

The Waikato Diocesan Trust Board

Report to Synod 2024

It has been another busy year as Trustees of the Combined Diocesan Trust Board and once again it is important, as always, to point out we are bound by and have responsibilities to the Trustee Act 1956, The Anglican Church Trusts Act 1981, and the Diocesan Declaration and Trust Boards' Powers Statute and the Charities Act 2005 as well as Title F of the Provincial Canons.

As Prudent Trustees we must work within the above Acts, Trusts and Canons and at times we find them such a useful guide to what should and must happen when we need to make decisions which may appear unsatisfactory to those requesting solutions to their requirements and it would be useful for Parish Vestries to check those which apply to their particular resolution. We are always here to advise and help.

Ben Ferreira has settled in as Diocesan Manager, and is always at our meetings Judge Alex Twaddle too has become a valuable member of the Waikato Diocesan Trust Board. Thank you both.

Our monthly Combined Trust Board with The Taranaki Trust Board continues to work well and gives each of us security if one Trustee needs to be away. Monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday and are joined by the Trust Management Team (TML) via Zoom each third Thursday. Quarterly accounts, investment portfolio and at this time Parish interest is verified and distributed, the helpful nature of the TML staff is so appreciated. It is sad to farewell Sarah Hipkiss, from TML team and we all wish her all the best as she starts her new phase in life.

It is preferred not to break investments between meetings. It is preferred if you are able to time your requests for our monthly meetings and all being considered and sorted the request will be available in two/three days. Urgent requests however, may be discussed via e mail or ZOOM and be ratified at the next meeting as required.

Trust Management Funds

Personnel changes, at Trust Management Ltd., are inevitable and make very little difference to us however the staff remain helpful and supportive even if asked a silly question. We do appreciate their continued support with the Diocesan finances. Thank you all.

Parish investment through the Trust Board with the TML Team continues and is appreciated. With the Waikato Cathedral Remediation fundraising having begun the Trust Board has opened an independent account with TML so that the money is separated from the day to day Cathedral accounts. This is being carefully monitored and run by Mrs Jill Schumacher and certainly thank Jill for this effort.

Parishes investing through the Trust Board with TML continue to be happy with their decisions to do this. They have your concerns at heart and their understanding of the investment portfolios and requirements is apparent.

Conclusion

The building used by Anglican Action as housing has been taken away by Te Manawa o Te Wheke for their use however the old Catholic Bishops House remains and is tenanted by Anglican Action. The now larger piece of land is being discussed as to what may be developed

Anglican Action has moved into Church House and are running a service in the City from there. I have not anything further about this at this stage We are keeping in mind the Cathedral Church of St. Peter as this building is at the bottom of the hill the Cathedral sits on. This is so important as the fundraising for the Cathedral continues and opportunities arise for the future of the Diocese,

I continue to be asked what the Trust Boards are responsible for and how does this relate to the Parishes.

One of the major roles of the Trust Board is we invest money on behalf of the Parishes.

I make no apology for leaving the following statement as always as new Parish Vestries come and go and will need to understand. "The Trust Board is the only legal owner of all the Diocesan land and buildings and as such must be kept up to date with any changes. This is a huge responsibility and we take that role very seriously as it is the Trust Chairs and members that work with the solicitors and must be the signatory to any sale and purchase of property. We are available to walk you through any process you may be contemplating and we do have a procedure to follow. Not all decisions are straight forward or easy to achieve however our goal continues to include, The Bishop and staff as we work through any problems. We all work for the same purpose, to enhance and develop the Diocese to the best of our ability."

The Parishes are the beneficial owners and therefore purchase and maintain the land and buildings.

We, as a Combined Trust Board, were sad to say goodbye to Mrs Jill Shumacher who has so carefully looked after our meetings and kept us all "on the straight and narrow." Jill has moved on to enjoy more golf and volunteer for several organisations in the city. We will miss you Jill however time always arrives to depart and we certainly wish you well. I would also like to say a huge thanks to Phil Hyde, Norris, Ward, McKinnon, our Diocesan Solicitor who is readily available for advice and all Diocesan business.

Working with Standing Committee in a transparent manner continues and this has certainly been worthwhile.

We are , looking for future Trust Board members and have been asked to look at the required skill base required.

We continue to have many robust discussions as we work to enhance the Diocese and move with the many changes we experience in this ever changing world. We thank Ben for taking over the secretarial role. Nearly all of our meetings being held via Zoom for convenience being in two parts of the country.

Elizabeth Bang CNZM JP(Rtd)

Chair, Waikato Anglican Trust Board