

SYNOD REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

The Second Session of the Thirty-Ninth Synod was held at the Waikato Diocesan School for Girls from 28th to 30th September 2018. The opening session was held in the All Saints Chapel on the Friday night when the Bishops' Charge, and the Constitution of the Synod were presented as part of the Synod Eucharist.

On Saturday morning, after procedural matters were attended to, the Minutes of the First Session of the 39th Synod were presented and discussed.

Matters raised were

1. Appointment of a Bishop of Waikato. Subject to financial restraints this would be referred to the Commissioners for consideration.
2. What provisions were to be available for our northern parishes to assist them with the influx of people from the Auckland Diocese. This would be considered by the Clerical and Lay team of the Diocese.

The Bishop gave an update on the Diocesan Road Map.

Mrs Anne Edwards of Trust Management Limited gave a commentary on the Diocesan Financials.

The Audited General Accounts of the Waikato Diocesan Trust Board and the Taranaki Trust Board were presented and adopted.

This was followed by the presentation and adoption of the 2019 Diocesan Assessments for General Operating Expenses, Funding Ministry Support and Mission Target. It was pleasing to note that although we meet 8.8% of the Diocesan totals there has been a reduction in the total, we are required to pay in 2019 by \$16104. Our total for 2019 is still a large sum of \$81,354.

The First Reading of the seven Bills to be considered was introduced. As a Synod is the Church's equivalent of our National Parliament all legislative changes follow the Westminster procedure. Three readings of all Bills.

1. Trusts in Parishes
2. Use of Capital
3. General Synod Representatives
4. Cathedral Amendment
5. Clergy Housing
6. Archdeacons
7. Bishopric Trust Amendment

After the third Reading all Bills were passed.

Synod also receives Reports from numerous Diocesan Entities. In all 16 reports were received.

At an earlier adjourned Synod, the decision to sell the Waihi Beach Camp had been made. This had been done and Synod now resolved to invest the net proceeds of sale after repayment of outstanding debts under the custodianship of the Waikato Diocesan Trust Board to generate income to enable the Diocese to respond to future mission priorities. A commission to be appointed by Standing Committee to explore potential mission priorities for use of the income generated and report back to 2019 Synod.

That beyond the 2019 Synod that Standing Committee jointly with WDTB provide each year to Synod of how the income had been used and recommending of future priorities.

The Bishopric Trust amalgamation was approved by Synod to amalgamate various Trusts providing for the sustentation of the Bishop or Bishops of the Diocese and clarify the provisions for the recourse to the Capital.

The Archdeaconry Amendment Bill was to recognise the division of the former Taranaki Archdeaconry into two separate Archdeaconaries; Parininihi and Waitotara.

The Clergy Housing Amendment Bill was to modernise the requirements and on sale of a Vicarage the proceeds of sale if not used for a replacement property be invested with the appropriate Trust Board. Standing Committee has the power to authorise the use of part of the income generated for the general use of the Parish. An amount equal to annual rate of inflation plus 1% shall be retained and added to the Capital Fund.

The Waikato Cathedral Amendment Bill was to clarify and amending the provisions to the Waikato Cathedral Chapter.

Questions to the Synod by the President.

1. In the Bishop's Charge a Commission is to be set up to investigate the possible models of episcopacy and diocesan leadership going forward. The next Standing Committee meeting will sign of the terms of reference and membership of the Commission.
2. Research about the changing demographic patterns in North Waikato was done by an Auckland University PhD student. The Bishop's staff is looking at strategies for ongoing provision of ministry in rural areas.

Banning of Gay Conversion Therapy. Synod resolved to call on the New Zealand Parliament to pass legislation banning the harmful practice of gay conversion therapy.

A presentation on Affordable Housing was given by Simon Cayley, the CEO of the Bishop's Action Foundation.

A presentation on Children, Youth and Family Ministries was given by Rev Archdeacon Stephen Black and the Rev Mele Prescott. Following this Synod members around their tables were invited to discuss the following questions:

1. What does the church mean for millennials?
2. What was your most significant learning?
3. What will you do?

Some group responses were shared in feedback

As this was our last Synod, we wish to thank the Parishioners for selecting us to be their representatives over the last few years. To the new persons appointed we wish them every success and enjoyment in experiencing and participating in the Church on a wider scale and meeting a cross section of members of the wider Diocese.

Anne and Ross Smith
Synod Representatives

