



Standing Committee of Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

Minutes

of a meeting held on 8 April 2017
at the Parish of St Luke, Te Kuiti

Present:

Bishops and Joint Chairpersons

The Most Reverend Philip Richardson and The Right Reverend Dr Helen-Ann Hartley

Vicar General

The Venerable Trevor Harrison

Clergy

The Reverend Malcolm French
The Reverend Jason Grainger
The Reverend Carol Hancock
The Reverend Jacqui Paterson

Laity

Mrs Cheryl Anderson
Canon Dr Bryan Bang
Canon Robin Brockie
Mrs Susanne Rowse

Diocesan Registrar-Manager In Attendance

Ms Dianne Donald *ex officio*
Mrs Pip Harrison as minute secretary

The meeting opened at 10 am. Archbishop Philip welcomed Standing Committee and Bishop Helen-Ann asked that Mrs Elizabeth Bang be held in prayer as she recovered from an accident.

Opening Prayer: The Reverend Jacqui Paterson opened in prayer.

Bible Study: The Most Reverend Philip Richardson led a reflection on the Lord's Prayer and the Archbishop of Canterbury's call to a week of 24/7 prayer (Thy Kingdom Come) to be held globally between Ascension Day and Pentecost. See thykingdomcome.global.

Apologies: Apologies were received from the Reverend Malcolm French for lateness and from Mrs Elizabeth Bang

Motion: That the apologies received be sustained.

Carried

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of 7 February 2017 meeting.

Motion: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2017 be confirmed.

Carried

SC.1704.01 Update on actions

This paper was received and updates were noted.



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There were still two vacancies (one lay and one clerical vacancy) on Standing Committee. It was reported that Mr. Paul Cooper gave the invitation deep consideration and prayer but had decided he had too many other commitments to take membership on. The Reverend Malcolm French had accepted co-option. The remaining clerical place was due to The Venerable Trevor Harrison's appointment as Vicar General.

It was decided to maintain the status quo, as there were only two meetings remaining before Synod 2017.

SC.1704.02 Report from Diocesan Registrar-Manager

This paper was received. The Registrar-Manager commented on the usefulness of a recent webinar on Health and Safety in Christian Camps.

SC.1704.03 MRS Matters

Minutes of the meetings held on 1 and 29 March were noted. Comment on the Decade of Mission responses was added to the agenda under AOB.

Standing Committee discussed the recommendation to uplift the standard stipend by 1.7%. Several members declared a conflict of interest.

Canon Dr. Brian Bang spoke firmly in favour of the motion. The timing of the report was questioned, given that May came mid-budget-year. It was noted that parishes could estimate the figure fairly accurately when budgeting using the CPI. It was agreed that the General Synod Secretary be asked why the increase was regularly proposed during April for a May uptake.

SC.574: Annual Clergy Stipend Increase

That Standing Committee agree to an increase of 1.7% to the stipends of clergy and the pay of diocesan staff from 1 May 2017 and recommend this to parishes for parish staff.

Carried

(The Reverend Malcolm French joined the meeting).

Grants-in-Aid

In response to a query re the criteria for giving grants-in-aid, Standing Committee was informed that they could be made when parish operating costs were so stressed that they compromised the mission of the church. Parishes were informed that there was a small fund and that MRS would prioritise parishes that were unable to meet their operational commitments or had emergency needs. The criteria were not defined narrowly, so that unexpected items would not be excluded.

The on-going availability of a 2016 grant-in-aid to St Andrew's, Inglewood for seismic assessment was noted.

SC.575: Approval of Grant in Aid - Hillcrest

That a \$4,860 grant-in-aid to St Francis, Hillcrest to cover unactioned backpay be approved.

Carried



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SC.576: Grant in Aid Application Declined

That the grant-in-aid application for toilet upgrading at St Luke's, Te Kuiti be declined, as it is a capital expense.

Carried

SC.577: Grant in Aid Application Declined

That the application for a grant-in-aid by Taumarunui and Districts to cover assessments be declined, as the parish holds an investment that could be used first.

Carried

A late application from Manaia was held over while it was clarified as to whether the Regional Dean was in support of it. It was later discovered that he was aware and believed that all the parishes in the Deanery would benefit from such a grant, given the open nature of the Deanery. This would be discussed at the next Management Resourcing Subcommittee meeting for recommendation to Standing Committee.

Firefighting equipment

The Venerable Trevor Harrison reported that there was discussion nationally as to whether firefighting equipment should be kept, given current advice that people should leave buildings on fire rather than trying to put fires out. He recommended the Fire Service site <https://www.escapemyhouse.co.nz/>.

SC.1704.04 MMRS Matters

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2017 were received.

Motion: That the consent agenda be received.

Carried

Items for Discussion:

Bishops' notes

The Bishops spoke of their work over the last two months.

Bishop Helen-Ann reported that two pilot Stipended Clergy Reviews had been held and they had been useful for feedback as well as content. Reviews of the potential reviewers would be undertaken first and then a programme of reviews (to be named pastoral conversations) would be rolled out. The Bishops would hold these conversations with senior clergy. A similar process was to be developed for within parishes.

Progress was being made on preparations for the LiFT course. 80 people had signed up so far, each to work in one of nine learning communities.

The process to appoint a new Principal for Waikato Diocesan School for Girls was moving ahead with interviews in May.

Bishop Helen-Ann had been invited by the Mayor to start Council meetings with a Bible reading, which had been an interesting engagement in a sometimes skeptical community.

Bishop Helen-Ann had been asked to take on a chaplaincy role with the Waikato Magic Netball Team and would attend some training sessions and home games.



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In answer to a question, Archbishop Philip spoke about accountability as Bishops. There was regular professional development and bishops were encouraged to build a review process into their sabbatical time. There were both disastrous and beneficial examples of diocesan reviews of bishops. There was a useful document in the Canadian church. The Venerable Jacqui Paterson said that she had raised the issue as a pastoral matter, both as an opportunity for encouragement of the bishops and as an opportunity to lead the pastoral conversation process by example.

Archbishop Philip spoke about recent appointments. The Venerable Trevor Harrison had been appointed Vicar General and Archdeacon of Paranihi, the latter until the end of the year. He expressed appreciation of the extra work involved.

Lance Pilbrow and Julia Moore-Pilbrow had been appointed to the northern oversight role (87-13% split). Julia was looking at new ways of advancing mission and Lance was concentrating on existing structures. The percentage of time spent by each would move as new ways were developed.

The Reverend Paul Bowers-Mason had taken up a half-time position at Brooklands, New Plymouth, with a particular emphasis on evangelism. The Venerable Trevor Harrison would help the team there keep the roles of the team members in balance.

Archbishop Philip reported that there were three issues in relation to the Taranaki Cathedral:

1) its structure needed remediation at a cost of \$8.2 million plus \$6.8 million for the rest of the project 2) the matter of the facility being spread across both sides of the road and 3) the exploration of how the site could express a contemporary Christian experience in a bicultural present, fed by the history of the area.

He showed drawings of what was planned. The inside would be touched lightly with a move to two levels (not four), chairs not pews and the removal of choir stalls providing a more open feel to the chancel. Outside, an atrium in ware design would be built.

The TSB Bank had offered a \$1,000,000 interest-free loan for the project. This was a significant step up from any similar deals offered to other projects and was most generous.

Mrs. Susanne Rowse asked whether the lack of the remaining funds would cause delay. Archbishop Philip said that the pledge system, with the possibility of donations being spread over five years, along with the possibility of some parts of the building process costing less than the provision made meant that it was not unreasonable to foresee a sufficient flow of cash. An allowance had been made for unfulfilled pledges.

SC.578: Appreciation of Loan Provision

That Standing Committee noted the conditions under which the loan was offered and that the Chairs of Standing Committee write to the TSB bank expressing appreciation for the loan provision.

Carried



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Canon Robin Brockie and both Bishops abstained.

The Trust Deed for the St Mary's Diocesan School was in preparation and would be ready to be approved in May.

St David's, Naenae was having a three-day live-in to highlight the unaffordability of housing. Research papers were currently being released that report on the connection between security of tenure of warm, dry homes and general well-being of individuals and communities. Archbishop Philip would make press releases about these issues this week, as New Zealand's most pressing issue.

Archbishop Philip commented on the Reverend Peter Barleyman's report about rural ministry at a recent MMRS meeting. He spoke about small towns dying and rapidly changing demographics with many people being in denial. Two thirds of the regions were experiencing population stagnation and ageing. In Taranaki, the dropping of the price in oil and volatility of milk prices, dairy farmers being forced off the land, the mobility of the rural population, struggling clubs and service provisions, volunteer organisations, 7 day shift cycles impacting families, and drug dependency, were all taking their toll. Unregistered and unwarranted vehicles had increased by 80% over the last period. Action would be aided by having hard data on these changes; much of the current evidence was anecdotal. The Bashford and Nicholls Trusts (now amalgamated) may be used for scholarships for young people undertaking Agriculture courses including at higher research levels. It was proposed that the provision of hard data be explored as a research proposal for someone to pursue at PhD level with a view to accessing funding that could also be aligned with church goals.

The Bishops spoke about pastoral aspects of the closure of the Waikato Sweep Account. While supporting the closure, the bishops recognised there were pastoral implications. A special meeting of Standing Committee would be held on 20 May to discuss the necessary strategies. It would be held at Otorohanga but with the provision of video link, if absolutely necessary, since it was at short notice. The most pastoral response to be made to sweep account debt was honest, face-to-face discussion of underlying problems with the parishes concerned.

SC.1704.05 Publication of Standing Committee Minutes

The publication of Standing Committee Minutes was discussed and it was decided that they should be made available on the Diocesan website, initially as draft minutes once confirmed by the Chairs and then as finalised minutes after the following meeting. Minutes from November 2015 should be made available initially. It was agreed that older minutes should also be available but the work required might make it impractical at present. The minutes of the life of the Standing Committee would remain archived.

SC.579: Upload of Standing Committee Minutes to the Diocesan Website

That the minutes of Standing Committee from November 2015 to the present be uploaded to the diocesan website.

Carried



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Update of Initial Seismic Assessments for St John's, Waitara and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Waverley

The Venerable Trevor Harrison reported the Church of the Good Shepherd came in at 100% of new building standards. St John's, Waitara, was assessed at 45% (or 55% if not measured as a heritage building), so above the level at which any action was required.

SC.580:

That the Initial Seismic Assessment updates be received and noted.

Carried

Update of Parish Reviews

Bishop Helen-Ann reported that the Standing Committee-appointed task group was meeting with the Nawton vestry in the coming week.

The Registrar-Manager reported that the process with Ngaruawahia was progressing slowly; the Parish was awaiting responses from the surveyors. This matter was being pursued. Bishop Helen-Ann confirmed that a wider review of the parish was also pending.

Any Other Business:

Provisions for Commissioners – Draft Statute

Canon Brian Bang spoke to the draft, which filled in the details around the use of commissioners where a vestry was unable to be elected.

Discussion covered issues of the long-term ramifications of having a commissioner in a parish, whether such an appointment should be time-bound, the role of the bishops in the process and clarification of what the commissioners' powers would be. Other queries concerned whether a commissioner would more usefully come from within the parish or outside and how much detail would be useful in the statute.

It was agreed that the regulations be returned to the Statutes Revision Task Group to be re-drafted in a simple format, giving Bishops the power to appoint a Commissioner to take on the powers of both Wardens and Vestry. Details would be tailored to individual situations.

Legacy and Giving

The Reverend Jason Grainger spoke to the circulated paper on Legacy and Giving. Suggestions included adding some good stories of things that have been achieved with legacy monies and removing 'Giving' from the title.

The Reverend Malcolm French reported that in Canada it was possible to buy a life insurance policy with a parish as beneficiary, claiming the premiums as a tax deduction. This kept the donation out of probate and made it more affordable to make a large donation. New Zealand laws would need to be looked at.

The Reverend Jason Grainger reported that there was a suggestion that a national leaflet be produced and a wider conversation had been started.





It was agreed the committee should continue with its work, looking to format it into a leaflet including testimonies.

Petitions for Faculty

SC.581: The Sale of Churches at Alton and Motunui

That Standing Committee sees no impediment to the sale of the churches of All Saints, Alton and St Stephen, Motunui.

Carried

Progress on a Memorandum of Understanding with regard to the vicarage of St Andrew's, Cambridge had been made and the petition would be brought back to Standing Committee once that had been achieved.

The Reverend Stephen Black's Report on the Decade of Mission Responses

The Reverend Stephen Black's paper was discussed. Members of the Committee applauded the paper.

In response to items in the paper, the Reverend Malcolm French reported that in Canada, in two of the three provinces that have an archbishop without diocesan duties there have been calls to reverse that.

The Archbishop responded to a query with the information that there was a Christian buying consortium for telecommunications and other services. The Reverend Jason Grainger requested that the information be re-distributed.

SC.582: Thank You to the Rev'd S Black – Decade of Mission Paper

That the Reverend Stephen Black be thanked for making the submission and that it be indicated to the Decade of Mission Committee that Standing Committee supports the direction of the paper.

Carried

Executive Financial Governor

Canon Robin Brockie reported on his work as the Executive Financial Governor. His six month term had officially finished but he was happy to continue in the role to complete current projects. Archbishop Philip said that they had recently advised parishes that the report back from the Road Map was still a month off and that there would not be a special Synod to do so, as previously mooted, as there were still some items to be tackled. He expressed extreme appreciation of the work Canon Robin Brockie has done. He considered Canon Robin Brockie's skills and knowledge were irreplaceable.

Canon Robin Brockie left the room while the resolution as to whether to take up the canon's offer was discussed.

SC.583: Continuation of the Role of Executive Financial Governor

That Canon Robin Brockie be asked to continue in his role as EFG.

Carried

Canon Robin Brockie re-joined the meeting.

Bishop Helen-Ann thanked Canon Robin Brockie for his work.



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Police Checks

It was confirmed that there was a fee waiver for registered charities for police checks.

The meeting closed at 2.38 pm.

Date of next meeting: 20 May at 11 am at Te Kuiti.



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