



**Anglican Diocese
of Christchurch**
He Oranga Mihinare

Synod Bills and
Motions
September 2025
Published Version 5

Contents

Bill 1: Mission and Ministry Unit Amalgamation Statute Amendment Bill 2025.....	3
Bill 2: Diocesan Ministry Units Statute Amendment Bill 2025.....	5
Bill 3: The Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre Statute Amendment Bill 2025	12
Bill 4: The Cathedral Chapter Statute 2016 Amendment Bill 2025	15
Bill 5: Sister Eveleen Retreat House Bill 2025.....	19
Bill 6: Conditions of Appointment for Clergy in the Diocese of Christchurch Statute 2007 Amendment Bill 2025	23
Procedural Motions 1 –9:	27
Motion 10: Anglican Missions Target	28
Motion 11: Anglican Care Move to a Charitable Trust.....	29
Motion 12: Clergy Wellbeing.....	30
Motion 13: Investigation into the use of funds.....	31
Motion 14: Cathedral Motion	31
Motion 15: Encouraging prayer in the Diocese	32
Motion 16: Gaza Statements	33

Bill 1: Mission and Ministry Unit Amalgamation Statute Amendment Bill 2025

1. Title:

The title of this Statute is the Mission and Ministry Unit Amalgamation Statute 2016 Amendment Statute 2025.

2. Commencement:

This Statute comes into force at the end of the session of Synod at which it is passed.

3. Purpose:

The purpose of this Statute is to amend the Mission and Ministry Unit Amalgamation Statute 2016 to give Standing Committee the delegated authority within defined parameters to make timely decisions in between Synods to ensure the future sustainability of mission and ministry units.

4. Insert a new section 7 and renumber subsequent sections:

7 Delegated Authority for Standing Committee

- (1) Notwithstanding the requirement for Synod approval under sections 5 and 6, the Standing Committee may, subject to the conditions set out in this section, take timely action to dissolve and/or establish mission and ministry units without awaiting Synod approval where:
 - (a) The affected mission and ministry units have experienced a significant decline in membership, leadership, or financial stability, such that their continued independent operation is no longer sustainable; and/or
 - (b) The mission and ministry units involved have requested a merger or dissolution to improve the effectiveness of their ministry in response to changing demographics, resources, or mission needs; and/or
 - (c) The mission and ministry units involved have requested a separation of one or more parts of their current areas to improve the effectiveness of their ministry within the areas that remain to them and in the areas to be separated off, in response to changing demographics, resources, or mission needs.
- (2) In these circumstances, the Standing Committee may action the dissolution and establishment of a mission and ministry unit as set out in Sections 5 and 6 without waiting for the next Synod session. The Standing Committee's decision shall be reported to Synod at the next session.
- (3) The Standing Committee shall only exercise this authority if:
 - (a) Requested by the Bishop on the grounds that the matter requires a decision to be made without the delay of waiting for the next session of Synod; and

- (b) The geographical area for the proposed New Ministry Unit(s) do not overlap with any other existing ministry unit(s); and
- (c) Either:
 - (i) each such affected ministry unit has determined through a resolution of a general meeting of parishioners that such change should take place and should take place without delay; or
 - (ii) the Bishop, the relevant territorial Archdeacon and the Chancellor are agreed that each such affected ministry unit is unable to determine a resolution, as described in (3)(c)(i) above, and this has been conveyed in writing to the Standing Committee; and
- (d) The decision(s) made under this delegated authority are:
 - (i) in line with the overall mission and strategic objectives of the Diocese; and
 - (ii) enhance any future viability and sustainability of mission and ministry in the geographical area for the proposed New Ministry Unit(s).

Moved: Mrs Kirsty May (kirstymaybarrister@gmail.com)

Seconded: Mr David Prosser (harmony@xtra.co.nz)

Bill 2: Diocesan Ministry Units Statute Amendment Bill 2025

1. Title:

The title of this Statute is the Diocesan Ministry Units Statute 2021 Amendment Statute 2025.

2. Commencement:

This Statute comes into force at the end of the session of Synod at which it is passed.

3. Purpose:

The purpose of this Statute is to amend the Diocesan Ministry Units Statute 2021 to ensure that:

- (a) the necessary provisions (as required by Charities Services and the Charities Act 2005) are included within the Statute itself. This means individual statutes can be uploaded to the Charities Services website, rather than the entire Handbook (and subsequent changes to the Handbook), and
- (b) the Statute aligns with the changes proposed in the Mission and Ministry Unit Amalgamation Statute Amendment Bill 2025.

4. Amendment to Section 3:

Amend section 3 by inserting the following words at the end of section 3:

“This Statute should be read together with the Constitution/Te Pouhere of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia and the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch Diocesan Handbook as may be in force from time to time.”

5. Insert a new section 4:

4. Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires the following expressions will have the meaning ascribed to them:

- **“ADMSC”** means the Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre, a charity with the registration number CC56265.
- **“Anglican Diocese of Christchurch Diocesan Handbook” or the “Handbook”** means the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch Diocesan Handbook as published and amended by the Diocese from time to time.
- **“Constitution/Te Pouhere of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia” or the “Constitution”** means the Constitution of the Anglican Church in

Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia / Te Hāhi Mihinare ki Aotearoa ki Niu Tīreni, ki Ngā Moutere o te Moana Nui a Kiwa as published and amended from time to time.

- **“Chaplaincies”** mean chaplains that are licensed by the Bishop to institutions and organisations such as seafarers, schools, universities, university halls of residence, hospitals, the Police, and the Armed Forces.
- **“CPT”** means the Church Property Trustees (Anglican Diocese of Christchurch), a charity with the registration number CC36062, and by virtue of the CPT Act.
- **“CPT Act”** means the Anglican (Diocese of Christchurch) Church Property Trust Act 2003 and any subsequent amendments or regulations.
- **“Co-operating Ventures”** means a co-operating ministry unit formed by agreement with other Christian churches as approved by Synod or the Standing Committee.
- **“GTE”** means the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch – General Trust Estate, a charity with the registration number CC60885.
- **“Ministry Units”** means the four types of ministry units in the Diocese which are Parishes, Chaplaincies, Co-operating Ventures, and Mission Units.
- **“Mission Units”** mean the forms of ministry units established by the Standing Committee in accordance with this Statute for the purpose of advancing the mission of the Diocese.
- **“Parishes”** mean the worshipping communities established by Synod (or by Standing Committee as in Section 7 of the Mission and Ministry Unit Amalgamation Statute 2016) on a geographic basis.
- **“Standing Committee”** means the group of persons appointed by the Synod under Part E of the Constitution as the standing committee.
- **“Synod”** means the synod of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch.
- **“Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand” or “UCANZ”** means the charity with the registration number CC29222.

6. Amendment to Section 5:

Number the first line of section 5 as subsection (1).

7. Amendments to section 7:

Amend section 7(1) by inserting after the words “Standing Committee” the words “(or by Standing Committee as in Section 7 of the Mission and Ministry Unit Amalgamation Statute 2016)”.

Amend section 7(3) by replacing the words “date set” with the words “Synod resolution” and by inserting after the words “creation of a new parish” the words “(or by Standing Committee as in Section 7 of the Mission and Ministry Unit Amalgamation Statute 2016)”, and by replacing the words “new parish” to “new ministry unit”.

Insert two new subsections after 7(3):

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained or implied in this Statute, the charitable purposes of the ministry units as set out in section 5 of this Statute are paramount and nothing in this Statute authorises the ministry unit to do anything that does not accord with the charitable purposes. All capital and income of the ministry unit and any other benefit or advantage belonging to the ministry unit must be applied to such charitable purposes.

(5) No private pecuniary profit may be made by any person from the property of the ministry unit except that, subject to section 7(4):

(a) The ministry unit may in good faith pay reasonable remuneration to any person (including professional service providers) for services rendered provided:

(i) such remuneration is for services rendered directly or indirectly for the benefit of the ministry unit;

(ii) such remuneration is reasonable, relative to the services supplied;

(iii) such remuneration is not greater than the consideration that would be paid or supplied in an arms-length transaction (being the open market value) for such services; and

(iv) that the recipient person is not a person who participates in the decision-making about whether that person’s services are engaged at a particular value, or at all.

(b) Any person may receive full reimbursement for all reasonable expenses properly incurred by that person in connection with the affairs of the ministry unit.

8. Amendments to section 8:

Amend section 8(1) by inserting after the words “resolution of Synod” the words “(or by Standing Committee as in Section 7 of the Mission and Ministry Unit Amalgamation Statute 2106)”.

Amend section 8(2) by inserting after the words “presented to Synod” the words “(or by Standing Committee as in Section 7 of the Mission and Ministry Unit Amalgamation

Statute 2016)".

9. Amendments to section 9:

Amended section 9(1) by replacing the words "Diocesan" with "Mission and".

Amend section 9(2) by inserting after the words "Standing Committee" the words "(or by Standing Committee as in Section 7 of the Mission and Ministry Unit Amalgamation Statute 2016)".

Amend section 9(3) by inserting after the words "presented to Synod" the words "(or Standing Committee, as above)".

Amended section 9(4)(b) by replacing the words "Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre (ADMSC)" with "GTE".

Amend section 9(4)(b)(i) by inserting the words "of the charitable purposes" after the word "out".

Amend section 9(4)(b)(ii) by inserting the word "charitable" after the word "general".

10. Amendment to section 13:

Amend section 13(a) by inserting after the words "Anglican tradition" the words "according to the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia;".

11. Amendment to section 14:

Amend section 14(a) by changing the word "parish" to "ministry unit" and inserting after the words "ministry unit" the words "including their spiritual leadership in the sustenance and promotion of the Christian faith within the Anglican tradition according to the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia;".

12. Amendment to section 15:

Amend section 15(a) by changing the word "parish" to "ministry unit" by inserting after the words "ministry unit" the words "including their spiritual leadership in the sustenance and promotion of the Christian faith within the Anglican tradition according to the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia;".

13. Amendments to section 16:

Amend section 16(1) by replacing the word "To" with the words "Subject to the CPT Act, and any lawful directions from Synod and the Standing Committee, to"; and by replacing the words "powers of" with "the same powers as"; and adding the words

“including, in relation to ministry unit property, all the powers of an absolute owner of the property.” after the word “person”.

14. Amendments to section 18:

Amend section 18(2)(e) by replacing the words “requirements of section 16 of” with “qualifications of officers under”.

15. Amendments to section 19:

Amend section 19(3)(e) by replacing the words “requirements in section 16 of” with “qualifications of officers under”.

16. Amendments to section 21:

Amend section 21 by inserting new subsections (3) and (4) below section (2) and renumbering the subsequent subsections accordingly.

(3) Subject to the Diocese’s conflict of interest policy, no member of Vestry may vote on any matter in which they have a personal or pecuniary interest or in which any company or other body in which the Vestry member has a personal or financial interest itself has pecuniary interest. No Vestry member, or anyone associated with a Vestry Member, is allowed to take part in, or influence any decision made by Vestry in respect of payments to, or on behalf of, the Vestry member or associated person of any income, benefit or advantage.

(4) Subject to the Diocese’s conflict of interest policy, any Vestry member who becomes aware that they have or may have an interest of the type referred to in section 21(3) must immediately declare that interest to the Vestry and their declaration must include all relevant detail needed to provide a full and fair disclosure. All Vestry members must act in good faith in all such matters.

17. Amendments to section 22:

Amend section 22(3) by deleting the words “either appoint a Bishop’s Commissioner in accordance with section 23 to lead the parish or”.

18. Amendments to section 29:

Amend section 29 by inserting the following words at the end of subsection (1)(b):

“which must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2005 including that:

- (i) It has legally binding rules that name the organisation, set out the charitable purposes, do not allow the entity to undertake activities that further non-charitable purposes, ensure the entity cannot be carried on for private pecuniary profit or for the benefit of any individual, and have winding up

- provisions directing all surplus assets to charitable purposes or charitable organisations;
- (ii) Its officers are qualified; and
 - (iii) It complies with annual reporting requirements. "

19. Amendments to section 31:

Amend section 31(2)(c) by adding the following words at the end "within the purposes stated under section 5".

Insert two new subsections after section 31(2):

- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained or implied in this Statute, the charitable purposes of a mission unit of this Statute are paramount and nothing in this Statute authorises the mission unit to do anything that does not accord with the charitable purposes. All capital and income of the mission unit and any other benefit or advantage belonging to the mission unit must be applied to such charitable purposes.
- (4) No private pecuniary profit may be made by any person from the property of the mission unit except that, subject to section 31(3):
 - (a) Mission units may in good faith pay reasonable remuneration to any person (including professional service providers) for services rendered provided:
 - (i) such remuneration is for services rendered directly or indirectly for the benefit of the mission unit;
 - (ii) such remuneration is reasonable, relative to the services supplied;
 - (iii) such remuneration is not greater than the consideration that would be paid or supplied in an arms-length transaction (being the open market value) for such services; and
 - (iv) that the recipient person is not a person who participates in the decision-making about whether that person's services are engaged at a particular value, or at all.
 - (b) Any person may receive full reimbursement for all reasonable expenses properly incurred by that person in connection with the affairs of the mission unit.

20. Amendments to section 33:

Amend section 33 by replacing the words "3 of this Statute" with "2 of this Statute. Officers of mission units must meet the qualifications of officers under the Charities Act 2005 to be appointed and remain as officers of mission units."

21. Amendments to section 35:

Amend section 35(2) by replacing the words “Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre” with “GTE”; and inserting the word “charitable” after the word “general”.

22. Amendments to Part 6:

Amend the title of Part 6 by replacing the words ‘Transition and repeal’ by the word ‘Amendments’.

23. Amendments to section 36:

Delete section 36 and number the subsequent sections accordingly.

24. Amendments to newly numbered section 36:

Delete and replace sections 36 (1) and (2) with:

“36. Amending this Statute

The Diocesan Ministry Units Statute 2021 can be amended by the Synod.”

Moved: Mr David Prosser (harmony@xtra.co.nz)

Seconded: The Reverend Dr Meg Harvey (revmegharvey@gmail.com)

Bill 3: The Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre Statute Amendment Bill 2025

1. **Title:**

The title of this Statute is The Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre Statute 2018 Amendment Statute 2025.

2. **Commencement:**

This Statute comes into force at the end of the session of Synod at which it is passed.

3. **Purpose:**

The purpose of this Statute is to amend The Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre Statute to update the Statute to ensure that the necessary provisions (as required by Charities Services and the Charities Act 2005) are included within the Statute itself. This means individual statutes can be uploaded to the Charities Services website, rather than the entire Handbook (and subsequent changes to the Handbook).

4. **Amendments to section 1:**

Amend section 1 by changing the title from "Purpose" to "Purpose and Definitions".

Amend section 1 by inserting the words "(“Charitable Purposes”)" after the words "as specified below:".

Insert two new subsections after section 1 and renumber the subsequent sections accordingly:

- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained or implied in this Statute, the charitable purposes of the Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre as set out in section 1(1) of this Statute are paramount and nothing in this Statute authorises the Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre to do anything that does not accord with the charitable purposes. All capital and income of the Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre and any other benefit or advantage belonging to the Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre must be applied to such charitable purposes as set out in section 1(1) of this Statute.
- (3) Unless the context otherwise requires the following expressions will have the meaning ascribed to them:
 - (a) "**ADMSC**" means the Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre, a charity with the registration number CC56265;
 - (b) "**ADMSC Governance Board**" means the governing body of the Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre;

- (c) **"Anglican Church Pension Board"** means the entity that administers NZ Anglican retirement savings scheme;
- (d) **"Anglican Mission Board"** means the Anglican aid, development & mission agency;
- (e) **"Archdeacon"** means an archdeacon of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch;
- (f) **"Bishop"** means the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch;
- (g) **"Bishopric Estate"** means the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch – Bishopric Estate, a charity with the registration number CC60883;
- (h) **"Cathedral"** means the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch – Christchurch Cathedral Chapter, a charity with the registration number CC52773;
- (i) **"Church Property Trustees"** means the Church Property Trustees (Anglican Diocese of Christchurch), a charity with the registration number CC36062, by virtue of the Anglican (Diocese of Christchurch) Church Property Trust Act 2003;
- (j) **"CWS"** means the Christian World Service, a charity with the registration number CC22288;
- (k) **"CMS"** means the New Zealand Church Missionary Society Trust Board; a charity with the registration number CC41504;
- (l) **"Churchwardens"** mean the churchwardens of any ministry unit/s;
- (m) **"Dean and Chapter Estate"** means the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch – Dean and Chapter Estate, a charity with the registration number CC60886;
- (n) **"Diocese"** means the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch;
- (o) **"Diocesan Manager"** means the manager of the Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre appointed by Standing Committee;
- (p) **"General Trust Estate"** means the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch – General Trust Estate, a charity established under the Church Property Trust Act 2003, with the registration number CC60885;
- (q) **"Manager of the Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre"** means the Diocesan Manager;
- (r) **"Ministry Unit(s)"** means the Cathedral, Parishes, Chaplaincies, Co-operating Ventures, and Mission Units;
- (s) **"Pension Fund"** means the retirement savings scheme for NZ Anglican clergy and lay workers;
- (t) **"St John's College Trust Board"** means the governing Board under the St John's College Trusts Act 1972 providing ministry education funds in the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia;
- (u) **"Standing Committee"** means the group of persons appointed by the Synod under Part E of the Constitution of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia (Te Hāhi Mihinare ki Aotearoa ki Niu Tīreni, ki Ngā Moutere o te Moana Nui a Kiwa) as the standing committee;
- (v) **"Synod"** means the synod of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch;
- (w) **"UNCANZ"** means the Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand;
- (x) **"Vestry"** means the Vestry of any parish or Ministry Unit.

5. Amendments to section 4:

Insert two new subsections after section 4(2):

- (3) No one may be a member of the ADMSC Governance Board who fails to meet the qualifications of officers under the Charities Act 2005.
- (4) A member of the ADMSC Governance Board will cease to hold office if they become disqualified to be an officer of a charity under the Charities Act 2005.

6. Amendments to section 7:

Amend section 7(1) by replacing the words “Anglican Centre.” with the words “Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre office.”

7. Amendments to section 14:

Amend section 14 by adding subsection 14(10) “For any other situation governed by a Memorandum of Understanding the quota will be determined by reference to that Memorandum”.

8. Amendments to section 20:

Add the following words after “individual” in section 20(2):

“except that, subject to section 1:

- (a) The ADMSC may in good faith pay reasonable remuneration to any person (including professional service providers) for services rendered provided:
 - (i) such remuneration is for services rendered directly or indirectly for the benefit of the ADMSC;
 - (ii) such remuneration is reasonable, relative to the services supplied;
 - (iii) such remuneration is not greater than the consideration that would be paid or supplied in an arms-length transaction (being the open market value) for such services; and
 - (iv) that the recipient person is not a person who participates in the decision-making about whether that person’s services are engaged at a particular value, or at all.
- (b) Any person may receive full reimbursement for all reasonable expenses properly incurred by that person in connection with the affairs of the ADMSC.

Moved: Mr David Prosser (harmony@xtra.co.nz)

Seconded: The Reverend Dr Meg Harvey (revmegharvey@gmail.com)

Bill 4: The Cathedral Chapter Statute 2016 Amendment Bill 2025

1. Title:

The title of this Statute is The Cathedral Chapter Statute 2016 Amendment Statute 2025.

2. Commencement:

This Statute comes into force at the end of the session of Synod at which it is passed.

3. Purpose:

The purpose of this Statute is to amend The Cathedral Chapter Statute 2016 to ensure that the necessary provisions (as required by Charities Services and the Charities Act 2005) are included within the Statute itself. This means individual statutes can be uploaded to the Charities Services website, rather than the entire Handbook (and subsequent changes to the Handbook).

4. Amendments to section 2:

Amend section 2 by adding the following new subsections (2) and (3):

- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained or implied in this Statute, the charitable purposes of the Cathedral as set out in section 4(1) of this Statute are paramount and nothing in this Statute authorises the Cathedral Chapter to do anything that does not accord with the charitable purposes. All capital and income of the Cathedral and any other benefit or advantage belonging to the Cathedral must be applied to such charitable purposes as set out in section 4(1) of this Statute.
- (3) No private pecuniary profit may be made by any person from the property of the Cathedral except that, subject to section 2(2):
 - (a) The Cathedral may in good faith pay reasonable remuneration to any person (including professional service providers) for services rendered provided:
 - (i) such remuneration is for services rendered directly or indirectly for the benefit of the Cathedral;
 - (ii) such remuneration is reasonable, relative to the services supplied;
 - (iii) such remuneration is not greater than the consideration that would be paid or supplied in an arms-length transaction (being the open market value) for such services; and

- (iv) that the recipient person is not a person who participates in the decision-making about whether that person's services are engaged at a particular value, or at all.
- (b) Any person may receive full reimbursement for all reasonable expenses properly incurred by that person in connection with the affairs of the Cathedral.

5. Insert new section 3:

3 Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires the following expressions will have the meaning ascribed to them:

"Annual Meeting" means the annual meeting of the Cathedral congregation (or regulars);

"Archdeacon" means the archdeacon of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch with responsibility for the Christ Church Cathedral;

"Associate Dean" means the priest or bishop appointed to the role of associate dean of the Christ Church Cathedral in accordance with section 15(4);

"Bishop" means the bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch;

"Cathedral" means the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch – Christ Church Cathedral Chapter, a charity with the registration number CC52773;

"Cathedral Regulars" means the people that make up the Christ Church Cathedral congregation and who can vote on the Congregational Lay Canons;

"Chancellor" means the chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch;

"Chapter" or **"Cathedral Chapter"** means the governing body of the Christ Church Cathedral Chapter;

"Choir" means the Christ Church Cathedral Choir, incorporating boy and girl chorister sections from The Cathedral Grammar School;

"Church Property Trustees" means the Church Property Trustees (Anglican Diocese of Christchurch), a charity with the registration number CC36062 by virtue of the Anglican (Diocese of Christchurch) Church Property Trust Act 2003;

"Clerical Canons" means persons appointed to the office of clerical canon in accordance with section 7;

"Congregational Lay Canons" means persons nominated and elected from the Cathedral Regulars to the office of congregational lay canon in accordance with section 8;

"Constitution" means the Constitution of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia / Te Hāhi Mihinare ki Aotearoa ki Niu Tīreni, ki Ngā Moutere o te Moana Nui a Kiwa as published and amended from time to time;

“Dean” means the chief pastor of the Christ Church Cathedral and includes the acting dean appointed in accordance with section 15(1);

“Diocese” means the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch;

“Diocesan Lay Canons” means persons appointed to the office of diocesan lay canon by the Standing Committee in accordance with section 9;

“Director of Music” means the director of the Christ Church Cathedral Choir;

“Executive Canons” means two persons from the Congregational and Diocesan Lay Canons appointed or elected to be the Cathedral executives in accordance with section 10;

“Lay Synod Representatives” means the representatives and spokesman of lay people in the synod of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch;

“Standing Committee” means the group of persons appointed by the Synod under Part E of the Constitution of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia (Te Hāhi Mihinare ki Aotearoa ki Niu Tīreni, ki Ngā Moutere o te Moana Nui a Kiwa) as the standing committee;

“The Cathedral Grammar School Board” means the governing body of the Cathedral Grammar School;

“Vicar-General” means the person appointed by the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch to that office.

6. Amendments to section 9:

Amend section 9(2) by inserting after the words “annually by the” the words “Congregational and Diocesan”; and by inserting after the words “30 April” the words “of each calendar year.”

7. Amendments to section 11:

Amend section 11(1) by replacing the words “The Chapter has” with “In carrying out the charitable purposes as set out in section 4(1), and subject to section 2(2)”; and inserting after the word “guidelines,” the words “the Chapter has”.

8. Amendments to section 14:

Amend section 14(3)(f) by replacing the word “Head” with “Principal”.

9. Amendment to section 15:

Amend section 15(1) by replacing the words “The Bishop may,” with “In carrying out the charitable purposes as set out in section 4(1) and subject to section 2(2), the Bishop may,”.

10. Addition of section 17:

Insert a new section 17:

17. Wind up

- (1) If at any time the charitable purposes as set out in section 4(1) will fail or if for any other reason the charitable purposes will become wholly frustrated

and incapable of being carried out or if the Cathedral will no longer be used or required for the charitable purposes declared hereof then and in such case the Chapter must proceed to wind up the Cathedral.

- (2) Upon a winding up for any reason, any remaining portion of the Cathedral fund or property, or the net proceeds arising from the sale of the assets of the Cathedral must be applied, after payment of all liabilities, towards the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch.

Moved: Mr David Prosser (harmony@xtra.co.nz)

Seconded: The Reverend Dr Meg Harvey (revmegharvey@gmail.com)

Bill 5: Sister Eveleen Retreat House Bill 2025

The purpose of this Bill is to repeal the existing Sister Eveleen Retreat House Statute 2009 and replace it with the Sister Eveleen Retreat House Statute 2025 to ensure that the necessary provisions (as required by Charities Services and the Charities Act 2005) are included within the Statute itself. This means individual statutes can be uploaded to the Charities Services website, rather than the entire Handbook (and subsequent changes to the Handbook).

1. Title:

The title of this Statute is Sister Eveleen Retreat House Statute 2025.

2. Commencement:

This Statute comes into force at the end of the session of Synod at which it is passed.

3. Purpose

- (1) Sister Eveleen Barklie bequeathed her property at 6 Whitewash Head Road, Scarborough (the "**Sister Eveleen Retreat House**") to the Church Property Trustees ("**CPT**") to hold the same upon trust to permit the same to be used as a house for spiritual help and prayer" (the "**Bequest Terms**").
- (2) This statute continues the Sister Eveleen Retreat House Board of Oversight ("**Board**") and describes its aims and objectives.
- (3) The aims and objectives of the Board and its staff will be to encourage and promote the widest possible use of retreat properties (including the Sister Eveleen Retreat House) (the "**Retreat Houses**"), in meeting the spiritual needs of people in the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch (the "**Charitable Purposes**").

4. Personnel

- (1) In utilising any Retreat House, the Board must abide by the requirements attached to such Retreat House. As an example only, CPT as trustee under the Bequest Terms will have the ultimate authority for ensuring the use of the Sister Eveleen Retreat House as specified in the Bequest Terms.
- (2) The Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch (the "**Bishop**") may appoint an Anglican priest holding a licence in the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch, with responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the Board.
- (3) The Board will be appointed as per section 5 below.
- (4) The Board may appoint Retreat House Director(s) who will be licensed by the Bishop, and who will have responsibility for the day to day operation of the Retreat Houses.

5. Membership of the Board

- (1) The Board will comprise of the following who must meet the qualifications of officers under the Charities Act 2005:

- (a) One clergy appointed by the Standing Committee;
 - (b) One Anglican priest appointed by the Bishop under section 5(2);
 - (c) Three lay people appointed by the Standing Committee;
 - (d) Up to three further members appointed by the Board, in order to complement the skills and knowledge of the other members of the Board; and
 - (e) The Retreat House Director(s) ex officio (speaking but no voting rights).
- (2) A quorum for any meeting will be not less than 4 voting members.

6. Term of office of the Board

- (1) Each Board member will be appointed for a term of three years, and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.
- (2) Any Board member who serves two consecutive terms is eligible for reappointment one year after the end of his/her second term.
- (3) Vacancies will be filled by the appointing body in accordance with section 3.
- (4) Transitional membership: At the first meeting of the Board, agreement will be reached about the conclusion of current members' terms so that rotation of membership is on a staggered basis.
- (5) The term of each Board member will cease if the Board member no longer meets the qualifications of officers under the Charities Act 2005.

7. Chair and other officers of the Board

- (1) A chair and secretary will be elected annually by the membership of the Board from among its members.
- (2) Minutes and other records will be maintained and be the property of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch.

8. Powers of the Board

- (1) Subject to section 4(a) above, the Board is empowered to carry out the Charitable Purposes.
- (2) Specifically, it may:
 - (a) Appoint Retreat House Director(s), subject to issue of a Bishop's licence;
 - (b) Annually review the performance of the Retreat House Director(s) and approve the job description following appropriate consultation with the Retreat House Director(s);
 - (c) Set a strategic direction and approve an annual plan prepared by the Retreat House Director(s);
 - (d) Approve an annual operational budget;
 - (e) Develop the annual capital budget for approval by CPT;
 - (f) Have oversight of finances, with annual accounts to be included in the Diocesan Year Book;
 - (g) Monitor its overall performance against its purpose, the strategic direction, and the annual plan and budget;

- (h) Liaise and consult with the CPT on relevant matters; and
 - (i) Adopt rules and policies for conduct of the meetings of the Board and other matters.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained or implied in this Statute, the Charitable Purposes of the Board as set out in section 3(4) of this Statute are paramount and nothing in this Statute authorises the Board to do anything that does not accord with the Charitable Purposes. All capital and income of the Board and any other benefit or advantage belonging to the Board must be applied to such Charitable Purposes.
- (4) No private pecuniary profit may be made by any person from the property of the Board except that, subject to section 8(3):
- (a) The Board may in good faith pay reasonable remuneration to any person (including professional service providers) for services rendered provided:
 - (i) such remuneration is for services rendered directly or indirectly for the benefit of the Board;
 - (ii) such remuneration is reasonable, relative to the services supplied;
 - (iii) such remuneration is not greater than the consideration that would be paid or supplied in an arms-length transaction (being the open market value) for such services; and
 - (iv) that the recipient person is not a person who participates in the decision-making about whether that person's services are engaged at a particular value, or at all.
 - (b) Any person may receive full reimbursement for all reasonable expenses properly incurred by that person in connection with the affairs of the Board.

9. Role of the Anglican Priest with Spiritual Oversight of the Board

- (1) This person:
- (a) Shall be a member of the Board;
 - (b) Will support the Retreat House Director(s) to ensure the spiritual purposes of the Board are being fulfilled; this may include participation in the annual review of the Retreat House Director(s) performance;
 - (c) Will be responsible for networking with the wider Anglican community; and
 - (d) Will keep the Bishop and CPT informed regarding the ministry of the Board.

10. Wind up

- (1) If at any time the Charitable Purposes as set out in section 3(4) will fail or if for any other reason the Charitable Purposes will become wholly frustrated or incapable of being carried out or if the Board will no longer be required for the Charitable

Purposes declared hereof then and in such case the Board must proceed to wind up.

- (2) Upon a winding up for any reason, any remaining portion of the Board's property, or the net proceeds arising from the sale of the assets of the Board must be applied after payment of all liabilities, towards such Charitable Purposes of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch as may be determined by Standing Committee (subject to section 4(1)).

Moved: Mrs Kirsty May (kirstymaybarrister@gmail.com)

Seconded: The Reverend Dr Meg Harvey (revmegharvey@gmail.com)

Bill 6: Conditions of Appointment for Clergy in the Diocese of Christchurch Statute 2007 Amendment Bill 2025

Explanatory Notes:

The Statute will amend the Conditions of Appointment for Clergy in the Diocese of Christchurch Statute 2007 so that conditions of clergy leave is decided by Standing Committee.

The draft leave policy that Standing Committee is proposing to implement is attached. This is designed to ensure clergy take proper rest and leave, and at the same time allow for the efficient administration of leave.

1. Title:

The title of this statute will be The Conditions of Appointment for Clergy in the Diocese of Christchurch Statute 2007 Amendment Statute 2025.

2. Commencement:

This Statute comes into force at the end of the session of Synod at which it is passed.

3. Purpose:

The purpose of this Statute is to replace Sections 10, 11 and 12 of The Conditions of Appointment for Clergy in the Diocese of Christchurch Statute 2007.

4. Delete Sections 10, 11 and 12:

That Sections 10, 11 and 12 be deleted.

5. Insert new Section 10 and renumber subsequent sections:

10. Clergy Leave

Standing Committee shall decide on the provisions for leave in the leave policy providing changes to the policy are determined after consultation appropriate to the form of change being made.

Moved: Mrs Kirsty May (kirstymaybarrister@gmail.com)

Seconded: Mr David Prosser (harmony@xtra.co.nz)

Leave Policy

Those in ordained ministry need to take planned and intentional time away from their ministry. However, entitlements to leave must be used when (or close to when) they arise, and should not build up and become a burden on the parish.

1. Weekly Rest

- (a) A clergy working week is defined as including Sundays.

A working week will be five days, with the clergy person having two days off within every seven days. Those days should be fixed by agreement with the wardens.

- (b) From time to time (for reasons beyond their control) it is acknowledged that it may not be possible for the clergy person to have two full days off every week. However, in every case a clergy person must have a minimum of one day per week off from ministry.

2. Annual Leave

- (a) Annual leave begins accruing from the day the clergy person commences in their role. After the end of each completed 12 months in the role the clergy person is entitled to 4 weeks' annual leave which will include four Sundays, during which time stipend and all associated allowances will be paid. By agreement with the parish, accrued annual leave can be taken in advance of its becoming an entitlement.
- (b) Wardens are responsible for arranging Sunday ministry cover for the period of the clergy person's annual leave.
- (c) Annual leave should be taken at times that are agreed, and the wardens and clergy person must make reasonable efforts to agree on times suitable to both the parish and the clergy person. If they wish, a clergy person must be allowed to take annual leave in at least one continuous two-week period.
- (d) A minimum of two consecutive weeks' leave must be taken each year. If public holidays fall during this period of annual leave, they must be paid at the normal rate.
- (e) Taking regular leave is important, both for the welfare of the clergy person, and to ensure that liability to pay for annual leave does not build up. Therefore:

- i. The intention is for annual leave to be taken either during the year it accrues, or (at the latest) within 12 months of the clergy person becoming entitled to take that leave.
 - ii. Any annual leave not taken within that time period can be carried over into the following year and will be known as "outstanding annual leave".
 - iii. Where outstanding leave accrues, the wardens must ensure that this leave is actually taken during that following year.
 - iv. Notwithstanding the above, in special circumstances (which should be rare) the wardens may agree in writing to allow the expiry date for particular outstanding annual leave to be deferred by no more than 12 months (ie up to three years after the clergy person became entitled to take that leave).
- (f) Annual leave not taken at the end of an appointment shall be taken following the clergy person's last day of ministry in a particular ministry unit, known as their termination date. The last day of such annual leave will be known as their severance date.
 Payment for such leave will not include:
 - (i) any taxable or non-taxable allowances other than housing allowance (if applicable);
 - (ii) public holidays, that would have occurred in the period had the outstanding leave been taken, and
 - (iii) any calculation of annual leave for the period that would have elapsed had the outstanding leave been taken.
 The clergy person may not start in a new paid ministry role until the day following their severance date.
- (g) Wardens must record all annual leave taken and ensure that the conditions as detailed in (a) to (f) above are adhered to. The clergy person is also responsible for ensuring that annual leave is taken, and properly recorded.

3. Public Holidays

- (a) Clergy are entitled to 12 public holidays, but public holidays will not be included in the leave paid out at the end of an appointment;
- (b) If a public holiday falls on a day when the clergy person has to work, e.g. Good Friday or Christmas Day, then a day or days in lieu must be taken within one month of this occurring; and
- (c) Public holidays may be included within, or can be additional to, the two consecutive weeks of annual leave that will be taken each year.

4. Sick Leave

- (a) The clergy person shall be entitled to sick leave as if the Holidays Act 2003 applied to them (noting that it does not).

- (b) Notwithstanding the provision above, Standing Committee, having given due consideration to the consequences of the work environment on the health and welfare of clergy, and being aware of the benefits of the Diocesan Insurance Fund and the Supplementary Support Fund, shall make decisions on Sick Leave and publish these in the Diocesan Handbook.
- (c) The Bishop has discretion, with the agreement of the wardens, to authorise a longer period of sick leave.

5. Leave Policy Decisions and Disputes

- (a) Standing Committee shall decide on the provisions for leave in the Leave Policy.
- (b) Disputes about the application of this policy which cannot be resolved by the clergy person and the wardens shall be resolved by the Bishop (or their delegate), whose decision will be final.

Procedural Motions 1 –9:

MOTION 1: Granting of Speaking Rights

Moved: The Reverend Jordan Greatbatch

Seconded: Mrs Kirsty May

MOTION 2: Acceptance of the Order Paper

Moved: The Venerable Nick Mountfort

Seconded: Mrs Kirsty May

MOTION 3: Acceptance of the Audited Accounts for 2024 of the Diocese of Christchurch

Moved: Mr David Prosser

Seconded: The Reverend Dr Meg Harvey

MOTION 4: Acceptance of the Audited Accounts for 2024 of the ADMSC

Moved: Mr David Prosser

Seconded: The Reverend Dr Meg Harvey

MOTION 5: Acceptance of the Audited Accounts for 2024 of CPT

Moved: Mr Steve Wakefield

Seconded: Mr Richard Murchison

MOTION 6: Acceptance of the Diocese of Christchurch Budget 2026

Moved: Mr David Prosser

Seconded: The Reverend Dr Meg Harvey

MOTION 7: Acceptance of the ADMSC Budget 2026

Moved: Mr David Prosser

Seconded: The Reverend Dr Meg Harvey

MOTION 8: Acceptance of Presidential Address

Moved: The Reverend Jordan Greatbatch

Seconded: The Reverend Victoria Askin

MOTION 9: Acceptance of the Annual Reports

Moved: Mrs Corinne Haines

Seconded: The Venerable Nick Mountfort

Motion 10: Anglican Missions Target

That this synod:

- a) renews its commitment to global mission by setting a target of \$160,000 as our Diocesan contribution to Anglican Missions for 2026;
- b) encourages people in our ministry units to use the resources available from Anglican Missions and NZCMS for specific, informed prayer about our partners in mission around the world; and
- c) encourages all ministry units to support mission partners by channelling contributions through Anglican Missions

Moved: Dr Bruce Deam (bruce@kxl.co.nz)

Seconded: The Venerable Dawn Baldwin (dawnedaunauda@gmail.com)

Motion 11: Anglican Care Move to a Charitable Trust

WHEREAS the Social Service Council of the Diocese of Christchurch Act 1952 (Anglican Care) currently establishes Anglican Care as a statutory entity governed by an Act of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS the primary operations of Anglican Care are now delivered through the Christchurch City Mission and associated services;

AND WHEREAS the timing is considered appropriate to transition Anglican Care from a statutory body to a modern charitable trust structure that is more flexible, sustainable, and suited to the organisation's current and future operations;

AND WHEREAS section 20 of the Act provides that "The Council shall not be wound up otherwise than after the passing of a resolution to that effect by the Synod and in such a manner and upon such conditions as the said resolution shall prescribe";

This Synod acknowledges and approves:

the intention of Anglican Care to move the current operations of the Social Service Council of the Diocese of Christchurch from an Act of Parliament to a Charitable Trust. Parry Field to assist in this process, and Standing Committee be empowered to monitor, receive regular updates and provide support on behalf of Synod to achieve this transfer, and then to oversee the ultimate repeal of the Act of Parliament.

Moved: Mrs Corinne Haines (corinne.haines@outlook.co.nz)

Seconded: Miss Jane Evans (jee.evans@extra.co.nz)

Motion 12: Clergy Wellbeing

Motion to address Clergy wellbeing and flourishing in ministry during this season of regeneration.

The call to ministry may seem straightforward at first but often requires clergy to develop diverse skills to become effective shepherds. Balancing ever-changing family dynamics with vocational demands can quickly push personal health and wellbeing aside. Many clergy are facing high stress levels as they navigate significant changes in the church while striving to sustain their ministries in challenging conditions.

How our diocese should be supporting clergy as they navigate the constant juggle balancing faith, discipleship, regeneration, refreshment, and leadership is a key consideration in the current season. This question needs to be explored and answered across our diocese, rather than only by individual ministry units or clergy.

This question requires immediate attention with an eye to the future, as faith communities and those they serve are changing faster than in past decades. The ministry model changes proposed under the Diocesan Mission Action Plan will have profound effects on clergy's overall well-being—spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, and relationally.

This motion seeks Synod's agreement that this issue requires time and effort to address, as well as Synod's support in tackling challenging questions to better care for those faithfully serving in ordained ministry.

This Synod resolves that:

The Standing Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch commission a working group to:

1. Identify the challenges that clergy throughout the diocese are facing now and could be expecting to face over the next decade.
2. Carry out an anonymous survey to establish how our clergy are faring five years after the adoption of the Diocesan Mission Action Plan and to identify what areas of life and ministry our clergy need support in as they lead our ministry units in the work of regeneration.
3. Report on the survey findings and make recommendations on addressing the key risks to Synod in 2026.

Moved: Reverend Victoria Askin (vicar@northwestchchparish.org.nz)

Seconded: Dr Bruce Deam (bruce@kxl.co.nz)

Motion 13: Investigation into the use of funds

This Synod resolves that:

Standing Committee appoint a group to investigate possibilities regarding the best way in which Ministry Unit and Diocesan funds may be utilised to actively support the growth of the Christian Message.

Background:

Included within the scope of this investigation must be an exploration into how any current Acts of Government or legal restrictions to the use of funds, may be impinging growth. It is seen as critical that this investigation be led and deeply influenced by the Lay community who carry the gospel in the world.

Moved: Mr Neville Queen (nevsgarage@yahoo.co.nz)

Seconded: The Venerable Megan Herles-Mooar (revmeghm@gmail.com)

Motion 14: Cathedral Motion

That this Synod:

1. thanks CCRL for their presentation on the Cathedral Project.
2. is grateful for the significant rescoping work CCRL have completed on the Project during 2025.
3. endorses the revised scope of the project and supports CCRL in making every endeavour to secure funding to move the project out of "Pause" mode as soon as practicable.

Moved: Mr Neville Queen (nevsgarage@yahoo.co.nz)

Seconded: The Venerable Megan Herles-Mooar (revmeghm@gmail.com)

Motion 15: Encouraging prayer in the Diocese

Purpose:

To encourage and deepen the life of prayer across the life of our Diocese.

Whereas:

Jesus was often at prayer e.g. Lk 6:12, Mk 1:35, Lk 22:44, Jn 17:20-24, encouraged his disciples to pray e.g. Lk 11:20-24, and St Paul encourages us to pray e.g. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Also, the Diocesan Mission Action Plan "DMAP" has as its goal the regeneration of the Diocese, and prayer is the key component to regeneration.

This Synod resolves that:

Standing Committee deepen the life of prayer through the Diocese. That it does this by encouraging, training and resourcing the life of prayer through workshops and other means.

Moved: The Venerable Nick Mountfort (nick.mountfort@gmail.com)

Seconded: Mother Alena Selita CSN (comsacnm@outlook.com)

Motion 16: Gaza Statements

That the Synod of the Diocese of Christchurch noting the continuation of war, starvation and failed efforts at a ceasefire in Gaza, let alone a lasting and just peace in Gaza and the West Bank, endorses both the statement on 1 September 2025 by the Archbishops of our church and the Statement on Gaza made by the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and urges individuals and ministry units in our Diocese to engage with the two calls the former statement makes and the four calls to action the latter statement makes:

The Archbishops' statement

For the government of Aotearoa New Zealand

We pray that more of our MPs will have the moral courage to speak out for justice in the knowledge that to do so is not to express a partisan point of view but is an expression of care for our common humanity.

We urge our government to use all the diplomatic mechanisms at its disposal to call for:

- The immediate unconditional, safe, protected and ongoing entry of aid – food, water and medical supplies – into occupied areas.
- The return of all hostages.
- The cessation of illegal settlement in Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- An immediate and long-lasting ceasefire of all hostilities.
- The creation of a two-state solution to effect lasting peace for the region.
- The unimpeded support for international accountability mechanisms to conduct independent investigations into all war crimes and crimes against humanity.

For Christians in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia

- *Will you fast and pray?* We ask for your continued and fervent prayer for this situation.
- *Will you inform yourselves?* We commend to you the work of Archbishop Hosam Nouam, the Archbishop of Jerusalem, in providing a Christian perspective on the conflict.
- *Will you do everything you can as best aligns with your faith to exercise your democratic right?* We know not everyone shares the same opinion, but however you stand, one of the simplest ways you can express your voice is to write to your local MP. They are your elected representative.
- *Will you support with your resources?* Please continue to support humanitarian aid appeals.

The WCC statement

- 1) **Naming** the Reality of Apartheid: We recognize and denounce the system of apartheid imposed by Israel on the Palestinian people, in violation of international law and moral conscience.
- 2) **Implementing** Sanctions and Accountability: We call on states, churches, and international institutions to impose consequences for violations of international law, including targeted sanctions, divestment, and arms embargoes. Full support must be given to the International Criminal Court and UN mechanisms investigating potential war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- 3) **Affirming** Palestinian Rights and Freedom: We uphold the inalienable human rights of Palestinians to freedom, justice, return, and self-determination. We demand the end of the occupation and the lifting of the unlawful blockade on Gaza.
- 4) **Support** for the resilience and witness of Palestinian Christian churches and communities, upholding their right to remain on their land and to freely practice their faith.

Moved: The Reverend Matt Maslin

Seconded: The Reverend Chris Orczy

Appendix 1: [full Archbishops' statement]

Appendix 2: [WCC full text

at <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/statement-on-palestine-and-israel-a-call-to-end-apartheid-occupation-and-impunity-in-palestine-and-israel>]



**The Archbishops and Primate
of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia**

1 September 2025

Archbishops' Statement Regarding the Holy Land

E mihi ana ki te tangata, e tangi ana ki te whenua. Tē taea ngā tapuwae o nanahi, o naianei te ūkui. No reira, kia ngawari te takahi i te mata o te whenua. E ngā iwi o te whenua, o te ao, kia mau te rongo, he mea paiheretia nā te rangimārie.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Israel and Palestine conflict has reached a grave tipping point, with famine now gripping Gaza. As Christians, we are called to act with moral clarity, to uphold the mana and tapu of every life, and to press for change that ensures food and medicine reach those in need, while urging all those with power to pursue peace for the region.

Over a hundred organisations [plead¹](#): let lifesaving aid into Gaza. More than half a million-face famine, one in three go days without food, twelve thousand children were malnourished in July, and food prices have risen eightyfold. Without action to end Israel's restriction of aid into Gaza, which international law requires to flow, mass starvation is certain.

All are suffering on both sides of this conflict. As the anniversary of 7 October 2023 draws near, the present injustice must be seen in the light of a much longer history of fear, trauma, and violence.

We deplore this inhumanity and cry out for the vulnerable and the oppressed. Each day, innocent people carry a burden they did not choose, yet they too are embraced within God's love and deserving of justice and peace.

We call on Israel to let urgent aid into Gaza and to agree to a ceasefire. We also call on Hamas to release the 20 remaining Israeli hostages, taken during the October 2023 attack, and to return them swiftly to their loved ones in Israel, and to agree to a ceasefire. Both must act with urgency to uphold the dignity of every human life.

As Anglicans, we are known for our openness and thoughtfulness, and we commit ourselves to listening, learning, and honouring the diverse and complex experiences and perspectives of the region.

Our immediate calls to action are two-fold:

For the government of Aotearoa New Zealand

We pray that more of our MPs will have the moral courage to speak out for justice in the knowledge that to do so is not to express a partisan point of view but is an expression of care for our common humanity.

¹ <https://www.oxfam.org.nz/news-media/media-releases/more-than-100-organisations-are-sounding-the-alarm-to-allow-lifesaving-aid-into-gaza/>

**The Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia
Te Hahi Mihinare ki Aotearoa, ki Niu Tirenī, ki Nga Moutere o te Moana Nui a Kiwa**

We urge our government to use all the diplomatic mechanisms at its disposal to call for:

- The immediate unconditional, safe, protected and ongoing entry of aid – food, water and medical supplies - into occupied areas
- The return of all hostages
- The cessation of illegal settlement in Occupied Palestinian Territories
- An immediate and long-lasting ceasefire of all hostilities
- The creation of a two-state solution to effect lasting peace for the region
- The unimpeded support for international accountability mechanisms to conduct independent investigations into all war crimes and crimes against humanity.

For Christians in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia

- *Will you fast and pray?* We ask for your continued and fervent prayer for this situation.
- *Will you inform yourselves?* We commend to you the work of Archbishop Hosam Nouam, the Archbishop of Jerusalem, in providing a Christian perspective on the conflict.
- *Will you do everything you can as best aligns with your faith to exercise your democratic right?* We know not everyone shares the same opinion, but however you stand, one of the simplest ways you can express your voice is to write to your local MP. They are your elected representative.
- *Will you support with your resources?* Please continue to support humanitarian aid appeals.²

In our last statement, we used the words of Psalm 130. We reiterate these again now, asking God to be present in his mercy. We pray them over the peoples of the Holy Land and over all those in power to bring peace, and over the violence in our own hearts:

'Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord; hear my voice. O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.'

In Christ



Archbishop Don Tanihere



Archbishop Justin Duckworth



Archbishop Stone Ulu'ilakepa

Archbishops and Senior Primates of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia

² Such as Anglican Missions *Hope for the Holy Land Appeal*: anglicanmissions.org.nz/humanitarian-emergencies/holy-land/

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia
Te Hahi Mihinare ki Aotearoa, ki Niu Tireni, ki Nga Moutere o te Moana Nui a Kiwa

Statement on Palestine and Israel: A Call to End Apartheid, Occupation, and Impunity in Palestine and Israel

Statement on Palestine and Israel by the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 18–24 June 2025.

"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

- Amos 5:24 (NRSV)

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 18–24 June 2025, gathers in deep lamentation and outrage as the crisis in Palestine and Israel escalates to levels that flagrantly violate international humanitarian and human rights law as well as the most basic principles of morality.

We recognize a clear distinction between the Jewish people, our siblings in faith, and the acts of the Government of Israel, and we reaffirm that the WCC stands firm against any kind of racism, including antisemitism, anti-Arab racism, and islamophobia. However, the unbearable suffering inflicted on the people of Gaza, and the escalating violence and oppression in the West Bank and in Jerusalem compel the global fellowship of churches to speak with clarity, urgency, and commitment to the principles of justice under international law and ethics.

The Government of Israel's military campaign in Gaza has entailed grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention which may constitute genocide and/or other crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Simultaneously, the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem continue to experience intensified violence, illegal settlement expansion, and systemic human rights violations. These actions defy international legal norms, including the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Conventions, international human rights treaties, and numerous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

The World Council of Churches reaffirms its long-standing commitment to inter-religious dialogue and cooperation, and to international law as a framework for peace, justice, and accountability.

In this spirit, the WCC Central Committee calls for:

Naming the Reality of Apartheid: We recognize and denounce the system of apartheid imposed by Israel on the Palestinian people, in violation of international law and moral conscience.

Implementing Sanctions and Accountability: We call on states, churches, and international institutions to impose consequences for violations of international law, including targeted sanctions, divestment, and arms embargoes. Full support must be

given to the International Criminal Court and UN mechanisms investigating potential war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Affirming Palestinian Rights and Freedom: We uphold the inalienable human rights of Palestinians to freedom, justice, return, and self-determination. We demand the end of the occupation and the lifting of the unlawful blockade on Gaza.

Support for the resilience and witness of Palestinian Christian churches and communities, upholding their right to remain on their land and to freely practice their faith.

We commend the leadership of the South African government in seeking justice and accountability to international law through the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and urge all states to comply with the ICJ's rulings. Churches worldwide are called to witness, to speak out, and to act.

"And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace." – James 3:18

Source: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/statement-on-palestine-and-israel-a-call-to-end-apartheid-occupation-and-impunity-in-palestine-and-israel>]