



**Standing Committee of the
Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki**

Minutes

of a meeting held on 15 September 2018
St Luke's Centre, Te Kuiti

Present:

Bishop and

Chairperson

The Most Reverend Philip Richardson

Vicar General

The Venerable Trevor Harrison

Clergy

The Venerable Malcolm French

The Reverend Julian Perkins

The Reverend Dr Jeheli Singh

The Reverend Chee Yong

Laity

Canon Dr Bryan Bang

Ms Mary Bourke

Canon Robin Brockie

Mrs Sue MacLean

Mr Alan Tanner

In Attendance:

Diocesan Registrar-Manager

Mr Simon Cayley

Diocesan Staff

Mrs Jill Schumacher

Minutes Secretary

Mrs Pip Harrison

Chair, WDTB

Mrs Elizabeth Bang, Chair WDTB

Trust Management

Ms Anne Edwards

The meeting opened at 10.25 am. The Most Reverend Philip Richardson **welcomed** members of Standing Committee and those attending. He spoke of the passing of Archdeacon Tiki Raumati, the significance of his choice to be buried at St Mary's Cathedral and the graciousness of the iwi in allowing it.

2.0 Opening Prayer: Mrs Sue McLean

Standing Committee watched a video of part of Archdeacon Tiki's funeral and stood in a mark of respect and remembrance. The Reverend Canon Wharehoka Wano is the Cathedral's new kaumatua and Reeves Canon.

3.0 Bible study:

The Venerable Malcolm French on the gospel for 16 September, focusing on the importance of place (Caesarea-Philippi was historically the northernmost point of Israel but had been rebuilt and re-named for Roman domination), the first use of 'Messiah' and the realisation that this Messiah was not what Peter had expected but what he needed.

4.0 Apologies: The Reverend Canon Pat Scaife



Motion: That the apologies be sustained.

Carried

5.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

Motion: that the Minutes of the meeting of 23 August 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

**Tanner/Bang
Carried**

6.0 Matters Arising:

The Reverend Dr Jekheli Singh commented that Assessment Query from Te Kuiti had been clarified and therefore the Assessment Schedule was adopted.

Bishop's Report

The Archbishop reported on the tremendous development of the staff team over the year, as they had taken up new responsibilities, assisted by the Reverend Sue Burns. Some thirty initiatives based on the drivers of being grounded in prayer, equipped for discipleship and connected to community had been developed around the diocese. Some ministry units had done this very intentionally. Twenty-eight people under 40 were considering ordained ministry or had been recently ordained – a higher rate than in other dioceses. Only one anticipated that the Diocese would provide a stipend for their ministry. These calls to ministry deserved celebration.

Progress on the issues raised by the Road Map had been significant and would also be reported and celebrated at Synod. The quality of the financial reporting was now excellent and made decision-making informed in a way it had not always been. There had been much hard work done and more was still to be done but the foundations were now solid.

The Reverend Julian Perkins commented that it was clear that some Synod members had not heard or understood the issues in the Road Map.

The Venerable Malcom French said that the current positive situation depended in part on considerable on-going action on the part of various people including the Archbishop and this might not be sustainable in its current form. This would need to be held in review.

The Archbishop spoke on reviewing various models of leadership before final decisions were made about the future leadership of the diocese, so that the work of the Bishop(s) would be effective and manageable. He suggested a Review Commission be formed to develop a model that would be effective and not increase the workload of the Bishop(s).

The Archbishop reported that there had been negotiations with the Crown re their requirements round the \$5 million contribution to the St Mary's restoration.

The St Mary's Cathedral Review Report had been presented and recommendations were being taken up. They were now ready to recruit a new Dean and were clear what they were looking for.



The Archbishop expressed appreciation for those who had been taking the lead on appointing processes – The Venerable Val Riches in the north and The Venerable Trevor Harrison for the Cathedral. The Archbishop would join the processes at the interview stage.

The LiFT programme was going well again, both locally and with interest from a wider group in New Zealand and overseas.

Confirmation numbers from the church schools were good and two year 13 students were asking about preparation for possible future ordination.

The Archbishop's visit to Nawton parish had been encouraging – the work of the parish was being done very well, as it was in Katikati.

Motion 7 had had some fallout – Reverend Tim Lloyd had resigned. Some thirty Hamilton parishioners had decided to leave their parish and would probably worship with Hamilton West Community Church. Manaia was going to be voting on the matter and might also choose to leave. The Reverend Vincent Nuku and his wife Kathleen were committed to rebirthing Anglican Ministry in Manaia, if this were to happen. Some other ministers and people were not happy about the Synod's decision but had decided to stay. The Archbishop commented that it was a diocesan decision as to the way forward on blessings in the diocese.

The Archbishop commented that there had been some realistic concern about the Primatial workload. Being Acting Bishop of Christchurch had not been time-consuming thanks to the efficient team in that diocese. However, managing congregations leaving the church had taken a lot of time. Nelson also had efficient systems in place. Workload had been more seriously affected by a high number of serious complaints. The process on these needed to be followed, although they were mostly dismissed. There had also been concerns expressed about workload that were not actually founded and the areas of actual concern needed to be communicated and myths dispelled.

The Archbishop commented that, on the personal front, he and Belinda had been moving her parents to a new house, Belinda was due to have knee surgery before long and they were going on leave shortly.

Ms Mary Bourke commented that the idea that one bishop could do what it had been agreed two should do was untenable. Canon Dr Bryan Bang said that the situation had been accepted only as a short-term measure. The Venerable Malcolm French said that there was to be a meeting looking at what measures could be taken in the meantime to make the workload reasonable. The interim solution could be workable but not perfect, while a Review Commission sorted out the best model for the future.



Mrs Sue MacLean asked whether it would be possible to have a Primate that was not a Bishop of a diocese. The Archbishop said this model had been tried and rejected and that it would be impossible for the church to finance three primates.

The Reverend Chee Yong asked whether the choice of the Bishop-elect of Christchurch would change the minds of those, who had said they would leave the church. The Archbishop said that this was not the case. A further query was about the viability of the Diocese of Dunedin. The Archbishop said they had worked out a way forward.

SC.633: Appointment of a Commission for Episcopal Models in this Diocese

That Standing Committee resolves to appoint a small Commission, including the Bishop, to investigate long-term and sustainable episcopal models for the diocese.

**Bang/Bourke
Carried**

Items for discussion:

7.1 Trustee Declarations – the Venerable Malcolm French and Mrs Sue MacLean declared their chaplaincy of St John – and committee membership in the case of the Venerable Malcolm French.

7.4 Finance

Ms Anne Edwards reported that Standing Committee was running at a surplus of \$8,000 but this was lower than what had been budgeted (\$21,000). There had been unexpected expenses in the area of maintenance and this was a warning that it was necessary to be careful about what expenses were approved.

The Ministry Support Fund was covered by an investment of \$300,000. This year there was to be a loss of \$50,000, which the investment would have to cover. This would decrease future interest. Mr Simon Cayley clarified that this was not a capital fund but one that was intended to decrease and then be topped up. The Venerable Malcom French commented that there had been unexpected expenses in support of three parishes in the last year and it was to be hoped that this would not be a recurring expense. Ms Edwards said that the top-up amount was generally used within the year, so the fund was not being built up further. The Archbishop commented that this was a timely reminder with the extra ordinands on the horizon and forward projections should be done. The Venerable Trevor Harrison suggested these be done before Synod but it was decided that it was not an urgent matter and that Mr Simon Cayley and the Venerable Malcolm French would look at projections and make recommendations.

Ms Bourke asked whether there needed to be a review of the system of having a separate fund. Was this still the right model? The Archbishop said it was important to involve Ms Edwards before recommendations were made.



An overdraft of \$84,000 was currently expected. This included some episcopal expenses. The budget for next year was balanced. Spending needed to be restricted.

7.4 Finance and Audit

Canon Robin Brockie reported on the work being done on the Bishopric Fund. The fund had \$5,000,000 capital currently returning 3.8%. Historically it was shown that there was a fundamental drop of 3.25% between what the deposit rate would be over the present decade and the last. It had been realised that the Bishoprics' activities were under pressure financially – partly because more responsibilities had been taken on. It was important that funding was sufficient to support the Bishopric's activities, which were vital to the diocese. The diocese need to realise that change was necessary, since the Diocese had not been confronting the reality of funding the Bishopric for two decades. This, and that it was not the Bishop's problem, needed to be communicated to the members of the church. Mr Simon Cayley said the way episcopal expenses were recorded had compounded the problems of Bishopric debt – it might better be reported within the Diocesan financial reports rather than as a separate page.

The Archbishop suggested it might be necessary to do a Road Map Update at the start of Synod, as had been done at the last two Synods. He commented that this diocese had the least diocesan endowment of any (though not least Bishopric endowment). The Bishopric had been covering expenses that more properly belonged with the Diocese. Historically the Bishopric had supported the Diocese financially in this way and more recently it had run the other way.

Canon Robin Brockie confirmed that a letter had been sent to MITT requesting that MITT takes over servicing its payroll and confirm the debt and terms of repayment.

The Archbishop asked that Ms Edwards pass on thanks to her team on the liberatingly clear recording of accounts. Mrs MacLean echoed this on her own behalf.

7.2 Health and Safety

Mr Simon Cayley highlighted procedures in the case of a car crash, especially when the car involved was in the car fund. It was suggested the relevant information be put in the glove box. Mr Cayley suggested an emergency car kit with useful items be included and maintained and Standing Committee agreed. The letters detailing where best fuel discounts were to be found would also be passed on with fuel cards in future.

7.3 Risk

Mr Cayley reported that not all parishes were aware of the Earthquake Policy and the need for parishes to work through the outlined process around assessment and strengthening. He suggested re-communication might be necessary and Standing Committee agreed. Mrs Elizabeth Bang suggested that the issue was wider for some parishes with elderly



parishioners facing the process. The Archbishop spoke to the process. The results of what had already been done were in the Terrier. The Venerable Malcom French suggested that these results be divided into archdeaconries and be given to the archdeacons to pursue and this was agreed. The Venerable Trevor Harrison reported that the local authority could require an assessment, if the vestry had not pursued it. The issue would not go away.

7.5 Manager's Report

Mr Simon Cayley reported that Rev Ngira Simmonds had confirmed he would like to use office space in Charlotte Brown House for his role as Manutaki of Te Manawa o Te Wheke. ++Philip indicated this offered a significant opportunity to express our commitment to resource sharing with Tikanga Maori and asked that the Diocesan Manager take this into account in negotiating terms.

Connected was being used to communicate about the roles and staff at the Diocesan Office. There was a request for a printed or printable version and a list of whom to contact on various matters.

The Foodbank had asked if they could put large external freezers on their site and another tenant had asked for increased parking but these had not been agreed at this stage, as other possible plans would be affected and made more complex.

7.7 Synod Update

Mr Cayley said that responses from some, who had not registered for Synod suggested that the requirement to attend might need re-communicating. This would be investigated before next Synod. There may have been a quirk in which database was used. The Order Paper was being worked on and Mr Cayley thanked the Venerable Trevor Harrison for his assistance on this. Everything was on schedule. Mrs MacLean said she was happy to put up someone with accommodation problems and it was asked that anyone who could do this communicate with Mrs Jill Schumacher.

7.8 Faculty from the Parish of Holy Trinity, Forest Lake

There was discussion round the faculty request from Holy Trinity, Forest Lake, which wished to sell the vicarage in order to repair another building that was rented out. There was reluctance to allow the use of capital funds to do maintenance and there was concern for the parish, as they grappled with their future mission in the community following the changes in their congregation.

Mrs Elizabeth Bang said there was an extra problem in that WDTB had guaranteed a bank loan that the business running the childcare centre had taken out. They were trying to extract themselves from this.

Reverend Chee Yong commented that archdeacons needed to be keeping parishes up to scratch with repairs and maintenance on their buildings. He suggested that a mortgage be raised on the vicarage to cover the repairs. He suggested that a look at pulling down both



buildings and replacing them with something to meet the needs of the parish might be worthwhile. A wider strategy to help small parishes would be a good idea.

Canon Robin Brockie agreed that borrowing would be a better response.

SC.634: Working Group to Assist the Parish of Forest Lake

The Archbishop moved that Venerable Malcolm French lead a conversation on parish mission and two suitably qualified people, including Mr Alan Tanner, be asked to help them with the practical financial side; that Mr Cayley respond to the parish saying there had been a substantial discussion and Standing Committee were unable to approve the faculty, naming the two areas of concern and offering the help of the Venerable Malcolm French and Mr Alan Tanner (plus possibly one other) to assist the parish find another solution and plan for the future; that Mr Cayley also approach the other person suggested.

Carried

7.6 Anglican Action Update

Motion: that Standing Committee move into committee.

Carried

Motion: that Standing Committee come out of committee.

Carried

SC.635: Liaison Committee with Anglican Action

That this Standing Committee appoint Ms Mary Bourke, the Venerable Malcom French and Reverend Chee Yong as a committee to liaise with the Anglican Action Board over proposals to revise their trust deed.

Carried

8.0 Any Other Business

Review Commission on Episcopal Leadership

It was agreed that the Bishop's Staff should contribute to the development of terms of reference and possible names for a Review Commission on Episcopal Leadership, having accepted suggestions of possible members from the Standing Committee.

The meeting closed at 2.15 pm.

Date of next meeting: By video conference, at Charlotte Brown House and Tikituterangi House, 22 November 2018.