
SYNOD CONTRIBUTION ORDINANCE 2022

AN ORDINANCE to provide for fair and equitable contributions by the parishes and special ministries to the overall work of the Diocese of Bathurst and to authorise the imposition of charges for services by the Registrar.

WHEREAS it has become expedient to repeal the Synod Contribution Ordinance 1999-2022.

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the plan for contributions by the parishes and special ministries of the Diocese to the work of the Diocese be stated definitively after full consideration by the Synod.

THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF BATHURST HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Synod Contribution Ordinance 1999-2022 is hereby repealed but such repeal shall not absolve any parish or area of special ministry from any financial obligation incurred by it pursuant to that Ordinance prior to its repeal.
2. In this Ordinance, unless the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires:
 - “**Budget**” means the Synod Management Fund Budget for each financial year;
 - “**Diocese**” means the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst;
 - “**Bishop in Council**” means the Bishop in Council of the Diocese of Bathurst;
 - “**Financial Year**” means a period of twelve (12) months commencing on 1 January each year;
 - “**Parish**” means a Parish in the Diocese of Bathurst
 - “**Registrar**” means the Registrar of the Diocese of Bathurst;
 - “**Special Ministry**” means a Special Ministry in the Diocese of Bathurst; and
 - “**Synod**” means the Synod of the Diocese of Bathurst.

DEFINITION OF PARISH AND SPECIAL MINISTRY INCOME

3. For the purpose of this Ordinance the income of a parish or special ministry will comprise:
 - (a) all offertories and donations received for the general use and purposes of a parish or special ministry;
 - (b) the funds received by groups within a parish or special ministry for which the parish council has ultimate responsibility and that are drawn upon to meet the general purpose expenses of a parish or special ministry;
 - (c) all monies received for the lease, rent or casual hire of properties maintained by the parish or special ministry, after expenses necessarily incurred in earning those monies (such as management fees) have been deducted;
 - (d) all monies raised from fund-raising activities (including cattle, wheat, or similar funds) not including fund-raising activities for capital works and missions, after any expenses necessarily incurred have been deducted;
 - (e) all monies raised from trading activities (including but not limited to cemeteries, columbaria, opportunity shops) after any expenses necessarily incurred in earning those monies have been deducted;

- (f) interest, dividends from investments and imputation credits where the income so derived is for the general use and purposes of a parish or special ministry and not restricted by the terms of a trust;
 - (g) funds that are drawn from bequests and gifts and used for the general purposes of a parish or special ministry;
 - (h) rebates and refunds; and
 - (i) such other funds available to a parish or special ministry that Bishop in Council may from time to time deem to be income.
4. The income of a parish or special ministry in any financial year will **not** include:
- (a) amounts received and set aside for capital projects or works;
 - (b) amounts contributed to building, growth, or similar funds;
 - (c) bequests and gifts which are invested and not used for the general purposes of a parish or special ministry in the course of a financial year;
 - (d) amounts given by members of a parish or special ministry which have been specifically earmarked for missions, the teaching of Special Religious Education and the support of school or hospital chaplaincies; and
 - (e) such other amounts that Bishop in Council may from time to time consider to be exempt.

DEDUCTIONS FROM PARISH AND SPECIAL MINISTRY INCOME

5. Deductions from the income of each parish or special ministry in any financial year under this Ordinance shall be determined by Synod.

PARISH AND SPECIAL MINISTRY REPORTS TO THE DIOCESE

6. To facilitate the calculation of the parish and special ministry contribution to the Budget, by way of assessment, each parish and special ministry shall no later than 30 April in each year provide to the Registrar a full financial report in such form as may be prescribed by Bishop in Council. The financial report from each parish and special ministry for each financial year shall contain:
- (a) a statement of all monies received or deemed to be received by the parish or special ministry for the preceding financial year;
 - (b) a statement of all parish or special ministry expenditure for the preceding financial year;
 - (c) a statement of deductions against expenditure presented as allowable deductions defined by this Ordinance and claimed by the parish or special ministry in respect to the preceding financial year;
 - (d) a statement of assets and liabilities of the parish or special ministry; and
 - (e) such further information as may be required from time to time by Bishop in Council.

PARISH AND SPECIAL MINISTRY ASSESSMENT CALCULATION

7. The assessment for each parish and special ministry shall:
 - (a) be **based on a percentage**, as determined by the Synod Management Fund Budget adopted by Synod, of the sum of their assessable income averaged over the preceding three-year period; and
 - (b) include in its calculation all assessable income received by a parish or special ministry during the relevant financial years as defined in this Ordinance, less those deductions allowed under this Ordinance.

SYNOD MANAGEMENT FUND BUDGET

8. Bishop in Council shall, in preparing and presenting to Synod for its consideration and approval a Budget for the Synod Management Fund for the financial year commencing on 1 January each year, define those items or parts of diocesan expenditure so proposed by Bishop in Council to Synod that will be financed from synod contributions.
9. To the extent that Synod declines to accept the amount of the assessment included in the Budget, the Registrar shall re-calculate the amount of assessment each parish and special district should pay based on the new assessment.

PAYMENT OF SYNOD CONTRIBUTION

10. All Synod Contributions authorised by Ordinance or Resolution of Synod, unless the Ordinance otherwise directs, shall be invoiced in twelve equal installments by the Registrar on the first day of each month and paid on or before the fifteenth day of each month. Bishop-in-Council may by resolution approve alternative arrangements for payment.

RELIEF FROM SYNOD CONTRIBUTION

11. Bishop-in-Council shall have the power to enter into an arrangement with a parish or special ministry for the payment of accumulated arrears of Synod Contribution over a period of time.
12. Bishop-in-Council is authorised to waive the whole or any part of the arrears of Synod Contribution owing by any parish or special ministry if it shall by resolution declare the circumstances which in its opinion make it expedient to do so, provided that any such waiver shall be reported to the Synod.

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

13. Once the Synod has passed this Ordinance, and the Bishop has given his assent, the changes to contributions for each parish and special ministry will be implemented in incremental stages over the following three financial years.

TITLE

14. This Ordinance may be cited and known as the “Synod Contribution Ordinance 2022”.