

# Standing Committee Report

## Waikato and Taranaki Synod 2024

### Membership

**Bishops and Chairperson** The Most Reverend Philip Richardson

**Vicar General** The Venerable Val Riches

### Clergy

The Rev'd Peter Bargh

The Rev'd Blythe Cody

The Rev'd Jennie Savage

The Rev'd Christina Syrratt

The Rev'd Kim Wright

### Laity

Canon Robin Brockie

Mrs Christine Bryant

Mrs Pip Harrison

Ms Frances Brown

Mr Chris McLay

**Diocesan Registrar-Manager** Mr Ben Ferreira *ex officio*

**Waikato Diocesan Trust Board Chair** Mrs Elizabeth Bang

**Minute Secretary** Ven Trevor Harrison

**Meetings:** Standing Committee (SCom) met 6 times, either in person or on Zoom.

### Key matters:

#### The future of the Diocese

The financial viability of the diocese was flagged at last year's synod. During the year, three diocesan conversations were held to identify and pursue ways to make the diocese more sustainable. This resulted in several motions for synod to consider.

#### General Synod

During the Tikanga Pakeha Conference meeting leading up to the general synod, the next archbishop's name was put forward. At General Synod, archbishop Justin Duckworth was confirmed as the archbishop. It is a relief that after almost a year a successor for +Philip has been appointed.

#### Royal Commission

With the work of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into abuse in care drawing to a close and the report being released in parliament, matters regarding abuse were discussed regularly. There are cases of historic abuse in a redress process with Kooyoora. The recommendations

from the commission's report are being considered at general synod and diocesan levels. In anticipation of the report, several safeguarding practices have already been implemented.

### **Policy**

Standing Committee is busy systematically drafting, updating and implementing policies. Some recent policies include police vetting and background screening, safeguarding training and officiating protocols. In future, these will be available in a consolidated policy manual.

### **Tikanga partnership**

The relationship with our Tikanga partners remains a priority. The combined ministry kura with Te Manawa o Te Wheke in July was a highlight. Bishop Ngarahu has significant health challenges. He remains in our thoughts and prayers.