

SYNOD BRIEFING – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RELEASE 3 - 31.10.2007

Can one person realistically be expected to be part-time Rector of a Parish, and fulfil the listed criteria for the part-time Missioner Bishop?

The position proposed is both possible and demanding. Bishop Trevor Edwards from the Diocese of Canberra Goulburn and Bishop John Parks from the Diocese of Brisbane are both serving in part time complex positions. In the proposed model the advantage of a Bishop ministering part time from a parish is that he will have a local Christian community supporting him and his family. Pastorally, it is essential that we monitor the impact of this demanding position.

Why is the "Mission Project-North" budget allocation a little over double that for each of the other regions? Does that mean the projects have already been decided? If so, what kinds of things are envisaged?

Potential projects have been considered by the Diocesan Mission Support Team. The project which will be proposed for the north will require a full time position and the budget allocation will cover those expenses.

Given that it has historically been difficult to access NMDF finances to fund personnel, can it now be justified spending such amounts largely on personnel?

In 2005 the Diocesan Council approved a new set of guidelines which allowed grants to be made for the covering of stipendiary costs. One parish has successfully applied for such a grant. I have asked the Director of Ministry to put the current policy and guidelines on the resources section of the diocesan webpage.

Does the note to line 6 of the funding strategy mean funding partners will actually be relied upon for \$167500 in year 1, \$175875 in year 2 and \$184670 in year 3 (ie the amounts listed in line 3 and the in-kind funding listed in line 6)?

No this is not the meaning of the data referred to in the question. One position proposed will be a gift of that person's time from their supporting ministry. This is a gift in kind that is not a financial transaction.

If \$20000 is to be taken from existing Ministry Council budget (note4), what of their current work will have to be dropped?

The Ministry Council has agreed to an adjustment to its budget without any further expenditure. Savings will be made in the following areas:

\$10,000 from the Bishops Discretionary Ministry Development Fund

\$3,000 from Recruitment Processes

\$4,000 from Professional Development Grants

\$3,000 from Conference and Event Grants

The Council is of the opinion that this still leaves sufficient in the budget in all items but the Bishop's Development Fund to achieve ministry outcomes.

What proportion of each project's funding is proposed to be allocated to paying the project leader?

100%. Some allowance for costs particular to training, mentoring etc are allowed for in the Missioner Bishop Projects and Planning budget.

How is the figure derived of 18% of the funding coming from NMDF monies?

This was a mistake for which I apologise. The figure should read 34%. This figure was not adjusted from an early draft which factored in anticipated contributions from parishes. The document presented for discussion is quite independent of the potential buy-in by parishes, and in broad terms the contribution from the New Ministries Development Fund is one third of the total of non-parish funding.

Is an average of \$480 per parish per year for new mission grants (line 10) adequate?

Applications to the fund in recent years have been approximately at this level.

Is the Imagine Project a package deal? ie do we have to consider all 3 parts or can there be just some if they believe that an extra 1.5 positions is suitable.

I believe that the project is needed in its entirety to achieve its expected outcomes.

What are the outcomes we can expect from the Imagine project?

There will be many, but let me highlight the following:

- Additional local ministry established in Tasmania
- Increased expertise in mission and evangelisation within the diocesan team
- New partnerships and networks
- Increased capacity to respond to local initiatives
- Enhanced learning opportunities and resourcing capacity
- Enhanced ministry support systems and processes

Was the option of retaining the present Assistant Bishop Ordinance and seeking a full-time, 'permanent' Assistant Bishop considered? If so, why was it rejected?

Yes, this and other possibilities were considered. The on-balance decision is that at this time the Imagine Project with its emphasis on new ministry, local ministry, statewide impact and the need for individuals with specific and defined skills pointed strongly to the proposed model.

Where is the budgeting for the Missional Bishop Stewardship? We can't see it in the outlined budget. Is it being paid for by the Diocese (and will it need to be budgeted for if YES) or is it being funded by another church agency, and if so why not be clear about that?

We are budgeting the stewardship position at approx 16hr per week and this will be fully funded from sources outside the diocesan budget. As mentioned in answer to a previous question, this is an in-kind gifting of that persons time.

Why does the Synod Business Paper have the order of business shown, is the proposed order in accord with the Standing Orders and what opportunities exist for full discussion?

Ultimately the order of business is in the hands of Synod. This is a special meeting of Synod, and the order of business set out in the Standing Orders applies principally to full Synod meetings. In practical terms, I want to begin by presenting my vision. In terms of the Standing Orders, this can be regarded as either the Presidential Address or a Report. There is provision for Synod to resolve into Committee at any time, and to do so after my address will allow for detailed consideration of the presentation, with speakers allowed to speak up to three

times each. The general motion would make no sense if it came before the legislation. The legislation is a change to allow for more than one Assistant Bishop, and when passed by Synod and assented to by me, this clears the way for the motion to authorize the appointment of two. Synod could be expected to once again move into Committee to consider the Bill, allowing for multiple speeches by members. The Bill can be amended in this process.

How with the new Missioner Bishop relate to parishes?

The Missioner Bishops will bring particular skills and expertise that will be available by consultation with parishes. A good example would be the recent invitation which I received from the parish of Break O'Day for me to deliver my *Understanding Your Muslim Neighbours* workshop in their parish. On other occasions I offered this workshop from a host parish with invitations to anyone wishing to attend.

Bishop, how has God led to you to proposing this project?

I intend to give more detail of this process in my opening address to the Synod. In my mind at this stage God has developed wonderful links between your calling me as a missionary Bishop, my hope that all Tasmanians would be for Jesus Christ, the "let the flowers bloom" slogan, my transforming life vision document, the Church I Imagine Strategic Plan, my examination of the role of bishops during my trip to England, the support and encouragement of my mentors and spiritual guides and God the Holy Spirit through his word and prayer have all influenced me to this point. I look forward to sharing with you more deeply in these matters at our gathering at the Synod.

Bishop John Harrower
31 October 2007