



**Minutes of a meeting of the
Standing Committee of Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki**

held by videoconference on 22 November 2018, starting at 6.15 pm

Present:

Bishop

The Most Reverend Philip Richardson

Vicar General

The Venerable Trevor Harrison

Clergy

The Venerable Malcolm French

The Reverend Julian Perkins

The Reverend Canon Pat Scaife

The Reverend Dr Jekheli Singh

The Reverend Chee Yong

Laity

Canon Dr Bryan Bang

Ms Mary Bourke

Canon Robin Brockie

In attendance

Diocesan Registrar-Manager

Mr Simon Cayley

Minutes Secretary

Mrs Pip Harrison

In attendance

Mrs Elizabeth Bang, Chair WDTB

Trust Management Ltd

Ms Anne Edwards

Ms Grace Sun

1. **Welcome:** The Most Reverend Philip Richardson welcomed members of Standing Committee.
2. **Opening prayer:** Rev'd Chee Yong
3. The Archbishop spoke on **St Cecilia of Rome**, patron saint of music, whose day it was and read the Beatitudes.
4. **Apologies:** Mrs Sue MacLean, Mr Alan Tanner (and Rev'd Dr Jekheli Singh for lateness)

Motion: That the apologies received be sustained with regret.

Carried

5. **Confirmation of Minutes**

Motion: That the minutes of the meeting of 15th September 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

**Carried
Harrison/Bang**

6. **Items for discussion:**

- 6.1 **Trustee declarations** over and above those recorded previously: none.



- **6.2 Health and Safety** – Mr Simon Cayley said work continued on matters previously raised – no further report.

The Archbishop summarised what had been done in regard to earthquake strengthening thus far: a team from Auckland University had done an initial assessment of the diocese's churches. Structural Engineers NZ has been engaged to do further assessment where the need was indicated. Meanwhile, the District Council had visited Huntly parish and were concerned about cracks there, especially in the hall, and had closed the buildings immediately. St Paul's, Huntly would therefore be dealt with first. The engineers were proposing to put intermediate steps in place to allow them to use the hall, while long-term solutions were found. The firm had been offering good support. Raglan parish's report of work, which they had been working with over some years, had also been forwarded to SENZ. The Archbishop commented that it was important that there was consistency in the review, regardless of when it had been started, and that parishes remembered that the Trust Boards owned the properties.

The Venerable Trevor Harrison cautioned that parishes should not rush in to getting assessments done – there had been some very high quotes from some firms. He reported that Inglewood church's assessment had come in at 20% of new building standard.

Mr Simon Cayley said he was looking at a way to simplify the technical language in the reports received, so that they were comprehensible to parishes.

(The Rev'd Dr Jehkeli Singh joined the meeting during this conversation.)

- **6.3 Risk** – apart from what appears in the Manager's Report: the extension of the terms of the Royal Commission on Abuse in State Care to include faith-based institutions may present some risk in terms of interrogation of service lines.
- **6.4 Finance and Audit** – Ms Anne Edwards reported that the financial bottom line was still at the same level as in the previous report. Current payroll had been paid. \$1000 a month repayment of the old MITT debt was due but had not been made since the September payment. \$61,000 should be available at the end of the year, which was a low figure for cash flow. The Finance and Audit Committee and TBAG were working on ways to increase this.

Ms Grace Sun reported on the health of the parish finances of those parishes within the accounting system. August 2018 data showed results by a 'traffic light' system, in which 'yellow' parishes might struggle to pay debts in future and 'red' parishes needed urgent attention and support. The Archbishop expressed appreciation for the quality of the reporting and said that such helpful analysis would be useful to the senior staff. Mr Cayley said it would also be useful to analyse what percentage of income it was productive to spend on parish staff.

Canon Robin Brockie commented that **settlement of the Bishopric's** debt to Standing Committee needed more consideration with TE BAG, as the implications were dramatic in terms of the income that would then be available to the Bishopric. Another related transaction involved moving portions of the worth of the bishops' houses to their proper place in the accounts. He had concerns about the effect on the Bishopric's income, when proper support by the diocese for the bishopric was a



more appropriate response. The outcome of the synodical commission on the sale of the camp was due next year and the recommendations from this might also be a factor in the process.

Accounts of the **sale of the camp** were being finalised and would be audited. **The term investment** with BNZ with the proceeds from the sale of the camp was due to roll over. Some of this money was for the repayment of the debt to WDTB. The rest would be held over until the Synodical Commission had reported. Mrs Bang said that in the meantime, it had been rolled over until after the TE BAG meeting at the end of the month.

The Archbishop expressed gratitude for the level of work involved in clarifying **diocesan and bishopric finances**. Episcopal expenses continued to be reduced but this was now mainly by having one bishop and primatial grants, which were not long-term measures. The only remaining area he could see potential for savings was in PA support but staff were currently stretched. He wondered if the income potential of the endowment was being maximised. Canon Brockie repeated that the diocese needed to bear the cost of episcopal leadership and this would impact assessments.

Distributions from TML at the end of the third quarter were encouraging but **returns on the financial markets** in the current quarter were not as good and would probably be disappointing.

Canon Brockie reported on the **Car Fund**, saying it was well managed. The Finance and Audit Committee recommended that it would be proper for the Fund to pay interest on the debt the fund owes the WDTB. The car fund might then decide to change the recovery rates from Ministry Units that had a vehicle but this would place the cost of the scheme in the appropriate place.

Standing Committee Accounts had not been forwarded to Standing Committee this month. This would be rectified in future.

Canon Bryan Bang asked whether there could be a paper discussing the various issues that needed a decision. It was agreed that Mr Brockie would write an email outlining the situation round the settlement of the debt from the Bishopric and the adoption and receipt of the accounts of 30 September.

SC.636: Car Fund Interest

That the Standing Committee approve the payment of interest on money owed by the car fund from 1 November 2018.

Carried

(Ms Edwards and Ms Sun left the meeting.)

[7. **Bible study:** The Rev'd Dr Jekheli Singh spoke on Isaiah 55: 8,9, commenting on the importance of remembering our human limitations and allowing God to be God.]

- **6.5 Manager's Report.** Mr Cayley added comments to his written report. He had reflected on the role of the Diocesan Manager after a year in the role. He warned against using the Manager as a glorified Administrator. He suggested that strategic thinking about the role and **strategic planning** should be topics for the next Standing Committee meeting. He commented that parish and Synod structures required people to fill roles, which had not always been possible recently and this made the



structures vulnerable. Members of Standing Committee agreed that such planning with a contracted outside facilitator and more detailed headings from Mr Cayley would be included in the February 2019 Standing Committee meeting. The Archbishop commented that Standing Committee was representative of the diocese as a whole and a good place to start the discussion with possible further input at a later stage from senior staff and the trust boards. He noted the roles of doing the strategic thinking, authorising the results of that thinking and implementing them did not need to be filled by the same group and needed consideration.

Mr Cayley reported that he and Archdeacon Ngira Simmons had discussed further the hosting of Ngira (from Te Manawa o te Wheke) at **Charlotte Brown House** and it had been agreed that he would lease office space there. Sharing of resources and equipment would be an expression of partnership and would not be charged.

UCANZ Process: UCANZ had met with Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist governing bodies and they had all signed off in principle on the proposed changes to assessments. UCANZ was to produce a uniform formula for the assessment rate and would list which parishes would be regarded as being under which denomination as at July 2019 by March 2019. There would be financial implications. Mr Cayley suggested writing a summary of what was known so far to circulate to parishes as communication at parish level had been incomplete. He would work with the Rev'd Chee Yong on this. The Rev'd Chee Yong agreed there had been poor communication from UCANZ. He asked if Synod approval was needed before the proposal went ahead, since it affected assessments. The Archbishop said detailed negotiation was still to take place but he believed neither General nor the Diocesan Synod needed to authorise it. Mr Cayley agreed to follow up on this point.

- **6.6 A Synodical Commission - Te Rau Aroha Camp** had been requested to consider the use of the proceeds of the sale of Te Rau Aroha Camp.

SC.637: Working Group on Terms of Reference for Synodical Commission

That the Archbishop work on the terms of reference and potential members of the Synodical Commission with Canon Pat Scaife and the Venerable Trevor Harrison and the Commission would then be effected by email with the option of a teleconference at the request of any member of Standing Committee.

Carried

- **6.7 Proposal for the Parish of Ngaruawahia** – the Venerable Malcolm French spoke to his report. The parish's \$135,000 debt was a significant drag on the parish, which was otherwise doing good work and was in an area where growth was expected. He spoke in favour of forgiving at least 50% of the debt. There was some discussion of the principle of the idea, the shape of mission in the area and a potential partnership with tikanga Maori.

SC.638: Proposal to Forgive Debt – Parish of Ngaruawahia

That Standing Committee refer the proposal to forgive at least part of Ngaruawahia parish's debt to the Finance and Audit Committee in consultation with the Trustees to consider how such a thing might be done and what the impact would be.

Carried



- **6.8 Synod 2018 Minutes**

SC.639: Minutes of Synod 2018

That the minutes of Synod 2018 be passed as true and accurate.

**Carried
Bang/Harrison**

- **6.9 Faculty Application – Parish of Holy Trinity, Forest Lake**

Mr Cayley added to his written report, saying that the parish wanted to emphasise that the childcare facility was not merely a financial arrangement but rather part of their outreach into the community. The parish thought they had the skills needed to do the necessary work and were concerned that they were not meeting their responsibilities as landlord. Therefore they were asking for a re-assessment of their faculty application to sell their vicarage.

Canon Pat Scaife commented that this kind of discussion was happening in various places and could not be considered in isolation. The Archbishop said he thought the use of capital could be discussed separately from the sale of the vicarage. He thought now, on balance, that selling the vicarage could be approved. The use of capital for other purposes required more discussion. Ms Bourke queried whether it was worth selling the vicarage, if they could not use the capital. The Archbishop asked how the repairs of the building could otherwise be funded.

SC.640: Approval of Faculty to Sell the Vicarage – Parish of Holy Trinity, Forest Lake

That Standing Committee approve Holy Trinity, Forest Lake's faculty application and, because of exceptional circumstances, the use of part of the proceeds for the purposes outlined in their application; on the condition that the residue of the sale up to the \$150,000 guaranteed to the childcare centre by the Diocesan Trust Board be set aside, in case it ever be called upon.

**Carried
French/Brockie**

- **6.10 Parish of Waitara – Use of Capital.** It was agreed that a reply be sent, letting the parish know that there would be an upcoming detailed discussion of such proposals.

Ms Bourke suggested this be put on the agenda for the February Standing Committee.

- **6.11 Hooper Estate**

SC.641: Hooper Estate Interest Distribution

That the proceeds of the Hooper Estate (some \$285.13 p.a.) be paid annually to the Katikati Seasons programme, unless otherwise decided in future.

**Carried
Scaife/Brockie**



- **6.12 Resignation of Mr Alan Tanner.** The Archbishop said he wanted to acknowledge the sterling contribution Mr Alan Tanner had made to the Diocese over many years and that he was sad that Mr Tanner felt he had to leave. The Archbishop had appreciated his support over difficult times in the past. The Archbishop said he was saddened to see members of the church leave over Motion 7 when so much work had been done to make it possible for those of both opinions to stay.

SC.642: Appreciation of the Work of Mr Alan Tanner

That the Archbishop send Mr Alan Tanner a Letter of Recognition, expressing his and Standing Committee's deep appreciation.

**Carried
Bourke/Scaife**

8. Items for Information – to note

- **8.1 BAF Activity Report**
- **8.2 Motion 7 Team update**
- **8.4 Episcopal Commission on Motion 7 – Update**
- **8.6 Tikanga Giving Schedule – Anglican Missions Board**

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Date of next meeting: At All Saints' Church, Piopio at 10.30am, Saturday 2nd February 2019