

## **Standing Committee Report**

### **Waikato and Taranaki Synod 2023**

#### **Membership**

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

**Vicar General**                                      The Venerable Val Riches

#### **Clergy**

The Rev'd Peter Bargh  
The Rev'd Julian Perkins  
The Rev'd Jennie Savage  
The Rev'd Canon Pat Scaife  
The Rev'd Dr Jekheli Singh

#### **Laity**

Canon Robin Brockie  
Mrs Christine Bryant  
Mrs Pip Harrison

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

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

**Minute Secretary**                                      Rev'd Trevor Harrison

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

#### **Key matters:**

##### **Governance**

Over the past year, SCom worked hard to move from management to governance. We endeavour to have more high-level discussions focussed on matters of principle and strategy rather than day-to-day management.

##### **Finance**

The financial viability of the diocese and parishes remains a concern of SCom. We get regular updates from TML which continues to be of high quality and value. The updates include the financial performance of SCom in relation to the budget. A traffic light system that rates each parish as either green, yellow or red is provided on a quarterly basis. The health check considers the surplus/deficit year-to-date, available reserves, ratio of assets to liabilities and the staff cost as a percentage of total income. The health check at the end of June identified only 1 parish as red. SCom has been aware of this for some time and plans are already in place to address this.

## **Royal Commission**

Matters relating to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into abuse in care are discussed regularly. Topics discussed include:

- Pastoral care for survivors and their families and respondents and their families
- Safeguarding through rigorous checking of candidates in discernment and other paid or voluntary persons working with children and vulnerable adults. Improving the safeguarding training.
- Potential financial liability related to redress and possible sources of funding.

## **Rangiaowhia**

In March 2022, we jointly, with Te Manawa o Te Wheke (TMoTW), acquired 61 Rangiaowhia Road for return to Ngati Apakura. Long negotiations followed including the diocese, TMoTW and the Ngati Apakura Runanga Trust Board. On 4 September 2024, a ceremony was held where the land was officially handed over. This represents an important landmark on the road to reconciliation and restorative justice. SCom is concerned about the significant financial implications. The purchase was funded through a loan from the proceeds of the sale of Te Rau Aroha camp. Options of how to repay the loan are still being investigated.

## **Tikanga partnership**

The experience around the property at Rangiaowhia provided helpful learnings on how we engage our Tikanga partners. This led to a more intentional effort to engage with our partners. We are increasingly working closer together with TMoTW, including the following:

- Regular face-to-face hui.
- A two-day collaborative workshop regarding safechurch.
- The Waikato missionary has a standing invitation to Bishop's staff meetings and makes a valuable contribution.
- Planning a combined ministry kura for 2024.
- Exploring options for more collaboration on a local parish level. Conversations involving several parishes are underway.

## **Buildings**

While parishes in the diocese are fortunate to own a number of excellent properties, it is not without its challenges. Both cathedrals need earthquake strengthening, which will cost millions of dollars. A number of parishes are also trying to fundraise for earthquake strengthening. Hawera and Gordonton managed to strengthen their church buildings.

Opportunities for the development of residential properties are being pursued with positive progress being made.