# SYNOD 2026

# Lay Conference

Anglican Church Diocese of Perth

**Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges**
**Saturday 17 October 2026 at 8.00am**

## NOTES and ACTION

The Archbishop welcomed people to the Lay Conference and opened with prayer at 8.00am.

The Archbishop made mention of the number of people who had told her they 'felt blessed by last night's Eucharist'.

Lay Members were invited to ask questions of the Episcopate and the Diocesan Secretary:

**Mrs Renae Pearse, Parish of Cockburn Central**
Noted the number of parishes that have not provided the annual worship statistics.

*The Archbishop explained that very clear 'due by' dates are required and clearly indicated on all documentation so as to allow time for current information to be published as part of Synod papers. She noted the Assistant Bishops, Archdeacons and Diocesan Office staff spend many hours following up parishes regarding overdue Parish Leadership, Return of Services and Financial returns. Information received after Synod publication due is not included in the Synod papers.*

**Mr Bruce Herriman, Parish of Kingsley**
Following motion of last year regarding payment of donations to missionary agencies. Concerned that the outcome is not clear and would appreciate an overview of how the review process is undertaken.

*The Diocesan Secretary advised that in response to Resolution 22/25 on parish mission giving, Diocesan Council considered advice from the Policy Committee but was unable to reach a decision on amending the Parish Governance Statute. Council has instead encouraged parishes to support Anglican agencies through designated appeals, which are already excluded from assessment under section 66.4(f) of the Statute.*

**Mr Peter Goff, Parish of Cottesloe**
What is the future of the church and the parishes given the average parish works on an operating budget of $120,000?

*The Archbishop noted the largest cost to a parish is the stipend and allowances for the parish priest. Raising this stipend is difficult if a parish is small.*

**Dr Nigel Armstrong, Parish of Shenton Park**

Number of people seeking ordination is diminishing across the country. Is it possible to look at other ministry models.

*This year the Diocese has interviewed 10 people who are seeking to enter the Formation Program. There was a post-COVID-19 drop across the world; but it would seem there may now be growth. There is ongoing conversation to determine what other models of ministry might be – how would we live that through – a long piece of work.*

**Mrs Fran Sagar, Parish of Bicton-Attadale**

Demographic older and so attendance at Synod Eucharist is difficult for people who catch public transport. What an earlier start time be possible.

*Archbishop advised she would be willing to look at what might be possible for an earlier commencement time next year.* ***ACTION: Review for 2027***

**Dr Meg Warner, Wollaston Theological College**

Meg introduced herself to lay members and encouraged members to pick up a copy of the Wollaston Theological College program for the coming year.

**Mr Ian Leverington, Anglican Community Fund**

Expressed his appreciation on behalf of the ACF team. He explained there were about to be some major changes to the 'core banking system' at ACF and that information about the changes will be circulated to all ACF clients. He said that while the look and feel of the online ACF will look different, all the usual ways of dealing with ACF will remain.

**Mr Mike Hewitt, Parish of Joondalup**

A request for some guidelines about how to ask questions of Synod.

*The processes for everything that happens on the floor of Synod are outlined and governed by Standing Orders. Lay members of Synod were encouraged to become familiar with this document, noting this year's Synod would be amending the current Standing Orders with effect from Synod 2027.*

The Archbishop thanked everyone for their participation. The Lay Conference concluded at 8.26am.