

**ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY**

**CONSTITUTION**

**I.**

**THE SOCIETY**

1. The name of the Society is the Anglican Men's Society in Australia
2. The Society is a fellowship of Churchmen who accept the Rule of Life and seek to live out the Christian Faith in brotherhood with each other. Its work is part of the Ministry of the Church.
3. The governing body shall be in Australia, at a place determined from time to time by the governing body (refer para 9(a)) and shall be open to communications with all Provincial and Diocesan Councils of the Society and Branches registered direct.

**II.**

**MISSION OF THE SOCIETY.**

4. The Mission of the Society is Christian Outreach to men, by men, for men. The Society seeks to bring men to faith in Christ in the fellowship of the Church.

**III**

**OBJECTIVES IF THE SOCIETY**

5. The Society's objectives is that men of the Church

**SET FORTH THE GLORY OF GOD**

By Witness, Fellowship and Service.

**WITNESS**

By adherence to the Rule of Life, to live out the Christian Faith, in the Church, in the home, with the family, at work and at leisure,

**FELLOWSHIP**

By study and training, to strengthen the resolve of men to accept their vocation as servants of God.

**SERVICE**

By study and training, to strengthen the resolve of men to accept their vocations as servants of God.

### **THE RULE OF LIFE**

6. (a) (i) **The Rule of Life for Members of the Society is:**

**“ In the power of the Holy Spirit to pray to God every day, to be a faithful communicant, and by active Witness, Fellowship and Service, to help forward the Kingdom of Christ”;**

(ii) **The Rule of Life for Associates of the society is:**

**“ In the power of the Holy Spirit to pray to God every day, to attend divine service regularly, and by active witness, fellowship and service to help forward the Kingdom of Christ.”**

### **SOCIETY MOTTO.**

(b) **The Motto of the Society is:**

**WITNESS FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE.**

### **IV MEMBERSHIP**

7. **The Society consists of Members and Associates:-**

- (a) **Members.** Men, being sixteen years of age and over, who are communicant members of the Anglican Church, or of churches in full communion therewith, who accept the rule of Life of the Society and wear the Members Badge.
- (b) **Associates.** Men, other than communicants, being sixteen years of age and over, of the Anglican Church, or professing members of any other Christian Church, who accept the Rule of Life for Associates and wear the A.M.S name Badge.
- (c) Associates are not entitled to hold Office.

### **V NATIONAL PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

8. (a) **National President.** – The National President shall; be the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia.
- (b) **National Chairman.** – The National chairman shall be a Bishop of the Church elected to office at a meeting of the National Council

### **NATIONAL COUNCIL**

9. (a) **National Council .** The National Council shall be the governing body of the Society, the following Officers shall be elected at each Triennial Conference of the Society:

- (i) The National President, who shall be an ex officio member of all its committees;
  - (ii) The National Chairman, who shall be an ex-officio member of all its committees and shall take the chair at all meetings of the Council;
  - (iii) Two Vice- Chairman-one from the clerical members and one from the Lay members who shall have power to act conjointly for the office of National Chairman in any interregnum occurring in circumstances arising as in Clause 10. (c) (v).
  - (iv) The National Secretary;
  - (v) The National Treasurer;
  - (vi) Provincial/Diocesan chairman and Secretaries of Provincial / Diocesan Councils of the Society, elected by those Councils;
  - (vii) Delegates of the Provincial/Diocesan councils of the Society elected by those Councils. (See para.9 (e) of this constitution);
  - (viii) National vice-president- See para 11 (b) (vi) &(vii)
- (b) The council shall meet at least annually, meeting being referred to as National Council meetings, except that each third annual council meeting after 1987 shall be deemed to be a National Conference and referred to as Triennial Conference. The name Council is synonymous with Conference, except that certain specific powers are reserved for the Triennial conference, including the election of office-bearers and changes to fundamental clauses of this Constitution. Refer Clause 14 (a).
- (c) Every registered member and every Associate of the Society in Australia may participate in National council meeting, with the right of debate. Voting is restricted to members of the council, provided that, at meetings of the Triennial conference, the meeting may, by resolution, decide to permit other or all members present in the voting.
- (d) **Functions of the Council** The powers and duties of the Council, which shall meet in accordance with by-law No 2 (i) shall include the following:-
  - (i) The formulation of general policy of the Society and its implementation in cooperation with Provincial/Diocesan governing bodies:
  - (ii) The fostering of annual Provincial Conferences and the active support thereof;
  - (iii) Subject to clause 14 herein, the making, alteration or repeal of the rules of the Society or the amendment of the constitution generally;

- (iv) The control of the National council business;
- (v) The definition of the duties of the National Secretary and the National Treasurer
- (vi) The making, alteration and/or repeal of by-laws relating to functions of the council;
- (vii) The preparation and promulgation of a National Program;
- (viii) The design, production and distribution to members, of appropriate forms of service, constitution, badges and other appropriate matter, as will facilitate the proper functioning and growth of the society as a national body;
- (ix) The design and production of forms, brochures and suitable literature, as will command the society to others, to be made available for dissemination through National, Provincial and Diocesan channels;
- (x) The commendation to the society, from time to time, of subjects for intercession and study;
- (xi) The maintenance of communication wherever possible with Men's Societies and/or groups within the Anglican Church;
- (xii) The raising of a general fund for promotional and other purposes;
- (xiii) Generally the taking of and recommendations of such action to Provincial/Diocesan Councils and all branches, as may strengthen the standing image of the Society in the Church and community at large.
- (xiv) In the extraordinary event that there is a vacancy in the position of National Chairman, the filling of the vacancy at a meeting convened in terms of clause 10 [c] [v].

**(e) Provincial/Diocesan Delegates.** Each Province or Diocese in which a Provincial/Diocesan Council has been formed, is entitled to representation on the National Council on the following basis:

- (i) For less than 50 members registered with the National council-two delegates;
- (ii) Between 50 and 99 members registered with the National Council-three delegates;
- (iii) For each additional 100 members or part there of registered with the National Council – one delegate;

- (iv) For each Branch separately registered with the National Council – one delegate.

For the purpose of calculating, the number of delegates, the number of registered members shall be that number of members advised for the previous year, refer clause 12.(viii) and 12.(ix)

- (f) **Election of Delegates** Delegate's of each Province, Diocese or separately registered Branch shall be elected

In the manner determined by the organization they represent. The names of the delegates shall be forwarded to the National Secretary at least three months prior to the date of the next Meeting of the council. In the case of other special meetings of the Council, if delegates have not been named for the next Meeting of the council, the delegates will be those elected for the previous Meeting of the Council unless the National Chairman directs otherwise.

- (g) **Proxy** In the event that any delegate of a Province, Diocese or separately registered branch is unable to be present at a meeting of the Council, the organization he represents may appoint another member as his proxy, refer By-Law 2 (xii)

## **V11**

### **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

- 10 (a) **The National Executive shall consist of the following members:-**

- (i) The National President –ex officio;
- (ii) The National Chairman who shall take the chair at all meetings at which he is present;
- (iii) The National Clerical Vice Chairman;
- (iv) The National Lay Vice Chairman;
- (v) The National Secretary;
- (vi) The National Treasurer;

- (b) **Function of the National Executive.**

The National Executive shall meet at such time and place, and in such form, as shall be decided by the National Chairman in consultation with the National Secretary, with not less than twenty-eight days notice of the convening of such meeting. The Executive shall have the powers and authority of the National council between meetings of the Council provided that the Executive:-

- (i) shall not have the powers and authority of the triennial conference;

- (ii) shall not have the power to amend the rules of the Society;
- (iii) shall report to the National Council on all actions taken in its name in the manner decided by the National Chairman.

**[c] Purposes of the National Executive are:-**

- (i) The implementation of decisions by the National Council;
- (ii) Preparation and presentation to meetings of the Council, of annual reports of the state of the Society and preparation of business to be brought before Council;
- (iii) Arrangement of meeting of the Council;
- (iv) As necessary, appointment of staff or sub-committees from within or without the membership of the Society, for the implementation and report on the preparation of programs for the Society and of literature and promotional material;
- (v) In the event of the resignation, incapacity or death of the National Chairman, or in the event of his absence for a prolonged period (prior notice of which shall be given in writing to the President and to members of the Executive), the National Secretary shall, on behalf of the Executive:-
  - a) Obtain from the National Vice Chairman a list, drawn up by them conjointly, of names of three Bishops of the Church in order of priority for consideration for temporary appointment.
  - b) Advise the President of the vacancy and the names of the Bishops chosen and the order of priority, and ask him to make a temporary appointment of one of them as National Chairman [Acting], to be known as the National Chairman for the purpose of this constitution. The temporary appointment is to be on the understanding that the appointment will terminate when the National Chairman returns from absence or when a new National Chairman is elected at the next meeting of the National Council convened for this purpose within a period of six months.
- (vi) In the event of a vacancy occurring on the National Executive (other than the positions of President or Chairman) the National Chairman, in collaboration with one or both Vice-Chairmen, shall make an interim appointment until a confirmed appointment is made at the next meeting of the Triennial conference.
- (vii) Should an unspecified emergency situation arise a special meeting of the Executive may be convened by the National Chairman at shorter notice than the

minimum notice of twenty-eight days specified herein. The National chairman shall have the discretion to decide if the situation warrants a special meeting of the Executive.

## **VIII**

### **TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

**11 (a) National Conference.** (each third National Council) deemed to be a Triennial conference, refer clause 9 (b) shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the Council.

**(b) Purposes of the Triennial Conference**

- (ii) Election of Vice-Chairman (of one each Clerical and Lay);
  - (iii) Election of National Secretary;
  - (iv) Election of National Treasurer;
  - (v) Appointment of an Auditor for the Society's accounts,
  - (vi) Granting of the courtesy title of "National vice-president" to Past Chairman
  - (vii) Granting of the courtesy title of "National vice-president" to past Vice Chairman.
  - (viii) The adoption of a Triennial Conference Report, Statement of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet of the Society.
  - (ix) The provision of an opportunity to rally the whole Society on spiritual, moral and social questions.
  - (x) Consideration of business motions from the council, as approved by the Council, on matters which affect the principals, constitution and/or rules of the Society, provided that:-
    - (a) such matters shall be dealt with by notice of motion, and
    - (b) that the provisions of clause 14 herein are observed in relation to fundamental clauses.
- (c)** The making , alteration and/or repeal of By-laws relating to specific functions of the Triennial Conference.

## **1X**

### **ORGANISATIONS OF THE SOCIETY.**

**12.** The operation of the Society may be organised in the following manner:

- (i) As a Parish Branch, with the concurrence of the Incumbent- who will be its President- to be known as a Parish Branch.
- (ii) As a Diocesan Branch, with the concurrence of the Diocesan Council, of members in association, not based in a parish and its members not necessarily residing in one parish but having common interests. Such Branches shall be referred to as "Diocesan Branches" and its members as "Diocesan Members".
- (iii) As a diocesan organization with the concurrence of the Bishop- who will be its president – to be known as a "Diocesan Council".
- (iv) As a regional group of Branches, with the concurrence of the "Diocesan Council"- to be known as "Regions".
- (v) As a provincial organization, with the concurrence of the Archbishop or Bishops of the Province- to be known as a "Provincial Council".
- (vi) Every branch may enrol members and associates, subject to the qualifications in Section IV-MEMBERSHIP.
- (vii) Every Branch, through its Provincial /Diocesan Council shall be registered with the National Council and for this purpose shall provide the names and addresses of chairman and secretaries and such other information as may be required from time to time.
- (viii) Every Provincial/Diocesan Council shall ensure that an Annual Membership Return is submitted to the National Secretary, on the prescribed form provided, by no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> November, each year.
- (ix) Every Branch registered with the National Council but not through Provincial / Diocesan Council shall ensure that a return of its Membership is submitted to the National Secretary, on the Annual Membership Return provided, by no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> November year.
- (x) A Provincial/Diocesan Council may adopt a constitution and by-laws to meet its own needs provided such constitution and by-laws, a copy of which shall be supplied to the National Council, are consistent with this constitution of the Anglican Men's Society in Australia. The question of consistency shall be a decision of the National Council.

## **X**

### **PAYMENTS TO SOCIETY'S FUNDS**

- 13**
- (i) Every Provincial/Diocesan council shall, no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> June each year, contribute to the society's funds an amount per member as may be determined by the National council and/or Triennial conference for the ensuing year. Calculation of membership for the



purpose of this annual contribution will be determined by the numbers of members registered on the Annual Membership Return of the previous year, referred to in clause 12 (viii) & (ix).

- (ii) Every branch registered directly with the National Council shall, no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> June each year, contribute to the society's funds an amount per member as may be determined by the National Council and / or Triennial Conference for the ensuing year. Calculation of membership for the Purpose of this annual contribution will be determined by the number of members registered on the Annual Membership Return for the previous year, referred to in clause 12 [viii] & [ix].

## **XI.**

### **ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- 14 (a) Clauses 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, are deemed to be fundamental clauses and may only be altered by the Triennial Conference on a motion brought forward by the Council. Notice of alterations shall be forwarded by the National Secretary to the Secretaries of every Provincial/Diocesan Council and the Secretary of every branch registered directly with the National Council at least three calendar months prior to the date of the Triennial Conference
- [b] Clauses of the Constitution [other than fundamental Clauses] and by-laws may be altered or added to may by the Council, provided that any such alteration or addition be confirmed by the next Triennial Conference.

## **XII**

### **BY LAWS**

#### **1. Meetings of the Executive**

- (i) In the event of the absence of the National Chairman, the Clerical Vice Chairman, or [failing the Clerical Vice Chairman,] the Lay Vice Chairman shall be Chairman.
- (ii) Four members of the Executive shall constitute a quorum of whom one shall be the Chairman or a Vice Chairman.

#### **2. Meetings of the Council**

- (i) The council shall meet at such time and place as shall be decided at the previous Meeting of the Council, except that the National Chairman may decide the time and place for extra meetings of the Council.

- (ii)** In the event of the absence of the National Chairman, the Clerical Vice Chairman, or [failing the Clerical Vice Chairman] the Lay Vice Chairman shall be Chairman.
- (iii)** Nine members, who must represent three Provincial and or Diocesan Councils, shall constitute a quorum, one of whom shall be the National Chairman or one of the National Vice Chairman.
- (iv)** Save for the first meeting of the Council after election of a National Chairman and two Vice-Chairman by the Triennial Conference, not less than twenty one [21]days notice of a special meeting of the council shall be given, accompanied by a statement of the agenda.
- (v)** Notices of motion to be included in the agenda of a National Council meeting must be made available in writing to the National Secretary at least two calendar months prior to the date of the meeting.
- (vi)** A book shall be at every meeting for the purpose of recording the attendance of Members there at and their representation.
- (vii)** Business from Provincial/Diocesan Councils shall have preferential consideration.
- (viii)** All elections, where there is more than one nomination for a particular office, shall be determined by secret ballot.
- (ix)** Every question shall be determined by a simple majority of the votes of delegates and members present entitled to vote and proxies, to be ascertained by a show of hands unless a ballot is requested by five [5] members present.
- (x)** Provincial/Diocesan Chairmen and chairmen of separately registered branches, or their representatives, shall present to the Council reports of the activities of their respective Provincial/Diocesan Councils or branches, together with information of the growth other wise of the society in their areas.
- (xi)** Every member [other than invited speakers] who introduces a subject shall be allowed a maximum of ten minutes and following speaker five minutes. The opening speaker shall have the right of reply for a maximum of five minutes.
- (xii)** Proxies for meetings of the council shall be in the form approved by the Council. Each proxy shall identify the meeting involved, indicate the organization issuing the proxy, show the name of the delegate unable to be present and the name of the member accepting the proxy on his behalf, both of whom shall sign the proxy form. Proxy forms shall be forwarded to the National Secretary or handed to him prior to the start of the applicable meeting.

**3            Financial Year.**

The date of the commencement of the financial year shall be the first day of January, or such other day as the Council may direct.

**4            Suspension of by-laws**

Any of these by-laws may be suspended if three-fourths of the members of the Council present and voting, shall so decide.

**PREVIOUS ISSUES**

Constitution amended and approved, 31/01/1928, at Ballarat Triennial Conference.

Amended 12/06/1972

Revised 24/01/1981 at the Sydney Triennial Conference.

Amended 31/01/1996

**THIS ISSUE**

Revised 02/09/1995 at the Grafton Triennial Conference.

Amended 21/09/1996 at the Melbourne Triennial Conference.

Revised 13/09/1997 at the Tasmanian Council

Revised 17/04/1999 at the Newcastle Triennial Conference.