



30th Anniversary Conference

*Unfinished Business
Celebrating Anglican Women's
Ministry in Australia*

16-18 September 2022
Christ Church St Laurence
Sydney NSW

Conference Prayer

*God our Creator,
you have made your daughters in your image, and before our birth
your plans for us were laid. We rejoice with those whom you have
chosen and gifted for your service in ordained ministry, giving
thanks for all who have heard and responded to your call.*

*We gather today with thanksgiving for the past. We remember all
whose vision, commitment, determination and defiance helped
prepare the way to ordination. We honour those who encouraged
and inspired us along the way, recalling especially dear friends and
companions no longer with us.*

*We gather today rejoicing in the present as we celebrate 30 years of
women's priestly ministry of blessing and healing, forgiving,
preaching and presiding, acknowledging with gratitude and delight
the many gifts your daughters bring to your church. We mourn with
those whose priestly vocations continue to be frustrated or denied.*

*We gather today with hope for the future. Bless the ongoing work of
women deacons, priests and bishops; in times of challenge and
hardship, encourage and support your ministers and those who
refuse to ignore your persistent call.*

*Where women's priestly ministry is not accepted, embraced and
celebrated, challenge closed minds, disturb stubborn hearts and
overturn arid legalism.*

*God our Creator, hear our prayers, that your plans made so long ago
for your daughters may be now be recognised and brought to
fulfilment. Amen*

Janet Nelson

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of our land - Australia. The Gadigal of the Eora Nation are the traditional custodians of this place we now call Sydney.

We are extremely blessed and grateful to Christ Church St Laurence Sydney for their hospitality and extend a special thanks to the catering team of Christ Church.

The opportunity to gather here to celebrate the 30 year anniversary since the ordination of women priests in Australia is timely, as we grapple with further changes in our tradition. The ongoing drive towards the acceptance of ordained women priests throughout our Great South Land is certainly a call to the Movement for the Ordination of Women to attend to this Unfinished Business.

Friday 16 September 2022

4:30pm - Registration CCSL Hall

4:45pm – 5:30pm - CCSL Hall Welcome nibbles and drinks
(Hall entry via 505 Pitt Street, at the rear of the Church)

MC - Dr Elaine Lindsay

5:30pm – 5:50pm

The Rev'd Dr Lesley McLean introduces Aunty Dr Rose Elu

Acknowledgement of Country - Aunty Rose

The Rev'd Dr Lesley McLean - Welcome & Conference Prayer

Friday First Session

6:00pm – 6:45pm - Dr Elaine Lindsay introduces a Panel
Session - Focusing on the Reform Groups that Fought for
Ordination

The Rev'd Dr Lesley McLean - Women in Holy Orders? (WHO?)

Dr Gwenneth Roberts - Brisbane

Professor Eileen Baldry AO - Early National Movement for the
Ordination of Women (MOW)

Friday Second Session

7:15pm - 8:15pm Dr Elaine Lindsay introduces Dr Julia Baird
and The Hon Keith Mason AC, KC

In conversation On Challenging Church Law in Relation to the
Ordination of Women

8:20pm – 9:00pm - Socializing with nibbles and drinks.

Saturday 17 September 2022

CCSL Hall (Hall entry via 505 Pitt Street)

8:45am - Registration CCSL Hall

9:15am

Acknowledgement of Country - The Rev'd Shannon Smith

The Rev'd Dr Lesley McLean - Welcome & Conference Prayer

Saturday First Session - MC The Rev'd Dr Lesley McLean

Focus - Ordained Women's Experiences

9:30am – 10:00am - The Rev'd Shannon Smith.

10:00am – 10:30am - The Rev'd Elisa Helen Waterhouse CSC

10:30am – 11:15am - Morning tea

Saturday Second Session - MC The Rev'd Lu Piper OAM

Theological / Institutional Focus

11:15am – 12:00pm

Dr Jacqueline Service - Theological Aspects Surrounding Women's Ordination

12:00pm – 12:30pm

Ms Anne Hywood - On the Impact of Women's Ministry on the National Church

12:30pm – 1:30pm - Lunch

Saturday Third Session - MC Dr Elaine Lindsay

Focus on the Future

1:40pm – 2:20pm - The Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee
FAHA - On Women's Leadership in the New Testament and
Today

2:25pm – 3:05pm - The Rev'd Dr Colleen O'Reilly AM
Barriers to Women Achieving Significant Leadership Roles in
the Church

3:05pm – 3:40pm - Afternoon Tea

Saturday Fourth Session

3:40pm – 4:45pm - Open Session - Chair - Mr Phillip Seale
What Has Been Achieved and Where To Now? Conference
Speakers and Attendees' Discussion

4:45pm - Conference Close - The Rev'd Dr Lesley McLean

6:00pm – 9:00pm - Informal Dinner (not included in
conference registration) at the Incafé Restaurant near CCSL
(corner of Chalmers St) <https://incaferestaurant.com.au/>

Sunday 18 September 2022

9:00am - Service at CCSL Sung Eucharist and Children's
Ministry Guest Preacher - The Rev'd Canon Mara Di Francesco
Morning Tea afterwards in the Church Hall, provided by CCSL

10:30am - Service at CCSL Solemn High Mass
Guest Preacher - The Rev'd Canon Mara Di Francesco
Morning Tea afterwards in the Church Hall, provided by CCSL

The service will be live-streamed on the CCSL website - <https://ccsl.org.au/>

Speakers

Dr Julia Baird was a co-convenor of Sydney MOW when still at Sydney University. In 2018 she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity by the University of Divinity. Recent books include *Victoria: The Queen (2016)* and *Phosphorescence (2020)*.

Professor Eileen Baldry AO FASSA FRSN was a founding member of Sydney MOW and its inaugural secretary. In 2021 she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for “distinguished service to tertiary education, to criminology and to social welfare policy, and as an advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion”.

The Rev’d Canon Mara Di Francesco is a Benedictine Oblate with a deep interest in spirituality, prayer, community and hospitality. She was appointed Rector of St Martin’s Campbelltown (SA) in 2000 and is a Canon of St Peter’s Cathedral.

Aunty Dr Rose Elu is a member of the Anglican Church Southern Queensland Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, a Synod Representative for the Torres Strait Non-Geographic Parish, and an Executive Member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council. She holds a PhD in Customary Law from the University of Hawaii and has done further post-graduate studies in Theology at St Francis College.

Ms Anne Hywood is the General Secretary at General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia.

The Rev’d Canon Professor Dorothy Lee FAHA is Stewart Research Professor of New Testament at Trinity College Theological School and also an Anglican priest in the Diocese of Melbourne. Her most recent book is *The Ministry of Women in the New Testament: Reclaiming the Biblical Vision for Church Leadership (2021)*.

Dr Elaine Lindsay is the National Secretary of MOW. She is the author of *Rewriting God: Spirituality in Contemporary Australian Women's Fiction (2000)* and co-editor, with Janet Scarfe, of *Preachers, Prophets and Heretics: Anglican Women's Ministry (2012)*.

The Hon Keith Mason AC KC served as Solicitor-General for NSW 1987-1997. He has been President of the NSW Court of Appeal and Chair of the NSW Law Reform Commission. He was Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Armidale 1990-2017 and has been a member and President of the Appellate Tribunal of the Anglican Church.

The Rev'd Dr Lesley McLean is the President of MOW. With Alison Gent, she initiated the group Women in Holy Orders? (WHO?) in Adelaide in 1980 and has been a member of MOW since its inception. She was the first woman ordained in the diocese of Bendigo in 1992 and was ordained priest in Melbourne in 1994. Her book *Woman The Church's Buried Talent (2018)* is four chapters on the struggle for the ordination of women from her PhD on Alison Gent.

The Rev'd Dr Colleen O'Reilly AM as a founding member of Anglican Women Concerned (Sydney 1975), was a pioneer in the push for women's ordination. She was ordained as a priest in Melbourne in 1995, retiring from St George's Malvern in 2019. She remains an adjunct lecturer at Trinity College Theological School. Colleen was recognized as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2021 for significant service to the Anglican Church and to religious education.

The Rev'd Lu Piper OAM was ordained to the Diaconate in the Sydney Diocese in 1991 after serving as a Church Army Sister. In 1995 she was ordained to the Priesthood in the Newcastle Diocese. Her ministry has been in PNG and in Australia. Lu is a past Sydney convenor of MOW and is currently a National board member.

Dr Gwenneth Roberts is a senior lecturer in the University of Queensland School of Medicine. She is a parishioner at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane and a member of the ACSQ Domestic and Family Violence Working Group. She is also a MOW pioneer and the inspiration and principal researcher behind the exhibition, *From Biscuits to Bishop*, <https://www.stjohnscathedral.com.au/womens-exhibition/>

Mr Phillip Seale GDM (AGSM) has been the MOW Sydney Convenor for the past 3 years. Before that he was a long-term advocate of women's ministry.

Dr Jacqueline Service is a lecturer in Theology with a research focus in Trinitarian and Analytical Theology as well as a Theology of Social Justice at St Mark's National Theological Centre. She is a Trustee for the International Anglican Order of the Cross and has been actively involved in church ministries over many years.

The Rev'd Shannon Smith is Priest-in-Charge of St Mark's Golden Square and was recently appointed Diocesan Aboriginal Communities Officer. She is currently the Bendigo representative on the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council. Shannon is a Wiradjuri woman from Darlington Point NSW.

The Rev'd Sr Elisa Helen Waterhouse CSC has been Provincial for the Community of the Sisters of the Church (Australia) and rector of St Paul's Anglican Church in Ballarat since 2019.

Conference Committee

Ms Ruth Champion

The Rev'd Val Graydon

Ms Margaret Lawther

Dr Elaine Lindsay

The Rev'd Dr Lesley McLean

The Rev'd Lu Piper OAM

Ms Debra Porter

Mr Phillip Seale

Ms Kathleen Toal

Timeline

1920 UK: Campaign to open the priesthood to women begins in the lead-up to the 1920 Lambeth Conference

1935 UK Report of a commission on the ministry of women appointed by Canterbury and York finds no compelling theological reasons for or against the ordination of women, but affirms the male priesthood “for the Church to-day”

1944 Hong Kong: Florence Li Tim-Oi ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Ronald Hall

1968 UK: Lambeth decides deaconesses are within the diaconate and evidence against women priests is inconclusive; all Anglican churches are urged to study the question of ordination

1969 General Synod rejects the 1968 Lambeth findings

1974 USA: Philadelphia 11 ordained as priests, including Rev'd Alison Cheek from Adelaide, by retired bishops

1975 Anglican Women Concerned set up in Sydney

1976 New Zealand votes to ordain women priests and bishops; ordains women priests in 1977

1980 Women in Holy Orders? set up in Adelaide

1983 MOW set up in Sydney

1983 MOW posting of the 12 theses (for the ordination of women) on the doors of St Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney (October)

1983 Action Group for Women's Ordination formed in Melbourne

1984 Monica Furlong visit to Australia; MOW National formed, Patricia Brennan first National president

1984 40th Anniversary of ordination of Li Tim Oi celebrated at Westminster Abbey. Alison Gent was among the 1,000 attendees

1985 First MOW National Conference, Sydney

1985 General Synod passes Ordination of Women to the Office of Deacon Canon but in Sydney Archbishop Robinson withholds consent

1986 The Rev'd Susan Adams (NZ) is licensed to preside in Melbourne

1986 First women deacons ordained in Melbourne by Archbishop David Penman

1987 Women Against the Ordination of Women set up in Melbourne

1988 MOW members go to Lambeth

1990 NZ: Penny Jamieson ordained Bishop of Dunedin, first diocesan Bishop in the Anglican Communion

1990 Bishop Owen Dowling, Canberra & Goulburn, first announces his intention to ordain women to the priesthood

1992 Archbishop Peter Carnley ordains 10 women priests in Perth (7 March) following the Supreme Court of WA's refusal (6 March) to issue an injunction

1992 General Synod passes Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 overturning Phillimore's Rule (November) and dioceses around Australia proceed to ordain women

2008 The Rev'd Kay Goldsworthy consecrated as assistant Bishop, Perth (22 May); The Rev'd Barbara Darling consecrated Bishop for Diocesan Ministries, Melbourne (31 May)

2012 The Rev'd Genieve Blackwell consecrated (31 March) and commissioned as Regional Bishop of Wagga Wagga. She was the first woman to be consecrated as a bishop in the state of New South Wales.

2013 Diocese of Sydney authorises female deacons (and priests licensed as such) to celebrate Holy Communion if their parish agrees

2014 The Rev'd Sarah Macneil consecrated Bishop of Grafton (1 March) and became the first woman in the Anglican Church of Australia to be selected as a diocesan bishop with direct responsibility for overseeing the affairs of the churches in her area

2015 Bishop Kay Goldsworthy elected Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Gippsland

2015 UK: The Rev'd Libby Lane consecrated Bishop of Stockport (January)

2018 Bishop Kay Goldsworthy installed as archbishop of Perth: the first female archbishop in the Anglican Communion.

Women Ordained Priest in 1992 & the Diocese in which they were ordained

Alfred, The Revd Mary Elizabeth (Elizabeth)	Melbourne	Deceased Priest
Armstrong, The Revd Canon Maree Lillian	Newcastle	Retired Priest - PTO
Arney, The Revd Elizabeth Emmaline (Betty)	Perth	Deceased Priest
Austin, The Revd Flora Elizabeth	Adelaide	See - Walters
Blackford, The Revd Barbara Frances Priest	North Qld	Unlisted Retired
Bourne, The Revd Sheila Margaret	Newcastle	Retired Priest - PTO
Campbell, The Revd Frances Adair PTO	Melbourne	Retired Priest -
Carr, The Revd Margaret Mary	Newcastle	Priest
Chambers, The Revd Susanne Judith	Melbourne	Priest with PTO
Claring-Bould, The Revd Joan Rosemary	Adelaide	Active Priest
Clarke, The Revd Alison Lynne (Lynne) PTO	Melbourne	Retired Priest -
Couche, The Revd Elizabeth Mae	Perth	Deceased Priest
Craig-Leaves, The Revd Julie Elizabeth	Brisbane	Active Priest
Crawshaw, The Revd Patricia Margaret	Tasmania	Deceased Priest
Cruickshank, The Revd Kim Dawn	Melbourne	Priest with PTO
Cullen, The Revd Helen Victoria (Vicky)	Canberra-Goulburn	Tertiary Chaplain
Darling, The Rt Revd Barbara Brinsley	Melbourne	Deceased bishop
Dean, The Revd Elizabeth Ann	Priest Overseas	Europe
Dennis, The Revd Elizabeth Ann	Melbourne	See – Dean
Dittmar-McCollim, The Revd Canon Ann JP Elderly	Canberra-Goulburn	Chaplaincy for
Dudley, The Revd Ruth Isobel	Canberra-Goulburn	Deceased Priest
Dudzinski, The Revd Anne ATO	Canberra-Goulburn	Retired Priest with
Dunn, The Revd Jennifer Maureen Priest	Melbourne	Unlisted Retired
Fraser, The Revd Elvie Pearl	Tasmania	Retired Priest
Fuller, The Revd Audrey Ann PTO	Newcastle	Retired Priest with
Gaden, The Revd Janet Eade	Melbourne	Unlisted Priest
Gifford, The Revd Elaine Margaret	Canberra-Goulburn	Retired Priest - ATO
Goldsworthy, The Most Revd Kay Maree AO	Perth	Diocesan Bishop
Good, The Revd Nanette Henrietta Irving OAM	Melbourne	Deceased Priest

Granowski, The Revd Dr Helen Barbara	Melbourne	Deceased Priest
Graydon, The Revd Christine Valerie (Val) locality licence	Brisbane	Retired Priest
Halbert, The Revd Constance Pamela	Perth	Retired Priest - PTO
Hall, The Revd Jennifer Robin (Jenny)	Perth	Deceased Priest
Hall, The Revd Joanne Margaret	Melbourne	Hospital Chaplain
Hannah, The Revd Carlie	Bendigo	Unlisted Priest
Harrison, The Revd Ruth Margaret	Melbourne	Retired Priest - PTO
Hartley, The Revd Margaret Isabel	Melbourne	Retired Priest - PTO
Heskett, The Revd Margaret Anne (Sr Margaret Anne) CHN	Melbourne	Deceased Priest
Hetzel, The Revd Anna Jane (Ann)	Melbourne	See - Killigrew
Howard, The Revd Dr Barbara Janice good standing	Newcastle	Retired Priest in
Inglis, The Revd Jennifer Frances (Jenny)	Melbourne	Priest - PTO
Johnson, The Revd Janet Mary	Melbourne	Deceased Priest
Kelley, The Revd Julie Rosamonde	Canberra-Goulburn	Deceased Priest
King, The Revd Patricia Eileen	Brisbane	Deceased Priest
Lake, The Revd Jacqueline (Jackie)	Rockhampton	Deceased Priest
Le Rossignol, The Revd Barbara Helen Fawcett	Tasmania	Unlisted Priest
Leaves, The Revd Julie Elizabeth	Brisbane	See - Craig-Leaves
Letts, The Revd Lineve Joy (Joy)	Melbourne	Retired Priest - PTO
Maddock, The Revd Willy Ruth	Melbourne	Retired Priest - PTO
Marten, The Revd Canon Heather Ruth	Melbourne	Priest Bendigo
May, The Revd Daphne Jean	Canberra-Goulburn	Retired Priest - ATO
Mendham, The Revd Gillian Joan (Jill)	Canberra-Goulburn	See -Varcoe
Mills, The Revd Ruth Isobel	Canberra-Goulburn	See - Dudley
Milne, The Revd Teresa Catherine (Tess)	Perth	Retired Priest - PTO
Monaghan, The Revd Flora Elizabeth (Flo)	Adelaide	See - Walters
Nixon, The Revd Geraldine Elizabeth	Melbourne	Priest/Overseas UK
Pace, The Revd Barbara Jean	Melbourne	Deceased Priest
Pain, The Revd Susanna Leigh	Adelaide	Active Priest
Pascoe, The Revd Joan	Brisbane	Deceased Priest
Pate, The Revd Beatrice	Newcastle	Retired Priest
Payne, The Revd Dr Robin Ashley locality	Brisbane	Retired Priest
Pearce, The Revd Jo-Iris Aline Lampard (Jo),	Melbourne	Deceased Priest
Percival, The Revd Verney Clare (Clare)	Bathurst	Retired Priest - ATO
Perrott, The Revd Rosemary Alexandra	See - Perrott-Russell	
Perrott-Russell, The Revd Rosemary Alexandra	Tasmania	Retired Priest - ATO

Perry, The Revd Dr Julia Frances Harriet locum	Newcastle	Active Priest -
Peterkin, The Revd Judith Mary	Perth	Retired Priest - PTO
Phillips, The Revd Pamela Jean	Canberra-Goulburn	Priest - ATO
Pinchbeck, The Revd Gail Phyllis Charge	Melbourne	Active Priest In
Pinner, The Revd Catherine Joyce (Cathy)	Perth	Priest
Pitman, The Revd Kaye OAM locality licence	Brisbane	Retired Priest
Polson, The Revd Joyce Sylvia OAM	Perth	Retired Priest - PTO
Prowd, The Rt Revd Catherine Jane (Kate)	Melbourne	Assistant Bishop
Quaife, The Revd Lucy Lee	Rockhampton	Deceased Priest
Rees, The Revd Sr. Pamela Juliana (Sr Juliana)	Adelaide	Retired Priest - PTO
Richards, The Revd Elizabeth May	Melbourne	Deceased Priest
Roath, The Revd Hilary Ann PTO	Melbourne	Retired Priest -
Rockwell, The Revd Jennifer Maureen (Jenny)	Melbourne	See -Dunn
Sauber, The Revd Pamela Vera (Pam) good standing	Newcastle	Retired Priest in
Saunders, The Revd Lydia	Melbourne	In United Kingdom
Shaw, The Revd Leah Mary Deceased Priest	Brisbane	
Sherlock, The Revd Dr Peta Robin Priest Bendigo	Melbourne	Unlisted Retired
Simondson, The Revd Adrienne Louise	Melbourne	Deceased Priest
Solling, The Revd Wendy Hope (Sr Angela)	Newcastle	Deceased Priest
Straub, The Revd Susan Frances	Adelaide	Retired Priest - PTO
Streatfield, The Revd Margaret Louise	Canberra-Goulburn	Retired Priest - ATO
Sutherland, The Revd Jennifer Frances Inglis (Jenny)	Melbourne	
Tabor, The Revd Gail	Canberra-Goulburn	Retired Priest - PTO
Tandy, The Revd Robin Kathleen Barbara	Perth	Deceased Priest
Taplin, The Revd Clemence Charlotte Faith(Clem)	Melbourne	Retired Priest - PTO
Thomson, The Revd Eileen Grace	Brisbane	Deceased Priest
Tibbey, The Revd Valerie Joan (Val) good standing	Newcastle	Retired Priest in
Turner, The Revd Canon Amy Inez	Melbourne	Retired Priest - PTO
Urwin, The Revd Catherine Jane		See - Prowd
Varcoe, The Revd Canon Gillian Joan	Canberra-Goulburn	Retired Priest - ATO
Voerman, The Revd Margaret	Bathurst	Retired Priest - ATO
Walters, The Revd Flora Elizabeth (Flo)	Adelaide	Retired Priest - PTO
Watson, The Revd Suzanne Judith	Melbourne	See - Chambers

Weaver, The Revd Rosina	Canberra-Goulburn	Deceased Priest
Whitebread, The Revd Canon Janne Eileen JP	Brisbane	Unlisted Priest
Willsher, The Revd Jennifer Kay (Jenny) Chaplain	Newcastle	Anglican School
Yearsley, The Revd Canon Honor Helen OAM PTO	Tasmania	Retired Priest with

Total 90 Women were ordained Priest in 1992

Plus 2 Women who had been ordained priest overseas were granted Licenses:

Kenyon, The Revd Dawn	Perth	
Pearce, The Revd Caroline	Melbourne	Deceased Priest

ATO - Authority to Officiate

PTO - Permission to Officiate

This list is a work in progress, if you have further information
please contact us by email: secretary@mowatch.com.au

The Movement for the Ordination of Women in Australia: a brief history

The Australian Movement for the Ordination of Women was founded in 1983 to advocate for the ordination of women as deacons, priests and bishops in the Anglican Church of Australia. Dr Patricia Brennan was the founding national President. She was succeeded by Dr Janet Scarfe in 1989. There were several pre-existing Australian state-based groups supporting the ordination of women, including:

- Anglican Women Concerned in Sydney was established in 1975 by Colleen O'Reilly and Zandra Wilson. Anglican Women Concerned organised a demonstration outside St Andrew's Cathedral during General Synod in 1977.
- Women in Holy Orders? was established in Adelaide on 30 May 1980 and the first meeting was held at the home of Alison Gent.
- Action Group for Women's Ordination in Melbourne was formed in 1983 as an umbrella group under the mentorship of Ryl Currey. Weekly services were held at St Oswald's Church, Glen Iris.

There were differences within these Australian groups about styles of protest and activism. Some members were uncomfortable in the public arena and feared that "engaging in political strategy and power games" might divert the issue from its spiritual path.

One of the first public actions by Sydney MOW members was in October 1983 when it glued its 12 propositions for the ordination of women on the door of St Andrew's Cathedral. The action was modelled on Martin Luther's 'Ninety-Five Theses'.

In May 1984, English author Monica Furlong accepted an invitation to tour Australia and was influential in supporting and energising the Australian campaign. The first of many national MOW conferences was held in Sydney in 1985. The key speaker at the 1985 conference, 'Telling Tales', was the Reverend Alison Cheek, a South Australian woman who had been 'irregularly' ordained priest in the Episcopal Church in 1974 (one of the 'Philadelphia Eleven'). Cheek was not permitted to publicly celebrate the Eucharist, but she did preach in Melbourne. In Brisbane, Archbishop Sir John Grindrod instructed clergy that Cheek was neither to preach nor take part in any formal procession into a church. Cheek visited Australia many times and was a key supporter of MOW, appreciated as a model of sacramental ministry by a woman. At that same conference, Caroline Pearce was blessed by the 200 participants prior to setting off to study theology in the United States, where she was subsequently ordained, before returning to Australia in 1989; her priestly ministry was finally recognised in 1992 when General Synod made it legally possible for women to be ordained as priests.

MOW was particularly active in arguing for women's ordination in the court of public opinion, often through the secular media, but the decision to ordain women had to be made by the Anglican Church of Australia – it was a legal matter and different dioceses had different opinions on the matter. In 1968, the Lambeth Conference requested regional churches (including the Australian churches) discuss women's ordination, but it was not until 1985 that the Australian General Synod passed the Ordination of Women to the Office of Deacon Canon, which conferred authority on bishops of any dioceses that adopted the Canon to ordain a woman as deacon. This opened the way for women to progress to

priesthood, although that was not confirmed until 1991 by the Appellate Tribunal.

Australia's first Anglican women deacons were ordained in Melbourne on 9 February 1986 by Archbishop David Penman. Opponents of the ordination threatened the Archbishop with legal action and the ceremony itself was delayed when the report of a bomb forced the evacuation of St Paul's Cathedral. The eight women ordinands included Kay Goldsworthy, one of the last women deaconesses appointed in Melbourne, and Kate Prowd. Goldsworthy subsequently became the first female Archbishop in the Anglican Church of Australia and Prowd was appointed assistant bishop in the Diocese of Melbourne in 2018. MOW members from around Australia attended the 1986 ordination service.

In 1991 Bishop Owen Dowling of Canberra announced that he intended to ordain eleven women as priests on 2 February 1992. This was challenged in the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the NSW Court of Appeal subsequently restrained Bishop Dowling from ordaining the female candidates. MOW was well represented at the 'non-ordination' as it became known; it was a distressing event, both for the women involved and for many members of the wider church community who were aghast that a secular court had been drawn in to adjudicate on the matter.

Civil proceedings were also commenced in Perth when Archbishop Peter Carnley announced that he was ordaining female priests, but the Supreme Court of Western Australia refused to grant an interlocutory injunction. Thus it was, on 7 March 1992, the first women priests were ordained in the Anglican Church of Australia in Perth, even though General Synod did not overturn the late 19th century English church law (the Phillimore Rule) that said women were incapable of

ordination until November 1992. MOW members were present in Perth to witness ten women being ordained, amongst their number, Kay Goldsworthy. MOW members were present at each of the ordinations that took place in most Australian dioceses in 1992. By the end of 1992, 90 women had been ordained, and the overseas ordinations of two more women had been recognised, hence the MOW slogan, “92 in ‘92”.

In 2007, the Appellate Tribunal ruled that dioceses could elect female bishops if they had already accepted female priests. Kay Goldsworthy was the first woman appointed a bishop in the Anglican Church in Australia in 2008, subsequently followed by other female appointments.

MOW changed its name to MOWatch in 2014, following the lead of the English Movement for the Ordination of Women. However, it reverted to MOW in 2017, in recognition of the fact that several Australian dioceses, the most powerful of which, the Anglican Diocese of Sydney, still refuse to ordain women priests.

In 2022, MOW continues its commitment to challenging and transforming the Anglican Church of Australia and its role in the community. Its September 2022 national conference, *Unfinished Business: celebrating Anglican women’s ministry in Australia*, is being held in Sydney to honour those who fought for women’s ordination over many years; it celebrates the courage and service of ordained women and reminds Australians that there are still dioceses that limit or refuse to acknowledge women’s ordained ministry.

This article was prepared for Wikipedia by Elaine Lindsay and draws on books including:

Lindsay, Elaine & Janet Scarfe (eds). *Preachers, Prophets and Heretics: Women's Ministry in the Anglican Church of Australia*. NewSouth Publishing, 2012

McLean, Lesley. *Woman: the Church's Buried Talent*. 2018

O'Brien, Anne. *God's Willing Workers: Women and Religion in Australia*. UNSW Press, 2005

Porter, Muriel. *Women in the Church: the Great Ordination Debate in Australia*. Penguin 1989

Rose, Mavis. *Freedom from Sanctified Sexism: Women Transforming the Church*. Allira, 1996

Sturmey-Jones, Ruth & Malcolm J Jones (eds). *Ministry of Women: Telling Tales: Proceedings of the First National Conference of MOW (Australia)*. MOW (Armidale) 1985

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The Movement for the Ordination of Women has organised regular gatherings across Australia since the inaugural Conference in 1985.

A great deal of thought, planning and preparation has gone into these events. The 2022 celebration particularly honours not only ordained women, but also the dedication and tireless efforts of lay people, men and women over many years.

Our Movement will continue, through both events and our website, to encourage the Church to make full use of the ministries of women. <https://mowatch.com.au/>