

AUTHORISED CONGREGATIONS ACT 2005

Be it enacted by the Bishop, the Clergy and laity of the Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Bendigo duly met in Synod as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the “Authorised Congregations Act 2005”.
2. This Act comes into operation on the date on which it receives the assent of the Bishop.
3. (1) This section applies to a congregation, not being a congregation or parish, to which a priest is licensed by the Bishop and the members of which meet regularly for worship as an Anglican congregation.

(2) If the Bishop is satisfied –
 - (a) that the congregation has a vision and mission that define its ministry goals as an Anglican congregation; and
 - (b) that the place where the congregation meets is a suitable place set aside for the regular use of the congregation; and
 - (c) that in all the circumstances it is appropriate to recognise the congregation as a non-parochial Anglican congregation -

the Bishop, with the consent of the Council of the Diocese, may declare the congregation to be an authorised congregation.
- (3) The Bishop, with the consent of the Council of the Diocese, may revoke a declaration made under sub-section (2).
5. An authorised congregation is not a parish, nor part of a parish, even if its place of meeting is in a church or any part of the property of a parish.
6. (1) The *Parish Appointments Act 1998* has effect so far as is applicable for the purpose of enabling an authorised congregation to propose a priest as its priest in charge and as if a reference in that Act –
 - (a) to an incumbent were a reference to a priest in charge or the position of a priest in charge; and

- (b) to a parish were a reference to an authorised congregation.
 - (2) The *Parish Administration Act 2002* applies to an authorised congregation as if the congregation were a parish but, despite anything to the contrary in that Act, an authorised congregation is not required to call its committee of management a parish council, nor to call its officers who have responsibility for property, churchwardens.
- 7.
- (1) The *Synod Act 1997* applies to an authorised congregation as if the congregation were a parish and as if a reference in that Act
 - (a) to a parish were a reference to an authorised congregation;
 - (b) to an annual parish meeting were a reference to the annual meeting of an authorised congregation.
 - (2) Sub-section 11(d) of the *Synod Act 1997* is deleted and substituted by:
 - (d) two representatives of each parish, authorised congregation and View Hill Fellowship elected or appointed in accordance with this Act; and”