



# Anglican Diocese of Grafton Registry Update

Edition 20 – October 2021

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

This is the latest edition of the Registry Update and as usual it contains important information on a variety of topics. These 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](mailto: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.

## **ANGLICAN FUNDS GRAFTON DIOCESE**

As advised in correspondence earlier this year, Anglican Funds Grafton Diocese (AFGD) is going through an orderly wind up process which is designed to culminate in the Fund ceasing operations by 31 December 2021.

### Parish Accounts

To ensure that the wind up of AFGD was orderly and stable, a decision was made to hold all parish and diocesan accounts in AFGD until the loans held by AFGD had reduced to a level at which those accounts were no longer needed to balance the loan exposure. The patience of parishes has been a big help in providing continuing stability to AFGD in this transition period.

We now believe that from 18 October 2021, parish accounts will be able to be released.

To prevent a potentially chaotic situation of trying to release all accounts at one time, these accounts will be released over a period of 4 weeks from 18 October to 12 November. Priority will be given to parishes that have Bishop-in-Council approval for their new arrangements and have all of the necessary paperwork and details in place. Mrs Annette Dent will be liaising with parish treasurers to help make this transition as smooth and orderly as possible.

### Individual Accounts

The loyalty and support of individual AFGD account holders has been encouraging. Despite being able to withdraw their funds earlier, many have stuck with AFGD providing greater stability for AFGD during the transition period.

Individual account holders will now be approached by Mrs Annette Dent about the closing of their accounts. To enable an orderly closure of operations on time, we are now looking to have all individual accounts closed by 15 November.

### Parish Provider

One of the services that AFGD has provided over the years is the Parish Provider program for church members to make regular giving to their parish from their bank accounts.

We understand that parishes that choose to move their accounts to Anglican Funds South Australia (AFSA) can opt-in to the AFSA electronic giving program called 'Planned Giving'. Any current participants of 'AFGD Parish Provider' in a parish that has moved their accounts to AFSA will have to complete an AFSA Parish Planned Giving Direct Debit Request form to continue their electronic giving. Mrs Annette Dent will contact current 'AFGD Parish Provider' participants with further details.

Any parishes opting to go to another financial institution will lose their current Parish Provider arrangements and will need to look at an alternative approach.

#### Clergy Salary Sacrifice (Ministry Related Expenses)

Another of the services that AFGD has provided over the years is the administration of the Clergy MRE program. This program is being transferred to the Diocesan payroll function with a special MasterCard supplied to each participant. The Diocese's Finance and Information Systems Manager, Mr Adam Giordano, will be providing further information to participants in October and November,

#### Corporate Credit Cards

AFGD previously managed the Diocese's Corporate Credit Card program and many parishes used Credit Cards as part of this program. This program will continue and will now be the responsibility of the Diocesan Registry. Parish use of these credit cards will be maintained regardless of where the parish does its banking.

## **SYNOD**

Each member of Synod has now been advised that, on the recommendation of Bishop-in-Council, there will be no Synod held in the Diocese of Grafton in 2021. The next scheduled session of Synod will be held in Grafton from 24 to 26 June 2022.

Bishop-in-Council considered that there was too much uncertainty to confidently hold a synod in the next few months and a snap lockdown anywhere in the Diocese would throw all plans into disarray.

So that the necessary minimum measures to ensure the continuation of good governance in the Diocese could take place, the Bishop-in-Council has passed the [Annual Synod Alternative Arrangements Ordinance](#).

During October and November, in lieu of Synod, the following are planned:

- Access to the report books including the financial reports
- Seeking nominations for vacant positions
- Conducting a vote where there is more than one nominee for a vacant position
- Organising some online or pre-recorded presentations

## **RENEWAL OF INSURANCE**

The insurance year for entities across the Diocese of Grafton ends on 31 October 2021.

The Diocese's insurance broker, Arthur J Gallagher & Co, and Diocesan staff are busy organising new insurance cover to run from 1 November 2021 through to 31 October 2022.

Thank you to all those who have responded promptly to requests for information in the lead up to the insurance renewal. We hope that the information that we have provided through our broker proves to be sufficient and we don't have to come back for further information at the request of insurers.

We expect that the insurance arrangements will be locked in by early November. Treasurers should be prepared for the payment of insurance invoices in early December.

## **BEING TOGETHER**

Being Together is a statement adopted by the General Synod in 2014 setting out the type of community behaviour that we desire in our churches. The Diocese of Grafton adopted Being Together and incorporated the statement in the policy GEN-005 Grievances.

The General Synod Standing Committee has recently approved some changes to Being Together which incorporates child safety principles into the statement. Bishop-in-Council has adopted those changes for the Diocese of Grafton.

For the new version of [Being Together](#) please refer to the Diocese's website and please note that [GEN-005 Grievances](#) has also been updated.

New Being Together A4 posters signed by the Bishop and Registrar will be sent out to each parish in October. Please replace any "old version" posters with the new posters.

## **ORDINANCE CHANGES**

Since the previous Registry Update in December 2020, there have been several changes to the [Diocesan Governance Ordinance](#) that I need to highlight:

- Changes to the provisions for Anglican Funds Grafton Diocese to allow for the wind up of the Fund
- Change to the membership of Synod to include the Chief Executive Officer of Anglicare North Coast as a member of the Synod on the same basis as the Principals of the Diocese's schools
- An amendment to clarify that the retirement age for all stipended ministry positions is 70 years. Short term appointments (e.g. locums) are an exception.
- A change to the declaration signed by those attending a parish AGM to make clear that baptism is required for membership
- A change to the prerogative of Rectors and Priests-in-Charge to allow occasional preachers in their parish. The new clause 131.4 still provides latitude but within clearer expectations.
- A change to the financial threshold for building work that requires approval at the Buildings and Property Committee. The financial threshold has increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000 but other conditions remain the same. (The procedure [MUP-004 Extension and Alteration of Buildings Approval Process](#) has also been updated.)

Please ensure that you do not refer to old versions of the Diocesan Governance Ordinance. If you use the version that is published on the Diocesan website, you can be confident that you are using the current version.

Also, it is important that all parishes prior to their next AGM or special meeting update the declaration signed by those attending.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Bishop-in-Council

2 December 2021

24 February 2022

5 May 2022

1 September 2022

27 October 2022

15 December 2022

### Corporate Trustees

21 October 2021

16 December 2021

27 January 2022

24 March 2022

26 May 2022

28 July 2022

22 September 2022

24 November 2022

### Buildings and Property Committee

3 November 2021

2022 meeting dates are yet to be decided

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.

### Synod

24, 25 and 26 June 2022 in Grafton.

Yours in Christ's service,



**Chris Nelson**  
**Registrar/General Manager**  
**Anglican Diocese of Grafton**