

GENERAL SYNOD LAY NOMINATIONS

At our Diocesan Synod, three lay general synod representatives will be elected from the following:

Nominees in alphabetical order
Frances Brown
Christine Bryant
Chris Harding
Pikiteora Marsh
Heather Riches
Susanne Rowse

CV's of Lay Nominees

Frances Brown

Frances is a cradle Anglican experienced in charitable governance including various vestry and Warden roles across the Wellington, Christchurch and Waikato Taranaki Dioceses. She moved to Taranaki in 2021 and is currently employed as Operations Manager at Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary after a career in the public service focused on trade & economics. She has been a co-opted member of Standing Committee for the Diocese since November 2023 and attended General Synod as a stand-in Lay Representative in 2024. She is passionate about participating in church governance at the highest level to see the continued life and growth of what makes our province a vibrant missional community – with a particular interest and experience in working alongside our Maori and Pasifika tikanga partners and the rainbow community.

Christine Bryant

- Member of Waikato-Taranaki Standing Committee since 2022
- Member of General Synod Te Hinota Whānui for Waikato-Taranaki since 2022
- Lay Chair of Committees for Waikato-Taranaki Synod since 2022
- Waikato -Taranaki Diocesan nominator
- Vicar's Warden at St John's, Te Awamutu since 2020
- Member of Vestry and Synod Rep at St John's, Te Awamutu since 2017
- Synod Rep at All Saints, Hataitai-Kilbirnie 1996-2015
- Former General Synod Te Hinota Whānui Rep for Wellington Diocese 2011-2015
- Baptised, Confirmed and Married at St Aidan's, Claudelands

Judge Chris Harding

- Member General Synod Te Hīnota Whānui since 1990 (2 synods not attended)
- District Court Judge since 1996
- Former member Standing Committee of this Diocese
- Chancellor of this Diocese since 2000
- Temporarily Chancellor Dunedin Diocese 2018 - 19
- Chair of Judicial Committee of General Synod Te Hīnota Whānui

Pikiteora Marsh

Decision-Making & Advocacy

- Understands General Synod as key decision-making body for legislation, doctrine, social justice, liturgy, and church governance
- Committed to carrying rohe concerns and perspectives with clarity and respect in Synod discussions

Experience & Skills

- 5 years member of Hamilton West, St George, St David's Community Unit (canon-eligible)
- Prior 8 years at Waikato Pastorate Hemi Tapu Parish (Tikanga Māori): property manager, administration, Sunday School teacher, early childhood classes
- 6 years supporting Māori services at Hunga Tapu Parish, Kai a te mata Marae Morrinsville; combined services at St. Matthew's Morrinsville
- Experienced in church governance, constitutional matters, and mission across Three Tikanga
- Culturally competent; committed to honouring each tikanga

Commitment

- Available for Synod sessions, hui, travel, and faithful reporting to parish and rohe
- Seeks to serve with humility, ensuring rohe representation in shaping church's future

Heather Riches

- Member of General Synod and TPC (Tikanga Pakeha Conference) 2024 -2025
- People's Warden at Christ Church, Taumarunui since 2020
- Vestry Member of Christ Church, Taumarunui since 2010
- Treasurer of Christ Church, Taumarunui since 2010
- Synod Rep at Christ Church, Taumarunui since 2019
- Youth Synod Rep 2011-2018
- Standing Committee 2013-2014
- Anglican Woman's Studies Link since 2019
- Cursillo Lay Director 2023 – 2024 and 2024 - 2025
- Studied Master of Administration 2016
- Studied Engineering at University of Canterbury, Christchurch 2007 - 2009
- Baptism and Confirmation at Christ Church, Taumarunui

Susanne Rowse

I would love the opportunity to represent our diocese as a General Synod representative. At a parish level, I have experience in governance as treasurer, in administration, and in leading Youth Ministry, Children's Church, and Messy Church. At a diocesan and national level, I have served on Standing Committee, TWAYN, STRANDZ, T3 Youth Exchange, and the Tikanga Pakeha Youth Board of Oversight.

Beyond the Church, I've held governance roles in various community organisations, including treasurer, strategic planning lead, and team manager. I am married to Joel and we have six children. I currently manage Te Rongopai Community Trust and run a busy Christian Community Centre in Nawton, while studying for a Master's in Faith-Based Leadership and Management through Otago University. Previously, I taught in secondary schools.

Raising a young family and working alongside children and young people across the diocese for many years has prepared me well to help shape the future of our Church. It would be an honour to serve in this way.