

## **The Waikato Diocesan Trust Board**

### **Report to Synod 2023**

It has been another busy year as Trustees of the Combined Diocesan Trust Board and once again it is important 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.

It has been good to welcome Ben Ferreira as the Full Time Manager and to thank Simon Caley for all his extra time helping us in this position albeit in a part time capacity. I am sure he is happy to be back FT at the Bishops Action Foundation.

During the year we have also welcomed Judge Alex Twaddle who has joined the WDTB as a Trustee which has certainly enhanced our team.

Meeting each month as a 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. We meet monthly on the first Thursday and are joined by the Trust Management Team via Zoom each third Thursday. We discuss the quarterly accounts, investment portfolio and at this time Parish interest is verified and distributed.

Urgent requests are circulated and votes taken via e mail and therefore ratified at the next monthly meeting. It is preferred not to break investments between meetings. It is preferred if you are able to time these requests for our monthly meetings and all being considered and sorted the request will be available in two/three days.

### **Trust Management Funds**

The changes in personnel at Trust Management Ltd., make 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.

Parishes continue to invest through the Trust Board with the TML Team. The TML team certainly have all your interests at heart and those engaging with their staff I feel sure have found this as helpful as we have.

We have had several more Parishes investing through the Trust Board with TML and have been pleased with their decisions to do this. They have your concerns at heart and their understanding of the investment portfolios and requirements is apparent.

This Rangiorua land is to be handed over, by way of gifting to Ngati Apakura and Ngati Hinetu at the end of November this year. This has been an ongoing discussion throughout the year and will come to a suitable conclusion for all.

## **Conclusion**

Work around the Diocesan site is ongoing and buildings are being continually checked for use, that they are up to standard etc., Different options are always discussed and change may be inevitable. The tenants of Church House in Victoria Street, have given us notice to depart at the end of this year. We are, at present looking into viable options and what may be suitable at this end of the city. 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.

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.

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, are indebted to the work of Mrs Jill Schumacher, who not only is our Minutes secretary but has a huge knowledge of policy and process, she knows exactly where to check should we need clarification. Our sincere and grateful thanks Jill.

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, as a group, continue many robust discussions as we work to enhance the Diocese and move with the many changes we experience in this ever changing world. 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