

Standing Committee Report

Waikato and Taranaki Synod 2024

Membership

Bishops and Chairperson

The Most Reverend Philip Richardson

Clergy

The Rev'd Peter Bargh

The Rev'd Christina Syratt

The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins

Laity

Mrs Christine Bryant

Mrs Pip Harrison

Ms Frances Brown

Mr Chris McLay

Diocesan Registrar-Manager Mr Ben Ferreira *ex officio*

Waikato Diocesan Trust Board Chair

Mrs Elizabeth Bang

Minute Secretary

Ven Trevor Harrison

Meetings: Standing Committee (SCom) met 7 times, either in person or on Zoom.

Key matters:

Membership

Standing Committee had a significant number of members step down for various reasons over the last year. Maintaining a balance between gender and age has been challenging.

Royal Commission

Supporting survivors of abuse through redress is an ongoing responsibility of Standing Committee. Some redress settlements have been approved over the last year. Redress not only includes financial compensation but also other aspects, such as an apology. Some settlements are waiting for the completion of other aspects to be fully finalised.

Licencing Policy

In light of Royal Commission, significant work has been done around the requirements of everybody holding a bishop's licence. Policies and guidelines have been approved by Standing Committee. This includes background screening and training. The Lay Practicum has also been established for training Lay Licenced Ministers.

Tikanga partnership

The relationship with our Tikanga partners remains a priority. Bishop Ngarahu of Te Manawa o Te Wheke has retired. Tikanga Māori is reviewing how bishops get elected. This will cause a long interregnum that creates challenges in who to engage with.