

Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

Synod 2024

Motion No. 2: Adoption of WDTB General Purpose Financial Statements 2023

Mover: Canon Robin Brockie
Secunder: The Venerable Joyce Marcon

“That this Synod approves the audited General Purpose Financial Statements of the Waikato Diocesan Trust Board, for the year ended 31 December 2023.”

Motion No. 3: Adoption of TATB General Purpose Financial Statements 2023

Mover: Canon Robin Brockie
Secunder: The Venerable Joyce Marcon

“That this Synod approves the audited General Purpose Financial Statements of the Taranaki Anglican Trust Board, for the year ended 31 December 2023.”

Motion No. 4: Adoption of Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki General Purpose Financial Statements for 2023

Mover: The Most Reverend Philip Richardson

“That this Synod approves the audited General Purpose Financial Statements of the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki, for the year ended 31 December 2023.”

Motion No. 5: Funding Standing Committee Operations – Approval of 2025 Budget

Mover: The Most Reverend Philip Richardson

“That for the year 2025 this Synod agrees to a Diocesan Budget for Standing Committee operations of \$715,530 allocated in accordance with details contained in the budget, with \$614,870 of this sum to be provided by assessments.”

Motion No.6: Assessments 2024 – Approval of Schedule

Mover: Canon Robin Brockie
Secunder: The Most Reverend Philip Richardson

“That Parish Diocesan Assessments for the year 2025 be set according to the schedule of percentages for 2025, as detailed in the Synod papers.”

Motion No.7: Funding the 2024 Ministry Support Fund

*Mover: Canon Robin Brockie
Secunder: The Rev'd Tina Syratt*

“That this Synod requests Standing Committee to fund the Ministry Support Fund, to be calculated at the equivalent of the basic Vicar’s stipend and contributed to by all parishes, Parish Districts and Mission Districts per annum using the same formula as used for Assessments.”

Motion No.8: Mission Target 2024

*Mover: The Rev'd Peter Bargh
Secunder: The Rev'd Tina Syratt*

“That for the year 2024 the target for Overseas Missions remain at \$210,000.00.”

Motion No.9: Receive the Reports to Synod

Mover: The President of Synod

That this Synod receives the following reports:

- 1 Standing Committee Report
- 2 Anglican Action Report to Synod
- 3 BAF Report to Synod 2023
- 4 The Waikato Diocesan Trust Board
- 5 University of Waikato Chaplaincy – Chairperson’s report
- 6 University of Waikato Chaplaincy – Ecumenical Chaplain’s report
- 7 WINTEC Ecumenical Chaplaincy – Chairperson’s report
- 8 WINTEC Ecumenical Chaplaincy – Ecumenical Chaplain’s report
- 9 Waikato Hospital Chaplaincy Report
- 10 Cursillo Annual and Treasurers Report

Motions from the Diocesan Conversations

Motion No.10: Working with Others

*Mover: Andrew Evans
Secunder: Peter Bargh*

- a) That Synod authorises Standing Committee (SC) to negotiate service-level agreements with other Dioceses, nga Hui Amorangi, Anglican and other entities as it deems necessary. That the costs of the services provided rest with the entity or ministry unit to whom the service is provided.
- b) Synod requests the Bishop, Bishop’s Staff and SC to review and refocus the work of our Diocesan Administration in the light of these Service Level Agreements.

Motion No.11: Partnering with Others

Mover: Val Riches
Secunder: Julie Guest

- a) That Synod requests the Bishop and Standing Committee to proactively engage neighbouring Pākehā Episcopal units as to the possibility of a new union, potentially resulting in a new Diocese.
- b) That Synod encourages local Church communities within the Diocese to build on relationships with their Tikanga Māori neighbours and explore all opportunities for the sharing of mission and ministry initiatives and for the sharing of financial and physical resources.
- c) That Synod requests the Bishop and the Standing Committee to approach the Commission on Episcopacy of Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa to recognise the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki as an interested party.

Motion No.12: Change Management

Mover: Christine Bryant
Secunder: Jennie Savage

That Standing Committee be charged with the responsibility of **developing a change management plan** in relation to implementing the 'Working With' and 'Partnering With Others' options.

Motion No.13: Training and Education

Mover: Christine Bryant
Secunder: Jennie Savage

- a) That the Synod of the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki commit to a programme of evangelism and discipleship commencing in Pentecost 2025.
- b) That Synod requests the Bishop and Bishop's staff to prioritise
 - i) the development of Licensed Lay Ministry across the Diocese through intentional recruitment and training;
 - ii) ongoing workshops for office holders, especially Wardens and Treasurers;
 - iii) training that supports parishes in ministry by and with children and young people;
 - iv) training in Te Reo;
 - v) the revitalisation of the place of the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese; and
 - vi) the building on the current work being undertaken to revitalise our processes of discernment and training for ordination, including professional development of all licensed clergy.

Motion No.14: Funding for Education and Training

Mover: Kim Wright
Secunder: Paul Bowers-Mason

- a) That this Synod asks the Bishop and the Bishop's staff to apply to the St John's College Trust Board (SJCTB) to fully fund Te Manu Hononga / The Sir Paul Reeves Centre to provide education and training for all licensed ministers in relation to our core commitment to peace and reconciliation, conflict resolution and restorative justice in the light of the degree to which this Diocese must carry this responsibility and opportunity on behalf of the whole

Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. That this training be offered to all other Episcopal units within this Church and more widely across Oceania.

- b) That this Synod asks the SJCTB to allow it to pilot in 2025 the bulk-funding proposal as set out in the SJCTB strategic plan as we believe this proposal could assist us in meeting the objectives of this motion.
- c) That this Synod asks the SJCTB to increase the Episcopal Education grant to represent 75% of the costs of the Bishop, in acknowledgement of the particular responsibility held by the Bishop of Waikato and Taranaki for addressing historic confiscation and disenfranchisement of Māori from land and resources within both Waikato and Taranaki, prior to the establishment of the Diocese in 1926.

Motion No.15: Justice, Peace and Reconciliation

Mover: Dan Lander

Secunder: Stephen Black

- a) That this Synod requests the Bishop and Senior Staff team, in collaboration with our Church-wide Royal Commission response, to implement all of the relevant recommendations from the Royal Commission to the highest possible standards of care, and where the implications of the Gospel require higher standards than those proposed by the Royal Commission that the Diocese should seek to meet the standards of the Gospel.
- b) That the Te Rau Aroha camp fund sale proceeds be used to meet any reparation costs resulting from historic abuse and disenfranchisement of Māori from land. Including redress payments to survivors of abuse in the Diocese of Waikato prior to 2008 and the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki post 2008. Noting that all current cases of historic abuse in this Diocese were offences against children.
- c) That the land on which Charlotte Brown House and other buildings on Lot 2 at Te Ara Hou Village be vested in Ngati Hauā (if they are open to this) as was originally intended when the money was raised for that purpose.
- d) That this Synod encourages the exploration of how land currently held in the name of the Waikato Diocesan Trust Board (WDTB) and the Taranaki Anglican Trust Board (TATB) might be re-vested in local iwi where the land was given for the purpose of the Church (in accordance with Title F Canon III) or where an ownership partnership between the Church and iwi would significantly enable the restoration of relationships between Church and iwi, and enable the proclamation of the Gospel.

Motion No.16: Finances

Mover: Peter Bargh

Secunder: Frances Brown

- a) That Synod authorises the establishment of a Diocesan Endowment to fund core Diocesan services and that the proceeds from the sale of assets be added to this endowment. The sale of any asset of which a Ministry Unit is the beneficiary shall contribute 15% of the sale value to the Diocesan Endowment. Ministry Units can apply for exemption from this to Standing Committee (or example where the purpose of the sale is to invest in an alternative property).
- b) That Synod instructs the Standing Committee and the Combined Diocesan Trust Board (CDTB) to ensure that housing for the next Bishop of the Diocese be either built on current diocesan land or that a current house, where a ministry unit is a beneficiary, be repurposed for the accommodation of the next Bishop. That the difference in value from the sale of Bishop's House Taranaki and this proposed build or repurpose be added to the Diocesan endowment.
- c) That Synod asks the Standing Committee to prepare guidelines for the use of parishes and the diocese in relation to surplus land and buildings that they maintain/own which outlines the steps they need to take should they want to sell this property to improve their financial situation. The guidelines would include information about how sale proceeds would be distributed, together with a template needing to be completed with a financial plan showing to what use the sale proceeds will be used that would improve the financial position of both the parish and the diocese.

Motion No. 17: Keeping People Safe in Church

Moved: The Venerable Val Riches

Secundered: The Very Reverend Julian Perkins

I move that as part of keeping people safe in our churches that this Diocese makes a priority in the next twelve months to resource (through material and speakers) all our ministry units so that they can actively encourage our parents and grandparents to support and advocate for their children /grandchildren who are not identifying as heterosexual. Silence is not an option when there has been so much negativity expressed on behalf of Christianity (or God) over the last few years.

Motion No.18: Standardised General Ledger

Mover: Mr Elliot Tuck

Seconder: Mrs Frances Brown

That this Synod resolve to adopt a standardised general ledger across the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki to ensure consistency, transparency, and efficiency in financial reporting and management within the Diocese. The Standing Committee and the Diocesan Manager will oversee the implementation and ensure it is fully implemented no later than the start of the financial year of 2026.

Supporting Rationale:

- **Consistency:** Implementing a standardised general ledger across all parishes and diocesan entities will ensure that financial data is recorded uniformly. This will facilitate easier consolidation of financial statements, comparisons across parishes, and adherence to accounting standards.
- **Transparency:** A standardised approach will enhance the transparency of financial operations by providing a clear and consistent framework for recording and reporting financial transactions. This will aid in financial oversight and accountability at all levels of the Diocese.
- **Efficiency:** Adopting a standardised general ledger will streamline the financial reporting process and reduce the administrative burden on parishes, diocesan staff, and Trust Management. This efficiency could also help keep costs down by allowing for more efficient processing of financial data, quicker access to accurate financial information, and improved decision-making.
- **Training and Support:** The adoption of a single system will allow for better-targeted training and support for all financial administrators within the Diocese. Consistent use of the same platform will make it easier to provide help and share best practices across parishes.
- **Implementation:** The Diocesan Finance Committee, in collaboration with the Diocesan Office, will be responsible for selecting and implementing the standardised general ledger. They will also provide training and ongoing support to parishes and diocesan entities during the transition period.

Motion No.19: Cursillo

Moved: Heather Riches

Seconded: Karen wise

All parishes encourage and financially support church lay leaders, clergy and members to attend a Cursillo weekend.

Background:

One reason for the motion is that a lot of churches are not able to financially support a full-time vicar and therefore we need to build the confidence and leadership in our lay members. If our clergy attend Cursillo they will enjoy the weekend and be able to encourage others to attend. The three-day Cursillo weekend is a weekend filled with prayer, talks and singing, Gods love, plus connecting with others from over our Diocese. We have seen faith, leadership and confidence grown in ourselves and others during the Cursillo weekend.

Motion No.20: Finance Statute

Moved: Bruce Lee
Seconded: Paul Cooper

“That this Synod instruct the Statute Revision Commission to change Clause 13 of Statute No. 6

Background.

Current reading

DIOCESE OF WAIKATO AND TARANAKI STATUTE NO. 15 THE PARISHES STATUTE 2009 [Updated to 2022]

13. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TREASURER

(1) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer, either personally or by delegation: (a) To ensure that accounts owing by the Parish are paid in a timely manner. (b) To present at each regular Meeting of the Vestry a financial report including a full account of all receipts and payments and a budget comparison for the financial year then current. In the event of the report disclosing that the aggregate cash balance of the Parish's general funds bank accounts is in overdraft (and has been for the past three months) to the extent of \$2,000 (or such other amount from time to time fixed by Standing Committee) to forward to the Diocesan Manager a copy of such financial report within seven days of its presentation, and to continue to forward such reports following successive Vestry Meetings thereafter until the overdraft is less than \$2,000 (or such other amount from time to time fixed by Standing Committee). (c) To prepare following the close of each financial year, the accounts of the Parish in such a form as may from time to time be directed by the Standing Committee, which shall include as a minimum; a Statement of Financial Performance and a Statement of Financial Position in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). (d) After the review of the accounts to submit them to the Parishioners at the Annual General Meeting, and to forward a copy to the Diocesan Manager.

The Finance Statute to read:

13 Duties and Responsibilities of the Treasurer

1. To adopt adequate systems and procedures to ensure the safe handling of cash and making deposits in the Parish nominated bank account.
2. All invoices and accounts are required to be sent to the parish official email address.
3. That all finance (Bank) borrowing be approved by vestry and the Diocese, this includes credit cards or overdraft facilities.
4. Withdrawal transactions are to be limited to \$10,000 or as such amount as determined by the Diocese.
 - a. All amounts over \$10,000 must have a faculty.
5. The criteria of XRB should apply to individual parishes, those who have expenditure of under an average of \$140,000 should only be required to adhere to Tier 4 Accounting, which is cash accounting only.
6. Other Parishes, above this level would be required to comply with Tier 3 Accounting, which is accrual accounting, bringing in matters such as holiday pay and accounts payable.
7. In summary the Treasurer should report to vestry and procedures should be documented as follows
 - a. All funds be recorded by at least two verified members of the Parish

- b. That the funds are recorded and signed for by these members and documentation will be held at more than one location
 - c. A minimum of two people will be required to authorise bank withdrawal transactions or internet payments
 - d. To arrange payment of accounts when due, or as soon as practical.
 - e. To provide the Diocese with the information they required to complete the financials including budgets and end-of-year accounts.
 - f. To give an account of all transactions to vestry, including available funds on a monthly basis.
8. The Parish is responsible for having adequate software to enable the Treasurer to completed their tasks and such software licence or subscription is to be in Parish control.
 9. That all electronic information be stored on the Parish computer or Parish Cloud storage.
 10. The end of year report prepared by the Diocese is to be presented to the AGM, together with any other supporting reports the Treasurer deems necessary to explain to the congregation the Parishes activity.

Rationale

1. It is my appreciation there are a number of treasurers in the Diocese who are untrained individuals fulfilling a role in the church which this clause exposes them to being potentially liable.
2. I am also aware when individual store information on their personal computer, the Parish does not access, and it at a disadvantage in a situation of them leaving or dying.
3. Regarding points 5) and 6) it is appreciated the deciding difference will be if a Parish has a full time vicar or not.
4. The practical matter is that Trust Management Limited (TML) is preparing accounts of behalf of the Diocese and not the treasurer, so why should the Treasurer be liable for the actions which is not in the treasurer's control.
5. The accounts prepared by the Diocese do not comply with IFRS and they are not required by the Charities commission, the Diocese comply to XRB External Reporting Board standards. Which is a combination of NZFRS and SSAP's.
6. There is an urgent need to prepare timely and simplicity accounts, that lay people can understand, rather than to be considering comprehensive income and accruals.
7. The wording in the Statute is awkward and produces more uncertainty than anything,