

Standing Committee Report

I give thanks to God for the faithful contribution of the members of Standing Committee to the governance of our Diocese throughout 2022.

I particularly thank the Rev'd Tony Kippax who completed his term on the Standing Committee and the Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre (ADMSC) Governance Board, and I welcome the Rev'd Lucy Flatt, who was elected to Standing Committee at Synod. The vacant lay member's position on Standing Committee failed to attract any nominations at Synod, so I thank Mrs Fran Boyd who subsequently accepted the position having been nominated by the lay members of Standing Committee.

The other members of Standing Committee are—the Very Rev'd Lawrence Kimberley, the Rev'd Michael Brantley, the Rev'd Kofe Havea, Mrs Kirsty May, Mrs Corinne Haines, and Mr David Prosser. The Diocesan Manager Mr Edwin Boyce is an ex officio member and attends the monthly meetings of Standing Committee and Mrs Heather Fraser records the minutes. Meetings take place monthly, with the exception of January. The Rev'd Lucy Flatt, based in Timaru, mostly joins these meetings by Zoom, and on alternate months everyone attends by Zoom. This reduces travel time and our carbon footprint.

COVID, although not as rampant as it was, still continues to present us with problems of attendance in church and with the health of our church communities. On the positive side it has encouraged us to enhance our "on-line presence" in various ways across the Diocese, including services of worship. We must give thanks to God for our ability to use technology in this way to spread the Gospel of Christ.

Implementation work continues on the Diocesan Mission Action Plan (DMAP). The Ven Mark Chamberlain, the Archdeacon of Regeneration and Mission (ARM) has initiated parish and clergy reviews, clergy missional clusters and parish mission action planning. He ran the successful "Leading Your Church Into Growth" conference in September 2022. He has produced a number of short videos of interviews with me and other members of the Diocese on a variety of DMAP related topics and met with vestries and congregations to tell them about the DMAP. The Standing Committee, as required by the DMAP, commissioned a project to inform the structure and resources required to achieve growth for the diocese in strength, depth, and breadth and has received the project's final report. Having digested this report, SC brings to Synod 2023 a series of recommendations re the present and the future engagement with DMAP.

A demographic survey of parishes was conducted and showed that 3,530 people attended churches across the Diocese in the four-week period between 11th September and 2nd October 2022. Not unexpectedly, the distribution of ages of those attending church during that time was mainly in the 60 to 80 age group, with the number of females being twice that of males. All of this helps us to have a shared understanding of the health of the Diocese upon which informed decisions can be made our future.

Many of our ministry units face financial problems and seek Standing Committee's approval to draw down on dwindling trust funds. Many parishes can describe themselves as asset rich, and cash poor. Parishes find themselves having trusts with funds tied to specific purposes that makes them unusable for general purposes, or holding under-utilised

property that they have to maintain in an environment of increasing compliance costs of insurance and earthquake strengthening.

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into abuse in care is due to formally present its finding and recommendation in mid to late 2023. The Inquiry has challenged us on how to transform the way we safeguard the most vulnerable people in our communities and redress matters in our Diocese which have been insufficiently addressed in the past. This includes training for our clergy and lay leader, especially those dealing with children, youth and young adults.

+Peter Carrell, Bishop of Christchurch and Chair of Standing Committee