

# Synod Summary

... highlights of General Synod 2008



## Being a Bishop

As an experiment this year, the Synod Eucharist took place in Palmerston Place Church. Seven candles, representing each of the dioceses, were carried in to the Synod Chamber and remained lit during the course of General Synod. During the Eucharist Service the Primus delivered his Charge to Synod and General Synod 2008 was formally constituted. In his Charge the Primus paid tribute to the late Kenneth Woollcombe who made a great contribution to the life of the Scottish Episcopal Church throughout his Principalship at Coates Hall. When Kenneth was consecrated Bishop of Oxford, Alastair Haggart (later to become a bishop himself and ultimately Primus) used the words of advice given to King George III from his mother "George, be a king"; admonishing the new bishop with the same direction "Kenneth, be a bishop."

The Primus continued his Charge by offering an understanding of what it means to "be a bishop" and said "My ideal remains that a Bishop is to be a focus of unity: how that can be the case in the midst of differing understandings in so many areas of the life of our church I cannot begin to think unless it is through the nature of the Church as Community in which the relationship that the Bishop has with all those within his diocese is the bond of affection that we so much prize in Anglican life... I would wish to see the College of Bishops structurally rooted

into the life of this General Synod; so that the tag we love to pull apart – Episcopally led and Synodically governed is a reality and not simply a romantic aspiration that we can set aside at our convenience."

In referring to the business of General Synod the Primus considered "Among the business to claim our attention at this General Synod we have to make decisions about what is described as congregational status, that is really about



The College of Bishops, Palmerston Place Church, Edinburgh

shaping our church for mission; and also talk about membership; and about finding the right direction in which to set a course for the development of ministry and the growth of discipleship."

The Primus also spoke about the value of Inter-faith communication, saying "Meeting with leaders of other faiths in fellowship and support is surely right – but inter-faith communication cannot just be about leaders sitting smilingly around a table once or twice a year. The really significant developments are when neighbours encounter each other as neighbours and in that process find the occasion to begin to talk about faith. The comment

has been made, and is near the mark, that there is often too much religion in inter-faith dialogue."

Looking ahead to the Lambeth Conference the Primus confirmed, "Your Bishops are going to Lambeth with the determination to make the life of the conference as positive and as fruitful an experience as we can. We have been offered the space in which to better equip ourselves for service as Bishops in the Church of God – we gratefully accept the invitation to do so."

The Primus brought his Charge to a close by setting the proceedings of the meeting in the context of prayer and the discernment of God's guidance, saying "As far as our gathering in Synod is concerned - here where we express the nature of our church as a community of faith we shall not go far wrong in our deliberations if we constantly hold in front of us the reality of the vocation to follow Christ.

"All our words, all our decisions can have only one aim – to enable the Church to be the body of Christ to our nation and to recall the reasons for which we praise Almighty God which are:

**'a heritage so great; a life so rich, a salvation so dearly bought'.**"

## Contents

	Page
Standing Committee Annual Review & Accounts Strategic Review/ Response to Rule 10 Motion	2
College of Bishops/ Lambeth Conference Liturgy Congregational Status	3
Anglican Covenant Worship at General Synod	4
Church Membership Inter-Church Relations Administration Board On Salvation - Grosvenor Essay No 5	5
Mission and Ministry Board Rural Commission Ministry Development Committee MiDGeS	6
Christian-Muslim relations Provincial Conference 2009 Provincial Youth Network Home Mission Church in Society	7
Board and Committee Convener'ship Elections Synod's Fringe Meetings General Synod on-line	8

**"... I am a lot more excited now just after the Eucharist and having heard the Primus talk to us; worshipping and singing with everyone has stirred up my enthusiasm!"**

Synod member

# Standing Committee

Professor Patricia Peattie, Convener of the Standing Committee, presented the Annual Report and Accounts for 2007 and made the following points:

## Annual Review and Accounts

- the Standing Committee had benefited from the new members appointed the previous year
- the annual review of Synod resulted in a number of changes: a meeting of chair persons prior to Synod, a new comment form had been produced, the Eucharist had taken place in Palmerston Place Church as an experiment and the Morning and Evening Offices were formally incorporated into the Business Sessions of the Synod
- the Accounts are presented in the format required by the new Charities Regulations
- new audit requirements require the accrual of the income derived from the Unit Trust Pool (UTP) and consequently the 2006 figures had been re-instated alongside the 2007 figures. The General Fund most accurately reflects the financial health of the General Synod as some funds have restricted purposes
- grateful for all the legacies received, some of which were non-restricted
- Capital had benefited from the sale of a small piece of land, surplus to needs, in the Meadowbank area of Edinburgh
- for 2007 there had been a budgeted deficit of £22,347 on the General Fund but actual out-turn was a positive one of £106,195, a positive variance of £128,542
- unexpectedly high return of monies from previously awarded grants which were not taken up in full or not taken up at all
- Synod accepted Annual Report and Accounts

## Budget

- key principles applied by Standing Committee in setting budgets are: achieving break-even position at the year end and investing significant one-off receipts to provide longer term income
- overall position shows surplus for 2008 and subsequent years albeit significantly reducing
- figures for General Fund less rosy
- Administration Board anticipates major uplift in 2010 based on an assumed rise in curacies
- Information & Communication Board budget increased as it now funds *inspires*; income from *inspires* is now shown as General Fund income
- Standing Committee proposes a 3% increase in Provincial quota (less than the rate of inflation)
- recommendations from the review of *Journey of the Baptised and New Century, New Directions* may require serious re-thinking of the budgets
- no budget source identified for new Rural Commission
- need to be more business-like to take account of all factors in decisions to support new initiatives
- thanks to Conveners of Boards and their colleagues for work put in to bringing expenditure into line with available funds

## Strategic Review/Response to Rule 10 Motion

In 2006 General Synod passed a motion under Rule 10 of the Synod's Rules of Order requesting Standing Committee and College of Bishops to explore new ways of financial and administrative organisation within the Dioceses and the Province. In January 2007 a Strategic Review paper was sent to all Dioceses and responses to the financial questions asked were detailed in a paper presented to General Synod 2007. A questionnaire regarding diocesan administrative structures was sent to all dioceses in the autumn of 2007. The responses reflected:

- no strong advocacy to reduce the number of dioceses
- concern about the extent of administrative burden on bishops
- no perception of unfairness in current quota system
- some questions raised in relation to central provision for specific services eg payroll, insurance, human resources
- desire for an increase in e-conferencing and for meetings outside Edinburgh

To investigate the administrative burden on Bishops it was necessary to establish what administrative support was currently available. The result was a "mixed picture" and the information-gathering exercise continued. Bishops are being encouraged to explore ways in which dioceses might work together on different aspects of their activities to allow sharing of resources of which specialist expertise is a significant part eg Continuing Ministerial Development, Payroll.

A centralised payroll system, which would incur some costs, was discussed with Diocesan Treasurers but did not receive great support. The Secretary General investigated the possibility of a centralised insurance policy. Whilst one central 'contract' would not be a viable option, special policy arrangements may be possible. More detailed information will be available to Vestry Treasurers in due course.

One of the key themes that has emerged is the lack of clarity about the roles of Provincial Bodies and their relationships to Diocesan Bodies and Charges. The College of Bishops and Standing Committee have therefore set the task of creating a grid which will identify 'who does what' and possibly 'who should do what'. "Such a grid should assist in simplifying the complex structures we have" said Professor Peattie.

***"All the work we still need to do on the Strategic Review is not an end in itself. Its purpose is to seek greater clarity so that all in the Church know what the different parts of the organisation contribute to the whole, and thus reduce frustration, replication or inaction and free up energy and skills to support God's work in Scotland and the wider world."*** Professor Patricia Peattie

This presentation was followed by comments from Mrs Nancy Adams (Edinburgh) who expressed mixed emotions about the report. While grateful for the opportunity given to people across the Province to respond to the questionnaire, Mrs Adams said she was disappointed as she had been looking for the lateral thinking, 'outside the box' stuff! Rt Rev David Chillingworth (Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane) described the Standing Committee as "swimming around in a soup" and stressed the need to make up our minds about what the core needs are and then 'sift the soup'!

## College of Bishops/Lambeth Conference

*The Rt Rev Brian Smith, Bishop of Edinburgh and the Rt Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane led the College of Bishops session. Both spoke about the forthcoming Lambeth Conference.*



*Bishop Brian*

Bishop Brian stated that there has been a lot of misinformation about Lambeth proclaimed by different people in different places. He cited the example that on one African provincial website it was said that a thousand bishops were boycotting Lambeth, the truth is that some 280 are attending a meeting elsewhere, pre-Lambeth, some of whom would in fact then join the larger gathering at Lambeth. He hoped that Lambeth would be an opportunity for the Anglican Communion to be 'talked up' and its shared beliefs and practices celebrated and differences explored in a rational, informed and open fashion. He considered that the real issue for Lambeth is not sexuality or governance but what understanding of God each Province and bishop holds. He hoped that if the debate could be moved on the

pains we are experiencing would not then be the pains of decay but of new birth.

Bishop David hoped that Lambeth 2008 would be more moderate and inclusive in debate than Lambeth 1998 had been and that this could be carried into the post Lambeth period when we continue to explore what it means to be Anglicans in Communion - who do not necessarily agree with or fully understand each other but are committed to the process of exploration and discernment of what God is calling us/ them to 'be and become'. The post-Lambeth world, he hoped, would not be a place of winners and losers nor for grand gestures but for cool heads and warm hearts; and measured and wise leadership.

Dr Anne Pankhurst (Edinburgh) then spoke about the pre-Lambeth hospitality being provided by the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) to about seventy Bishops and their spouses. Each Diocese had been working on a detailed programme of hosting which would convey the distinctiveness of the SEC.



*Bishop David*

## Liturgy

The Convener of the Liturgy Committee, the Rev Darren McFarland, drew Synod's attention to the fact that stock of the mustard book entitled *Communion from the Reserved Sacrament (administered by a deacon or lay person)* was running out. Consideration on whether to re-print or whether amendments needed to be made to the text or lay-out coincided with expressions of concern from various quarters of the Province regarding Communion from the Reserved Sacrament as a regular experience of worshipping communities. It was reported that some congregations were unaware of the Province's liturgical provision for such a service and some chose not to use it. The Liturgy Committee has therefore presented to the Faith and Order Board a revised and expanded set of liturgical notes and an article on the theological and ecclesiological understanding of Communion from the Reserved Sacrament. Both of these will be included in the short-term in-house versions of the 1997 liturgy. The Committee has also been asked by the Faith and Order Board to explore the provision of a Liturgy of the Word as an alternative to the use of the 1997 Communion from the Reserved Sacrament at public worship.

Mr McFarland went on to inform Synod that following the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year of the 1982 Liturgy, and the fact that the SEC is the only Province in the UK that has not revised its Blue Book, the Committee had initiated a survey on the use of the 1982 Liturgy - and received an overwhelming response to the survey.

## Congregational Status

In the Rev Canon Professor John Richardson's absence, the Rev Jeremy Auld, the new Convener of the Committee on Canons, presented the Motions to amend Canon 36 and repeal Canon 37 - both relating to Congregational Status. The first reading of these Canons was passed by Synod in 2007. The proposals put to Synod this year had incorporated some amendments suggested by Diocesan Synods. The proposals will:

- give all congregations the status of Incumbency
- introduce Joint Incumbency status (with single Rector, Vestry and Officers) for two or more congregations
- enable congregations who do not wish to become a Joint Incumbency to become Linked Charges
- introduce a 5 year review of mission and ministry in all congregations

Mr Auld explained the processes for a congregation to become a Joint Incumbency or Linked Charge. Both are initiated by the congregations. He also confirmed that the changes to Canon 36 were not retrospective and would come into effect when a vacancy arose. In referring to the specific text for Canon 36 presented to Synod for second reading, Mr Auld explained that it allows:

- a 3 month period for the adoption of a new constitution by a Joint Incumbency
- a 5 year review of Joint Vestry representation
- choice between Joint Incumbency and Linked Charge status

Voting on the Canons for second reading was in Houses of Laity, Clergy and Bishops. All Motions were carried.

## Anglican Covenant

The Rev Canon James Milne opened the debate on the Anglican Covenant by reminding Synod that the Windsor Report of 2004 had suggested that the adoption of an Anglican Covenant would “*make explicit and forceful the loyalty and bonds of affection which govern the relationships between the Churches of the Communion*”. At General Synod 2007, the SEC had considered the first Draft Covenant and the Faith and Order Board had been instructed to prepare a formal response. That response had been considered by the Communion’s Covenant Design Group, along with other responses, and the new “St Andrew’s Draft” had been prepared which had been discussed extensively at a meeting of the Joint Standing Committee of the Primates and the Anglican Consultative Council in March of this year. Canon Milne explained that following that joint meeting, Provinces were being asked whether they could give an “in principle” commitment, not to the details of the text, but to the Covenant process. There were good reasons why, he believed, the SEC should remain part of the process; as it had valuable things to say regarding the Covenant and comments made previously had been taken seriously. Previous comments expressed on the first draft had pointed out that no mention had been made of the role of “reason” within Anglicanism. Concern had also been expressed that the

Primates’ meeting was being given power to adjudicate in areas of disagreement as opposed to a more representative body such as the Anglican Consultative Council. Both of these concerns had been addressed in the new draft. Similarly, discussion of the term “concordat” in the latest draft was almost certainly the result of a suggestion made by the Faith and Order Board that this would be preferable to the term “Covenant”. He concluded by saying “were we to withdraw from the Covenant process at this stage we would be unable to influence future drafts or to shape the Covenant process itself”.

A number of people spoke strongly for and against Motion 3 ‘*That this Synod affirm an ‘in principle’ commitment to the Covenant process at this time (without committing itself to the details of any text)*’. Comments included:

- *a Covenant was necessary. Over the years the Anglican Communion had changed and ‘bonds of affection’ were no longer sufficient to hold the Communion together*
- *committing to the process was a high risk strategy*
- *favour continuing with the process but dislike the concept of a Covenant*
- *concerned that in subscribing to the Covenant process the Church would undermine its own ecclesial status*

- *my heart and head are in disagreement*
- *Synod had been constituted with a Eucharist in which members had celebrated their participation in the new Covenant....it was good that all should value love, truth, justice and freedom; not incompatible with a Covenant*
- *why is the Covenant of Baptism not enough?*
- *what if one liked fish but not chips? (ie wanting to continue in the discussion process but without commitment to a covenant)*

Speaking against the Motion, Rev Canon Ian Paton proposed an amendment to the Motion to read “*That this Synod affirms an ‘in principle’ commitment to continue to participate actively in discussions regarding the future shape of the Anglican Communion at this time (without necessarily committing itself to the concept of a Covenant)*.” The amendment was seconded by Mrs Nancy Adams and was carried by Synod (65 in favour, 56 against). The amended Motion was then put to a vote and passed by majority.

Motion 5, which asked Synod to note the “St Andrew’s” Draft Covenant, ask Dioceses to discuss it and submit comments to the Faith and Order Board by 31 December 2008; and for the Board to then prepare a response to the Anglican Communion, was then carried.

## Worship at General Synod

To underline the worship context within which Synod meets and deliberates, Morning and Evening Offices were formally incorporated into the business sessions of Synod. The Rev Darren McFarland, Convener of the Liturgy Committee, explains the thinking behind planning this year’s General Synod worship:

“It is always difficult to choose an over-arching and uniting theme for the worship of a General Synod apart from the usual guidance of the Holy Spirit materials. This is also a dangerous thing to try and achieve as it has been our practice for a number of years to follow the lectionary in choosing the psalms and readings at Morning and Evening Prayer. It is often the case that those who do not follow the daily pattern of the Church prayer are mystified by the choice of readings and the length of the psalmody.

“The Liturgy Committee has tried a number of times to have a liturgical focus within the Synod chamber and this year we piloted the diocesan candles which were brought in with the Bishops at the opening of the Eucharist and remained in the chamber and were lit for the duration of Synod. The image worked because we had already celebrated Eucharist in the chamber and the candles seemed to keep that spirit alive throughout Synod - an advantage which, judging by many comments received, seemed to spill over into the daily worship of the Synod.”



The Seven Candles of the Dioceses

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## Church Membership



Rev Jeremy Auld

The new Convener of the Committee on Canons, the Rev Jeremy Auld, explained the background to the first reading of a Motion regarding changes to Canon 41 on Church Membership. In a desire to be as inclusive as possible, but also adhering to OSCR regulations for identifying those who hold office in a Charge and are therefore responsible for the running of it, last year's Synod agreed to formulate a way forward in defining membership of the SEC congregations and the Church as a whole. Two new membership rolls were therefore proposed:

1. A Congregational Roll – open to anyone who attends or is in any way affected by the ministry of a congregation (roughly equivalent to the present Roll of Adherents) *and*
2. An Electoral Roll – of those who wishing to become more fully involved in the life of the congregation and would be eligible to vote and hold office (in effect replacing the current Communicants Roll)

The new proposals were designed to place the initiative with the individual, and the responsibility for keeping the rolls with the Vestry, in consultation with the cleric in charge of the congregation.

In what was the longest debate of Synod (over an hour), strong views were voiced for and against the changes to Canon 41, which was proposed by Rev Jeremy Auld (St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane) and seconded by Rev Canon James Milne (Brechin). Voting was in Houses and as a majority was not received in the House of Bishops the Motion fell.

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## Inter-Church Relations

Mrs Norma Higgott, Convener of Inter-Church Relations Committee, introduced the Motions regarding membership of the Meissen Commission and proposals for Local Ecumenical Partnerships. Mrs Elspeth Davey, Church Relations Officer, spoke about the work of the National Sponsoring Body for Local Ecumenical Partnerships. Mrs Higgott invited Br Stephen Smyth, General Secretary of ACTS (Action for Churches Together in Scotland) to speak. Br Smyth praised the SEC's input to Scotland's ecumenical scene at all levels, saying "we are stronger together than we are separate". He gave Synod advance notice of a major ecumenical event taking place in Edinburgh in 2010 – the centenary of the World Missionary Conference which was believed to have marked the start of the world-wide ecumenical movement.

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## Administration Board

Mr Ian Stewart, Convener of the Administration Board, introduced the session on Administration Board matters by saying that the Board's five pendant Committees provide the back-up services and support which are essential in enabling the Church to effectively carry out its mission and ministry throughout Scotland. He highlighted the Board's involvement in the Scottish Government's consultation on Water Charges for small charities.

Reports were then presented from each of the pendant Committees.

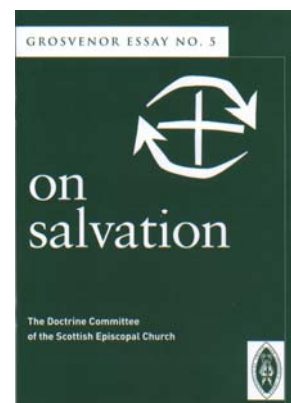
Mr Graeme Hely introduced the report from the Personnel Committee and proposed the first reading of an amendment to Canon 53 to allow for the adoption of a Grievance Procedure and the repeal of sections of Canons 1 and 11, and amendments to Canon 62 regarding Age Discrimination. In speaking about the Grievance Procedure, Miss Sheila Galbraith explained that it is a fall-back for circumstances in which an issue cannot be resolved by charitable Christian discussion between the parties concerned and it aims to enable the parties to continue, or resume, working together without a festering resentment.

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## On Salvation Grosvenor Essay No 5

The Convener of the Doctrine Committee, the Rev Canon Dr Michael Fuller, presented the 5<sup>th</sup> – and final - Grosvenor Essay, entitled *On Salvation*.

It costs £2.50 and is available from the General Synod Office or can be ordered via the SEC website.



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## Mission and Ministry Board

The Rev Canon Professor John Riches emphasised how much the Board relies on the quality of the work done by its pendant Committees. He spoke of how the Board inherited and then developed policy and explained that a review had been commissioned of the work emanating from *Journey of the Baptised* and *New Century, New Directions* which had been approved by Synod in 2003. Professor Riches asked Synod to endorse the Board's proposal to set up a task group to prepare an action plan so that it can work effectively and expeditiously on the report and recommendations from the review. He then introduced Mr Tim Edwards, one of the review's consultants, who said it had been a positive review which both excited and inspired him. Synod welcomed the review and, after mixed views were voiced, the Motions regarding review of *Journey of the Baptised* and *New Century, New Directions* were carried.

As Professor Riches is stepping down as Convener of the Mission and Ministry Board, Professor Patricia Peattie (in the Chair) thanked him for all his work, particularly in the merging of the Boards of Mission and Ministry and said "we owe John Riches a great debt of gratitude for the major contribution he has made to the work of the Church".

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## Rural Commission

The Rev Professor David Atkinson introduced a Motion from the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney which asked for Synod's support for the rural sector in establishing a new Rural Commission to identify the major changes likely to impact on rural communities in the coming decade. He outlined the key issues facing the rural sector and said that the Motion he was proposing is intended to further develop support for this sector and stressed that activity is needed at both local and national levels, saying that even if the proposal for a Commission is accepted there will still be much that is needed at a diocesan level and where unequivocally Dioceses and Charges will know best what is needed locally. The objectives of the Rural Commission are to:

- identify future challenges
- assess the scope for the SEC alone, and in partnership, to act on key issues eg post office closures
- review the future form of ministry to rural areas

Mrs Kate Sainsbury (St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane) suggested that the use of internet and weblogs be supported in rural areas and that computers be put into every church. The Rt Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness, reported that seven young people were unable to attend the Glenalmond gathering because of lack of transport in rural areas. The Rev Canon Fay Lamont (Brechin) said that calling a Rural Commission is an example of the SEC punching above its weight and making an impact. The Rev Lewis Smith had been uneasy about the concept of a 'Commission' but acknowledged that what Professor Atkinson was suggesting seemed dynamic and action focussed and that this Commission would give impetus to action that is much needed.

The Motion was carried.

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## Ministry Development Committee

Professor Judith George, Convener of Ministry Development Committee, outlined the benefits of the York St John's (YSJ) validation for TISEC (Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church), equating the letters YSJ as a notable leader in education to the letters YSL - a renowned leader in the world of fashion! Professor George spoke about the 'training the trainers' programme and the DIY kit for supporting people in remote areas, giving examples of progress made with conference calling and on-line communication.

The Rt Rev John Mantle, Bishop of Brechin, welcomed Professor George's presentation but suggested the need for identification of specific figures and statistics, stating that he had been doing some statistical research which showed that over the next fifteen years one hundred SEC clergy will reach the age of 65, and raised concern that in recent vacancies in his Diocese not one candidate was from Scotland. "If this trend continues", he said, "the character and shape of the SEC will be changed."



The Rev Canon Duncan McCosh, Convener of the Overseas Committee, introduced Mr John Rea and Miss Angela Daye who spoke about the Committee's education and grant awarding role for overseas projects and launched the **MiDGiE** initiative. Canon McCosh said "The group tasked with promoting the **M**illennium **D**evelopment **G**oals, a sub committee of the Provincial Overseas Committee, wanted to make the MDGs as well known as possible and so came up with the idea of relating them to our own well-known wee beastie - the midgie. As you know midgies are small, annoying, won't go away and they are Scottish so they were thought to be ideal to promote the MDGs. The MiDGiEs aim to agitate for movement on fulfilling the MDGs and to help the SEC do its bit and to work with others to see our government do their bit in fulfilling the 8 Millennium Development Goals they signed up to in 2000."

## Christian-Muslim relations

The Rev Donald Reid, Convener of the Committee for Relations with People of other Faiths introduced guest speaker, Rev Peter Colwell, Secretary for Church Life and Inter Faith Relations, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland who gave a presentation on the publication *A common Word - Above us and between us* which is a resource for the letter 'A Common Word between us and you' available from [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk). This letter, addressed to Christian leaders around the world, and signed by 138 Muslim scholars, is an important contribution to Christian-Muslim relations and dialogue. Many Churches have already made their responses and there are also a number of related initiatives underway.

Mr Reid highlighted the Festival of Spirituality and Peace in Edinburgh and the Christian/Muslim network meeting being hosted by the SEC in December.

## Provincial Youth Network (PYN)

The Rt Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness and Convener of PYN, told Synod that a Youth Synod is still on the agenda for the future. He reported on the standard training for all 'Glenalmond' leaders and invited Synod members to walk with Glenalmond delegates on an amble through the woods on the Wednesday of each of the Glenalmond Youth Weeks. Bishop Mark spoke about the pilgrimage to Iona in August for 18-25 year olds and the Youth Network's involvement in the labyrinth at the Lambeth Conference, and stressed the word 'Network' saying that the PYN can only function as a network if each diocese has a Youth Officer and can provide the necessary support it needs.



The Rt Rev Dr Bob Gillies, Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney, launched the next Provincial Conference - which will take place from 2-4 October 2009 in the Macdonald Highland Resort, Aviemore.

Its theme is the Five Marks of Mission and the biblical reference for the Conference is John 4:3-43 - Jesus and the woman at the well. Key speakers will be Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading; Annabel Goldie MSP and the Rev Erik Cramb.

## Home Mission

The Rev Lewis Smith, Convener of the Home Mission Committee, endorsed the 'Back to Church Sunday' initiative being piloted in Scotland this year by ACTS. The initiative, which began in Manchester in 2004 and is this year 'going global' with support from Scotland, New Zealand and Canada, asks members of a congregation to invite friends they haven't seen in church for a while to come to church with them. Statistics show that a high number of people return to church after this initial visit. He then commended the new booklet *Local Collaborative Ministry - the story so far* of which Synod members were given a complimentary copy. Mr Lewis concluded his report by paying tribute to Rev Dr Anne Tomlinson, Provincial Local Collaborative Ministry Officer, whose term of office comes to an end in December, saying "Anne has inspired, challenged and supported congregations on the LCM journey, and always with integrity, sensitivity and the highest level of professionalism."

## Church in Society

Mrs Nancy Adams, Convener of the Church in Society Committee, introduced the session on Church in Society by commending a forthcoming conference co-hosted with ACTS and Faith in Older People entitled 'Wasteland or Harvest Field: an ecumenical exploration of the needs of older people and the gifts they bring to the churches'. Mrs Adams then advised Synod that the committee had moved forward on the issue of Trade Justice as most dioceses have attained Fair Trade Diocese status or are in the process of doing so and announced that the SEC had recently joined the Fair Trade Foundation Stakeholders Group. Mrs Adams spoke about the recent launch of the International Church Action for Peace in Palestine and Israel hosted by the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Palestine and reminded Synod about the full scale banner of the 'wall' at St John's Church, Princes Street. Mrs Adams concluded her presentation by inviting Mr Alan Werritty to speak on environmental and climate change issues and how as Christians we can respond to them.



Voting  
at  
General  
Synod

## Board and Committee Convenership

As the time of service for a number of Board and Committee Conveners comes to an end in 2009 it was agreed to 'stagger' some convenerships to allow for a reasonable period of hand-over and integration. Therefore the following Conveners stood down after General Synod:

**Mrs Nancy Adams,**  
Church in Society Committee  
(succeeded by the Rev Ian Barcroft)

**Rev Canon Professor John Riches,**  
Mission & Ministry Board  
(succeeded by the Rt Rev David Chillingworth)

The final two motions of Synod, which were carried unanimously, requested the extension to 2010 of the Convenerships of

**Mr Ian Stewart**  
(Administration Board) and

**Professor Judith George**  
(Ministry Development Committee)

## Elections

Synod endorsed the following nominations:

**Mission & Ministry Board Convenership:**  
Rt Rev David Chillingworth,  
Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane

**Mission & Ministry Board Representatives:**  
Rev Isaac Poobalan  
Rev Alison Simpson  
Mrs Gill Young

**Administration Board Representative:**  
Mrs Hilary Gibson

**Clergy Discipline Tribunal:**  
Sheriff Iain Peebles  
Lord McEwan  
Sheriff Margaret Gimblett  
Rev Dr Anne Tomlinson  
Rev Canon Prof John Richardson  
Mr Fraser Falconer  
Mrs Sue Horne  
Mr John Whittall

## Beyond business — Synod's Fringe meetings

Building on the success of last year, the fringe meetings increased from three to seven. The meetings took place in both the General Synod Office and Palmerston Place Church. To avoid over-subscription of the meetings, members were invited to sign up in advance of the meetings taking place. Light lunches and snacks were provided during the meetings.

The topics covered this year were:

- Local Collaborative Ministry – the story so far
- Scottish Churches Housing Action
- Millennium Developments Goals
- Church websites and blogs
- A taster of Cursillo
- Christian Aid – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parables

In addition to the fringe meetings, each diocese was invited to display information about the work carried out by them throughout the year and highlighting their priorities and achievements.

Annan House was again used for a display of information and material from organisations including:

Overseas Mission	Cursillo
Mothers' Union	USPG
Mission to Seafarers	The Coach House company (sale of Swazi jams and preserves)

**General Synod 2009 will take place at**

**Palmerston Place Church, Edinburgh from 11-13 June**

Non-Synod members are welcome  
to sit in the public gallery  
throughout Synod

## General Synod on-line

Regular updates on the proceedings of General Synod and audio summaries were posted on to the Church's website [www.scotland.anglican.org](http://www.scotland.anglican.org) throughout this year's Synod meeting.

It is hoped to develop the on-line communication of General Synod in 2009, so keep visiting the website for details on this.

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