



Anglican Diocese of Grafton Registry Update

Edition 17 – December 2019

For distribution to any office bearer within the Anglican Diocese of Grafton including its parishes and organisations.

Just as the Registry is about to close for 2019, there is some important information that needs to be shared. Much of this was considered in the recent Bishop-in-Council meeting.

Registry Updates are not only important for reading at the time of receiving but also worthwhile for putting aside for future reference. If you are looking for any of the previous copies, you can find them on the Diocese's website at

<https://www.graftondiocese.org.au/documents/registry-update/>

This Registry Update has been widely distributed by email but if you believe that someone has been missed who should also be receiving the Registry Update, please feel free to share your copy with them and advise admin@graftondiocese.org.au of the update to the distribution list.

The information contained in this Registry Update is not confidential or private, so please feel free to share it with others who would benefit from knowing.

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

There is a requirement for each Parish to hold their Annual General Meeting before the end of February (clause 81.1 of the Diocesan Governance Ordinance). 2020 is a significant year because it will start another 3 year cycle and therefore there will be the election of each Parish's lay representatives (clause 41.2) and the election of Parish Nominators (clause 111.1).

The Bishop-in-Council has been informed of some issues with the Diocesan Governance Ordinance that need to be addressed prior to any Parish holds its Annual General Meeting.

As the Bishop-in-Council plans to consider fixes of the Diocesan Governance Ordinance in its 6 February 2020 meeting, it asks Parishes **not** to hold their Annual General Meeting prior to 8 February 2020.

MISSION GIVING

During 2019, new commonwealth legislation was introduced concerning charities operating outside of Australia. This legislation change put extra requirements on Australian charities to ensure that overseas activities are for the proper charitable purpose. This change is to restrict opportunities for diversion to terrorism, human trafficking and other undesirable activities.

A failure to demonstrate the proper controls expected by the legislation could result in a charity losing its charity status which would mean losing tax concessions and probably losing donor support.

You may be wondering what this has to do with local churches who are not active overseas.

This legislation is applicable to all charities that send funds or resources overseas including through another party. It even applies to relatively small amounts of money or a small value of resources.

Bishop-in-Council has now approved a new policy GEN-009 Overseas Giving. This policy is important because it sets out a safe way to participate in giving to mission and other work overseas. Sending funds overseas contrary to GEN-009 Overseas Giving will not be tolerated as it places the charitable status of parishes and the Diocese of Grafton in jeopardy.

You can find this policy document in the Policies & Procedures area of the Diocese's website <https://www.graftondiocese.org.au/documents/policies-procedures/>

RENEWAL OF INSURANCE

The following was included in the November 2019 edition of the Registry Update:

"The insurance policies for the Anglican Diocese of Grafton, its parishes and organisations run from 1 November through to 31 October. The arrangements for insurance cover from 1 November 2019 are being finalised and we expect that during December we will be adding the certificates of currency to the Diocese's website and invoicing parishes and organisations for their share of the insurance costs.

At this point of time, we have not been advised of what our insurance premiums will be but we are hearing that hefty increases in property insurance are happening around the country. The worst stories come out of North Queensland where property insurance increases of over 500% have been reported. Although we are not in the same zone, and our premium increases are unlikely to be the same, the insurance industry is planning for higher catastrophe costs."

The insurance premium is yet to be finalised but the news is particularly bad. While most classes of insurance had manageable increases (and even some decreases), property insurance (ISR), which creates the bulk of the premium will increase dramatically. For parishes and most participants in the insurance program, this means increases approaching 100%.

Parishes will also see an increase in excess. Previously the actual excess on a property claim was \$20,000 and reduced to \$500 using the Diocese's self-insurance fund. Under the current policy the actual excess will be \$75,000 and reduced to \$5,000 using the Diocese's insurance fund.

Details about the policy offering and premiums are still being questioned and finalised so actual figures will not be available until January. Invoices will become available as soon as possible after the figures are confirmed.

Bishop-in-Council have asked for a Diocesan Insurance Advisory Group (DIAG) to be formed. The DIAG will be tasked with reviewing the insurance position and making recommendations to Bishop-in-Council with regard to future insurance arrangements.

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

At the 19 December 2019 meeting, Bishop-in-Council approved a proposition that the North Coast Anglican change from a newspaper issued every 2 months to a magazine issued every 3 months supplemented by monthly on-line newsletters.

This change is expected to fit within the already approved budget.

A transition plan will be worked on in January and a publication schedule made available in late January or early February.

IMPORTANT DATES

Bishop-in-Council

6 February 2020	16 July 2020
26 March 2020	24 September 2020
21 May 2020	26 November 2020

Corporate Trustees

27 February 2020	6 August 2020
23 April 2020	22 October 2020
18 June 2020	17 December 2020

Buildings and Property Committee

4 March 2020	16 September 2020
22 April 2020	18 November 2020
1 July 2020	

If you have any submission to a meeting of Bishop-in-Council, the Corporate Trustees or the Buildings and Property Committee, please provide these to the Registrar at least 10 days prior to a meeting to ensure that your submission can be included in the business of that meeting.

Registry Christmas Closure

The Bishop's Registry will close on the afternoon of Monday 23 December for the Christmas-New Year period and re-open at 9am Monday 6 January 2020. The Registrar will be on leave from the close of business on Friday 20 December and next available when the Registry re-opens.

AFGD will be providing a part-time operation during that period with the exception of weekends and Public Holidays.

Synod

The 2020 Synod of the Diocese of Grafton will be held on 4, 5 and 6 September in Grafton.

There will also be a special session of Synod in Grafton on 27 June 2020 to consider the proposals for restructuring after consideration of the feedback received.

Yours in Christ's service,



Chris Nelson
Registrar/General Manager
Anglican Diocese of Grafton