

# DIOCESE OF WAIKATO AND TARANAKI

## STATUTE NO. 4

### THE INTERPRETATION STATUTE 1990

[Updated to 2015]

A Statute to interpret the language of Statutes and Resolutions.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Waikato, in Synod assembled, as follows:-

1. The Short Title of this Statute shall be "THE INTERPRETATION STATUTE 1990"
2. In this Statute and in all other Statutes, Resolutions, or other proceedings of the Synod or Standing Committee of the Diocese, if not inconsistent with the context thereof or by express words excluded, all words and phrases referring to the Diaconate, Priesthood, Episcopate, and in particular but without limiting the generality hereof the words "Bishop", "Priest", "Deacon", "Curate", "Pastor", "Vicar", and "Minister" shall be read as referring to and including both genders.
3. In this Statute, and in all other Statutes, Resolutions, or other proceedings of the Synod or Standing Committee if not inconsistent with the context thereof respectively, and unless there are clear words to exclude or restrict such meaning, the following words shall have the interpretation and meaning hereby attached to them respectively:

**Bishop:** the Bishop of Waikato, the Bishop of Taranaki or the Vicar-General or a Commissary of a Bishop canonically authorised to act on their behalf.

**Canon:** a law of the Church constitutionally made by the General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui or by the Synodical Conference of the Inter-Diocesan Conference.

**Clergy:** includes all persons in holy orders who shall hold a spiritual charge or cure or a licence or permission to officiate in this Diocese issued by one or both of the Bishops, but shall not include a Bishop.

**Diocesan Secretary:** "Registrar" or "Diocesan Manager" - means the person appointed as such from time to time pursuant to the provisions of The Waikato Diocesan Statute of Standing Committee 1994 and amendments.

**Faculty:** means a written authorisation issued by the bishop for the carrying out of the work therein described.

**Minister:** where referring to an ordained Minister, any Clergy person who is recognised by the authority of one or both of the Bishops as having for the time being the charge of any parish, any parish district and mission district.

**Parish:** means a Parish or a Mission District as the case may require.

**Parish District:** means a Parish or a Mission District as the case may require.

**Resolution:** all such determinations of the Diocesan Synod or Standing Committee as are not made by Statute and incorporated into the Diocesan Statutes.

**Sessional Committee:** means a committee set up during a session of the Diocesan Synod whose duty is to consider a specific question and to report its conclusions to that session of the Diocesan Synod.

**Select Committee (or Commission):** means a committee or commission set up by the Synod to consider a specific question and to report its conclusions to the next following or a subsequent session of the Diocesan Synod.

**Statute:** a law of the Church constitutionally made by the Diocesan Synod.

**Vestry:** the body defined in Statute 15, The Parishes Statute 2009 as a Vestry, including, where appropriate, a Parish Council or equivalent organisation in a co-operating Parish.

**Vicar:** any Clergy person duly licensed by one or both of the Bishops to assist them in the cure of souls.

4. In this Statute and in all other Statutes, Resolutions or proceedings of the Synod or Standing Committee unless repugnant to the context or unless expressly otherwise stated or unless contrary to the Constitution or the Canons, words importing the singular number include the plural number and words importing the plural number include the singular number.
- 4A All bills and motions put before the Synod and all matters arising for consideration, revision or renewal by the Synod or the Standing Committee or by any commission, sub-committee or other body established by the Synod or the Standing Committee shall be expressed in language that is inclusive and gender neutral unless the subject matter requires otherwise.
5. The decision of the Standing Committee upon any question as to construction or interpretation of this Statute or any other Statute, or upon any matter for which express provision has not been made either in this Statute or the Canons of the General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui shall be conclusive unless or until revoked or altered by the Diocesan Synod.
6. This Statute shall take effect immediately upon passing by Synod.