

SYNOD 2018

Feedback Forms - RESULTS

Completed feedback forms received: 76 (from 380 members of Synod)

DOCUMENTATION

	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD
Quality of Synod books	0	0	1	28	42
Quality of other information	1	1	5	28	36
Clarity of instructions	0	0	12	26	32

Quality of Synod books

- Electronic books can be linked – motion to appendix, etc otherwise very ‘uneasy’ to use and after my first trial would not do so again.
- For those of us who choose to download the PDF rather than have paper copies, please enable links, eg to relevant appendix or from table of contents.
Currently only 10% of Synod members requesting electronic papers
Limited availability of power for members’ devices at the venue
- The Synod books were confusing, and it was too difficult to differentiate between them in a timely manner – distinctive, different colours would be more useful.
- Amazing!
- Three books add to confusion – could we move to one book. It would be very helpful.
Book Two is currently the optimum size for printing (as advised by printer)
Documents in Book Three to be made available online
- Fresh cover – great!

Quality of other information

- I really appreciated the electronic advance biographies of election candidates. This made choosing who to vote for far easier and shortened the time I spent voting.
- It was my first time at Synod. I appreciated the training course and the fact that everyone made sure which book to use, the page number, etc, explanation of procedure during Synod.
- Next year could an email be sent advising when the CVs are on the website for reviewing? I only had one day to check them out.
- Need to know whom we vote for! A resume for each candidate should be made available to assist voting.
Synod members were advised by email immediately the nomination document was uploaded onto the Synod page of the Diocesan website
- Other information good, except response forms required printing, filling in, scanning and returning – there must be a better way.
Hoping to have on-line registration for Synod next year
- Biographies on web lack important details – next to useless.
Biographies are provided by those nominating
Nomination form to become on-line fillable; though signatures of those nominating are still required

Clarity of instructions

- An address to send the form to after Synod if we can't scan. Same for the *Messenger* feedback.

Noted

- Two deadlines for nominations; one actual, one two weeks prior.

Already taken into account and deadlines dates for 2019 will be as outlined in Standing Orders

VENUE

	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD
Comfort	1	0	9	38	26
Seating layout	1	5	12	35	21
Lighting	0	0	6	38	29
Sound	0	7	13	30	24
Visibility	1	1	9	36	27
Access	0	11	4	40	27

Venue

- It is time Synod moved to a more central position or south of the river, after five years at the end of the freeway north. Clergy and laity with Sunday morning worship responsibilities have difficulty getting to Synod by 1.00pm.
- Great venue, but a long way to travel. I know the rural area come further but can we have it a little bit further south?
- Could Synod move to a more central location?
- Great venue.
- Great venue but the distance travelled to get there and back home afterwards is excessive and I live in the western suburbs and takes about 45 minutes on the freeway. It must be terrible for those south the river. Any chance of a venue that is more central? I know the school is really great but . . .

The venue for Synod 2019 has already been confirmed at Peter Moyes Anglican Community School – a determination is being sought from Diocesan Council regarding the venue for Synod 2020

Comfort/Seating layout

- I found it was really cramped sitting at the long table format with Synod books and papers, as well as having to turn around to see the action.
- Long tables work better than round tables.
- We were squashed up and had little room. The screens helped but many of us had our backs to the stage and it was difficult to manoeuvre.
- Seating uncomfortable if sitting for long periods.
- Sitting sideways to stage difficult.
- The table arrangement clearly allowed some 400 delegates to see and participate. However, had a 'round table' layout been feasible this would have facilitated conversations at the discussion session and made dinner potentially more special.
- Sore neck from turning all the time to look at the speakers.
- Smaller tables – semi-circular so no-one has their back to the stage?
- Not good to sit for extended time – if possible can there be 'stand up' breaks?

- The angle of seating to main table not good – I hurt my back from ‘angle’ looking.
- Not enough room on table for all the books, even for chairs to fit at the table and not enough chairs for all.
- Prefer round tables.
- Seating too tight – could have done with more room between tables.
- Some at edges had to sit with backs to stage.

Provision of round tables will incur a cost for the hire as Peter Moyes ACS does not have round tables – there is also the problem of fitting sufficient round tables into the auditorium to accommodate members of Synod

Lighting

- Lighting at times very glary so could not look up for long when at lectern.
Can review placement of lecterns

Sound

- Lack of provision for the deaf who lipread/or signing.
St George’s Cathedral has a hearing loop
- It was difficult at times to hear Archbishop Kay. The microphone in front of Her Grace didn’t seem to be set up correctly. She only had to turn slightly away from facing the mike to lose her voice. The other mikes were ok when Her Grace used them.
- Poor clarity of sound.
- It took some time for the microphones to work property, and spasmodic problems continued through the session.
- Sound system is ok but could be better.
- Although mike instructions were given to use, the system takes practice.
- Difficult to hear the Archbishop speak. Microphone needed either to be turned up or closer to her.

Concerns to be conveyed to the technicians

Access

- Need to highlight alternative way to toilets and refreshment area. The signs lead to steps – also didn’t see ramp access clearly. I met people with bad arthritis struggling.
There can be more prominent signage – this information was conveyed to members of Synod in the ‘housekeeping’ session given by the Principal
- Please consider provision of bus transport to and from the Clarkson train station.

CATERING

	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD
Quality	0	0	2	24	48
Quantity	0	0	2	22	50
Variety	0	0	3	25	46
Service	0	0	1	19	53

- Food was very good, and the service was delightful from all staff.
- Great catering.
- More feeding stations.

- More stations at morning and afternoon tea – long queues.
- Catering good and service good, but too few stations and thus slow.
Will refer to the Catering Manager at Peter Moyes ACS – could be done, but will require more staff at additional cost
- A choice of more savoury pieces, ie less sugar and high fat content. Inclusion of hummus and veggie platters were most nutritious, ie less fat and sugar!!
- Please consider alternatives to single-use plastic bottled water.
Will refer to the Catering Manager at Peter Moyes ACS

EVENT

	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD
Worship	0	1	11	31	27
Business sessions	0	0	11	45	17
Electronic voting	0	0	2	11	60
Refreshments/meal breaks	0	1	4	29	39
Lay Conference	0	1	4	23	18

Worship

- A booklet would be less clunky than the screen.
Can be done – will incur more printing cost
- Eucharist and President’s Address on Friday was great.
- Appreciated ‘Welcome to Country’.
- Loved the piano.
- * Closing prayer to acknowledge that people may have been wounded – ask for God’s comfort, particularly needed when sensitive topics were on the agenda.
- * Where was the music? We sang only a couple of hymns; otherwise the only music was the processional. There is such a rich talent of music, let’s use it.
- * Can we have some contemporary 21st century music?
- * Women’s voices please.
** Will be referred to those responsible for the liturgy*

Refreshments/meal breaks

- Saturday dinner break is too long – one hour is sufficient.
It is not possible to set up and serve dinner in one hour
- Lunch breaks should also have been in the display area – when lunch was served no-one visited the displays.
Would need to refer to the Catering Manager to ask if this is possible
- Time-keeping was not good as we wasted time over drinks/dinner on Saturday. People returned late from breaks. We need to have a ‘10 minute’ and ‘5 minute’ bell and keep to schedule.
Agreed - will be done
- Stricter adherence to times for start and end to sessions.
Refer to the President

Business sessions

- * Time could be utilised better by not having so many people for a motion which was obviously going to be passed. One example was six speakers spoke for a Bill when after two it was obvious it was going to pass. Time saved and move on.
- * I was surprised that we finished at the time stated on the timetable even if three? issues were not covered, but I was grateful as everyone was showing that they were tired and important issues do need to be fully engaged with.
- * Some discussions go on far too long.
- * So much uncertainty as to what was needed to be done. We need more decisive leadership in debate and voting.
- * Could there be a limit of, maybe, three speakers for and against motions? It seems likely everyone wants to tell their story.
- * Elections: 'Blue voting advice' – did the Archbishop give permission for its distribution? Very poor form – intimidating.
- * The blue 'how to vote' paper was unfair and should not be allowed.
- * Stop clergy handing of 'how to vote' information in a blatant and partisan manner. It should be authorised and be available to all Synod delegates, not just 'mates' and targeted people. It is different when this is done more discreetly.
** Referred to the President*
- Archbishop Kay's good humour and ability to deflect or deal with difficult speakers was excellent and she treated everyone with respect and dignity. It was good to see that this respectful behaviour was also reflected in the general Synod members this year.
- Can contentious issues with lots of discussion go first and 'rubber stamp' issues go later on the agenda?
No
- Session in small groups was good and felt collegial.
- Some 'no brainer' discussions, with speakers getting up on their soapbox – asking us to support things already being done.
- All opinions clearly respected, and business handled very well.
- Well run, great to mix with those from other parishes and to hear different ideas and to be able to respectfully disagree if necessary.
- It would be good if country people could drive home in daylight hours on the Sunday.
- A request to gag a few clergy.
- Late motions – not compatible with a fixed finish time. No-one notices how we devalue the commitment of 350 people who gather for the good of the church.
- Nominations: For credibility members of same House (lay/clerical) should nominate and second their own.

Electronic voting

- Electronic voting worked well and silenced the little group of "Negatives" who like to be heard grumbling! An added bonus I felt!
- Electronic voting a very good move.
- * Electronic voting for elections – I am sure it's possible.
- * Voting counting took too long – we need a better system.
** Current system will remain*

Lay Conference

- Great to have a full contingent of bishops and executive at the lay conference.
- I don't like the philosophy behind a lay conference.

DISPLAYS

	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD
Layout	6	2	7	39	20
Content and range	0	2	14	38	20
Access	2	3	7	37	24

Layout/Access

- The layout did not make it welcoming to members, ie all displays in one corner. Next year I would like the exhibitors to have a say on the set-up. I would also strong recommend that exhibitors are only present on Saturday.
- Display area too small and not easily accessible – needs to be spread out more.
- Layout of display was too crowded – difficult to move between them.
- I felt the displays were disadvantaged by being at a different level – not easy access, stairs not so good for some!!
- Lack of time a difficulty.
- Too close together.
- Displays were 'lined up' and all facing one way. I felt that it was hard to circulate through in any easy way. It seemed their 'table display' space was small and displays crowded in one quarter of the room.
- The displays were too close together and difficult to move between. They could have been spread more creatively around the room.
- It was very disappointing to see the way the displays were arranged and the facilities they were offered. Groups, agencies, commissions, etc put a great deal of time and effort into their displays and each year the resources and space offered is not up to scratch. Please allot this task to someone with events training and experience.
- No room for members to circulate.
- Given the setup of a bunch of tables, cluttered together and in front of and behind one another, it was hard to see any of them; which given they are meant to be 'displays' rather makes the name pointless! Spread the displays out around the wall so each one can be seen clearly, and one doesn't have to move in and out and on top of others.

This year's displays were set up according to the requests made by display holders for power – power is limited in the gym (very few power points) and with the provision of urns, etc for morning and afternoon teas the school was not able to guarantee power supply during these peak times, so power could only be supplied on a limited basis for display holders which limited the space for the displays. When people arrived to set up displays many did not use power, even having requested it

Given most trestles were used for the Synod auditorium and meal stations, there were limited tables available for the displays (desks were provided). We would need to hire tables in future if display holders required more space

Content and range

- Disappointing displays (number of) – not ideal to put little cluster in a big room – what happened to books/resources/courses, various interests such as defence?
- Displays were good, however, more variety from outside Anglican Church would be beneficial.

Given the limitation with power supply in the gym provision for more displays would be problematic

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Congratulations to the Committee of Synod – extremely well presented this year.
- Those counting election votes should be sent food and drink parcels – vegetarian had run out! Wine was consumed by happy drinkers and none left for us!
- Continue to work on becoming plastic-free.
- Appreciated the Archbishop's acknowledgement of her vulnerability.
- Thank you for the overall information and care for all needs.
- Congratulations on another great Synod.
- My first experience has exceeded expectations! Congratulations to all concerned!
- Thank you for great work behind the scenes.
- I really enjoyed the Synod experience and having the Archbishop's Charge at the Cathedral on Friday evening.
- On the whole I found the weekend both educational and informative. I would like to express my admiration and respect for Archbishop Kay for her excellent leadership which at times must have been difficult.
- I truly appreciate the thought and work put into the preparation, event and opportunities provided to us to be part of this Synod. Thank you so much.
- For the first year of a new three-year cycle and with a new President it was fine.
- Great effort, guys!