
Ministers' Code of Conduct Ordinance 1993

The Synod of the Diocese of Bathurst HEREBY ORDAINS as follows:-

- 1 This Ordinance may be cited as the "Ministers' Code of Conduct Ordinance, 1993.
- 2 The Synod of the Diocese hereby adopts the General Synod Canon Concerning Confessions, 1989, (Canon No 10, 1992) a copy of which is set out in the Schedule for the purpose of information only.
- 3 The Synod declares that it is necessary to maintain a high standard of behaviour with a moral code worthy of public confidence in respect of Clergy and Authorized Lay Ministers.
- 4 Bishop-in-Council shall no later than 31 July 1994 make and promulgate a Code of Conduct for Clergy and Authorised Lay Ministers.
- 5 A member of clergy who wilfully breaches the Code of Conduct in a substantial manner shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to be dealt with under the Clergy Discipline Ordinance 1965-1993.
- 6 The Clergy Discipline Ordinance is amended by deleting from the definition of "offence" in clause 3:

 "(e) bankruptcy and (h) any offence punishable by law being a malum in se"

 and by substituting:

 "(e) wilful breach of the Code of Conduct prescribed pursuant to the Ministers' Code of Conduct Ordinance, 1993."
- 7 The Clergy Discipline Ordinance as amended by this Ordinance may be cited as the Clergy Discipline Ordinance, 1965-1993

SCHEDULE

CANON NO. 10, 1992

A canon concerning confessions

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

1. This canon may be cited as "Canon concerning confessions 1989".
2. If any person confess his or her secret and hidden sins to an ordained minister for the unburdening of conscience and to receive spiritual consolation and ease of mind, such minister shall not at any time reveal or make known any crime or offence or sin so confessed and committed to trust and secrecy by that person without the consent of that person.
3. This proviso to canon numbered 113 of the Canons of 1603, and any other law of this Church concerning the making of confessions to an ordained minister, in so far as the same may have any force, shall have no operation or effect in this Church.
4. The provisions of this canon effect the order and good government of this Church within a diocese and shall not come into force in a diocese unless and until the diocese adopts this canon by ordinance of the synod of the diocese.