

NEW CRANMER SOCIETY

Constitution

1. Name

The name of the association is New Cranmer Society

2. Objectives

The objective of New Cranmer is to unite in one association members of the Anglican Church in the diocese of Melbourne who wish to promote in accordance with the principles set out in Clause 3 -

- (a) The presentation of considered contributions to Synod, Synod related bodies, the Archbishop and Council of the Diocese and other diocesan councils and committees and governing bodies of Anglican organisations in the diocese of Melbourne generally;
- (b) The identification and encouragement of the election and appointment of qualified and committed persons to membership of incumbency committees, and the bodies referred to in Clause 2(a);
- (c) Co-ordinated co-operative action by parishes and extra parochial organisations on matters of common concern; and
- (d) The foundation and support of educational funds and institutions including provision of individual scholarships and fellowships.
- (e) The encouragement of the study of church history, evangelism, growth, doctrine and liturgy

3. Principles

3.1 New Cranmer adheres to the three Fundamental Declarations of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia, and the doctrines of the Book of Common Prayer and Thirty-nine Articles applied in their orthodox sense. It upholds as of first importance the principles that -

- (a) God is revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- (b) the canonical Scriptures provide the rule of faith and practice, the test of truth and judge of controversy; and God continues to work in ways consistent with the Scriptures;
- (c) humanity and all creation outside of Christ Jesus is radically defective and needs redemption;
- (d) the person of Jesus Christ as saviour and sovereign revealed in incarnation, resurrection and ascension and his work centred upon his atoning death is paramount
- (e) each Christian receives and experiences the Holy Spirit and grows in the Spirit through understanding the word of God and ministry of the sacraments; and
- (f) the fruit of the Holy Spirit are to be seen in a Christ-like lifestyle, especially as gifts of the Spirit are exercised.

3.2 New Cranmer seeks to adopt and apply in a renewed and current form strategies used by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer -

- (a) to strive to convince "all Christian people diligently to learn God's word, that they may know how to believe and live"¹

(b) to work for continuous reform of the church and its institutional structures to bring into and keep those structures in greater consonance with the Scriptures while responding to the demands of the time;

(c) to proclaim the gospel in idiom that will be "heard not only with ears but also heart, spirit and mind"²

(d) to secure the removal of forms of worship and practice which do "more to confound and darken than declare and set for Christ's benefits unto us"²

(e) to uphold useful traditions while being open to whatever new things are edifying because "Christ's Gospel is a Religion to serve God, not in bondage of the figure or shadow, but in freedom of the Spirit"²

¹ Cranmer, Letter to Queen Mary September 1555

² Cranmer, Book of Common Prayer 1549

4. Membership

4.1 A person who subscribes to the objectives and principles of New Cranmer becomes a member upon application and payment of any subscription prescribed from time to time by the annual general meeting.

4.2 The council has a discretion as to membership and may by 2/3 absolute majority resolve to terminate the membership of any person who in the opinion of the Council is undesirable as a member having regard to the objectives and principles of New Cranmer.

4.3 The Council must maintain a list of members distinguishing, where a subscription has been prescribed, those whose current subscription has been paid.

5. The Council

5.1 New Cranmer is governed by a Council comprised of not less than 7 nor more than 25 members being -

- President,
- not more than 3 clerical vice presidents,
- not more than 3 lay vice presidents,
- not more than 9 clerical members,
- not more than 9 lay members

all of whom are to be elected at the annual general meeting and hold office (unless they resign or die or cease to be a member) until the conclusion of the following annual general meeting. Vacancies may be filled by the Council during the year.

5.2 The Council must meet not less than three times in each calendar year, including a meeting to consider the business of any session of the Synod of the diocese. A quorum at meeting of Council is one quarter of the clerical members and one quarter of the lay members of the council then holding office. Meetings of the Council may be convened by the President, or Vice President and any two other members.

5.3 The Council may co-opt not more than two clerical or two lay members to assist in particular tasks determined by the Council.

5.4 The Council has control of the general policy and funds of New Cranmer and may appoint such sub committees including an Executive Committee of not more than 9 members for such purposes and with such powers as it thinks fit.

5.5 The Council must appoint one of its members to have custody of records of New Cranmer, which are to be open for inspection by any member by arrangement.

5.6 The Executive Committee shall act as a steering committee for implementation of policy and may meet together and regulate its meetings (which may be held by telephone or a series of telephone communications) and appoint such officers of New Cranmer, including a treasurer and secretary, as it thinks fit. The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee is four.

5.7 Questions arising at a meeting of the Council, unless the Council otherwise determines, are to be decided by a majority of votes, and in the case of an equality of votes the President or chairman of the meeting in the absence of the President has a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.

5.8 The Executive Committee may invest any funds of New Cranmer as it thinks fit and may maintain a current bank account upon which cheques may be drawn signed by any two members of the Executive Committee appointed by it for that purpose.

5.9 The Council may undertake any trust and the Members of the Council for the time being shall administer any trust funds or property in accordance with the terms of the trust.

6. General Meetings

6.1 A general meeting is to be held annually to receive and consider a report and financial statement by the Council and to elect the Council and to make recommendation to the Council.

6.2 The financial statement may, and must if the general meeting so resolves, be audited.

6.3 The annual general meeting is to be held within four months after the end of the year to which the financial statement is made up, which is until the Council determines otherwise be the period of twelve months ending on 30 June

6.4 The Council may convene a Special General Meeting of members at any time or place that may seem desirable and must do upon requisition of 12 members.

6.5 Where a subscription has been prescribed only those members may vote at a meeting whose subscription has been paid for the immediately preceding financial year.

6.6 A quorum at general meetings is one quarter of the members entitled to vote.

7. Alteration

This Constitution may be altered at a general meeting by resolution (of which 28 days notice has been given to members) supported by two thirds of the members present and entitled to vote.