



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

Minutes

of a meeting held on 11 April 2019
by video conference

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 Venerable Canon Pat Scaife
The Reverend Dr Jekheli Singh
The Reverend Chee Yong

Laity

Canon Dr Bryan Bang
Ms Mary Bourke

In Attendance:

Diocesan Registrar-Manager

Mr Simon Cayley

Minutes Secretary

Mrs Pip Harrison

Chair, WDTB

Mrs Elizabeth Bang, Chair WDTB

Trust Management

Ms Grace Sun

Observer

The Venerable Stephen Black

The meeting opened at 6 pm. The Most Reverend Philip Richardson **welcomed** members of Standing Committee and those attending.

Opening Prayer: The Reverend Stephen Black

Apologies: Canon Robin Brockie, Mrs Sue MacLean and The Reverend Julian Perkins for lateness.

Motion: That the apologies be sustained.

**Chairperson
Carried**

Bible study: Mrs Sue MacLean's reflection on forgiveness was read by Canon Dr Bryan Bang. It was taken from Richard Holloway's study on the subject, sub-titled "How do we forgive the unforgivable?" based on Matthew 5. Radical forgiveness is the way to move forward from horror.

(The Reverend Julian Perkins joined the meeting.)



Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

Motion: That the Minutes of the meeting of 2 February 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

**Bang/Harrison
Carried**

Matters Arising – none.

Finance

Ms Grace Sun highlighted elements in the report on Standing Committee finances for the two months to February 2019.

Expenditure and revenue were in line with budget or better.

The Presbyterian Schools Office's lease was due to end this month but Te Manawa o te Wheke's lease payment had started. Other income areas had remained the same.

The Archbishop commented on the one day a week funding for each Archdeacon to recognise the work they were doing in the one-bishop environment. The funding sources of this was a work in progress.

Debtors to 28 February were \$122,000, about half of which was MITT's debt. MITT was due to take over the payroll from this month and they had confirmed this responsibility, so that this debt would get no bigger. They were investigating ways to repay the debt.

Episcopal Commission

Mr Simon Cayley reported that the internal debt had been paid and both Bishops' houses had been moved to the Episcopal Accounts. The forecast for the current year's Episcopal Accounts was break even, including the new funding from St John's Trust Board. The senior staff group had been looking at how the episcopal load could be shared within that group. This discussion was continuing and an interim report would be written soon, the original timeline having proved too short for the amount of research needed.

The Venerable Malcolm French commented that he and Canon Robin Brockie had been asked to hold off on investigating funding an interim solution, as the Episcopal Commission was also looking at this. He said that this was unsatisfactory, in that time was going by without an interim solution and this had also not been part of their brief. The Archbishop commented that he was feeling under the least pressure he had in five years and he was not currently over-worked. Looking back a year, very many issues had been resolved in the last twelve months. Two bishops could deliver more but he had been able to be present in the Waikato parishes and had a very supportive senior staff. He would like to have more time for new initiatives. Suggestions for a solution (potentially long-term) would be made at the meeting with Senior Staff next week. Re-positioning leadership, including the work of Archdeacons, rather than returning to old structures, would be important in reading the missional situation. Concern for family, both his own and those of others who were doing extra work, was expressed by the Archbishop and other members of Standing Committee. The Archbishop said it was important to make the best use of the financial resource there was for leadership. The timing of a report from the Commission was unclear – they had not felt they would be ready by June. Ms Bourke asked if there would be time given to consider their report before the following



Standing Committee. The Archbishop commented that moving diocesan expectations in implementing a new model might be the biggest challenge.

SC.655: Expression of Concern at the Reporting Back of the Episcopal Commission

That Standing Committee express concern at the extending timeline to the Episcopal Commission and insistence that their interim report be available at the next Standing Committee meeting and that it include a timeline and final date.

**Scaife/Bang
Carried**

Items for discussion:

Trustee Declarations over and above those recorded previously: the Reverend Chee Yong as vicar of a Co-operating Venture in the matter of UCANZ.

Health and Safety

Mr Simon Cayley reported that the remaining urgent seismic assessments have been completed but no results had been received yet.

A request had been made by the army that they be allowed to show their new recruits the colours (guidon) on the wall of St Mary's, Hawera. Mr Simon Cayley said it was outside the Diocesan Trust Board guidelines to let any visitors into the church, even briefly. The Reverend Pat Scaife said that one alternative was for a church staff member to take the guidon out but that this was difficult because of the fragility of the guidon. It was agreed that the position, including the potential for damage to the guidon, be outlined to the army.

Risk

Issues to be raised under other items.

Finance and Audit

Canon Dr Bryan Bang pointed out that the \$83,000 loan mentioned in the Cash Flow section was owed to the Trust Board not by it.

The Archbishop pointed out FA013, which said the Car Fund would be included in the Standing Committee accounts, and FA016, which detailed how this would be handled.

SC.656: Removal of Cap on Parish Accounting Fees

That the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Subcommittee become the resolution of Standing Committee, that the cap of \$1,200 per parish Accounting Fee (from 2020) be removed and that each parish pay its share of Parish Accounting fees.

**Harrison/French
Carried**

It was noted that the current 50% subsidy would continue. Five parishes would see their fees increase. It was agreed that parishes that were going to be affected by this motion should be informed in advance of Synod and that the question of making the Parish Accounting Scheme



compulsory and the effect this would have on small parishes be referred to the Finance and Audit Committee for consideration.

SC.657: Annual Clergy Stipend Increase

That the resolution of the Finance and Audit Subcommittee that the net recommended increase for 2019 stipends and for Diocesan Staff be 2% be adopted.

**Bourke/Bang
Carried**

Manager's Report

The practice of employing Vestry Members in parishes, which is prohibited both by diocesan rules and the Charities Act, was discussed and it was agreed that the diocesan staff would work through this issue with parishes affected. Ms Mary Bourke said that the issue underlined the current lack of people on the ground to run things.

Canon Dr Bryan Bang said that issues round parish responsibilities in connection with renting out vicarages etc were complicated and the Statutes Revision Task Group would report on this at a future meeting.

Mr Simon Cayley reported that developing an updated and effective database would be expensive (possibly \$20-30,000). He sought advice on what priority to give this. Canon Dr Bryan Bang suggested it be referred to Finance and Audit Subcommittee and Ms Mary Bourke agreed, suggesting they be asked to find a way to make it work. The Venerable Stephen Black said it would take an analysis process to know what was even being requested. The Archbishop said the diocesan system was behind those of other dioceses or the General Synod and was a block to effective communication and ministry.

SC.658: Review of the Diocesan Database and Digital Communications Infrastructure

That a review of the Diocesan Database and digital communications infrastructure be referred to the Finance and Audit Subcommittee with instructions that they should find a way to underwrite this project.

**French/Bourke
Carried**

SC.659: Streamlining of Diocesan Bureaucratic Processes

That this Standing Committee empower the Bishop's leadership team to research and develop ways of streamlining diocesan bureaucratic process.

**Bourke/French
Carried**

**Notice of Late AGM – St Matthew's, Morrinsville (SC.1904.8.6)
St Barnabas, Opunake**

SC.660: Late AGMs

That the parishes of St Matthew's Morrinsville and St Barnabas, Opunake be given leave to hold their AGMs late.

**Scaife/Perkins
Carried**



Living Wage Commitment (SC.1904.8.7)

SC.661: Living Wage Commitment

That Standing Committee direct the Diocesan Manager to communicate with all Ministry Units, advising them of the increase in the minimum wage and of the diocesan commitment to the living wage with reference to the 2013 Synod motion, and that ministry units be requested to provide to their Archdeacons a list of employees and their current hourly rate of pay.

French/Scaife

Carried

It was agreed that, although co-operating ventures cannot be required to follow decisions of Synod, they would also receive the communication for their information.

SC.662: The Recording of Meetings for Minute Taking

That the meeting be recorded for the purposes of Minute taking.

Carried

Use of the Proceeds from the Sale of St Stephen's, Motunui (SC.1904.8.8)

A significant bequest had been made to the Diocese and the suggestion had been made that the proceeds from the sale of St Stephen's be added to this and other funds to maximise the interest return, as well as that the capital funds from the sale should be available for use in a controlled way.

SC.663: The Use of the Funds from the Sale of Motunui Church

That this Standing Committee authorises the use of capital from the St Stephen's, Motunui church sale for the Waitara Church Missioner Project, on the condition that the proceeds be managed by the combined Diocesan Trusts Board and distributed as required by the project.

Bourke/Scaife

Carried

Writ for General Synod 2020 Representation

Notice had been received that General Synod representatives were to be elected this year. The process agreed after the last election would be used.

Dissemination of Material to Parishes (SC.1904.8.10)

There was discussion about disseminating information to those, who do not have email. Ms Mary Bourke said this was not an issue that should be being dealt with at the Diocesan staff level. The Venerable Trevor Harrison said this was something archdeacons could deal with, running off information where necessary. The Archbishop said it was worth looking into regional administration hubs to avoid duplicating work round the diocese.

Skills Matrix (SC.1904.8.11)

A skills matrix template was offered for use with boards, although more details would be necessary for use with particular boards. Mrs Elizabeth Bang said the Waikato Diocesan Trust Board had identified that they needed finance skills and architectural/building skills but had not yet filled their vacancy. The Archbishop asked the Diocesan Manager to obtain the latest versions of the skills matrices of the various bodies Standing Committee appoints to and to provide updates as prepared. A file of CVs of potential members of Boards would be useful.



Commission Formation re Sale of Proceeds ex Te Rau Aroha Camp (SC.1904.8.12)

It was agreed that the Archbishop would advise the Diocesan Solicitor that a further opinion was being sought on the matter of an implied trust. The Diocesan Manager would obtain the address of the recommended QC to consult and a different solicitor would brief the QC on the matter. It was agreed that this particular issue appeared to be a one-off situation and satisfaction with the Diocesan Solicitor was generally high.

Faculty from the Parish of West Hamilton

SC.664: Faculty for the Installation of a Flat Screen TV – West Hamilton

That a faculty to purchase and install a flat-screen TV in the foyer of the complex be granted to the Parish of West Hamilton.

Carried

Faculty from the Parish of Stratford

SC.665: Faculty for the Sale of Stratford Vicarage

That the petition for a faculty to sell the house and land at 76 Cressida Avenue, Stratford be granted to the Central Taranaki Regional Council.

Carried

Faculty from the Parish of Hillcrest

Canon Dr Bryan Bang expressed a doubt about the sale of the St David's church and land because the wording of the original bequest may have created a trust.

SC.666: Faculty for the Sale of Matangi Church - Hillcrest

That the petition for a faculty by St Francis Co-operating Parish, Hillcrest, Hamilton lie on the table pending further advice as to ways to make this possible and that the parish be informed of this and why. (Diocesan Manager and Canon Dr Bryan Bang to consult on this.)

Carried

SC.667: Vote for Faculty by Email

That, once the legal process has been clarified, Standing Committee vote on the faculty by email.

Carried

Seismic Assessments

SC.668: Extraordinary Payment to the Parish of Huntly re Seismic Assessment

That the recommendations of Mr Simon Cayley and Canon Robin Brockie that an extraordinary payment of \$5,000 be made to the Parish of Huntly to support the cost of an earthquake assessment be accepted.

Bourke/French

Carried

SC.669: The Setting Up of a Fund for Earthquake Assessments

That, subject to the positive interpretation of relevant Statutes, Standing Committee approve the establishment of a \$35,000 sub-fund of the Ministry Support Fund to be made available on application to financially distressed Parishes to subsidise the cost of earthquake assessments.

Bourke/French

Carried



SC.670: The Establishment of the Lapsed Resolution of Synod re Cost of Seismic Assessments

That the lapsed resolution of Synod to establish such a fund to assist parishes with the cost of earthquake assessments be re-enacted.

**Bang/Scaife
Carried**

The Venerable Malcolm French requested clarification of language in seismic reports.

UCANZ (SC.1904.8.13)

Mr Simon Cayley spoke to his paper on the UCANZ proposal. He reported he was making others within UCANZ and Michael Hughes (GS) aware of the effects of the new assessment system and would continue to update the Finance and Audit Committee.

Canon Pat Scaife asked whether the rotation of parishes' denominational oversight was happening at three-yearly intervals, since it didn't appear to have been in recent times. Mr Simon Cayley said this was a new system, so it remained to be seen. Parishes that were not in the UCANZ system would not be affected by this. Dr Jekheli Singh asked what it would take for a parish to stop being a CV and was informed it was a two year process to withdraw from the agreement and trust deeds involved.

The Archbishop spoke to the poor process involved with this decision by UCANZ. While there didn't appear to be anything to be done about the decision itself, Standing Committee could deplore the process and outcomes. Another issue was the likely reduced assessment for the third partner in a cycle. He reported that the bishops were discussing whether it was practical to remain within UCANZ. Many parishes in UCANZ were congregational rather than diocesan and it was an uneasy partnership. This diocese was worst affected of all the dioceses.

SC.671: Letter to UCANZ re Process and Outcome of Assessment Model

That the Standing Committee request the Archbishop write a robust letter to UCANZ expressing disquiet about the process and outcome of their new assessment model.

**Scaife/French
Carried**

The Reverend Chee Yong asked whether a CV could join Affirm. The Archbishop agreed to find out about this.

Parish Contracts

SC.672: Later Consideration of Parish Contracts

That the discussion of the paper on Parish Contracts be deferred for later consideration.

**Bang/Scaife
Carried**

Items for Information:

Tikanga Giving for Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki – January 2019
BAF First Quarter Report

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm.



Date of next meeting: 22 June 2019 at Te Kuiti.