. With the approval of the Archbishop, to consult with the Provincial Chancellor on legal matters affecting the life of the Church.
13. To institute an audit of part or all of the financial records and accounts of any Diocese for the purpose of receiving annual audited accounts as information to be used in the preparation of the Provincial Budget or any other purpose, on being asked by the Bishop or Diocesan Council of that Diocese to do so.
14. To do such other things as may be required by the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, the General Synod, the Executive Council, the Management Board or the Archbishop.
15. The General Secretary shall report to the Archbishop and be accountable to the Archbishop in the performance of his or her duties

## TITLE C CANON 6

### CHANCELLOR & VICE-CHANCELLOR

- A.** With the approval of the other members of the Council of Bishops, the Archbishop shall appoint a Chancellor.
- B.** The Chancellor shall perform all the functions required of him by the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.
- C.** The Chancellor shall also be the chief legal adviser of the Archbishop.
- D.** With the approval of the Archbishop, the Chancellor may also act as legal adviser to any Diocesan Bishop or any other member of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.
- E.** When the General Synod is sitting, the Chancellor shall, when called upon by the Chairperson of the Synod, rule on any legal or procedural matters as and when they arise.
- F.** Any persons appointed as Chancellor shall be legally qualified according to the laws of Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Zealand or Australia.
- G.** The Archbishop may appoint a Vice-Chancellor who shall be legally qualified in the way required by Clause F (above).
- H.** The Vice-Chancellor shall act for the Chancellor and perform his duties when the Chancellor is absent from the Province or when he is unable to do his work and perform his duties through sickness or other serious cause.
- I.** When the Vice-Chancellor is acting for the Chancellor and performing his duties, he shall confer with the Chancellor, if possible, on any serious matters and shall seek and consider the Chancellor's advice and opinion in such matters, but otherwise shall perform the duties of the Chancellor as provided in the Constitution and Canons, according to his own conscience and discretion, and without direction from the Chancellor.
- J.** Where there is a Vice-Chancellor appointed, the Chancellor will work closely with the Vice-Chancellor in all things and seek his opinion when appropriate, provided however, in the case of differing views, that of the Chancellor shall prevail.
- K.** The Archbishop may appoint a third legal officer to be known as the Vice-Chancellor for Vanuatu who shall be legally qualified in the way required by Clause F (above).
- L.** Clauses A to J of this Canon shall not apply to the Vice-Chancellor for Vanuatu except as specifically provided in Clause K (above).
- M.** The Vice-Chancellor for Vanuatu shall advise the Diocesan Bishops of the Dioceses in the Republic of Vanuatu or the Synods of the Dioceses in the Republic of Vanuatu regarding the Canons of those Dioceses (subject, however, to the Chancellor's signed certificate that such Canons do not conflict with either the Constitution or the Provincial Canons of the Anglican Church of Melanesia).

- N.** The Vice-Chancellor for Vanuatu shall advise the Diocesan Bishops and the Synods of the Dioceses in the Republic of Vanuatu on all matters concerning the laws of Vanuatu as they affect matters within the exclusive jurisdiction and control of those Dioceses.
- O.** The Vice-Chancellor for Vanuatu will have no authority in respect of matters which are within the jurisdiction of the General Synod, or in respect of property which is held in Trust for the Province of Melanesia.
- P.** It is not necessary for the Chancellor and/or Vice-Chancellor and/or Vice-Chancellor for Vanuatu to resign upon the resignation or retirement of the Archbishop, but the Archbishop has power to cancel the appointment of the Chancellor and/or the Vice-Chancellor and/or the Vice-Chancellor for Vanuatu whenever he sees fit.

## TITLE C CANON 7

### ARCHBISHOP'S COMMISSARIES

- A.** The Archbishop may appoint Commissaries.
- B.** A Commissary shall be the Archbishop's agent in the place in which he is appointed.
- C.** A Commissary appointed in New Zealand shall not act for the Archbishop or have any responsibility in respect of the matters which are the responsibility of the New Zealand Advisory Council. Otherwise he shall work with the New Zealand Anglican Board of Missions and the organization associated with the Anglican Church of Melanesia in New Zealand and shall perform such other tasks as the Archbishop may request.
- D.** The Commissaries appointed in places other than New Zealand shall work with the appropriate Missionary Boards of the Anglican Communion or other agencies of the Anglican Church of Melanesia operating in those places and shall perform such other tasks as the Archbishop may request.
- E.** The Archbishop has power to cancel the appointment of a Commissary whenever he sees fit.

## TITLE C CANON 8

### VICARS-GENERAL

- A. A Diocesan Bishop may license a priest as Vicar-General of the Diocese.
- B. The Vicar-General's duties will be to undertake such work as is required of him by the Bishop. In particular, he will assist the Bishop in the pastoral care of the clergy and people, and in the Bishop's administrative duties as requested.
- C. The Vicar-General shall represent the Bishop and act for him when the Bishop is absent from the Diocese or at a time when the Bishop is unable to perform his duties because of sickness or other serious reason. When the Vicar-General is so acting for the Bishop, he shall, subject to any directions given him by the Bishop, do those things which the Diocesan Bishop and Provincial Canons allow.
- D. The Bishop has power to cancel the appointment of Vicar-General at any time the Bishop sees fit.
- E. The Vicar-General has a seat in the Diocesan Synod as a member of the clergy with full rights and may be elected a clergy member of the General Synod.
- F. In the event of the death or resignation of a Diocesan Bishop, the Vicar-General will perform his functions under the direction of the Archbishop until the new Bishop is appointed and installed. The Archbishop shall have the same powers as the Diocesan Bishop to cancel the appointment, and in the event of such a cancellation (or where no appointment has been made previously) the Archbishop shall have the power to appoint a new Vicar-General.

**TITLE D**  
**THE GENERAL SYNOD**  
**(Constitution Article 7)**

**CANON 1**  
**RULES FOR RUNNING THE GENERAL SYNOD**  
**(STANDING ORDERS)**

- A.** The Chairperson of the Synod shall be the Archbishop or, in his absence, the Senior Bishop.
- B.** The General Synod will begin and end with the Holy Eucharist.
- C.**
1. The Synod Roll of Members will be made by the General Secretary who, at the request of the Chairperson, will call the roll at the beginning of the Synod.
  2. A quorum shall consist of at least five of the Diocesan Bishops, two-thirds of the clergy members and two-thirds of the lay members.
  3. All lay persons, on first becoming a member of the General Synod, shall make the following promise before the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor:-  
  
I, (*name of Synod member*), promise that I will obey the Chairperson of the General Synod and the Chairperson's deputies, in all things lawful and honest, and that I will keep the Church Laws of the Province of Melanesia. So help me God.
- D.** The Chairperson will deliver a Synod Address which will be printed with the Minutes of the Synod.
- E.** Before the Synod, the Council of Bishops will appoint a Synod Committee which can make recommendations to Synod to alter Rules G and H if time is running short for the Synod, and also fix the time for speeches.
- F.** The Chairperson will welcome visitors and observers. At the request of a member of Synod he may invite them to speak to the Synod.
- G.** The Synod Committee will recommend to the Synod times of sitting for the Session and the day and hour when elections required by the Synod will be held.
- H.** Speakers will speak only once during the discussion on any subject, but the person who introduces the subject may speak again at the end of the discussion.
- I.** Voting on a Bill, whether it relates to the Constitution, a Canon, or a Standing Resolution, or voting to approve the Provincial Budget, will be according to Article 7 of the Constitution.
- J.** Notice of Bills in writing including Bills to create, amend or repeal Standing Resolutions, must be in the hands of the General Secretary at least sixty days before the Synod assembles. The General Secretary shall forward copies of the proposed Bill forthwith to any Body which may be affected by such proposals. Any Bill which seeks to alter the Constitution must also be passed by the Diocesan Synods before it becomes a part of the Constitution.

- K.**
1. At the beginning of each day of the Synod, the Chairperson will ask for any Notices of Motion or Questions. These must be written out and handed to the General Secretary who will read them out and then hand them to the Chairperson, PROVIDED THAT at the Chairperson's discretion, the right to move motions or ask questions pursuant to Clause K. 2 (b) hereunder may be suspended at any time during the second week of General Synod, but such suspension shall not apply to matters of urgency arising during the second week and which could not have been put forward during the first week.
  2. A **Motion** can be brought forward on any subject which (a) affects the conduct of business in the Synod, or (b) seeks to express the mind of the General Synod on any matter of concern, but does not otherwise bind the Church PROVIDED THAT any motion involving the expenditure of funds or which has other financial implications shall be raised in the debate on the Provincial Budget.
  3. Voting on Motions under this clause K shall be by way of simple majority.
  4. **Questions** on the life and work of the Church of the Province may be asked. When such questions are answered, the Chairperson at his discretion may allow supplementary questions which need not be written out.
- L.**
1. There shall be a Committee to be created by a law of the General Synod and known as "The Church's Constitutional Review Committee".
  2. Before each General Synod the Church's Constitutional Review Committee shall review all Motions agreed to at the preceding General Synod and shall make a report to the next General Synod with a recommendation as to which of those Motions should be regarded as Standing Resolutions.
  3. The General Synod shall consider the report and accept or reject any of the recommendations. All those recommendations which are accepted shall then be regarded as Standing Resolutions. They shall be printed with other Standing Resolutions on a special page in the Manual of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and they shall remain in force until they are cancelled at a further Session of the General Synod.
- M.** Provincial activity centres and Departments will each present in writing a report to the General Synod and at the invitation of the Chairperson, the Heads of these bodies will lead a discussion about their work and be ready to answer questions.
- N.** The Financial Statements of all Provincial organizations or bodies established under the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Melanesia shall be presented at each General Synod and time will be given for discussion of these Statements.
- O.** Minutes of the General Synod will be made each day by the General Secretary who may choose clerks to help him in this work. The Minutes will be confirmed the following day. The Minutes of the last day of the Synod will be confirmed by the Chairperson and three other members of the General Synod appointed by the Chairperson. After they are approved, the Minutes will be printed and sent to all members of the Synod and to the Clergy of the Province.

- P.**
- 1) The General Synod will normally be called together by the Chairperson every third year but, at the Chairperson's discretion, may be called more frequently if required.
  - 2) General Synod called for a special purpose within the three-year cycle shall be called a 'Special General Synod'.
  - 3) If, for some reason, the normal three-yearly General Synod is postponed, it will, nevertheless, still be regarded as the normal General Synod usually held after every three years and will not be regarded as a Special General Synod.

## TITLE D CANON 2

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE GENERAL SYNOD (Constitution Article 7)

The number of persons who may be clergy and lay representatives of the General Synod in accordance with Article 7 Clause A 2(b) and Article 7 Clause A 3(a) are as follows:

- A.** Representatives of the clergy who may be Senior Priests, priests or Deacons, elected by the clergy of each Diocese in the following numbers:

Central Melanesia	-	3
Ysabel	-	3
Malaita	-	4
Vanuatu	-	3
Temotu	-	3
Hanuato'o	-	3
Banks & Torres	-	3
Central Solomons	-	3
Guadalcanal	-	3

*(NOTE: The membership of the Diocese of Guadalcanal shall apply only after the inauguration of that diocese.)*

- B.** Representatives of the Laity elected by the Lay Members of each Diocesan Synod from among the members of the Synod in the following numbers:

Central Melanesia	-	2
Ysabel	-	2
Malaita	-	3
Vanuatu	-	2
Temotu	-	2
Hanuato'o	-	2
Banks & Torres	-	2
Central Solomons	-	2
Guadalcanal	-	3

*(NOTE: The membership of the Diocese of Guadalcanal shall apply only after the inauguration of that diocese.)*

- C.**
1. Election of Representatives shall stand from the commencement of one General Synod and thereafter until the day before the commencement of the next following General Synod. Thus Representatives will be elected to attend one General Synod only and shall not attend a second General Synod unless re-elected, PROVIDED HOWEVER that if any Special General Synod is called between the normal three-yearly General Synods, the representatives at that Special General Synod shall be the same as for the preceding 'normal' meeting of the General Synod.
  2. Election of Representatives shall take place at the first Diocesan Synod held after a General Synod but those so elected will wait until the next normal meeting of the General Synod before taking up their duties.
  3. All Dioceses must hold at least one Diocesan Synod between one General Synod and another.

4. In the event of an elected Representative referred to in 1 above ceasing to be a member of his Diocesan Synod or resigning from the General Synod, a new member will be elected by the next Diocesan Synod or Diocesan Council meeting, whichever occurs first.
5. Diocesan Synods may elect alternate Representatives from among the members of the Diocesan Synod.

## TITLE D CANON 3

### THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- A.** The Executive Council is the name given to the Standing Committee of the General Synod and it will serve from the close of a Session of the General Synod to the opening of the next Session.
- B.** The Executive Council of the General Synod shall include:-
1. The Council of Bishops
  2. The Assistant Bishops
  3. One ordained person and one layman of each Diocese chosen by the Diocesan Synod or Council of each Diocese from the elected members of the General Synod, provided that:-
    - (a) in the event of an elected Representative as provided for in this Section ceasing to be a member of his Diocesan Synod or resigning, one of the other members of the Diocesan Synod who is also a member of the General Synod will be elected by the next Diocesan Synod or Diocesan Council meeting, whichever occurs first, and
    - (b) alternate Representatives may be elected in accordance with this Section.
  4. The General Secretary.
  5. The Dean of the Provincial Cathedral.
- C.** The Archbishop, or in his absence the Senior Bishop, will preside at all meetings of the Executive Council.
- D.** The Archbishop, or in his absence the Senior Bishop, will call meetings of the Executive Council and there must be at least one meeting held every year in which the General Synod does not meet.
- E.** A quorum will be the same as provided for the General Synod according to Title D Canon 1 of these Canons.
- F.** Voting will be according to Article 7 of the Constitution.
- G.** The Minutes of all meetings of the Executive Council will be tabled at every Session of the General Synod.

**TITLE D CANON 4**

**LIST OF CANONS**

- A.** A Canon is the name given to a Church Law. The Canons are arranged under Titles. At the end of a Canon and part of it, there may be added notes and explanations of things in the Canon. This is called an Appendix and a Canon may have one or more.
- B.** A Canon can be added to, altered or cancelled by a Bill which is passed by the General Synod.
- C.** After each Session of the General Synod the General Secretary will make the amendments to the Canons which have been passed by the General Synod. When he has done this he will ask the Chairperson of the Synod to issue the following Certificate:-

**LIST OF CANONS**

I certify that the following is the List of Canons of the Anglican Church of Melanesia as now in force.

Date: .....

Signed:.....  
Chairperson of the General Synod

- D.** When the Chairperson of the General Synod has signed the Certificate, the General Secretary will send copies of the Certificate and Canons to all members of the General Synod and to all Clergy of the Province. The Certificate of Canons will be printed in the Manual of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

**TITLE E**  
**CHURCH BODIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND TRUSTEES**

**CANON 1**  
**THE PROVINCIAL CATHEDRAL**

**A.** The Cathedral of St. Barnabas, Honiara, shall be the Cathedral of the Province as well as the Cathedral of the Diocese of Central Melanesia and a Parish Church.

**B. THE DEAN**

1. The Cathedral shall have a Dean who shall be appointed by the Chapter of the Cathedral.
2. The Dean shall be regarded as a Provincial Officer, regardless of any appointments (such as Vicar-General of the Diocese of Central Melanesia) which he may hold.
3. The Dean's appointment shall normally be for five years but he may be re-appointed by the Chapter for a further period of up to three years.
4. If it is decided by the Chapter that the Dean's initial appointment should not be extended, he will not be eligible for appointment to a new term as Dean.

**C. THE RECTOR**

The Rector of the Cathedral Parish shall carry out all the duties of the Dean during the Dean's absence. He shall be appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Central Melanesia.

**D. THE CANONS**

1. There shall be four Clerical Canons and four Lay Canons, (men or women), one Canon from each of the eight dioceses of the Province, appointed by the Chapter. A Clerical or a Lay Canon may be dismissed by the Chapter.
2. A Clerical Canon shall automatically retire from office after reaching retirement age, but he may be appointed an Honorary Canon in terms of sub-clause 4 of this clause.
3. A Lay Canon shall retire from office upon reaching the age of 55 years, but any Lay Canon may be appointed an Honorary Canon in terms of sub-clause 4 of this clause.
4. Honorary Canons may be appointed who are resident in the Province or overseas and they shall be kept informed of the proceedings of the Chapter and have the right to correspond with the Chapter on matters concerning the Cathedral. An Honorary Canon can be dismissed by the Chapter.

5. Those Canons who were appointed by the Cathedral Chapter according to the previous Clause D (1), "in recognition of their special services given to the Province", may remain in office (unless dismissed by the Chapter for good reason) until such time as they choose to resign or would normally retire according to sub-clauses 2 and 3 of this clause.
6. It being recognized that it will take some years to bring about the transition from a Chapter of six Clerical and six Lay Canons appointed on merit, to a Chapter of four Clerical and four Lay Canons appointed according to geographical location, the Chapter will allocate vacant positions for Canons as fairly as the circumstances allow.

**E. THE CHAPTER**

1. The Chapter shall consist of the Archbishop, two Diocesan Bishops appointed by the Council of Bishops, the Dean and all Clerical and Lay Canons appointed under Clause D 1 hereof.
2. At any meeting of the Chapter, the Archbishop (or in his absence, the Dean) shall be the Chairperson.
3. The Chapter shall appoint a Secretary, who need not be a member of the Chapter. The Secretary will not vote at meetings of the Chapter unless he or she is a member of the Chapter.
4. The Chapter shall appoint a Treasurer, who need not be a member of the Chapter and who, on behalf of the Chapter, will receive monies from within and beyond the Province and he or she and the Dean will be responsible to the Chapter for the use of that money. The Treasurer will present a financial statement at each meeting of the Chapter. The Treasurer will not vote at meetings of the Chapter unless he or she is a member of the Chapter.
5. A quorum shall consist of the Archbishop or the Dean, one Diocesan Bishop, two Clerical Canons and two Lay Canons.
6. The Chapter shall have a Seal.

**F. THE DUTIES OF THE CHAPTER shall be:-**

1. To be responsible for all additions, alterations, and major repairs to the fabric and furnishings of the Cathedral.
2. To be responsible for providing the Cathedral Hall, the houses of the Dean, the Vergers and the Caretaker, and to be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of those buildings.
3. The planning of Services or other activities of a Provincial nature in or around the Cathedral buildings which shall normally be carried out by the Dean on behalf of the Chapter.
4. The care of all contents of the Cathedral and its records.
5. The preparation of a Cathedral Customary.

6. The preparation of a history and guide of the Cathedral which shall include the history of the former Cathedrals of the Diocese of Melanesia.
  7. To authorize burials in the Cathedral grounds. The agreement of a majority of members of the Chapter, obtained by any suitable means, shall be sufficient and no formal meeting of the Chapter need be held. The authorization shall be recorded in the Minutes of the next meeting of the Chapter.
  8. To maintain an open dialogue with the Cathedral Parish Council for the proper care and maintenance of the grounds and fabric of the Cathedral and to promote good relations with the Cathedral Parish.
- G.** The Archbishop and Diocesan Bishops shall have the right to hold Services in the Provincial Cathedral after consultation with the Dean.

**TITLE E CANON 2**  
**SELWYN COLLEGE COUNCIL**

**A. THE COUNCIL**

There shall be a body of persons appointed in accordance with this Canon to be generally responsible for Selwyn College. The name of this body will be the Selwyn College Council.

**B. MEMBERSHIP**

The Council shall consist of fourteen persons as follows:-

1. The Visitor, the Archbishop of Melanesia.
2. The Visitor shall be the Chairperson unless he nominates someone else to be the Chairperson.
3. The Vice-Chairperson, to be appointed by the Selwyn College Council.
4. Two members to be appointed by the Executive Council to represent the Church in the community.
5. Two members nominated by the Minister of Education to represent primary and secondary school interests.
6. One member to be nominated by the ex-students of Selwyn College.
7. Two members, one woman and one man, to be nominated by the Council of Bishops from parents of students to represent the parents.
8. Two members to be nominated by the staff of Selwyn College to represent the staff.
9. One member to be nominated by the students of Selwyn College, who must be a member of the Senior Form.
10. The Director of Education of the Province or equivalent person, ex officio.
11. The Headmaster, ex officio.
12. The General Secretary, ex officio, who shall be responsible for the Minutes of meetings and correspondence on behalf of the Council.

**C. MEETINGS**

1. The Council shall meet at least twice a term and may appoint a sub-committee from its members to be available to carry on the affairs of the Council as required during the periods between meetings of the Council.
2. A simple majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum.

## **D. TERM OF OFFICE**

All appointed members shall hold office for a term of three years and be eligible for reappointment. All nominated members shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-nomination.

## **E. FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Selwyn College Council will see that the Christian aims of the College are promoted both within the College and throughout the Province and that a sound balance of scholarship, industry, sport and culture is maintained.

The Council will have the following particular functions and responsibilities:-

### **1. Student Body**

In consultation with the Headmaster and subject to any conditions prescribed by the Minister of Education, the approval of the admission, conduct and discipline of students.

### **2. Staffing**

(a) Subject to any conditions prescribed by the Minister of Education in the Teaching Service Handbook or elsewhere, the determination of contracts, conditions of employment and conduct of the teaching and other staff of the College.

(b) The appointment of the Headmaster, whenever necessary. The Headmaster will consult with the Chairperson of the Council or his nominees on matters affecting the employment of other staff.

### **3. Finance**

(a) Receiving and approval of the Statement of Accounts.

(b) Appointment of cheque signatories.

(c) Approval of annual budgets and other financial proposals for the development of the school or for Government audit.

(d) Recommending to the National Education Board the fees payable by students.

### **4. Curriculum and Educational Policy**

In consultation with the Headmaster and subject to the conditions prescribed by the national educational authority, and the main emphasis to be given in the curriculum followed by the school.

### **5. Control of Property**

Determination of the general uses of land, buildings and other assets controlled by the school, including their care and maintenance.

### **6. Promotion of School.**

The sponsorship of the reputation of the school by building relationships with other bodies outside the school and by involvement so far as practicable in the life of the local community.

## TITLE E CANON 3

### BISHOP PATTESON THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

#### A. INTRODUCTION

The Bishop Patteson Theological College is a Society consisting of:-

1. The Visitor
2. The Board of Governors
3. The Principal
4. The Faculty - the teaching staff of the College
5. The Students - men and women recommended by the Diocesan Bishops.
6. The administrative and auxiliary staff of the College.
7. The wives and children of staff and students."

#### B. PURPOSE

1. The Bishop Patteson Theological College exists for the glory of God and for the building up of ministry, ordained and lay, in the Anglican Church of Melanesia and other parts of the Anglican Communion.
2. The College trains men and women in the principles of the Christian Faith according to the teaching and discipline of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, and in particular:-
  - (a) educates candidates for Holy Orders in the Church;
  - (b) educates men and women for the lay ministry of the Church;
  - (c) educates students of other Churches for ecumenical endeavour, if the Board of Governors so approves;
  - (d) provides for In-service and Post-Ordination training.
3. The College does this by –
  - (a) the daily offering of Praise and Thanksgiving in the Offices of the Church, the Holy Eucharist, Intercession and Meditation,
  - (b) sound academic achievement,
  - (c) participation in community life, work and play.
4. The primary purpose of the College is human development with the following objectives in ministerial formation:-
  - (a) spiritual growth and personal maturity,
  - (b) academic excellence and professional competence,
  - (c) pastoral concern and effective leadership.

### **C. THE VISITOR**

1. The Visitor shall be the Archbishop of Melanesia who will also be the Chairperson of the Board of Governors unless he nominates another Bishop to be Chairperson.
2. The Visitor, by regular visits to the College community, will oversee and encourage the spiritual and material welfare of the members of the College.

### **D. THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

1. The Board of Governors consists of:-
  - (a) The Visitor;
  - (b) The Diocesan Bishops;
  - (c) The General Secretary, Secretary of the Board;
  - (d) The Principal;
  - (e) The Registrar of the College;
  - (f) The General Secretary of the Melanesia Board of Mission;
  - (g) One member of the Faculty elected by the Faculty for one year;
  - (h) One member of the Student Body elected by the Student Body for one year;
  - (i) One Brother or Sister nominated by the Religious Life Advisory Committee;
  - (j) One ordained person elected by the General Synod to hold office for three years;
  - (k) Three lay people, (two of whom are women) elected by the General Synod to hold office for three years;
  - (l) The Moderator of the United Church of Solomon Islands for the time being;
  - (m) One person elected by the General Assembly of the United Church of Solomon Islands to hold office for three years.
  - (n) The Women's Programme Coordinator of the College.
2.
  - (a) In the case of the death, resignation from the Board of Governors, or departure from the College of anyone elected under Clause 1(g) or 1(h), new elections will take place at the College.
  - (b) In the case of the death, resignation from the Board of Governors, or departure from the College of anyone elected under Clause 1(j) or 1(k), the Council of Bishops will appoint a replacement who will hold office until the next Session of the General Synod.
3. The Board may elect a Deputy Chairperson from among its own members.
4. The Board may from time to time make or alter rules for the good conduct of its meetings.
5. The Board will appoint from among its own members an Executive Committee of not less than five persons of whom the Principal and the Registrar shall be two. The Executive Committee shall meet as often as may be required to deal with matters which the Board may delegate to it.

### **E. THE PRINCIPAL**

1. The Principal will be appointed by the Governors after consultation with the Faculty.

2. The Principal is the Pastor and spiritual leader of the College and in this capacity the

**Principal –**

- (a) must see that the purpose of the College is maintained,
  - (b) is responsible for the quality of teaching, discipline and life in the College, and is the Head of the staff of the College, dealing with matters relating to both the academic and the auxiliary staff.
  - (c) will present a report on the life, work and finances of the College to the meetings of the Board of Governors and to each Session of the Executive Council and the General Synod.
3. There shall be a Deputy Principal to be appointed by the Governors after consultation with the Faculty and the Principal. During the Principal's absence from the College on leave or as a result of prolonged illness, the Deputy Principal will perform the Principal's duties. Otherwise the Deputy Principal will undertake such work and perform such duties as may be required of him or committed to him by the Principal.

**F. THE DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

1. The Board of Governors will be generally responsible for the College and will also be responsible to the General Synod for seeing that the purpose of the Theological College is being maintained.
2. After advertising any vacancy, the Board will appoint the Principal, Deputy Principal and new members of the Faculty after consultation with the Faculty. The Board will set down the terms of such appointments.
3. The Board will appoint a Registrar to assist the Principal in the academic administration of the College. The Board will set down the terms of this appointment.
4. The Board will appoint four members of the Board and such other persons not exceeding three in number who are not members of the Board to a Board of Studies, such members to hold office until the next meeting of the General Synod.
5. The Board will appoint a Bursar who, on behalf of the Board of Governors, will receive monies from within and beyond the Province and will be responsible to the Board for the use of that money - either by meeting current costs of the College or by investing the same, and will present a financial statement at each meeting of the Board of Governors. The Board will set down the terms of this appointment.
6. The Board will appoint a Librarian who will be responsible for the safety, maintenance and general administration of the Library. The Board will set down the terms of this appointment.
7. The Board will authorize and pay for all major future additions and alterations to buildings at the College after its annual inspection.

8. The Board will approve the award of all bursaries, scholarships, subsidies and allowances made to the students and will determine the fees to be paid.
9. The Board will set criteria for the selection of students and will approve all admissions and receive reports of all dismissals.
10. The Board will hear all unresolvable cases of grievance amongst the Faculty, administrative and ancillary staff, and the Student Body, and it will decide what is to be done.
11. The Board will endorse the decisions of the Faculty in the awarding of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates and any prizes which may be offered from time to time.
12. The Board will meet not less than once each calendar year, and from their number may appoint a Committee of not less than four (inclusive of the Principal) to be an Executive Committee which should meet as often as may be required to deal with matters which the Board may delegate to it.
13. The Board will make an official visit to the College each year to join in worship and to confer with the College Community.

#### **G. THE COLLEGE MEETING**

1. The College Meeting consists of the Principal, Faculty, Administrative and Auxiliary staff, and Students, as well as wife's representatives, and meets regularly for the well-being of the College Community. The Principal may invite visitors to the meetings.
2. Subject to ratification by the Board, the College meeting may suggest or recommend rules governing the life and activities of the College Community.
3. The Principal has control over areas of discipline, curriculum modification, examination results and will oversee the spending of the funds of the College.
4. The Principal will report on the important decisions of the College Meetings and make the Minutes of such meetings available to the Board of Governors.

#### **H. THE BOARD OF STUDIES**

The function of the Board of Studies shall be to advise the Board of Governors on all matters pertaining to the degrees, diplomas, and certificates of the College and to exercise such other powers and duties pertaining to the academic interests of the College as the Board of Governors may delegate.

#### **I. ORDAINED MEMBERS OF OTHER CHURCHES**

In recognition of the desire to move closer towards the unity of the Church, the Archbishop shall have the authority, in special circumstances, to give permission within the confines of the College, for a stipulated period, to ordained members of other Churches to preach and to preside at any Service celebrating the Lord's Supper, using the Liturgy of the Church of such ordained person.

## **TITLE E CANON 4**

### **THE CHURCH'S COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION**

- A.** There shall be a limited liability company with the shareholding equally divided between the Archbishop of Melanesia and the Church of Melanesia Trust Board (Incorporated).
- B.** The responsibility of the company will be to supervise, on behalf of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, the Church's commercial operations such as the Provincial Press, the Taroaniara Shipyards and the Provincial Plantations.
- C.** The shareholders shall be responsible for the appointment of the Board of Directors and likewise the shareholders shall appoint the Chairperson of the Board.
- D.** The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, or any proposed alteration or addition thereto, shall be approved in writing by the shareholders before being registered with the Registrar of Companies.

## TITLE E CANON 5

### THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF MELANESIA SALARIES & SERVICE COMMISSION

**A.** There shall be a Commission to be known as The Anglican Church of Melanesia Salaries & Service Commission.

**B. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Members of the Commission shall be five in number, four of whom shall be appointed by the Executive Council.
2. One member shall be a Diocesan Bishop appointed by the Archbishop.
3. The term of membership of each member shall be two years, but their appointments may be renewed.
4. The first members shall be appointed by the General Synod upon the enactment of this Canon.

**C. OFFICERS**

1. The Commission shall appoint its own Chairperson.
2. The General Secretary shall be the secretary of the Commission but he shall not have the right to vote at its meetings.

**D. MEETINGS**

1. The Commission shall meet as often as may be necessary but it shall meet at least annually.
2. Three members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

**E. DUTIES**

The Commission shall make recommendations to the Executive Council on the following matters:-

1. The establishment of a fair grading system of all lay persons employed by the Anglican Church of Melanesia.
2. The application to each grade of a fair annual salary and such other allowances and conditions of service as may be appropriate.
3. The setting of salaries, allowances and conditions of service for the following ordained persons holding Provincial appointments:
  - (a) the Archbishop
  - (b) the Diocesan Bishops
  - (c) the Assistant Bishops
  - (d) the Dean of the Provincial Cathedral
  - (e) the Principal and staff of the Bishop Patteson Theological College
  - (f) the Chaplains of Provincial Institutions

- (g) all other ordained persons employed from time to time in Provincial positions.
- 4. Which employees of the Church of Melanesia should be employed under contract.
- F.** The Commission shall assist the Dioceses by setting guidelines for the stipend and allowances of Diocesan clergy.
- G.** If a lecturer at Bishop Patteson Theological College is a lay person, or in the case of any similar situation, the Commission shall have the power to set the salary, etc., of that person, to be in line with other lecturers at the College.

## **TITLE E CANON 6**

### **THE CHURCH OF MELANESIA TRUST BOARD**

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

As provided for in Article 19 of the Constitution, there shall be a board to be known as the Church of Melanesia Trust Board (Incorporated). Its work will be to receive and look after the property, money and endowments of the Province in the Solomon Islands.

#### **B. PURPOSE**

Article 19 of the Constitution says that until the General Synod appoints a Trust Board the Council of Bishops shall be the Trustees. The Council of Bishops has already incorporated itself as the Church of Melanesia Trust Board (Incorporated) under the Charitable Trust Ordinance of the Solomon Islands. The Deed by which they have done this is attached to this Canon as Appendix 1. By this present Canon the General Synod accepts what they have done and agrees with it.

#### **C. TRUSTEES**

1. From this time the members of the Board shall be the Archbishop or in his absence the Senior Bishop, the General Secretary, five members to be elected by the General Synod and two other members to be appointed by the Council of Bishops for a term of three years or until the next meeting of the General Synod after they have been elected or appointed.
2. The five members to be elected by the General Synod shall be chosen as follows:-
  - (a) One shall be a Diocesan Bishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia other than the Archbishop;
  - (b) Two shall be Assistant Bishops or priests of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and members of the General Synod;
  - (c) Two shall be lay persons of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and members of the General Synod. One of the two lay persons shall be a woman;
3. The remaining two members (to be appointed by the Council of Bishops) need not be members of the General Synod or members of the Anglican Church of Melanesia;
4. If a Trustee is absent from Board meetings on two consecutive occasions without first having obtained leave of absence from the Board, or alternatively, without sending an apology to the General Secretary before the meeting with an explanation for his absence which is acceptable to the Board, then such Trustee's membership of the Board will automatically cease and his place on the Board will be filled following the procedure laid down in Section E of this Canon.

**D. PROMISES BY TRUSTEES**

These seven elected members may be dismissed by the General Synod or when the General Synod is not meeting by the Executive Council. They must promise to obey and acknowledge that they are subject to the control of the General Synod and must accept and obey all that is in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and all the laws and resolutions which the General Synod may make. Each member must promise to resign his appointment as Trustee if the General Synod asks him to do so. Each member shall make his promise in the form given in the First Schedule of the Appendix to this Canon.

**E. RESIGNATION OR DEATH OF TRUSTEES**

If a member dies or resigns the remaining members may continue to act provided that there are still at least six of them but the vacant places shall be filled as soon as possible so that there are seven members as well as the Archbishop and the General Secretary. When the General Synod is not meeting, the Executive Council shall choose members to fill those vacancies which have arisen because of the death or resignation of a member elected by the General Synod and the Council of Bishops shall choose members to fill those vacancies which have arisen because of the death or resignation of a member appointed by the Council of Bishops until the next meeting of the General Synod.

**F. MINIMUM NUMBER OF TRUSTEES**

The number of members shall not be less than six at any one time.

**G. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

- (a) The Archbishop shall be Chairperson of all meetings of the Board. In the absence of the Archbishop, the Senior Bishop will be Chairperson and in the absence of both the Archbishop and the Senior Bishop the members shall elect one of their number to be Chairperson.
- (b) The quorum for a meeting of the Board shall be four including the Chairperson.
- (c) A meeting of the Board may be called only by the Archbishop or when at least three members ask in writing for a meeting. It may be held at any time or place, but it shall not be necessary for all members to agree in order that an act of the Board may be lawful. A majority of members present and voting shall be enough to make their decisions lawful.
- (d) The Chairperson shall have a casting vote in addition to his ordinary vote as a member.

**H. MINUTES**

Minutes shall be taken at all meetings of the Board and shall be recorded in a book to be kept for that purpose by the General Secretary and shall be signed by the Chairperson of that meeting or of the meeting at which the Minutes are read and confirmed.

**I. ACCOUNTS**

- (a) The Board shall keep an account or account at any bank or banks as it may choose and cheques shall be drawn and signed by persons that the Board shall choose to do so from time to time.
- (b) The Board shall appoint someone to keep a proper set of account books which will record fully and correctly the capital and income of all the Trust Funds held by it and the value and depreciation of all other property held by it. The accounts shall be kept on an annual basis.
- (c) The Board shall present its accounts every year to the Executive Council and shall provide copies of these accounts and report about them for each General Synod.
- (d) The Board shall appoint competent auditors who shall audit the Board's accounts annually.

**J. SECRETARY**

The Secretary of the Board shall be the General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

**K. COMMON SEAL**

The Board shall provide a Common Seal which shall always be kept by the General Secretary and which shall be fixed to any document which the Board has to make, when the Board has given authority to do so at a meeting of the Board. Every time a Seal is fixed to a document it shall be done in the presence of two members of the Board and they shall both sign their names on the document. This fixing of the Seal and the two signatures shall be enough evidence to show that the persons who sealed and signed the document had the authority of the Board to do so, and no person dealing with the Board shall be bound to make any more enquiries into the authority under which any document is sealed and in whose presence it was sealed.

## TITLE E CANON 6

### APPENDIX 1

**THIS DEED** is made this 6th day of NOVEMBER 1975 between **NORMAN KITCHENER PALMER** Archbishop of the Province of Melanesia and **DUDLEY TUTI** Bishop of Ysabel, **LEONARD ALUFURAI** Bishop of Malaita and **DEREK ALEC RAWCLIFFE** Bishop of the New Hebrides (all collectively hereinafter included in the expression "the Trustees").

**WHEREAS** by the Church of the Province of Melanesia (Solomon Islands) Property Ordinance 1974 there was vested as from the 26th day of January 1975 in the aforesaid Archbishop of Melanesia all the property previously held by the Bishop of Melanesia,

**AND WHEREAS** by Article 19 of the Constitution of the Church of the Province of Melanesia the Council of Bishops as provided for in Article 10 of the said Constitution are to be the Trustees of the Province until the Provincial Synod appoints a Provincial Board of Trustees,

**AND WHEREAS** the Provincial Synod having met in January of 1975 may not meet again until January of 1978,

**AND WHEREAS** the parties hereto are the members of and constitute the Council of Bishops pursuant to Article 10 of the Constitution of the Church of Melanesia,

**NOW THIS DEED WITNESSETH** as follows:-

#### 1. NAME

The Trustees upon incorporation pursuant to the Charitable Trustees Ordinance (Chapter 115) of the Solomon Islands shall be known as the Church of Melanesia Trust Board (Incorporated).

#### 2. INTERPRETATION

"Archbishop" means the person for the time being holding the office of Archbishop of the Church of the Province of Melanesia and his successors.

"The Church" means the Church of the Province of Melanesia as inaugurated on the 26th day of January 1975.

"Provincial Synod" means the Provincial Synod of the Church of Melanesia as provided by Article 7 of the Constitution of that Church.

"Provincial Council" means the Standing Committee of the Provincial Synod of the Church of Melanesia as provided by the Canons of that Church.

"Constitution" means the Constitution of the Church of Melanesia as adopted at the inauguration of the Church of the Province of Melanesia on 26th day of January 1975 and as from time to time amended.

"Provincial Secretary" means the Provincial Secretary as provided by Article 12 of the Constitution of the Church of Melanesia and the Canons of that Church.

"Province of Melanesia" means the Solomon Islands, the New Hebrides Condominium and New Caledonia.

"Council of Bishops" means the Council of Bishops as provided by Article 10 of the Constitution of the Church of the Province of Melanesia.

### **3. OBLIGATIONS BINDING ON TRUSTEES**

The Trustees for themselves and their successors in office as trustees agree to be bound by the covenants, agreements, conditions, trusts and obligations in these presents contained and all succeeding and future trustees shall be deemed to be thereto bound by accepting the office of Trustee hereunder.

### **4. APPLICATION**

Trustees shall by all lawful means acquire and receive all property at present held by any corporation sole or body of persons whatever for the purpose of carrying on or benefitting, advancing, extending or making more effectual the work and objects of the Church of Melanesia in the Province of Melanesia and also may acquire and receive any other real and personal property and except where special trusts are declared as hereinafter mentioned shall apply the whole of the same in or towards the carrying on, benefitting, advancing, extending or making more effectual the work and objects of the Church in the Province of Melanesia wheresoever carried on for which purposes they shall do and carry out all such matters and things as are likely to promote the objects and purposes of these trusts and may accept or acquire property for the general purposes abovementioned or upon special trusts connected with the aforesaid objects either as original trustees or as new trustees of any trusts already existing or as bare or passive trustees without undertaking the management and/or administration of such property in connection with such purposes are to be administered by other trustees or managers the trustees to hold all property for and on behalf of the Provincial Synod of the Church upon the trusts effecting the same and in such manner not inconsistent with the terms of the trusts as the said Provincial Synod shall from time to time direct or appoint in writing under the hand of any person authorised by the Provincial Synod to that effect and when the Provincial Synod is not sitting such powers of direction and appointment may be exercised by the Provincial Council **PROVIDED THAT** the trustees shall not be bound to accept property for any of the foregoing purposes or for any purposes unless they shall in their absolute discretion deem it expedient so to do.

### **5. CAPITAL AND INCOME**

Where property is accepted or acquired by the trustees for all or any of the general objects hereinbefore expressed they may apply both capital and income including the proceeds of the sale or mortgage thereof in or towards any such objects as they may in their absolute and unfettered discretion deem meet or they may accumulate such income until the same can in their opinion be usefully applied for all or any of such objects.

### **6. SPECIAL TRUSTS**

When property is accepted by the trustees upon special trusts to be declared by the donor all the powers and provisions of these presents shall be deemed to be incorporated in the Deed declaring such special trusts except in so far as the same shall be expressly excluded or modified or be inconsistent with such special trusts and in particular without derogating from the generality of the provisions of this clause the Trustees may accept either before or after incorporation appointment as Trustees of any Pension Fund or any trust funds or endowments set up to provide pensions and allowances to the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the Church.

## **7. AS BARE OR PASSIVE TRUSTEES**

Where property is accepted by the trustees as bare or passive trustees they shall from time to time apply such property according to the lawful directions of the trustees or managers to whom the management and administration thereof may have been confided.

## **8. POWERS OF TRUSTEES**

The Trustees shall when incorporated as provided under sub-paragraph (h) of this clause have power to acquire, hold, manage, control, transfer, mortgage, charge, lease, devise, sell, dispose of, create or reserve easements over or otherwise deal with any property and shall in addition have the following specific powers:

- (a) To purchase take on lease or acquire any gift, devise, bequest, exchange or otherwise any real or personal property.
- (b) By themselves or by any servant or agent authorized in writing on that behalf under their common seal to deal with and dispose of money choses in action and choses in possession at anytime vested in them or in any person on their behalf.
- (c) By themselves or by any servant or agent authorized in writing in that behalf under their common seal to draw, make, accept, endorse and discount promissory notes, bills of exchange and other negotiable or transferable securities or instruments.
- (d) To do and perform all such acts matters and things and make and execute all such contracts, documents, writings, guarantees and assurances as in their opinion are or may be for the benefit of the Church of Melanesia in the Province of Melanesia.
- (e) In relation to any property at any time vested in them to sell exchange partition and vest, dispose of, make gifts of, declare trusts in respect of, demise, accept surrenders of, lease or improve, repair, and maintain, insure, manage, use or otherwise deal with any such property or any part thereof or interest therein as fully as if they were absolute owners thereof.
- (f) To borrow money without security or on the security of any property or any part thereof or otherwise on such terms and conditions as the trustees shall appear desirable.
- (g) To apply for and obtain representation of the estate of any deceased person under whose Will any benefit has been devised or bequeathed to the trustees or for or towards the carrying on benefitting and advancing, extending, making more effectual the work of the Church of Melanesia in the Province of Melanesia wheresoever carried on. Any officer authorized for the purpose by the trustees may on behalf of the trustees swear affidavits, make declarations, statements of defense or other statements, give security and do any other act or thing required by any law Ordinance Act of Parliament or Rule of Law to be made by persons making applications for Probate or Letters of Administration.
- (h) To seek incorporation according to the provisions of the Charitable Trusts Ordinance (Chapter 115).

## **9. PURCHASERS PROTECTED**

Any person dealing with the trustees and receiving any estate or interest in any property shall subject to any special conditions or obligations relating to the acquisition of such property or interest therein receive the same free and discharged from all trusts affecting the same in the hands of the trustees and no person dealing with the trustees shall be bound to enquire into the propriety or necessity of any such dealing and the receipt in writing of any two trustees or the receipt in writing of any person authorised under the seal of the trustees to accept such money shall be a good discharge to any person paying any money to the trustee.

## **10. VALIDITY**

Certificate signed by the Archbishop or the Provincial Secretary as to who are the trustees for the time being and a certificate by the Archbishop or two trustees certifying any resolution of the trustees shall be conclusive evidence in favour of any person who deals for value with the trustees as to who are the trustees for the time being of any such resolution.

## **11. FIRST TRUSTEES AND APPOINTMENT AND RETIREMENT OF TRUSTEES**

- (a) In accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of the Church the first trustees shall be the Council of Bishops who shall cease to be trustees upon the appointment of the first Board of Trustees under the provisions of sub-paragraph (b) of this paragraph.
- (b) The Board of Trustees shall consist of the following:-
  - (i) The Archbishop of the Church ex officio.
  - (ii) The Provincial Secretary ex officio.
  - (iii) Seven other Trustees to be appointed by the Provincial Synod pursuant to a Canon or Statute of that Synod for a term of three years or until the next sitting of the Provincial Synod next after that at which they are appointed and of the seven other Trustees:-
    - (aa) One shall be a Diocesan Bishop of the Church other than the Archbishop.
    - (bb) Two shall be Assistant Bishops or Priests of the Church and members of the Provincial Synod.
    - (cc) Two shall be laymen of the Church and members of the Provincial Synod.
    - (dd) The remaining two members need not be members of the Provincial Synod or members of the Church.
- (c) The Trustees appointed pursuant to (b) above shall be subject to dismissal by the Provincial Synod or when the Provincial Synod is not in session by the Provincial Council such Trustees to declare their submission to the authority of the said Provincial Synod and their consent to be bound by all the provisions of the Constitution and by all the statutes, regulations or resolutions which may from time to time be issued by the authority of the said Provincial Synod and further each of them the said Trustees to

undertake to resign his appointment as such trustee whenever he shall be called upon so to do by the Provincial Synod. A declaration in the form attached as the first schedule hereto shall be made by each trustee appointed under clause 11 (b) (iii) hereof.

- (d) Where a Trustee dies or resigns the continuing Trustees may be provided that there are not less than six of them act notwithstanding any vacancy in the number of trustees but the number of Trustees shall be brought up to seven exclusive of the Archbishop and the Provincial Secretary as soon as possible. When the Provincial Synod is not sitting the Provincial Council shall fill any vacancy or vacancies for the balance of the term.
- (e) The number of Trustees shall not be less than six at any one time.
- (f) Once incorporated as required by s.5 of the Charitable Trusts Ordinance the appointment of every new Trustee shall be certified by the Archbishop and the Provincial Secretary or two Trustees to the Registrar of Companies within one month of such appointment.

## **12. MEETING OF TRUSTEES**

- (a) The Archbishop shall be chairperson of all meetings of Trustees. In the absence of the Archbishop the Senior Bishop (as defined by Article 11 of the Constitution) ex officio will be chairperson and in the absence of both the Archbishop and the Senior Bishop the Trustees shall elect one of their number to be chairperson.
- (b) The quorum for a meeting of the Trustees shall be four inclusive of the chairperson.
- (c) A meeting of the Trustees may only be called by the Archbishop or on the written request of not less than three Trustees and may be held at any time or place but it shall not be necessary for the Trustees to act unanimously and all their powers and all their discretions vested in them may be exercised by the majority of those who are present and vote at any meeting.
- (d) The Chairperson in addition to his primary vote shall have a casting vote.

## **13. MINUTES**

Minutes of the proceedings of all meetings of the Trustees shall be reported in a book to be kept for that purpose by the Provincial Secretary and shall be signed by the Chairperson of the meeting or of the meeting at which the minutes are read and confirmed and every such minutes purporting to be so signed shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated.

## **14. ACCOUNTS**

- (a) The Trustees shall keep an account or accounts at such bank or banks as they shall from time to time determine and cheques shall be drawn and endorsed by such person or persons as the Trustees shall from time to time direct.
- (b) The Trustees shall cause to be opened a proper set of books to provide for the full and accurate recording of the capital and income of all the trust funds held by them. The accounts shall be kept on an annual basis.

- (c) The Trustees shall lay their accounts annually before the Provincial Council and shall provide copies of such accounts and a report regarding them for each Provincial Synod.

**15. REVOCATION OR ADDITION**

It shall be lawful for Trustees by unanimous resolution to revoke or vary or add to any of the provisions of these presents so long as such revocation, variation or addition is not inconsistent with the general scope of the presents and of the provisions of the Constitution and provided also that such revocations, variations or additions are approved by the Provincial Council.

**16. SECRETARY**

The Secretary of the Trust shall be the Provincial Secretary for the Church of the Province of Melanesia.

**17. COMMON SEAL**

The Trustees: when the Trustees become incorporated shall provide a common seal for the trust which shall be deposited with the Provincial Secretary for the time being and which shall be affixed by the authority of the Trustees previously given at a meeting of the Trustees to any document requiring execution by the Trustees. Every such affixing shall be performed in the presence and accompanied by the signatures of two trustees and shall be a sufficient evidence of the authority to affix such seal and no person dealing with the Trustees shall be bound or concerned to see or enquire as to the authority under which any document is sealed and in whose presence.

**FIRST SCHEDULE**

**DECLARATION BY A BOARD MEMBER AS A TRUSTEE**

I, ....., now appointed a member of the Church of Melanesia Trust Board (Incorporated) solemnly declare.

1. that I accept the authority of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and will obey it.
2. that I accept and promise to obey the trust laws of Solomon Islands and all that is in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and all the laws and resolutions which the General Synod may make;
3. that I promise to resign my appointment and place as a Board Member and Trustee if the General Synod asks me to do so or, when the General Synod is not meeting, if the Executive Council asks me to do so.

## TITLE E CANON 7

### BISHOPS' LUMP SUM RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE

#### A. Interpretation

"Bishop" means a person holding the office of a Diocesan Bishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and/or an Assistant Bishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

"Year" means twelve calendar months or part thereof.

"Date of Retirement" means the date of retirement of a bishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia or the date of death in office as such a bishop.

"Stipend" means the basic stipend before tax and other statutory deductions, but excluding any allowances and entitlements.

**B.** Only bishops of the Anglican Church of Melanesia who retire as Diocesan Bishops or Assistant Bishops shall be entitled to the lump sum retirement allowance provided for in this Canon PROVIDED HOWEVER that a bishop who retires consequent upon being disciplined pursuant to Title C Canon 2 ("The Disciplining of Ordained Persons") shall not be entitled to receive the lump sum retirement allowance as of right but, at the discretion of the Executive Council on the recommendation of the Council of Bishops, the bishop may be paid some or all of the allowance that the bishop otherwise would have been entitled to.

**C.** A bishop who, for any reason other than that referred to in the proviso to Clause B (above), resigns prior to reaching the retirement age shall not be entitled to receive the lump sum retirement allowance as of right but, at the discretion of the Executive Council on the recommendation of the Council of Bishops, the bishop may be paid some or all of the allowance that the bishop otherwise would have been entitled to.

**D.** The provisions of this Canon are not retrospective (i.e. only bishops retiring after the enactment of this Canon will be entitled to a lump sum retirement allowance).

**E.** If a bishop dies in office the bishop's spouse, if still living, shall be entitled to the lump sum retirement allowance calculated as at the date of the bishop's death.

**F.** The lump sum retirement allowance shall be calculated, in the case of a Diocesan Bishop, as 20% of annual stipend, and in the case of an Assistant Bishop as 15% of annual stipend at the time of retirement or death, multiplied by the number of years in office as a Diocesan Bishop and/or Assistant Bishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

**G.** Expressed as an equation this is  $[R \times T = A]$  when –

R = 20% of the annual stipend of a Diocesan Bishop, or

15% of the annual stipend of an Assistant Bishop at the date of death or retirement;

T = The number of years as a bishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia;

A = Lump sum retirement allowance.

- H.** The lump sum retirement allowance will be paid in full on the date of retirement or death. Where a Bishop continues in office beyond the age of 60 under Title C Canon 1, the lump sum retirement allowance due to the Bishop at age 60 shall be paid at that time and the Bishop shall also be entitled upon the date of actual retirement to the retirement allowance accruing after age 60.

## TITLE E CANON 8

### COMMISSION ON LITURGY, WORSHIP AND DOCTRINE

#### Membership

- A.** There shall be a Commission on Liturgy, Worship and Doctrine in this Church which shall comprise:-
1. Two Diocesan Bishops appointed by the Council of Bishops;
  2. Two members of the faculty of Bishop Patteson Theological College chosen by the faculty;
  3. The Dean of the Provincial Cathedral;
  4. The Mission Secretary of the Melanesian Board of Mission;
  5. One priest and one layperson elected by the General Synod;
  6. Other members, not exceeding four in number, who may be co-opted by the Commission.
- B.**
1. The Commission shall elect a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson from among its members.
  2. The Commission shall appoint a Coordinator to coordinate its work.
  3. The Coordinator shall be the Secretary and Treasurer of the Commission.
- C.**
1. The members of the Commission, excluding the Coordinator, shall hold office from one meeting of the General Synod to the next but they shall be eligible for re-appointment or re-election as the case may be.
  2. The Coordinator shall be appointed for a five year term and may be re-appointed by the Commission for a further term not exceeding three years.

#### Meetings

- D.**
1. The Commission shall have bi-annual meetings but may meet more often as may be required.
  2. The quorum at meetings of the Commission shall be one of the Diocesan Bishops appointed according to Clause A (1) hereof, plus half the remaining members of the Commission.
- E.** A Committee may be created by the Coordinator to deal with urgent matters. Such a committee shall consist of at least one Diocesan Bishop from those appointed according to Clause A (1) hereof, one member of the faculty of Bishop Patteson Theological College from those chosen according to Clause A (2) hereof, the Dean of the Provincial Cathedral and the Coordinator. This Committee will choose a Chairperson who shall report on the deliberations of the said committee to the Commission in full session for further consideration and approval.

#### Functions

- F.** This Commission shall be subject to the requirements of Title B Canon 1 (Liturgy and Authorized Books) Clause A and the proviso contained therein and shall be the body that deals with –

1. all matters concerning the liturgical forms of worship, whether regular or occasional forms for use in the Anglican Church of Melanesia;
  2. the formulation of the Church's Calendar and Lectionary;
  3. the use in Church of particular translations of the Scriptures;
  4. any other matters concerning the worship of the Anglican Church of Melanesia;
  5. matters of Faith, Order and Practice of the Anglican Church of Melanesia;
  6. issues involving the world-wide Anglican Communion;
  7. ecumenical matters and relations with other Faiths.
- G.** The Commission shall report and make recommendations on all matters contained in Clause F of this Canon to General Synod or to the Executive Council or to the Council of Bishops as appropriate and as required by the Canons of the Church..

#### **FINANCE**

- H.**
1. The Coordinator shall have full control of funds of the Commission subject to the direction of the Commission;
  2. This Commission shall present a budget of its own to the Executive Council every financial year.
  3. The Coordinator shall prepare a financial report which shall be presented to the Executive Council.

## TITLE E CANON 9

### THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF MELANESIA BOARD OF MISSION

**A.** This Canon sets up The Anglican Church of Melanesia Board of Mission.

**B. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD**

1. The Board shall have the following members:-
  - a) The Archbishop;
  - b) One other Diocesan Bishop from the Solomon Islands (who shall chair the meetings of the Board) and one Diocesan Bishop from the Republic of Vanuatu, both appointed by the Council of Bishops;
  - c) The General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Melanesia;
  - d) One Representative chosen by the Provincial Mothers' Union Executive;
  - e) Two ordained members and two lay members from the Solomon Islands elected by the General Synod;
  - f) One ordained member and one lay member from the Republic of Vanuatu elected by the General Synod;
  - g) One representative of each of the Religious Communities working in the Anglican Church of Melanesia;
  - h) The Mission Secretary and the Assistant Mission Secretary in Vanuatu who shall be appointed by the Board for a term of five years renewable for a further period of three years. The Mission Secretary and the Assistant Mission Secretary in Vanuatu shall not have a vote at meetings of the Board.
2. The Board may co-opt up to two further members.
3. The members of the Board, excluding the Archbishop, the General Secretary, the Mission Secretary and the Assistant Mission Secretary in Vanuatu, shall hold office from one meeting of the General Synod to the next but they shall be eligible for re-appointment or re-election as the case may be.

**C. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

1. The Board shall elect a Vice-Chairperson, chosen from among the members of the Board.
2. If neither the Chairperson nor the Vice-Chairperson is present, the members shall elect their own Chairperson for that meeting.
3. The Board shall meet at least once a year close to the time of the meeting of the General Synod or Executive Council.
4. A quorum at any Board meeting shall be not less than half the members.

#### **D. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board which shall comprise the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, the Mission Secretary, and the General Secretary.
2. The Executive shall meet as often as it considers necessary and whenever instructed to do so by the Board.
3. The Executive shall carry out the policies decided upon by the Board and shall report to the Board on any action taken.
4. The quorum for meetings of the Executive shall be the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson plus any other two members.

#### **E. DUTIES OF THE BOARD**

1. The Board will act as the agent of the Anglican Church of Melanesia for all matters concerning the Mission of the Church, especially in regard to:-
  - a) relationships with the Church's associate mission bodies, particularly the New Zealand Anglican Board of Missions, the Australian Board of Missions and the Melanesian Mission in England;
  - b) relationships with our Partners-in-Mission, particularly the Episcopal Church of the United States of America, the Anglican Church in Canada, the South Pacific Anglican Council, the Diocese of Chester (U.K.) and other parts of the Anglican Communion;
  - c) the functions of the Commission for Evangelism & Renewal as described in Title E Canon 14 of the Canons of the Anglican Church of Melanesia;
  - d) Religious Communities.
2. The Board will act as the supervising agent, on behalf of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, for all personnel sent from the Anglican Church of Melanesia to work in the Church outside the Province, and likewise, for all personnel sent from the Church overseas to work in the Anglican Church of Melanesia. It will select candidates, train them and send them out to their places of work and will give them all the help they need as missionaries, including finance, and on return will assist with their resettlement.
3. The Board will also oversee the interchange of clergy and Church employees between Dioceses within the Province in order to create a better mission of the Church in particular areas of its work.
4. The Board will be responsible for the training of specialist personnel (clergy or laity) for particular ministries.
5. It will help and encourage the Church in our Dioceses and Districts to accept their responsibility for the work of Mission and to give financial support for this work.
6. It will prepare a budget each year to submit to the Provincial Council so as to give financial support to the different works which the Board is responsible for.

7. It will produce a Report and a Statement of Accounts every year.
8. It will take out of its funds the money needed for its running expenses including the expenses of its members in attending meetings of the Board or any of its committees.
9. It will have power to make by-laws and to change or to repeal them so that it may carry out the objects of this Canon better and do the work of the Board and its committees
10. It will recommend to the Salaries & Service Commission the salaries and conditions of service of all those who are employed by the Board.
11. It will carry out and support all the works of mission which it thinks right to do.
12. It will publish such literature as it thinks necessary.
13. Whenever necessary it will borrow money from the Anglican Church of Melanesia Trust Board (Inc) so that it can always continue to support the different works of mission that it has agreed to support.
14. It will have the power to form sub-committees to do whatever work it wishes to give them and it may make any by-laws needed to govern the way in which these sub-committees work.
15. It will have the power to do anything else necessary so that it can carry out the duties laid down in this clause.

**F. OTHER PROVISIONS**

1. If, at the time of a meeting there is not the full number of members of the Board owing to resignation or any other cause, the acts of the Board shall still be valid, and if it is found that any member had not been rightly appointed or elected, this shall not make anything that the Board did invalid.
2. The Board will receive money which is designated by those who gave it for the work of mission and it shall use this money for the purposes stated by those who gave it, but if this is not possible, the Board shall decide to use it in the way which is nearest to that stated.
3. The Board shall have power to invest funds in recognized trustee securities.

## TITLE E CANON 10

### RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

- A.** A Religious Community is a society of Christians in communion with the worldwide Anglican Communion, who voluntarily commit themselves for life or for a term of years to holding their possessions in common or in trust, to a celibate life in community and obedience to their Rule and Constitution.
- B.** There shall be within the Anglican Church of Melanesia a Body known as "The Religious Life Advisory Council".
- C.** The membership of the Religious Life Advisory Council shall be as follows:
1. The Archbishop of Melanesia as Chairperson;
  2. The Mission Secretary of the Melanesian Board of Mission as Deputy Chair;
  3. The most senior Brother or Sister, living in Solomon Islands or Vanuatu, of the four Religious Communities represented in the Anglican Church of Melanesia at the time of the establishment of this Council, namely the Melanesian Brotherhood, the Society of St. Francis, the Community of the Sisters of the Church and the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia;
  4. One other Brother or Sister (who shall have made a full commitment to his or her Religious Community) elected by each of the Religious Communities referred to in (b) above;
  5. Two persons who are not members of Religious Communities who shall be chosen by the Archbishop;
  6. The most senior Brother or Sister, plus one other Brother or Sister (who shall have made a full commitment to his or her Religious Community) of any new Religious Community which may hereafter be given the status of a Religious Community within the Anglican Church of Melanesia.
  7. The Council shall elect one of its members to be the Secretary of the Council.
- D.** The duties and responsibilities of the Religious Life Advisory Council shall be as follows:-
1. To provide a forum where the Religious Communities can meet to discuss any matters of mutual concern;
  2. To advise the Anglican Church of Melanesia on all matters pertaining to Religious Communities, and especially to advise on matters concerning the establishment and recognition of new Religious Communities wishing to establish themselves in the Anglican Church of Melanesia;
  3. To elect members of Religious Communities to various Committees, Boards and Councils of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, when this is required under the Canons of this Church;
  4. To organize any occasion within the Anglican Church of Melanesia which requires the joint co-operation of the Religious Communities (e.g. Religious Life Sunday).

5. To advise the Archbishop of Melanesia on the pastoral care of any Brother or Sister who may be living under the promises of the Religious Life but who may not be members of any Religious Community.
- E.**
1. The Council shall meet annually, but may meet at any other time should the need to do so arise.
  2. Meetings may be called by the Archbishop or, in his absence and after consultation with the Archbishop, by the Deputy Chair), or by any two persons representing at least two Religious Communities.
  3. The Council may make reports to the General Synod or the Provincial Council, but it is not required to do so.
- F.** To be officially recognized, a Religious Community must have at least four (4) professed and/or full members within the Province and must be approved by the Council of Bishops on the advice of the Religious Life Advisory Council PROVIDED HOWEVER that if any particular Religious Community which is already established at the time of the enactment of this Canon later ceases to have four professed and/or full members within the Province, no action shall be taken to withdraw recognition of that Religious Community, unless the Council of Bishops, acting on the advice of the Religious Life Advisory Council, so agrees.
- G.** Each Community shall have a Bishop Visitor, Father or Protector who need not necessarily be the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Community is established. If, however, the Bishop Visitor, Father or Protector is not the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Chief House of the Community is situated, he shall not accept election without the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese. He shall be the guardian of the Constitution of the Community and shall serve as a peacemaker and one who settles arguments in matters which the Community or its members cannot agree.
- H.** Any person under vows in a Religious Community, having exhausted the normal processes of the Community, may petition the Bishop Visitor or Protector for dispensation from those vows. In the event the petitioner is not satisfied with the ruling of the Bishop Visitor or Protector on such petition, he may file a petition with the Archbishop who shall ask the Religious Life Advisory Council to review the petition and decide thereon and make recommendations to the Archbishop who shall have the highest dispensing power for Religious Communities and his ruling on the petition shall be final.
- I.** A Religious Community may establish a centre or house in a Diocese only with the permission of the Bishop of the Diocese.
- J.** The Constitution of every Religious Community shall make provision for the lawful ownership and administration of the worldly possessions of the Community and in the event of dissolution of the Community, or should it otherwise cease to exist, to provide for the disposal of all its belongings according to the laws governing charitable institutions within the boundaries of the Church of the Province of Melanesia. As from the date of the enactment of this Canon, any Community wishing to establish itself within the Anglican Church of Melanesia shall submit its Constitution to the Religious Life Advisory Council for perusal, pursuant to the requirement in paragraph 5 above.
- K.** It is recognized that a Religious Community is not a Parish, Mission, Congregation or other Institution of the Diocese within which it is established.

**TITLE E CANON 11**  
**CHRISTIAN CARE CENTRE**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Christian Care Centre exists for the glory of God and to express the healing love of Jesus Christ to victims of violence and abuse.
2. The Christian Care Centre is an institution of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, staffed by members of the Religious Communities of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, supported by volunteers, which
  - (a) provides pastoral care for women and children, from all churches and faiths, who have been victims of violence and physical and sexual abuse;
  - (b) provides educational programmes for the general public towards the prevention of such violence and abuse.

**B. PATRON OF THE CENTRE**

1. The Patron of the Centre shall be the Archbishop of Melanesia.
2. In this capacity, the Patron shall offer support and encouragement of the work of the Centre throughout the Anglican Church of Melanesia and to make its work known beyond.

**C. BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

1. The Christian Care Centre shall have a Board of Governors comprising:
  - (a) The Chairperson of the Board who shall be a Diocesan Bishop appointed by the Council of Bishops;
  - (b) The Co-ordinator of the Centre appointed by the Board. The Co-ordinator shall also have the office of Secretary;
  - (c) The Secretary of the Melanesian Board of Mission who shall be Vice-Chairperson.
  - (d) The Chaplain of the Centre;
  - (e) The Provincial Sister of the Community of the Sisters of the Church or her nominee;
  - (f) The Head Sister of the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia, or her nominee;
  - (g) One representative of each of the Religious Communities for men working in the Anglican Church of Melanesia in the Solomon Islands, chosen by the respective Communities;
  - (h) The Women's Desk Officer;
  - (i) A representative of the Provincial Mothers' Union, chosen by the

Provincial Executive of the Mothers' Union;

- (j) A representative of communities immediately surrounding the Centre, chosen by them at a public meeting;
  - (k) Up to four co-opted members chosen by the Board;
  - (l) Two additional members (one clergy and one lay) elected by the General Synod.
2. (a) The terms of appointment of the Chairperson and Board members appointed or chosen under clause 1(a), (g), (i), (j) and (k) shall be two years with the option of renewal for further periods of two years each thereafter if appointed or chosen by those responsible in each case.
- (b) The Co-ordinator and Secretary of the Board shall hold office for a period of five years but subject to the successful completion of an initial probationary period of six months.
- (c) The additional members elected by the General Synod shall hold office until the next General Synod.
- (d) All others are members of the Board by virtue of their respective offices.
3. The quorum for meetings shall be a simple majority of members.
4. (a) The Secretary of the Board shall be responsible for the preparation of the Board Meeting Agenda, Notice of Meetings and the taking of Board Minutes, ensuring proper financial records are kept, presenting to the Board a budget and accounts at such intervals as the Board may require and ensuring there is a proper accounting for all funds received.
- (b) The Board shall appoint a Treasurer from amongst its members who will hold office for two years with the Board having the option to reappoint the Treasurer for further terms of two years each. The Treasurer shall be responsible for drafting of the annual budget for approval by the Board, presentation of financial reports to the Board and seeking sources of funding for the Centre.
5. The Board shall meet at least twice a year, with at least one meeting each year held at the Christian Care Centre, Tenaru.
6. The responsibilities of the Board include:
- (a) General oversight of the well-being of clients of the Centre and their pastoral care, as well as of other programmes of the centre, including education on issues of family violence;
  - (b) Formulation and implementation of the Centre's policy with regard to admission and pastoral care of clients, education, personnel, volunteers and other areas in support of the Centre's work;
  - (c) Care of the physical assets of the Centre, including land, buildings,

- vehicles, furnishings and other equipment;
- (d) General oversight of the staff of the Centre, including staff training, in coordination with the Coordinator of the Centre;
  - (e) Oversight of and responsibility for the Centre's finances;
  - (f) Oversight of the Centre's relations with the Anglican Church of Melanesia, other churches, the Mothers' Union, the Solomon Islands Christian Association, the Solomon Islands Government, non-government organizations, Embassies and High Commissions and donors;
  - (g) Oversight of the Centre's hosting and use of volunteers, both local and overseas;
  - (h) Appointment of subcommittees and/or task forces to deal with particular issues;
  - (i) Any other area in support of the work and ministry of the Centre.
7. All members of the Board shall be regarded as volunteers and receive no remuneration from the Board for their work. However, remuneration of Officers from external sources may be considered and agreed upon by the Board.
8. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board consisting of:
- (a) The Chairperson of the Board.
  - (b) The Vice-Chairperson of the Board.
  - (c) The Co-ordinator of the Centre and Secretary of the Board.
  - (d) The Treasurer of the Board.
  - (e) The CSC and CSM representatives on the Board.
  - (f) The Chaplain of the Centre.
  - (g) The Women's Desk Officer.
9. The quorum of the Executive Committee shall be four members, one of whom must be either the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson.
10. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at any time required, by the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Board.
11. When the Board is not meeting, the Executive Committee shall act on the Board's behalf on any issue concerning the Care Centre and will report all its decisions and minutes to the Board for confirmation.

#### **D. STAFF**

1. The staff of the Centre shall be appointed by the Board of Governors from nominations made by the Religious Communities of the Anglican Church of Melanesia from among their own members terms of appointment shall be for two years and may be renewed;
2. There shall be a Co-ordinator and an Assistant Co-ordinator of the Centre, appointed by the Board of Governors from amongst the staff of the Centre. The term of appointment of the Co-ordinator shall be as stated in clause C.2 (b) hereof. The term of appointment of the Assistant Co-ordinator shall be two years with the Board having the option of renewing the appointment for further terms of two years each
3. The duties of the Coordinator (or, in the Coordinator's absence, the Assistant Coordinator) are:
  - (a) Day-to-day operation of the Centre, ensuring that the Centre's programmes are being carried out effectively and that the well-being and welfare of the clients are being protected;
  - (b) Supervision of staff and volunteers, in consultation with the Board of Governors, where necessary;
  - (c) Delegation of particular duties, such as management of the station and finances, to other members of the staff;
  - (d) Advising the Board of Governors of emerging issues and areas needing policy development and financial support;
  - (e) Representing the Centre to the broader community in the Solomon Islands and beyond.
4. The Coordinator shall be resident at the Christian Care Centre, Tenaru.
5. All staff are responsible and accountable to the Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator or Assistant, as appropriate.
6. Any member of the staff, including the Coordinator, who ceases to be a member of a Religious Community in the Anglican Church of Melanesia, shall automatically cease to be a member of the staff. Staff members are not regarded as employees of the Centre.
7. The hiring of any auxiliary, casual or contract personnel must be approved by the Board.

#### **E. CHAPLAIN**

1. The Chaplain of the Centre shall be the Chaplain of the Community of the Sisters of the Church at Tetete in Kolivuti;
2. The Centre's Chapel(s) shall be under the Chaplain's authority, subject to the normal episcopal oversight of the Archbishop of Melanesia.

#### **F. LAND, PROPERTY AND BANK ACCOUNTS**

1. The Centre's land and fixed assets shall be held in trust for the work of the Centre by The Church of Melanesia Trust Board (Incorporated);
2. Other assets are the property of the Christian Care Centre;
3. The Centre shall have the right to hold its own bank accounts, with signatories to be determined by the Board of Governors.

**TITLE E CANON 12**

## **CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

### **ESTABLISHMENT**

- A.** There shall be a Committee created according to Title D Canon 1 (Standing Orders) to be known as The Church's Constitutional Review Committee.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- B.** The Committee shall have a total membership of six (6) persons as follows and it may choose its own Chairperson and Secretary:-
1. The Chancellor of the Province;
  2. The Vice-Chancellor of the Province (if any);
  3. The Vice-Chancellor for Vanuatu (if any);
  4. The General Secretary;
  5. Other members to be appointed by the Archbishop.
- C.** The quorum for any meeting of the Committee shall be any four of the six members.

### **FUNCTIONS**

- D.**
1. The Committee shall have the responsibility for reviewing the Constitution, Canons and Standing Resolutions of the Church of Melanesia and making any recommendations for change to the General Synod, but this responsibility does not take away the right of any member of the General Synod to propose his or her own recommendations for change.
  2. Before each General Synod the Committee shall review all Motions agreed to at the preceding General Synod and shall make a report to the next General Synod with a recommendation as to which of those Motions should be regarded as Standing Resolutions.
  3. The Committee shall examine all changes to the Constitution, Canons and Standing Orders to ensure that any such changes are not in conflict with laws which have been passed previously and shall report any conflicts to the next meeting of the Provincial Council or General Synod together with their recommendations for dealing with the conflict.
  4. The Committee shall ensure that the material to be printed in The Manual of the Anglican Church of Melanesia is in order before it is published.

## TITLE E CANON 13

### THE CHURCH'S DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE

#### MEMBERSHIP

- A.** There shall be a Committee to be known as "The Church's Disaster Relief Committee" which shall have a membership of:-
1. The Dean of the Provincial Cathedral;
  2. The Mission Secretary, who shall be the secretary of the Committee;
  3. The General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Melanesia;
  4. Two additional members who shall be resident in Honiara who shall be appointed by the Archbishop. The members of the Committee may make recommendations to the Archbishop;
  5. One representative of the Mothers' Union chosen by the Provincial Mothers' Union Executive.
- B.**
1. The Committee shall elect from among its members a Chairperson who shall hold office for three years.
  2. The Committee shall meet whenever necessary with the quorum of one half of the total membership of the Committee.

#### FUNCTIONS

- C.** The Committee shall be responsible for relief and recovery issues following damage and loss caused by natural disasters or major accidents which affect the institutions, villages, property and people of the Anglican Church of Melanesia. More specifically, following any natural disaster or major accident, the Committee will do the following:-
1. obtain information regarding the damage and losses caused;
  2. ensure that the local Church and non-Church agencies, both nationally and overseas, are aware of the needs;
  3. seek funding both locally and internationally, to assist in disaster relief and recovery;
  4. set priorities for relief and provide funding, assistance and/or goods to those affected in accordance with those priorities;
  5. report on assistance, relief and recovery efforts to the Anglican Church of Melanesia and other agencies who channel their assistance through the Committee, including the monitoring and auditing of funds provided;
  6. assist with major disaster rehabilitation where funding may be provided and report on these activities;

7. provide relief assistance to agencies of partner Churches (both locally and overseas) whose people may be affected by major natural disasters.

## **FINANCE**

- F.**
  1. The Secretary shall be the Treasurer of this Committee and shall administer the funds in accordance with the Committee's instructions.
  2. The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare a report and a financial statement annually to the Provincial Council.

## TITLE E CANON 14

### COMMISSION FOR EVANGELISM & RENEWAL

#### ESTABLISHMENT

- A. There shall be in the Anglican Church of Melanesia a Commission to be known as "The Commission for Evangelism & Renewal".
- B. The Melanesia Board of Mission shall be the Commission for Evangelism & Renewal and the Provincial Co-ordinator of Evangelism & Renewal shall be regarded as a member of the staff of the Melanesia Board of Mission.

#### FUNCTIONS

- C.
  - 1. The Commission shall have the responsibility for advising the Anglican Church of Melanesia on all matters relating to Evangelism and Renewal. In particular, this advice will be given to the General Synod, Provincial Council, the Council of Bishops and the Diocesan Synods.
  - 2. The Commission shall seek to raise the awareness of the Church generally to the task of evangelism and renewal and shall co-operate with the Melanesia Board of Mission in the production of materials and programmes to achieve these aims.
  - 3. The Commission shall liaise with equivalent bodies in the individual Dioceses and seek to assist and encourage them in their work and to share with other Dioceses the learnings gained from the work and experience of such Diocesan bodies.
  - 4. The Commission shall seek out persons whom the Commission feels are specially called to the work of evangelism and renewal and shall negotiate with the appropriate Church authorities for such persons to receive additional training and/or experience either within their own Diocese, or at a Provincial level, or overseas.
  - 5. Likewise, the Commission shall advise the Church on the appropriate choice of overseas persons to visit the Church of the Province of Melanesia for the purpose of furthering the work of evangelism and renewal.

#### FINANCE & ORGANIZATION

- D. The budget of the Commission shall be a part of the budget of The Anglican Church of Melanesia Board of Mission. Likewise, the annual report and financial statement of the Commission shall form part of the annual report and financial statement of The Anglican Church of Melanesia Board of Mission.

## TITLE E CANON 15

### THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS SOCIETY

#### NAME OF SOCIETY

- A. There shall be a Society to be called "The Mission to Seafarers in Solomon Islands" which shall be a branch of the Missions to Seafarers, London.

#### CONSTITUTION

- B. 1. The Society shall draw up its own Constitution which may be registered with the Registrar of Companies under the Charitable Trusts Act, 1964.
2. The Constitution shall provide for –
- (a) a President who shall be the Archbishop of Melanesia.
  - (b) a Board of Control (or some similar name) consisting of the President, who shall be ex officio a member of the Board, and such other persons as a General Meeting of members of the Society shall agree to.
  - (c) Life Members and Ordinary Members.
  - (d) a Chaplain who shall be a member of the Board.
  - (e) such other matters as a General Meeting of members may agree to and such matters as the laws of Solomon Islands may require in any such Constitution.

#### OBJECTS

- C. The main objects of the Mission shall be –
- 1. to be the Anglican Church providing a welcome and friendship in any port of Solomon Islands and to work for the spiritual welfare of seafarers of all races and creeds in ports throughout Solomon Islands;
  - 2. through a network of chaplains, lay staff and volunteers, to help and counsel seafarers in need, in times of crisis or in cases of injustice and, by linking with parish clergy, to extend support to their families;
  - 3. to work closely with other denominations, showing seafarers that Christians are united in concern for their well-being;
  - 4. to support Christians who have to live out their faith in isolation, and to share faith through word and sacrament.

**TITLE E CANON 16**  
**THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF MELANESIA (SOLOMON ISLANDS)**  
**EDUCATION BOARD**

- A.** The Anglican Church of Melanesia (Solomon Islands) Education Board hereby established is the Education Authority of the Church in Solomon Islands as prescribed by the Education Act 1978 of the Solomon Islands Government.

**MEMBERSHIP**

- B.**
1. The Board shall represent the interests of education in the Anglican Church of Melanesia in Solomon Islands.
  2. The members who shall all be resident in Solomon Islands shall be –
    - a) A Bishop appointed by the Archbishop;
    - b) The Education Secretary for the Church in Solomon Islands;
    - c) The General Secretary;
    - d) The Principal of the Bishop Patteson Theological College;
    - e) The Mission Secretary of the Melanesia Board of Mission;
    - f) Four (4) persons elected by the General Synod, at least two (2) of whom shall be women.
  3. The four members elected according to Clause B 2(f) of this Canon shall hold office from the time of their election until the next General Synod, but they may be eligible for re-election.
  4. The Board shall have the power to co-opt up to two (2) additional members whose term of appointment shall conclude at the next General Synod but who may be to be eligible co-opted for a further term.
  5. The person to chair the meetings of the Board shall be elected by the members of the Board from among those who have been appointed or elected to the Board according to Clause B 2 (a) and (f) hereof.
  6. The Education Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Board but the Education Secretary may appoint someone to attend meetings of the Board and to record the Minutes.
  7. Any vacancies due to death, resignation, or other similar cause, among the four members elected by the General Synod according to Clause B 2(f) hereof, which may arise between meetings of the General Synod, shall be filled by an election at the next meeting of the Executive Council.

**MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

- C.**
1. The Board shall meet at least twice every year but may meet more frequently should the need arise and should the Executive Committee decide.
  2. A quorum at any meeting of the Board shall be half the membership plus one.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- D.**
1. The Chairperson of the Board, the Education Secretary and three other members of the Board who shall be elected by the Board shall form an Executive Committee of the Board.
  2. The Executive Committee may meet at any time as the need arises in order to deal with the business of the Board concerning any urgent matter which may arise between meetings of the Board.
  3. The Chairperson and Secretary of the Board shall be respectively the Chairperson and Secretary of the Executive Committee.

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD**

**E** The Board shall have the following functions:-

1. to advise the Anglican Church of Melanesia on all matters concerning the development and operation of the education system in the Church in Solomon Islands;
2. to formulate and propose to the General Synod or Executive Council (as may be appropriate) education policy for the Anglican Church of Melanesia in Solomon Islands;
3. to advise the Anglican Church of Melanesia on matters concerning the financing of education policy and training awards within the Church in Solomon Islands;
4. to consider and decide upon all applications from Solomon Islands for pre-service or in-service training;
5. to be responsible for all funds and scholarships available in Solomon Islands, which are not established by a Trust, for deserving persons from Solomon Islands drawn from any facet of the life and work of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and to make decision as to the award of those scholarships;
6. to supervise the progress of all persons from Solomon Islands engaged in pre-service or in-service training courses and those holding scholarships;
7. to fulfil all the requirements of an Education Authority required by the Education Act 1978 of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands and any amendment thereto.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

- F.**
1. The Board shall be accountable to the General Synod and shall make a report on its work to each meeting of the General Synod and the Executive Council.
  2. The Board shall liaise and consult with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development of the Solomon Islands Government and other appropriate education authorities, on matters relating to education and training in Solomon Islands.

**TITLE E CANON 17**  
**THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF MELANESIA (VANUATU)**  
**EDUCATION BOARD**

**A.** The Anglican Church of Melanesia (Vanuatu) Education Board is hereby established.

**MEMBERSHIP**

- B.**
1. The Board shall represent the interests of education in the Anglican Church of Melanesia in Vanuatu.
  2. “The Members shall be
    - (a) a Bishop appointed by the Archbishop;
    - (b) the Education Secretary for the Church in the Republic of Vanuatu;
    - (c) the Deputy General Secretary;
    - (d) the Assistant Mission Secretary in Vanuatu;
    - (e) the Principal of St Patrick’s College;
    - (f) the Diocesan Secretaries of both or all Dioceses in the Republic of Vanuatu;
    - (g) four (4) persons elected by the General Synod, at least two (2) of whom shall be women.”
  3. The four members elected according to Clause B 2(g) of this Canon shall hold office from the time of their election until the next General Synod, but they may be eligible for re-election.
  4. The Board shall have the power to co-opt up to two (2) additional members whose term of appointment shall conclude at the next General Synod but who may be eligible to be co-opted for a further term.
  5. The Chairperson of the Board shall be one of the four members elected by the General Synod according to Clause B 2(g) hereof and shall be chosen by the members of the Board.
  6. The Education Secretary shall be the Secretary to the Board but the Education Secretary may appoint someone to attend meetings of the Board and to record the minutes.
  7. Any vacancies due to death, resignation, or other similar cause, among the four members elected by the General Synod according to Clause B 2(g) hereof, which may arise between meetings of the General Synod, shall be filled by an election at the next meeting of the Executive Council.

**MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

- C.**
1. The Board shall meet at least twice every year but may meet more frequently should the need arise and should the Executive Committee decide.

2. A quorum at any meeting of the Board shall be half the membership plus one.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- D.**
1. The Chairperson of the Board, the Secretary and three other members of the Board who shall be elected by the Board shall form an Executive Committee of the Board.
  2. The Executive Committee may meet at any time as the need arises in order to deal with the business of the Board concerning any urgent matter which may arise between meetings of the Board.
  3. The Chairperson and Secretary of the Board shall be respectively the Chairperson and Secretary of the Executive Committee.

#### **FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD**

- E.** The Board shall have the following functions:-
1. to advise the Anglican Church of Melanesia on all matters concerning the development and operation of the education system in the Church in the Republic of Vanuatu;
  2. to formulate and propose to the General Synod or Executive Council (as may be appropriate) education policy for the Anglican Church of Melanesia in the Republic of Vanuatu;
  3. to advise the Anglican Church of Melanesia on matters concerning the financing of education policy and training awards within the Church in the Republic of Vanuatu;
  4. to consider and decide upon all applications from Vanuatu for pre-service or in-service training;
  5. to be responsible for all funds and scholarships available in Vanuatu, which are not established by a Trust, for deserving persons from Vanuatu drawn from any facet of the life and work of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and to make decisions as to the award of those scholarships;
  6. to supervise the progress of all persons from Vanuatu engaged in pre-service or in-service training courses and those holding scholarships;
  7. to fulfil all the requirements of a Church education authority as may be required by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Vanuatu.

#### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

- F.**
1. The Board shall be accountable to the General Synod and shall make a report on its work to each meeting of the General Synod and the Executive Council.
  2. The Board shall liaise and consult with the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Vanuatu and other appropriate education authorities, on matters relating to education and training in the Republic.

## TITLE E CANON 18

### THE CHURCH OF MELANESIA (VANUATU) TRUST BOARD

**A.** The Church of Melanesia (Vanuatu) Trust Board, when it is established by an Act of the Parliament of the Republic of Vanuatu (which Act will appear in this Canon as Appendix 1) shall be the duly constituted Board of Trustees whose work will be to receive and look after the property, money and endowments of the Anglican Church of Melanesia in Vanuatu.

**B.** Each person appointed to the Board as a Trustee shall make the following Declaration:

*I, ....., now appointed a member of the Church of Melanesia (Vanuatu) Trust Board solemnly declare:*

*that I accept the authority of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and will obey it;*

*that I accept and promise to obey the trust laws of the Republic of Vanuatu and all that is in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and all the laws and resolutions which the General Synod may make;*

*that I promise to resign my appointment and place as a Board Member and Trustee if the General Synod asks me to do so, or when the General Synod is not meeting, if the Executive Council asks me to do so.*

**C.** That Standing Resolution No. 43 of the Standing Resolutions of the Anglican Church of Melanesia "The Trust Board in Vanuatu" shall be repealed immediately upon the Bill passing into the laws of the Republic of Vanuatu.

**TITLE E CANON 18**

**APPENDIX 1**

**REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**

**CHURCH OF MELANESIA (VANUATU) TRUST BOARD  
ACT NO. 48 OF 2005**

**Arrangement of Sections**

- 1. Interpretation**
- 2. Establishment of the Church of Melanesia (Vanuatu) Trust Board**
- 3. Composition of the Board**
- 4. Removal and resignation of elected members**
- 5. Vacancies and acting members**
- 6. Powers of the Board**
- 7. Board not bound to accept property**
- 8. Board may invest funds**
- 9. Execution of any deed or instrument**
- 10. Transfer of assets, liabilities, contracts and legal proceedings**
- 11. Transitional arrangements for existing board members**
- 12. Rules**
- 13. Regulation**
- 14. Repeal**
- 15. Commencement**

**REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**

**CHURCH OF MELANESIA (VANUATU) TRUST BOARD  
ACT NO. 48 OF 2005**

**An Act to provide for the establishment of a trust board for the Church of Melanesia in Vanuatu, and for related purposes.**

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows -

**1 Interpretation**

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

**Archbishop** means the Archbishop of the Church.

**Board** means the Church of Melanesia (Vanuatu) Trust Board established under section 2.

**Church** means the Church of Melanesia in Vanuatu.

**Diocese** means an ecclesiastical district as established by Article 3 of the Constitution of the Church.

**Executive Council** means the Executive Council of the Church as established by Article 7A of the Constitution of the Church.

**General Synod** means the General Synod of the Church as established by Article 7 of the Constitution of the Church.

**Member** means a member of the Board.

**Minister** means the Minister responsible for religious affairs.

**2 Establishment of the Church of Melanesia (Vanuatu) Trust Board**

- (1) The Church of Melanesia (Vanuatu) Trust Board is established.
- (2) The purpose of the Board is to benefit, advance, extend or give effect to the work and objects of the Church.
- (3) The Board:
  - (a) is a body corporate with perpetual succession; and
  - (b) is to have a Common seal; and
  - (c) is capable of suing and being sued.

**3 Composition of the Board**

- (1) The Board consists of 9 members.
- (2) The members are:
  - (a) the Archbishop who is to be the Chairperson of the Board; and
  - (b) the Diocesan Bishop of each of the Dioceses in Vanuatu, the longest

serving of whom is to be the Deputy Chairperson of the Board; and

- (c) one priest from each Diocese in Vanuatu who is to be elected by the General Synod; and
  - (d) one lay person from each Diocese in Vanuatu who is to be elected by the General Synod; and
  - (e) Two other persons who are resident in Vanuatu who are to be elected by the General Synod.
- (3) An elected member of the Board holds office from the date of their election until the next meeting of the General Synod. The member may be re-elected.
- (4) The members referred to in subsections 1(a) and (b) hold office for as long as they hold the positions of Archbishop or Diocesan Bishop.

#### **4 Removal and resignation of elected members**

- (1) The General Synod or, if the General Synod is not in session, the Executive Council, may remove an elected member referred to in paragraph 3 (2)(c), (d) or (e) for:
- (a) contravention of any of the policies, Constitution or Canons of the Church; or
  - (b) any other reasonable cause.
- (2) An elected member may resign at any time by giving his or her resignation in writing to the Executive Council.

#### **5 Vacancies and acting members**

- (1) If a vacancy in the position of an elected member, occurs on the Board by reason of death, resignation or removal from office, a new member is to be elected by the General Synod or, if the General Synod is not in session, by the Executive Council.
- (2) The Board may appoint a person to act as a member if the member is absent from Vanuatu or is, for any reason, unable to perform his or her duties. A person must not be appointed to act for more than 3 months.

#### **6 Powers of the Board**

- (1) The Board has power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with this Act.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Board may:
- (a) acquire or receive real or personal property from any person for the purpose of carrying on, benefiting, advancing, extending or bringing into effect the work and objects of the Church in any Diocese in Vanuatu; and
  - (b) hold, sell, exchange, convey, assign, surrender, mortgage, reassign,

transfer, dispose or otherwise deal with any real or personal property referred to in paragraph (a); and

- (c) acquire or receive real or personal property upon trust and manage or administer such property in accordance with the terms of the trust; and
- (d) form or participate in the formation of a company, association, trust or partnership; and
- (e) enter into a joint venture with another person or body; and
- (f) enter into contracts or agreements; and
- (g) acquire or hold businesses.

## **7 Board not bound to accept property**

The Board is not bound to accept any property for any of the purposes mentioned in section 6 or for any other purpose unless it, in its absolute discretion, thinks it fit to do so.

## **8 Board may invest funds**

The Board may invest any of its funds in any manner approved by the General Synod.

## **9 Execution of any deed or instrument**

A deed or instrument of the Board is effective if it is made pursuant to a unanimous resolution of the Board and is signed by the Chairperson and 2 other members.

## **10 Transfer of assets and liabilities, contracts and legal proceedings**

- (1) On the commencement of this Act, the assets and liabilities of the Church of Melanesia (Diocese of New Hebrides) Trust Board vest in the Board without the need for any conveyance, transfer or assignment.
- (2) On the commencement of this Act, any contract to which the Church of Melanesia Diocese of New Hebrides) Trust Board is a party continues to have effect on and after that commencement as if:
  - (a) a reference to the Church of Melanesia (Diocese of New Hebrides) Trust Board were a reference to the Board; and
  - (b) the rights and obligations of Church of Melanesia (Diocese of New Hebrides) Trust Board under that contract were the rights and obligations of the Board.
- (3) If the Church of Melanesia (Diocese of New Hebrides) Trust Board was a party to proceedings that:
  - (a) were pending in any Court immediately before the commencement of this Act; and
  - (b) related, in whole or in part, to an asset, liability, right or obligation

mentioned in subsection (1) or (2);

The board is, by force of this subsection, substituted for the Church of Melanesia (Diocese of New Hebrides) Trust Board as a party to the proceedings to the extent to which the proceedings relate to the asset, liability, right or obligation.

(4) Subsection (1) applies to an asset or liability whether or not any Act or agreement relating to it:

- or
- (a) permits a conveyance, transfer or assignment of the asset or liability;
  - (b) requires any consent to such a conveyance, transfer or assignment.

(5) A person or authority who has power under any Act or enactment to register, record or otherwise give effect to:

- or
- (a) transactions affecting assets or liabilities mentioned in subsection (1);
  - (b) documents relating to such transactions;
  - (c) must do whatever is necessary or desirable to give effect to, or reflect, the vesting (for example, making entries in a register).

(6) If a person or authority does not comply with the requirements of subsection (5) within a reasonable time after the vesting has occurred, the Minister may in writing direct the person or authority to take such action as is specified in the direction to give effect to, or reflect, the vesting.

(7) In this section:

**asset** means:

- (a) any legal or equitable estate or interest in real or personal property, whether actual, contingent or prospective; and
- (b) any right, power, privilege or immunity, whether actual, contingent, or prospective.

**contract** includes a deed;

**liability** includes any liability, duty or obligation, whether actual, contingent or prospective.

## **11 Transitional arrangement for the existing Board members**

(1) This section applies to a person who immediately before the commencement of this Act was a member of the Church of Melanesia (Diocese of New Hebrides) Trust Board.

(2) On the commencement of this Act, the person is taken to be a member of the Board, subject to the provisions of this Act.

- (3) To avoid doubt, an elected member continues to hold office until the next General Synod.

**12 Rules**

The General Synod may make rules not inconsistent with this Act for the administration and control of the affairs of the Board, including its procedures.

**13 Regulation**

The Minister may, after consultation with the Board, make regulations:

- (a) required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed; or
- (b) necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

**14 Repeal**

The Queen's Regulation No. 1 of 1976 is repealed.

**15 Commencement**

This Act commences on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.

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**The above Act was published in the Gazette on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2006.**

## TITLE E CANON 19

### (COMMISSION ON JUSTICE, RECONCILIATION AND PEACE)

#### **Establishment**

- A.** There shall be in this Church a Commission to be known as “The Commission on Justice, Reconciliation and Peace”.

#### **Purpose**

- B.** The purpose of the Commission is to:
- (a) Advise the Church, particularly the General Synod, the Executive Council, the Council of Bishops and the Anglican Church of Melanesia Board of Mission, on issues pertaining to justice, reconciliation and peace which may fragment or divide the Church and communities.
  - (b) To assist the dioceses on issues of justice, reconciliation and peace when requested or if considered appropriate.
  - (c) Facilitate training, education and advocacy on justice, reconciliation and peace issues.

#### **Appointment of Coordinator**

- C.**
- 1. There shall be a full-time paid appointment of a person to be known as the ‘Justice, Reconciliation and Peace Coordinator’ who may be ordained or lay and who shall be appointed by the Archbishop following the advertising of the position.
  - 2. The Archbishop may seek the views of the Commission before making the appointment.

#### **Membership**

- D.** The members of the Commission shall be:-
- 1. A Diocesan Bishop from the Solomon Islands, chosen by the Council of Bishops, who shall chair the meetings of the Commission;
  - 2. A Diocesan Bishop from the Republic of Vanuatu, chosen by the Council of Bishops, who shall be the Deputy Chair of the Commission;
  - 3. The Justice, Reconciliation and Peace Coordinator who shall be the Secretary of the Commission;
  - 4. One representative of the Religious Orders working in the Province who shall be chosen by the Religious Life Advisory Council;
  - 5. One representative of the Provincial Mothers’ Union chosen by the Provincial Mothers’ Union Executive;
  - 6. One lay person and one ordained person who shall be elected by the General Synod.

- E. The Commission may co-opt up to two additional members who may be lay or ordained.
- F. The members of the Commission, excluding the Coordinator, shall hold office from one ordinary meeting of the General Synod to the next but they shall be eligible for reappointment or re-election as the case may be.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

- G. The duties and responsibilities of the Commission are –
  1. To carry out surveys and research relating to issues of justice, reconciliation and peace;
  2. To present reports to appropriate Church bodies;
  3. To oversee action plans which may involve the training of clergy and laity, (including members of the Religious Orders), in healing, mediating, reconciling and rebuilding societies and strengthening of relationships in communities;
  4. To monitor and report to appropriate Church bodies on progress made on the implementation of action plans;
  5. To liaise and work closely with the Governments of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu on matters pertaining to justice, reconciliation and peace;
  6. To liaise with the justice, reconciliation and peace networks of such other bodies as the Anglican Consultative Council, the World Council of Churches and similar;
  7. To exercise, through the Archbishop and Bishops, the prophetic role of the Church in the world.
- H. The Commission shall meet at least twice each year.

### **Finance**

- I.
  1. Funds necessary to carry out the work of the Commission shall form part of the budget of the Anglican Church of Melanesia Board of Mission and shall be administered by the Coordinator of Justice, Reconciliation and Peace.
  2. The Coordinator shall present a budget to the Anglican Church of Melanesia Board of Mission each year.
  3. The Coordinator shall prepare a financial report, at least annually, which shall be presented to the Anglican Church of Melanesia Board of Mission.

**TITLE E CANON 20**  
**SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE**

1. There shall be established a committee to be known as the Scholarships Committee.
  - (a) Membership of the Committee shall be:
    - (i) The Archbishop (Chair).
    - (ii) The General Secretary.
    - (iii) The Deputy General Secretary (Secretary of the Committee)
    - (iv) The Deputy General Secretary (Vanuatu)
    - (v) The Education Secretary (SI) and the Education Secretary (Vanuatu)
    - (vi) A representative of the Ministry of Education (SI) and a representative of the Ministry of Education (Vanuatu).
    - (vii) The Bishop Patteson Theological College Degree Co-ordinator.
    - (viii) A women's representative elected by the General Synod.
    - (ix) A lay representative elected by the General Synod.
    - (x) A clergy representative elected by the General Synod.
  - (b) The Committee may co-opt other faculty members or other members of the Church of Melanesia with relevant academic post-graduate qualifications and expertise to provide advice.
  - (c) The principal duty of the Committee shall be to award scholarships for post-graduate study from first degree to doctoral degree in the numbers allowed each year by the approved budgetary provisions of the Church.
  - (d) The processes by which the award of a scholarship is made shall be as follows:
    - (i) Any diocesan bishop may nominate any person holding an undergraduate degree for the award of a scholarship for post-graduate studies. Such nominations should state the reasons why the nominating bishop feels the particular nominee would be suitable for post-graduate studies and the appointment that the nominee would take upon return. The nominations shall be accompanied by relevant information such as, but not limited to, the age of the student, marital status, number and ages of dependent children, other qualifications, past appointments, and any other relevant material.
    - (ii) Nominees shall be required to provide the Committee with a written release from the privacy laws of any relevant countries in order to enable the gathering of academic information prior to making an award of a scholarship and, should they ultimately be granted a scholarship, for the gathering of progress results from which the Committee can monitor the progress of the students.

- (iii) The Committee shall keep abreast of degree prescriptions and entry requirements of the universities and other institutions locally or overseas to which it is contemplated sending students and it will not make an award of a scholarship until it has closely examined the transcripts of any undergraduate degree and any other relevant tertiary and language qualifications held by the nominee, and is of the opinion that the student is qualified for entry for further study and capable of successfully undertaking that study.
- (iv) In making an award of a scholarship the Committee will take into account all relevant information as referred to in the foregoing sub-clauses of this clause and shall also take into account the human resource needs of the Church such as the requirements for the appropriate staffing of Bishop Patteson Theological College, (or any other theological institution in the Province), the requirements of the dioceses for key positions, and other relevant needs of the Church.
- (v) The announcement of the award of any scholarship shall be made by the Archbishop and the Committee's decision shall be final.
- (e) Every person awarded a scholarship for further studies shall be bonded to remain in the employment of the Church of Melanesia for at least a period equivalent to the duration of the scholarship and the Committee may impose any other terms and conditions on the award of the scholarship as it deems appropriate.
- (f) The Committee shall maintain general oversight of the scholarship training from first degree to doctorate level.

## TITLE E CANON 21

### ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE COUNCIL

#### A. COUNCIL

There shall be a body of persons appointed in accordance with this Canon to be generally responsible for St Patrick's College. The name of this body will be the St Patrick's College Council.

#### B. MEMBERSHIP

The Council shall consist of persons as follows:

1. The Archbishop of Melanesia who shall be the chairman but may appoint a Bishop from one of the Dioceses in Vanuatu to be the Chairperson;
2. The Vice Chairperson, to be appointed by the St Patrick's College Council, from amongst the members of the Council;
3. Two members to be appointed by the Executive Council to represent the Church in the Community, one from each Diocese in Vanuatu;
4. One student from the senior level nominated by the Students body to represent the students;
5. The Provincial Education Officer for PENAMA Province, ex-officio, who shall be the government representative on the Council;
6. One member nominated by the staff of St Patrick's College to represent the staff;
7. The Principal of St Patrick's College, ex-officio who shall be the Secretary to the Council but may appoint another person to record the minutes of meetings;
8. The Deputy General Secretary in Vanuatu, ex-officio;
9. The Education Secretary of the Church in Vanuatu, ex-officio;
10. The Assistant Mission Secretary in Vanuatu, ex-officio;

#### C. MEETINGS

1. The Council shall meet at least twice a year and shall appoint an Executive Committee to carry out the affairs of the Council as required during the periods between the meetings of the Council.
2. A simple majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum.

#### **D. TERM OF OFFICE**

All appointed members shall hold office for a term of three years and be eligible for reappointment. All nominated members shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-nomination.

#### **E. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. The Chairperson of the Council, the Secretary and three other members of the Council who shall be elected by the Council shall form an Executive Committee of the Council.
2. The Executive Committee may meet at any time as the need arises in order to deal with the affairs of the Council concerning any urgent matter which may arise between meetings of the Council.
3. The Chairperson and the Secretary of the Council shall be respectively the Chairperson and Secretary of the Executive Committee.

#### **F. FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The St. Patrick's College Council will see that the Christian aims of the College are promoted both within the College and throughout the Province, especially in Vanuatu and that a sound balance of scholarship, industry, sports and culture is maintained.

The Council shall have the following particular functions and responsibilities:

##### **1. Student Body**

In consultation with the Principal and subject to any conditions prescribed by the Minister of Education, the approval of admission, conduct and discipline of students.

##### **2. Staffing**

- (a) Subject to any conditions prescribed by the Minister of Education the determination of contracts, conditions of employment and conduct of teaching and non teaching staff of the College.
- (b) The Appointment of the Principal, whenever necessary. The Principal will consult with the Chairperson of the Council or his nominee on matters affecting the employment of other staff.

##### **3. Finance**

- (a) Receiving and approving the Statement of Accounts;
- (b) Approving annual budgets and other financial proposals for the development of the College or for audit purposes;
- (c) Appointing cheque signatories;
- (d) Recommending to the National Education Commission the fee structure payable by students and other related development issues as required under the Education Act [CAP 272].

4. **Curriculum and Education Policy**

In consultation with the Principal and subject to the conditions prescribed by the National Education Commission, the main emphasis to be given in the curriculum followed by the College.

5. **Control of Property**

Determination of the general uses of land, buildings and other assets controlled by the College, including their care and maintenance.

6. **Promotion of the School**

The sponsorship of the reputation of the College by building relationships with other bodies outside the College and by involvement so far as practicable in the life of the local community.

## TITLE E CANON 22

### DIOCESAN COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKINGS

1. A commercial undertaking must not be established or continued by or for the benefit of any diocese except in accordance with this canon.
2. The nature or purpose of any commercial undertaking shall not be contrary to the teachings of the Anglican Church of Melanesia or encourage behaviour that is contrary to the teachings of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.
3. Those responsible for any commercial undertaking shall respect the environment and use any resources in connection with it in a responsible manner.
4. Any commercial undertaking that a diocese may wish to embark upon or continue must be established by a diocesan canon and must have the prior approval of the relevant Trust Board of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.
5. Those responsible for any commercial undertaking must comply with this canon and any diocesan canon relating to the undertaking.
6. Any commercial undertaking shall not be approved by the relevant Trust Board of the Anglican Church of Melanesia unless the Trust Board is satisfied that:
  - (a) The undertaking has been properly planned and is shown to be commercially viable.
  - (b) The undertaking will be operated through an incorporated company owned by the relevant diocese and having a board of directors which includes persons with experience in the commercial sector.
  - (c) Adequate accounting procedures, records and bank accounts are established separately from those of the diocese.
  - (d) The accounts of the company will be audited annually.
  - (e) There is a formal process established to ensure the company provides regular performance reports to the Trust Board and to the diocese.
7. For the purposes of this Canon, the Anglican Church of Melanesia Trust Board established under Title E Canon 6 and the Anglican Church of Melanesia (Vanuatu) Trust Board established under Title E Canon 18 shall have the following additional powers and duties:
  - (a) The approval of any such commercial undertaking.
  - (b) The approval of the constitution of the company operating the commercial undertaking.
  - (c) The approval of the first directors of the company as well as the power to remove directors and appoint new ones.
  - (d) The approval of any borrowing the company may wish to make.
  - (e) The approval of any joint venture or partnership the company may wish to enter into.

- (f) The approval of the use of any land owned by the relevant Trust Board for the purposes of the commercial undertaking.
- (g) The undertaking of special audits of the company or any investigations into its conduct or operation.
- (h) The power to require the company to cease business operations where it has become insolvent or where the business of the company is not being operated in accordance with sound business practices or in accordance with this canon or any diocesan canon relating to the undertaking.
- (i) The monitoring of the company's performance and operations.

**TITLE E CANON 23**  
**(MISSION TO SEAFARERS IN VANUATU)**

**NAME OF ASSOCIATION**

- A.** There shall be an Association to be called “the Mission to Seafarers in Vanuatu” which shall be a branch of the Mission to Seafarers, London.

**CONSTITUTION**

- B.**
1. The Association shall draw up its own Constitution which may be registered with the Registrar for Charitable Association under the Charitable Associations (Incorporation) Act [CAP 140].
  2. The Constitution shall provide for –
    - (a) a President who shall be the Archbishop of Melanesia;
    - (b) an Executive Committee consisting of:
      - (i) The President who shall be an ex officio member;
      - (ii) The President or his nominee shall be the Chairperson;
      - (iii) Three (3) other members who shall be appointed by the Senior Diocesan Bishop in Vanuatu after consultation with the other Diocesan Bishop who shall be:
        - (1) A person with experience in the shipping regulatory sector.
        - (2) A person with experience in the stevedoring sector; and
        - (3) A person with experience in the international shipping sector.
      - (iv) A chaplain who shall be a Member of the Executive Committee;
      - (v) Such other matters as a meeting of the Executive Committee may agree to and such matters as the laws of the Republic of Vanuatu may require in any such constitution.

**OBJECTS**

3. The main objects of the Mission shall be:
  - (a) To be the Anglican Church providing a welcome and friendship in any port of the Republic of Vanuatu and to work for the spiritual welfare of seafarers of all races and creeds in ports throughout the Republic of Vanuatu;
  - (b) Through a network of chaplains, lay staff and volunteers, to help and counsel seafarers in need, in times of crisis or in cases of injustice and by linking with parish clergy, to extend support to their families;

- (c) To help work closely with other denominations, showing seafarers that Christians are united in concern for their well being;
- (d) To support Christians who have to live out their faith in isolation, and to share faith through word and sacrament.

## **STANDING RESOLUTIONS OF GENERAL SYNOD**

### **1. CATECHISM AND LESSONS FOR CONFIRMATION**

The former Diocesan Catechism (both the longer and shorter versions) shall henceforth be known as the Church of Melanesia Catechism and alterations, amendments and deletions may be made to the Provincial Catechism and the Book known as "Lessons for Confirmation" by the Council of Bishops.

### **2. MANUAL OF THE CHURCH OF MELANESIA**

In 1976 and in future, the Manual of the Church of the Province of Melanesia shall contain the Constitution, the Canons, the Standing Resolutions and the Clergy Register of the Province. These shall be printed in loose leaf form with copies being supplied to all active clergy and members of General Synod. Any further amendment pages shall be printed as required and supplied to those holding copies of the Manual.

### **3. HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF MELANESIA**

The Executive Council is requested to commission a suitable person to undertake the writing of those parts of the history of the Church of Melanesia which have not already been adequately covered, and to make financial provision for research and publication that it considers necessary, and that Provincial Headquarters, Diocesan Institutions and persons in the Province be asked to give every assistance to such a person and also provide access to any available records required in order to research this history properly.

### **4. RELATIONSHIP OF INTERCOMMUNION (1979)**

The Church of Melanesia accepts the relationship of full Communion with the Old Catholic Church, the Philippines Independent Church, the Church of South India, the Church of North India, the Church of Pakistan, the Church of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), and the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, which was entered into by the Church of the Province of New Zealand before the Church of the Province of Melanesia became independent in January, 1975. Further than that the Church of the Province of Melanesia has now entered into a relationship of full Communion with the Lusitanian Church (Portuguese Episcopal Church), the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church and the Church of Bangladesh.

### **5. RETIREMENT AGE FOR LAY STAFF (1982) (2002)**

Until further notice, the retirement age for lay staff throughout the Province will be 55 years, PROVIDED HOWEVER, that by special arrangement with the employing body, staff may serve beyond that age.

### **6. METROPOLITICAL FUNCTIONS (1982)**

The General Synod notes the Resolutions on the subject of Metropolitan Functions passed by the Anglican Consultative Council at its Second and Fifth Meetings and confirms the action taken by the Archbishop in giving his approval to ACC 2 Resolution 23.

**7. THE 'FILIOQUE' CLAUSE IN THE NICENE CREED (1982)**

The General Synod notes Resolution No. 3 passed by the Anglican Consultative Council at its Fifth Meeting and accepts the recommendations contained in the paragraphs b, c and d of the Resolution.

**8. ANGLICAN - ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONS (1982)**

The General Synod notes the contents of Resolution No. 4 passed by the Anglican Consultative Council at its Fifth Meeting and agrees to accept the decision of the majority of the member Churches of the Anglican Communion on the Agreed Statements and the Final Report of the Anglican - Roman Catholic International Consultation.

**9. DEACONESSES AND THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN**

The General Synod, having declared that those made Deaconess by the laying on of hands with appropriate prayer are within the Diaconate, now take steps to encourage the ministry that women can and should do in the Church of Melanesia, without necessarily being part of the Diaconate.

**10. THE THIRTY-NINE ARTICLES**

The Church of Melanesia accepts:-

1. the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion as the historic statement of the Anglican position in faith and practice at the time of the Reformation, without thereby subscribing to every statement contained therein;
2. that clergy are not required to subscribe to the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion;
3. that the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion be not printed with the official Liturgy.

**11. DIOCESAN SECRETARIES (1985)**

The appointment of the Diocesan Secretaries shall be the responsibility of the Diocesan Bishop in each case. The payment of the salaries of the Diocesan Secretaries shall be the responsibility of the Province. All other terms and conditions of employment shall be the responsibility of the Dioceses.

**12. SECOND ORDER OF THE LITURGY (1989)**

The General Synod approves the Church of Melanesia Second Order of Liturgy, as amended, for use throughout the Church and that it be included in the official Melanesian Prayer Book when it is printed.

**13. THE PRACTICE OF RE-BAPTISM (1989)**

The General Synod (a) declares the practice of re-baptism of those already baptized to be contrary to the teachings of the Church, (b) does not approve of any such re-baptism and (c) requires that anyone who does re-baptize those already baptized should be disciplined according to the Constitution and Canons of the Church of Melanesia.

**14. AMENDMENT TO FIRST ORDER OF THE LITURGY (1989)**

THAT the words "and know that I am with you" be deleted from the First Order for Holy Communion in both places in the Eucharistic Prayer where they occur.

**15. MANPOWER TRAINING (1989)**

The General Synod –

- (a) recognizes the need for manpower training,
- (b) resolves that funds and/or scholarships be made available and/or sought immediately from Solomon Islands Government, other aid donors and Church bodies and agencies overseas, and
- (c) asks that they be awarded to appropriate candidates requiring further studies and/or in-service training.

**16. DIOCESAN COMMITTEES OF THE MELANESIA BOARD OF MISSION (1989)**

The General Synod approves the setting up of Diocesan Committees of the Melanesia Board of Mission. The main responsibilities of these committees are to implement and translate the overall functions of the Board of Mission to the Diocesan level and to liaise with the Secretary of the (Provincial) Board of Mission.

**17. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PENSION SCHEME (1989)**

THAT this General Synod calls for an annual review of the Pension Scheme policy, such a review to be carried out by the Church of Melanesia Trust Board.

**18. KOHIMARAMA ENDOWMENT FUND (1989)**

The General Synod approves the establishment of an Endowment Fund for Bishop Patteson Theological College, Kohimarama.

**19. DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT COMMITTEES (1989)**

The General Synod approves of the establishment in each Diocese of a "Diocesan Development Investment Committee" for the purpose of directing investment at the Diocesan level. The membership of these Committees shall be appointed by the Diocesan Bishop in each case.

**20. PERSONNEL CONTRACTS (1989)**

The General Synod instructs all governing Boards, Councils, Committees, etc., in which the Church of Melanesia or its agencies has a controlling interest, to structure its personnel contractual arrangements so that they require, as a professional condition of employment, compliance with the Christian moral code. This is to be implemented at the renewal of all existing contracts and the initiation of new ones.

**21. EMPLOYEES' DOCTRINAL STATEMENT (1989)**

The General Synod instructs all governing Boards, Councils, Committees, etc., in which the Church of Melanesia or its agencies has a controlling interest, to require all direct employees to be of the Christian Faith and to sign a doctrinal statement to this effect at the commencement or renewal of their contracts.

**22. YOUTH WORKING COMMITTEE (1992/96)**

That a Youth Working Committee be established comprising all Diocesan Youth Coordinators and a female youth from each Diocese, to draw up a Provincial Youth Policy and Guidelines for the direction of youth development in the Church of Melanesia.

**23. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE/DISPOSAL (1996/99)**

THAT this General Synod ratifies the decision of the 1995 Executive Council meeting to set the following policy Capital Expenditure/Disposal limits:-

The General Secretary/Provincial Accountant	\$0	-	\$20,000
Trust Board	\$20,001	-	\$500,000
Executive Council/General Synod	\$500,001	-	upwards

All items must be requested by the relevant authority supported by a formal notice, and after approval of any item, actual expenditure must be reported to the COM Trust Board.

**24. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT CHURCH (1996/99)**

THAT this General Synod –

- a) notes Standing Resolution No. 7 (Relationship of Intercommunion) which accepts a relationship in full Communion with various Churches, including the Philippine Independent Church, which was entered into by the Church of the Province of New Zealand before the Church of the Province of Melanesia became independent in 1975 and confirmed by the Provincial Synod of the Church of Melanesia in 1979;
- b) re-affirms this relationship with the Philippine Independent Church and also our relationship with that Church as Partners in Mission; and c) requests the Archbishop to inform the Obispo Maximo of this decision and to send him the prayerful greetings of this General Synod.

**25. PARISH/DISTRICT RECORDS & FILING SYSTEMS (TRAINING & PRACTICE) (1996/99)**

THAT this Synod –

- a) requests the Faculty of Bishop Patteson Theological Centre to include in the syllabus for all students some training in the keeping of Parish records and filing systems so that when there is a change of Parish/District Priest, the newcomer has a base of information and records to assist him in his work;
- b) requests the Parishes and Districts of the Province to keep proper records and files in place at all times.

**26. THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE (1996/99)**

THAT the Church of Melanesia emphasizes the importance of Christian Marriage and asks all clergy to encourage both men and women who are living in de facto relationships to seek proper Christian marriages.

**27. TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIOCESAN SECRETARIES (1996/99)**

THAT –

1. this General Synod asks the Church of Melanesia Education Board to seek and provide scholarships and training opportunities for the Diocesan Secretaries throughout the Church of Melanesia in the areas of administration, management and finance.
2. periods of training be provided on both short term and long term bases.

**28. MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH FUNDS (1999/2002)**

THAT this General Synod –

- a) agrees that the Administrative Policies Manual which comprises Accounting, Finance, Audit, Administration and Human Resources Policies, here tabled, be adopted by the General Synod as the document which guides the administration of the Church and that it shall come into effect on 1 January, 2000.
- b) agrees that the companion documents to the Manual, (which provide instructions to staff as to how to administer these policies), be approved, and that all Dioceses, Provincial Institutions and Activity Centres be required to use such Policy and Procedures Manuals to administer effectively their work, including financial controls, reporting formats, standardized budget formats, and such other similar administrative documents and returns as are required.
- c) authorizes the Executive Council to approve such changes to the Policy and Procedures Manual as from time to time may be necessary.
- d) agrees that on-going training in the use of such policies and procedures be a part of the agreed budget allocations.

**29. BUILDING & PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (1999/2002)**

THAT the mind of this Synod is that the report 'Building & Property Development in the 21st Century' as described in the General Secretary's Report (on page 50 of the Synod Papers) received on 31 August, 1999, is necessary for the advancement of the interests of the Province and requests that the planning for the 21st century take this into account.

**30. DIOCESAN REPORTS OF MONTHLY EXPENDITURE (1999/2002)**

WHEREAS at a meeting of the Council of Bishops on 25 July, 1994, the following Motion was passed:-

"MOVED (Bishop Lazarus Munamua/Bishop James Mason) THAT each diocese makes a regular monthly return to the Provincial Headquarters of actual expenditure in the previous month. This is to be supplied not later than the 10th day of each month and to be as detailed as possible."

AND WHEREAS this requirement has not always been complied with and indeed, some dioceses appear to be either unaware of it, or to have overlooked it,

AND WHEREAS such reporting is necessary to ensure that where financial difficulties develop in dioceses, they are recognized immediately and can be dealt with before they get too large or too difficult,

NOW THEREFORE this General Synod expresses its concern that this requirement has not been fully complied with and the mind of Synod is that from now on it should be. Furthermore, this General Synod recommends that at each Executive Council meeting and in a report to the next General Synod, any failure to comply be expressly reported.

**31. ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS (2005)**

The General Synod or, when it is not meeting, the Executive Council, shall have the authority to honour a retired Archbishop who has given exceptional service to the Church of Melanesia during his tenure as Archbishop over a period of no less than seven years, by conferring upon him the title 'Archbishop Emeritus'. Any such proposal shall only be agreed to when supported by at least two-thirds of the members present. An Archbishop Emeritus may continue to be called 'Archbishop' and to be styled 'The Most Reverend'.

**32. MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCH BODIES (2005)**

1. THAT if any ordained person, while holding a position as a member of any body, board, commission or committee to which that person has been elected or appointed by the General Synod or the Executive Council, is dismissed for any of the reasons pursuant to Title C Canon 2 Clause A of the Canons of the Church of Melanesia, the right of that person to continue as a member of such body, board, commission or committee shall be forfeited with immediate effect.
2. THAT if any Church lay employee holding a position as a member of any body, board, commission or committee to which that employee has been elected or appointed by the General Synod or the Executive Council, is dismissed for gross misconduct pursuant to the provisions of the General Guidelines of Service for Church Lay Employees, the right of that person to continue as a member of such body, board, commission or committee shall be forfeited with immediate effect.

**33. BANK AGENCIES (2002/2005)**

No diocese or Church institution shall enter into an agreement with any bank for the purpose of running a bank agency without first obtaining the consent of the Executive Council which may, if it chooses to give its consent, impose whatever conditions it may think fit in the particular circumstances.

**34. CHURCH PROPERTY (2002/2005)**

THAT it is the mind of this 10<sup>th</sup> General Synod that the Church of Melanesia Trust Board (Inc.) and the Church of Melanesia (Vanuatu) Trust Board should be instructed to obtain and keep inventories of all Church property and to ensure that none of it is removed without authority and, if it is removed, to take steps to recover the property, or its value, from those who have wrongfully removed it.

**35. CONCELEBRATIONS (2002/2005)**

THAT –

1. Concelebrations of the Holy Eucharist should be reserved for special occasions (synods, episcopal visits, ordinations, conferences, etc.). when normally the Archbishop or Bishop is the President, with others concelebrating. However, in special cases, with the permission of the Bishop, or on major Festivals, priests may preside at a concelebration.
2. The single presidency of the Eucharist needs to be upheld in concelebration, but the exact manner should be left to the Diocesan Bishop.
3. Concelebration must not obliterate the role of the laity in the Eucharistic celebration.
4. Deacons should also be present in their serving function at any concelebration.

**36. DESTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS (2002/2005)**

THAT this General Synod expresses its deep concern with all human and environmental destructive development operations in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, (e.g. logging in Ysabel Diocese), and supports strict controls on all such activities.

**37. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR TRANSLATION PROJECTS (2002/2005)**

THAT the Church provide support for translation projects accepted by a Diocesan Council.

**38. LITERACY (2002/2005)**

THAT the mind of this General Synod is to include Literacy (Adult Education) within the responsibilities of the two Education Boards of the Church of Melanesia.

**39. HIV / AIDS (2002/2005)**

THAT it is the mind of this 10<sup>th</sup> General Synod, in response to the Anglican Consultative Council's Report on HIV/AIDS, to recommend that all dioceses throughout the Province of Melanesia make, as a priority, education and information programmes on HIV/AIDS to alert and protect their respective communities.

**40. MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CHURCH (2002/2005)**

THAT it is the mind of the General Synod that –

- a) the following Mission Statement should become the Mission Statement of the Church of Melanesia:

“The purpose of the Church of Melanesia is to be a faithful part of Christ's body through the exercising of baptismal ministries, spreading of the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ, being like Christ in thought, word and action, worshipping God in spirit and truth using wisely and taking good care of the natural resources and environment as well as all things that God has entrusted to us for the extension of God's kingdom in the world and demonstrating God's love in responding to human needs in loving service”, and

- b) this statement be used for setting the direction of the Church at every level.

**41. STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES (2002/2005)**

THAT this General Synod notes with great concern the increasing violence in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu as a result of land disputes. This General Synod therefore urges all members of the Church of Melanesia to exercise good stewardship in the sharing of natural resources which are God's gift to humanity and, to learn to live together as people of God.

**42. PROMISES OF LAY MEMBERS OF DIOCESAN SYNODS (2002/2005)**

THAT all lay persons, on first becoming a member of their Diocesan Synods, shall make the following promise before the Diocesan Bishop:-

I, (*name of Lay Synod member*) promise that I will obey the Chairperson of the Diocesan Synod and the Chairperson's deputies, in all things lawful and honest, and that I will keep the Church Laws of the Province of Melanesia and of the Diocese of (*name of Diocese*). So help me God.

**43. WORSHIP WITH THE UNITED CHURCH OF SOLOMON ISLANDS (2002/2005)**

NOTWITHSTANDING that at this time the Church of Melanesia is not able to enter into full communion with the United Church of Solomon Islands, nonetheless, for pastoral reasons and to provide worship opportunities, whenever Anglicans find that there is no Church of Melanesia priest nor opportunities for public Anglican worship available in their district, they may worship in the United Church (including partaking in Holy Communion under Title A Canon 2 Clause F), and may conduct Church of Melanesia Services in United Church buildings by mutual arrangement, and similarly, when members of the United Church of Solomon Islands find there is no minister nor opportunities for public worship of their own Church available in their district, they may worship in the Church of Melanesia (including partaking in Holy Communion under Title A Canon 2 Clause E), and may conduct United Church Services in Church of Melanesia buildings by mutual arrangement.

**44. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF CHURCH (2005/2008)**

THAT this 11<sup>th</sup> General Synod requests the Anglican Church of Melanesia Provincial Headquarters Administration to appoint a four-person committee to review the administrative structure of the whole Church, including the Provincial Headquarters, the Dioceses and all Church-related institutions with a view to improving the structure, devolving functions to the dioceses and releasing funds for the Mission of the Church.

**45. CHAPLAINS IN VANUATU SCHOOLS (2005/2008)**

THAT the Dioceses in the Republic of Vanuatu, in consultation with the Anglican Church of Melanesia (Vanuatu) Education Board, looks at having priests as Chaplains at schools in the Anglican communities to ensure that the young generation grows up in the ethos, doctrines and traditions of the Anglican Church.

**46. FORMAL COVENANT WITH THE UNITED CHURCH (2005/2008)**

a) THAT the Anglican Church of Melanesia establish a formal Ecumenical Covenant between the United Church of Solomon Islands and the Anglican Church of Melanesia in their ecumenical fellowship.

b) THAT the group to be responsible for preparing the Covenant be the Bishop of

Ysabel, the Mission Secretary, and a nominee of the Moderator of the United Church of Solomon Islands.

**47. List of Draft Laws**

THAT in order to make it easier for people to know which draft laws need to be considered by every Diocesan Synod, the Minute Secretary be asked to attach to the Minutes of the General Synod as the last Appendix to the Minutes, a list of all draft laws printed in full, which may be created at this General Synod and that this become an established practice.

**48. Archbishop Emeritus**

That as an acknowledgement of the leadership of the Church of Melanesia by the present Archbishop for almost 15 years and as an appreciation of all that has been achieved under his leadership, and in recognition of the enormous contribution of the Archbishop to the Pacific Region and to the world-wide Anglican Communion, this 12<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the Church of Melanesia resolves that as from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008, The Most Reverend Sir Ellison Pogo, KBE, PhD, shall become Archbishop Emeritus.

**49. Date of Diocesan Synods**

That all dioceses be asked to ensure that their Diocesan Synods are held no later than 70 days before the ordinary meeting of the General Synod in order to ensure that any Bills for General synod arising from Diocesan Synods will be in time for the 60 day limit for the notification of Bills (see Title D Canon 1 Clause 1)

**50. John Coleridge Patteson University That this General Synod –**

1. approves in principle the establishment, on Kosu land on the Guadalcanal Plains, of a university to be known as the John Coleridge Patteson University;
2. agrees that the first priority should be to establish the Bishop Patteson Theological College on the land and any further steps require the approval of the General Synod or the Executive Council;
3. agrees that the proposal to approve funding for the project be considered in the budget debate;
4. agrees that funding support be sought from the governments of the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu, and other donors.

**51. Advice of the Vice Chancellor for Diocesan Synods.**

THAT the General Synod requests that a Vice Chancellor be available (when practicable and not necessarily in person), for legal interpretations prior to and during Diocesan Synods, subject to the approval of the Archbishop and the Chancellor.

**52. Training and Placement for Women in Ministry**

- a. That the Church needs to have proper planning for the training and placement in ministry of women in Church.

**53. Rural Training Centres**

- a. That the Church should have a policy to encourage entry from ACOM schools into the Church Rural Training Centres.
- b. That there should be in place an accreditation system to assist able trainees in the non-formal education sector to gain higher qualifications.

**54. New ways to explore Ecumenical Relationships**

THAT this General Synod encourages Dioceses to explore new avenues and ways for expressing the ecumenical relationship that exists between the United Church of Solomon Islands and the Anglican Church of Melanesia and any other Church with which the Anglican Church of Melanesia has ties.

**55. Project Register**

That the PHQ Administration take into account all projects approved by the General Synod and keep them in a Project Register showing that they have been approved by the General Synod, and that they be automatically considered, without depending on others to bring them up, in the annual round of budget submissions.

