

## Motion 2: Diocesan Council Report to Synod

The primary function of the Diocesan Council is to work with the Bishops by helping to oversee the governance of the mission, ministry and management of the Diocese. Diocesan Council:

- Develops, considers and approves strategies to advance the vision, mission and values of the Diocese – each person around the table uses the lens of being family, disciples and serving the last, lost and least in decision making. and the mix of clergy and laity, and urban and rural bring different vantage points that all help grow the Kingdom of God within our Diocese
- We determine the financial resources to be allocated to enable those strategies, for approval by Synod
- We support the work of a number of groups and office holders – at each meeting the Bishops report in, Nick Young will report on Health and Safety, Archdeacon Gendy Thomson provides a written report on mission and ministry, Rob Moonlight provides a written report on property, and any decisions that need to be approved, considered and thought through are actioned
- Make the recommendations to Synod that the Council thinks desirable to best advance the mission of the Diocese
- The Council dovetails with the Board of Trustees – in Council meetings we look primarily at the missional value of the decisions and papers that come our way, and the Board of Trustees look at the financial side – it is imperative these groups work closely together.

Diocesan Council members serve on both the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Trusts Board, and formal meetings of these bodies are held concurrently. The Council is the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod. As such, its membership reflects the Synod model. The Council currently consists of:

- The Bishops
- four clergy persons
- four lay persons

Nick Young and Matt Crawshaw also attend as non-voting members, along with Karen Stewart as Minutes Secretary, to ensure the work of Diocesan Council flows into the rest of the mission and ministry in the Diocese. In the last year the Council have welcomed Matt into the Anglican Centre as he works alongside supporting Nick, so that Nick has more space to look into, and get underway, other projects such as looking at housing around the Diocese.

Attendance by members in the past year (July 2018 to June 2019) has been as follows:

Bishop Justin Duckworth – 9 meetings	Hilary Kendall – 1 meeting
Bishop Eleanor Sanderson – 7 meetings	David McLay – 10 meetings
Reverend Canon Sue Fordyce – 9 meetings	Lyn O’Fee – 8 meetings
Archdeacon Stuart Goodin – 10 meetings	John Whitehead – 9 meetings
Reverend Jennie Sim – 8 meetings	Michael Webster – 9 meetings
Reverend Pete Watson – 9 meetings	

### **Relational context**

The Council meets on average once a month and each time starts with Eucharist in the Cathedral Lady Chapel as we join in with the rhythm of prayer. Each member over the year takes turns in preaching a homily. We then move to the Boardroom at the Anglican Centre and meet over lunch. At the start of each meeting we share with each other about our walk with God and then go over the agenda. The meeting starts in prayer and ends in prayer, as we fuse governance and discipleship together.

Each year there is a retreat for a few days for members of Diocesan Council, the Board of Trustees and Archdeacons. This last year we were led by The Very Reverend David Rowe at The Magnificat just outside Featherston. It is at these times that relationships are deepened, and prayer is core business so this flows into the year together.

### **In the Last Year**

There are regular events in the life of the Diocese than the Council seek to support such as the Team Training Days and Diocesan camps. As well as these big events, the Council have discussed many areas of Diocesan life, and the highlights are uploaded each month onto *Movement Online* for all to follow along. In 2018/2019 these have been:

- Council members attending Pre-Synod Regional Meetings to share our work
- Diocesan Council appreciated the extra effort involved for Belmont Archdeaconry in hosting Synod and the contribution of Chilton Saint James School, as Synod was experienced in a new environment with great feedback
- A working group reported on proposals for a new Schedule A for reporting by mission units – the key principles are that the Schedule A return should focus on important priorities, be simple, be useful, and assist with future planning
- The Council have supported work undertaken by Matt Crawshaw to look at sabbaticals and how these are taken, and if a centralised system can best support clergy and parishes moving forward
- The Council have approved various Board appointments to Diocesan schools

- We have approved and supported new ventures that have been birthed in the Diocese such as the Ruapehu parish hall being transformed into a lodge retreat space, and new mission ventures such as Lyall Bay Community Church and Blueprint church looking to plant into Brooklyn
- We have provided support to parishes in seasons of transition, lying fallow or experiencing major change – the impetus of this work has been to share the journey when the road ahead is uncertain by offering resources, both practical and financial, as well as prayer to help mission units journey forward well as part of the Diocesan family where possible and not alone

### **Finance and Budgeting**

Diocesan Council oversees the management of the General Diocesan Fund with the advice of Finance Committee. Accordingly, Diocesan Council provides guidance to the deliberations of the Finance Committee, and the Diocesan and Finance Managers.

Our focus has very much been on ensuring the financial load on parishes and mission units, and the call on funds from other sources, is as least onerous as possible, and is based on a long-term stewardship perspective. We acknowledge all the hard work of Nick and his team as many parishes are now set up to use Xero and are finding managing their finances easier. This is a simple way that we see church structures being lightweight and low maintenance at the grassroots of mission unit life.

### **Property**

The Diocesan Council shares decision making around property matters with the Diocesan Board of Trustees. Our focus is very much on the missional intention behind property proposals – how we are advancing our Diocesan vision and mission through our stewardship of, and decision making around, property decisions.

Many parishes are dreaming afresh of how to best steward church buildings and land in response to the presentation by Reverend Jon Hartley from the Board of Trustees at Synod 2018. We have also supported initiatives to strengthen and repair parish churches, and improve parish facilities, all with the aim of supporting our mission and ministry outreach, our discipleship, and our ability to demonstrate care for our local communities.

### **Health and Safety**

The Diocesan Office has continued with its work on putting in place systems that are designed to assist parishes and mission units with the compliance that is necessary under

the Health and Safety at Work Act. Parishes report into a central system that Nick Young oversees.

### **Our Bicultural Journey**

The Diocesan Council is conscious of the bicultural journey that our Diocese – and indeed the wider Anglican Church – has been on over the years. It is a journey we share with all New Zealanders and at times it is exciting, it is challenging, it is hard, and it has moments of wonder. We celebrate that this year Archdeacon Waitohiariki Quayle was appointed Bishop of Te Ūpoko o Te Ika. The Bishops look forward to working alongside Bishop-Elect Wai and have extended the hand of friendship to work closely with her in the Wellington region.

### **The Year Ahead**

As elections are held at Synod this year for Diocesan Council, there may be some changes in the faces around the table – yet the mandate remains crystal clear. At this point in history the church is called to risk more, to step out in boldness to proclaim the name of Jesus. Each mission unit from across our Diocese continues to be a faithful presence in their local communities. Diocesan Council looks forward to continuing the work that supports best practice of mission and ministry, and to be a group who support our Bishops by seeing our Diocese flourish.

*No reira waiho ko te aroha o Te Matua Kaha Rawa hei korowai mou  
May the love of Almighty God enfold you*

### **Diocesan Council Members:**

Bishop Justin Duckworth

Hilary Kendall (resigned August 2018)

Bishop Eleanor Sanderson

David McLay

Reverend Canon Sue Fordyce

Lyn O'Fee

Archdeacon Stuart Goodin

John Whitehead

Reverend Jennie Sim

Michael Webster

Reverend Pete Watson

### **In Attendance:**

Matt Crawshaw (Deputy Diocesan Manager)

Karen Stewart (Council Secretary)

Nick Young – (Diocesan Manager)

Bishop Justin Duckworth  
Chair  
June 2019

