



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

Minutes

of a meeting held on 22 June 2019
at 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 Venerable Canon Pat Scaife
The Reverend Dr Jeheli Singh
The Reverend Chee Yong

Laity

Canon Dr Bryan Bang
Ms Mary Bourke
Canon Robin Brockie

In Attendance:

Diocesan Staff

Mrs Jill Schumacher

Minutes Secretary

Mrs Pip Harrison

Chair, WDTB

Mrs Elizabeth Bang, Chair WDTB

Trust Management Ltd

Ms Anne Edwards

The meeting opened at 10.30 am. The Most Reverend Philip Richardson **welcomed** members of Standing Committee and those attending. He asked prayer for the "Reef Life" dive team member, who drowned on Thursday off Patea. He also mentioned events round the upcoming kawē mate for the Venerable Tiki Raumati.

Opening Prayer: Canon Dr Bryan Bang

Motion without notice: That Standing Committee acknowledge the outstanding service of The Venerable Reg Nicholson over many years in the Diocese, especially in the areas of preaching and as Episcopal Vicar in the later years of his stipended ministry, and pay its condolences to his widow.

Carried

Bible study: The Rev'd Chee Yong read an extract from the book 'Permission Granted To Do Church Differently in the 21st Century' by Graham Cooke and Gary Goodell, concerning the speed of change in the modern world and the necessity of surrender to God in dealing with it and using the opportunities change brought. He spoke of the need for truth and willingness to change in the

Church. He noted, for instance, that 'Allah' was a word for God in the Christian Church in many places (and had been before Islam developed) and the Church needed to acknowledge this and combat ignorance on the point, where there had been protest about its use in the public arena.

The Archbishop commented on the number of parishes that had offered facilities and friendship to mosques after 15 March attacks. The Prime Minister had recently called together a group of religious leaders for a discussion. He spoke of a speech by a Muslim scholar, in which she had encouraged positive engagement with Christians and pointing out to her community that Islam would not have survived its early years without the protection of a Christian king in Ethiopia. Archbishop Philip also encouraged deep engagement.

Apologies: The Rev'd Julian Perkins, Mrs Sue MacLean, Mr Simon Cayley.

Motion: That the apologies be sustained.

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes:

Motion: That the Minutes of the meeting of 11 April 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

**Brockie/French
Carried**

Matters Arising

Recording of Meetings for Minute Taking

It was agreed that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of assisting Minute taking.

SC.666 Faculty for sale of Matangi Church – Hillcrest

Canon Dr Bryan Bang reported that there had been no trust implied round the property of Matangi Church and the St Francis Co-operating Parish, Hillcrest, Hamilton had been informed that the sale could proceed.

The Archbishop asked whether there would be an issue around percentages of capital in co-operating ventures in this and other cases of sales of property. The issues round this (both use of capital and income on sale of property/disestablishment) would need proper discussion and documentation before the event. The Rev'd Chee Yong agreed this needed to be very clear both at Standing Committee and Parish Council level. The Venerable Malcolm French suggested a denominational discussion might be needed as to what would happen if there were no written agreement. The Archbishop said he would ask the Registrar/Manager to write to the Hillcrest parish and raise these issues for discussion.

SC.666: That the faculty for the sale of Matangi Church, Hillcrest be granted.

**Bang/French
Carried**

Huntly Earthquake Assessment

Mrs Elizabeth Bang reported that \$5,000 had been paid to the parish of Huntly to assist with the earthquake assessment of the church. An engineer had now inspected the church property and passed it for use, although the building inspector had made some stipulations before this was to be

allowed. Mrs Bang was asking the engineer to consult with the building inspector about this to resolve the issue.

Vicarages – New Housing Standards

The Venerable Malcolm French suggested it might be necessary to clarify that the new rental standards for housing should apply to church houses, whether or not the Vicar lived in them. It was confirmed that this was a clear legal requirement.

SC.673: Insulation of Vicarages

That a line be added to the regulations on Clergy Housing requiring that it meet the new rental standards.

**Harrison/Bang
Carried**

It was agreed that details of the new standard be sent to all parishes, underlining that it applied to vicarages being used by clergy, as well as to those rented out.

Episcopal Commission

Archbishop Philip Richardson reported that the Episcopal Commission had suggested meetings to consult with Anglican Action and BAF boards, iwi and the mayors of New Plymouth and Hamilton but not others. Concerns were raised around potential expectations, the exclusion of other mayors and the fiscal implications of this widening of the terms that had been set. The Finance and Audit Committee had pointed out these problems and the Commission had agreed to operate within the original terms.

The Rev'd Chee Yong queried the format of the meeting held in his archdeaconry, in which some of the time was spent discussing the qualities needed in a new bishop. The Archbishop said that he understood only one of the archdeaconries had stuck entirely to the format of the consultation set by the Episcopal Commission and this would make comparison of responses difficult. Expectations would need to be managed in some quarters.

The Archbishop said that the draft report of the Commission was due to be with the Archbishop by mid-July for fact-checking. An extraordinary face-to-face meeting with Standard Committee, members of the Commission, Senior Staff and some Trustees would be held to discuss the final report.

Ms Mary Bourke said that Standing Committee had already rehearsed the matters involved to this point and it was frustrating that the process had taken so long and become muddled.

Acknowledgment of the Rev'd Michael Hughes

SC.674: Honorary Canon of the Diocese - The Rev'd Michael Hughes

That the Reverend Michael Hughes' 10 years of service to the Church as the General Secretary of General Synod, as well as his previous service in this Diocese, be acknowledged by his appointment as Honorary Canon of both the Taranaki and Waikato Cathedrals.

Carried

Finance

Ms Anne Edwards highlighted elements in the report on Standing Committee finances for the two months to April 2019. The year's finances were going well. The net operating surplus stood at \$21,000 (\$24,000 above budget). This difference was largely accounted for by the significantly low amount of the budget for Archdeacon resourcing being spent, which would be corrected once expenses had been claimed. Debtors: MITT debt (\$92,000) – Standing Committee was no longer dealing with MITT's payroll, so the debt was not now growing. Cash flow was looking good with Episcopal paying its own expenses this year.

Canon Robin Brockie reported that there was a plan in place for repayment of the MITT debt at a rate of \$1,000 a month but this had not been being followed by MITT. The matter was being pursued.

Finance and Audit Committee

The Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee were taken as read. The Venerable Malcolm French enquired about a letter from Tirau parish regarding funding. Canon Robin Brockie said the parish had sought to withdraw funding but were told they could not and he would copy Mr French into the correspondence. The Archbishop said that the matter was part of the UCANZ discussion.

Canon Robin Brockie reported that the issue of debt relief to the parish of Ngaruawahia was in progress.

Earthquake strengthening was having an ongoing impact on the budget.

Motion: That the Report of the Finance and Audit Committee, with its recommendations, be received.

Carried

Canon Robin Brockie said there would be continuing conversation as to how a Diocesan Database and digital Communications Infrastructure could be funded. The next stage of development could cost \$30,000 and figures and information were being prepared by the Diocesan Registrar/Manager for the Finance and Audit Committee.

The Archbishop acknowledged Canon Robin Brockie's work, including his visit with Ngaruawahia.

Budget

Ms Anne Edwards reported that, in preparing the budget, budgeted costs of Standing Committee had been increased by inflation (2%). Together with the new assessment structure for co-operating ventures, this had meant a deficit of \$25,000. To move this to a surplus of \$10,000 would mean an average increase on assessments of 9%. Canon Robin Brockie said the changes needed to be made because it was irresponsible to take a deficit, or even a break-even, budget to Synod. (A break-even budget would require an average increase of 7%.) The diocese was being run economically and there was no excessive spending to cut.

The Venerable Malcolm French commented that (a) it would be good to move to a system that could use current figures rather than two-year old ones (perhaps using a percentage rather than a dollar figure and applying this to current income) for assessments and (b) that more needed to be done in an ongoing way about stewardship as a facet of discipleship.

The Rev'd Chee Yong queried whether a Synod decision had been made some years ago to limit any increase in the assessment. The Archbishop said he believed that the agreement had been that total assessment would not go over 14% of the parish's income.

Canon Robin Brockie underlined that it was entirely because of the UCANZ decision that the Diocese was in this position.

The Archbishop commented that this Diocese was in any case the least endowed of the NZ dioceses; several historical factors accounted for this. The only endowment in the diocese was the Bishopric one but even this was insufficient for its purpose. The UCANZ decision was another challenge on top of those already faced. The sale of the Te Rau Aroha camp resource represents a new endowment.

There was some discussion round ways to approach investment of monies received from bequests and sales to maximise and consolidate funding.

It was agreed that the Budget would be discussed at the next Standing Committee, giving members time to consider it.

(12.30 pm The meeting stopped for lunch.

1.05 pm The meeting resumed with the Venerable Trevor Harrison chairing.)

It was reported that the Consolidated Accounts had been signed by the Archbishop; the Waikato Trust Board accounts had also been signed; signing off of the TATB accounts was pending.

Items for discussion:

8.1 Trustee Declarations over and above those recorded previously: none.

8.2 Conflict of Interest The Rev'd Chee Yong reported he no longer had a conflict of interest over UCANZ matters, as he was no longer a member of the Regional Forum of that body.

Canon Bryan Bang referenced his paper on conflict of interest for Standing Committee's information.

8.3 Health and Safety

In his report, Mr Simon Cayley wrote that parishes had been contacted for a second time to remind them that vicarages that have been let needed to be brought up to new standards. Results were positive. The understanding that this applied to vicarages being used for clergy housing also was to be communicated, as noted earlier in the Minutes.

The Archbishop, re-joining the meeting, reported that Ngaire Potter from the diocesan accounting staff had had a stroke during the week and had been making a good recovery.

SC.675: Best Wishes to Mrs Ngaire Potter

That Standing Committee send best wishes and prayers to Ngaire Potter.

**Scaife/Bourke
Carried**

(Archbishop Philip Richardson resumed the Chair.)

8.4 Risk

Clergy Leave

It was agreed that the suggested motion on clergy leave be referred to the Statutes and Revision Task Group to devise a solution to the current situation, where clergy leave had been recorded wrongly, possibly by referring to Provincial Guidelines.

Ms Mary Bourke made a plea for simplicity and Rev'd Chee Yong said it would make it uncomfortable to have records of leave owed wiped, where clergy wished to take that leave.

8.5 Parish Accounting

It was noted that the Finance and Audit Committee recommended that joining Parish Accounting be made compulsory. Twelve parishes had yet to join. There was some discussion of a date that joining should be achieved by.

It was agreed to refer the matter to the Statutes and Revision Task Group to word a motion for Synod.

8.7 Release of Standing Committee Minutes

SC.676: The Circulation of Unconfirmed Minutes

That unconfirmed Minutes of Standing Committee be circulated marked draft.

**Scaife/Bourke
Carried**

8.8 Anglican Women's Studies Committee Membership

It was suggested that the following might be interested in the upcoming women's hui: Heather Riches, Julie Guest, Mele Prescott, Cath McVey, Kim Wright, MacKenzie Steele (St Peter's Cathedral) are women who might be appropriate delegates to the upcoming women's hui.

SC.677: Link Person for the Anglican Centre for Women's Studies

That Standing Committee endorse Heather Riches as Diocesan link person to ACWS.

**Scaife/Bourke
Carried**

SC.678: Attendance at the ACWS Hui

That Heather Riches, Jekheli Singh and Cath McVey be invited and funded to attend the upcoming women's hui, with MacKenzie Steele as back up, if one of these could not attend.

Scaife/Bourke

8.9 Faculty for the Parish of Te Awamutu

SC.679: Faculty for the Parish of Te Awamutu

That the faculty for glass panels in office doors at St John's, Te Awamutu be granted.

Bang/Bourke

Carried

8.6 Manager's Report

Diocesan Decision-Making Processes

The query round streamlining diocesan decision-making processes had been considered by the Diocesan and Senior Staff but they had found the topic too broad to engage with, so further definition was required.

Ms Mary Bourke suggested that when Standing Committee was considering issues, they should be presented as briefing papers (or at least paragraph explanation) with prepared recommendations framed as Motions and with any Statutes mentioned referenced.

Canon Bryan Bang commented that it was the aim of the Statutes and Revision Task Group to remove unnecessary statutes and simplify what can be simplified.

Ms Mary Bourke said it was frustrating when process slowed down essential work with issues being re-visited. Canon Pat Scaife said the efficient flow of communication between various bodies was essential.

Use of Motonui Funds

The Diocesan Manager queried in his report whether the Diocesan Trust Board was a suitable body to 'manage funds'. The Archbishop said he would ask Mr Simon Cayley to suggest a recommendation, which would be circulated for approval by email. The intention had been that the funds be invested with TML and it would be the distribution that would be managed by the Trust (not Trusts) Board. Mrs Elizabeth Bang commented that a motion written in the current Waikato Diocesan Trust Board Minutes covered the issue.

Ms Mary Bourke asked that the Combined Diocesan Trust Board Minutes be circulated with Standing Committee papers in future.

UCANZ

The Archbishop commented on the reply to his letter from the UCANZ Executive Officer. This suggested that any national discussion about sustainability be held with the five denominational partners of UCANZ, rather than UCANZ itself.

SC.680: Suggestion of Meeting Between General Synod Office and UCANZ

That Standing Committee ask the Archbishop to write to the General Secretary, the Reverend Michael Hughes, enclosing the letter to UCANZ and the response and asking that his office facilitate a meeting of the partners to UCANZ as a matter of urgency to discuss (1)

the financial implications of the new assessment system and (2) the conflict in polity of an episcopal church and congregational churches.

**Scaife/French
Carried**

Standing Committee discussed the significant financial impact the UCANZ changes have had for the Diocese.

Items for Information:

9.1 Tikanga Giving for Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki – January 2019

9.3 Memo – Employees on Vestry

9.4 Memo - Living Wage

9.5 Security Training in Churches

The meeting closed at 2.15pm.

Dates of next meetings:

- 16 August at 6 pm by Video-Conference link at Charlotte Brown House and Tikituterangi House.
- A wider Saturday face-to-face meeting, date to be advised.