



Standing Committee Report Waikato and Taranaki Synod 2026

Membership

Bishop and Chairperson

The Most Reverend Philip Richardson

Clergy	Laity
The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins	Mrs Christine Bryant
The Rev'd Christina Syrratt	Mrs Pip Harrison
The Rev'd Alison Slater	Mr Gus Kendall
The Rev'd Canon Dan Lander	Mr Chris McLay
The Ven Peter Bargh	Ms Frances Brown

Diocesan Registrar-Manager

Mr Ben Ferreira ex officio

Waikato Diocesan Trust Board Chair

Mrs Elizabeth Bang

Combined Diocesan Trust Board Chair

Mr John Eagles

Minute Secretary

The Ven Trevor Harrison

Meetings: Standing Committee (SCom) met six times over the year, either in person or on Zoom, including a meeting in September to prepare for Synod.

Key matters:

Membership and leadership

The Bishop took a period of sabbatical leave over the summer, and the Very Reverend Julian Perkins served as interim chair of Standing Committee during that time. The core work of the diocese continued smoothly in his absence. Standing Committee welcomed several new members during the year — the Reverend Alison Slater, the Reverend Canon Dan Lander and Mr Gus Kendall — and is grateful to all who give their time to this ministry of governance. Looking ahead, Standing Committee has recommended to the Diocese that the next episcopal transition follow the Coadjutor model; a background paper and motion on this come before Synod.

Mission strategy 2026–2030 — Grateful Hearts, Servant Hands

Standing Committee endorsed the diocesan mission strategy, Grateful Hearts, Servant Hands (Ngākau Whakawhetai, Ringaringa Mahi), for 2026–2030. The strategy rests on three values — Marked by Gratitude (Ngākau Whakawhetai), Transforming Communities (Whakaahua Hapori) and Growing Disciples (Tupuranga Ākonga) — and is expressed through seven Focus Areas. It gives effect to motions passed at Synod 2025 and to the diocese’s response to the Royal Commission. Responsibility for delivery sits with the Diocesan Manager, with Standing Committee reviewing progress each year ahead of budget-setting.

Safeguarding and the Royal Commission

Supporting survivors of abuse through redress remains an ongoing responsibility of Standing Committee, and settlements continue to be funded through the Camp Fund. The diocese reported to the Royal Commission of Inquiry as required. Standing Committee also approved a number of policies that strengthen safeguarding and good practice across the diocese, including the Health & Safety Policy 2026, the Bullying and Harassment Policy 2026 and the Privacy Policy 2026.

Financial sustainability

The financial health of the diocese continued to be a central focus. A consolidated “Ministry and Missions” reporting view now gives Standing Committee a fuller picture of the diocese’s ministry funds in one place, and the migration of diocesan and parish accounting to Xero progressed over the year. The St John’s College Trust Board has moved to bulk-fund the diocese for the next two years, support that is being directed toward scholarships and ministry with the youngest in our diocese. On the recommendation of the Tikanga Pakeha Conference Coordinating Group, Standing Committee approved a 3.0% increase to the standard stipend from 1 January 2027.

Governance and structures

Standing Committee strengthened its governance framework during the year. It adopted terms of reference for a new Finance, Risk and Audit Sub-committee (FRAC), constituted a Legislation Working Group to shape legislation that fits the church as it is today, and set out the working relationship between Standing Committee and the Combined Diocesan Trust Board in a standing paper. The diocesan office restructure was completed.

Anglican Action — Mahi Mihinare

Work continued on the relationship between the diocese and the Anglican Action Mission Trust (Mahi Mihinare). Following discussions between the Trust

and the diocese, the parties agreed to continue under the current trust deed and to rebuild the working relationship through direct conversation between the Trust's Chief Executive, the Bishop and the Diocesan Manager.

Our churches and property

With the Faculties Sub-committee, Standing Committee considered a large number of parish faculty applications for building and property work across the diocese. It endorsed the Taranaki Cathedral project team's staged approach to seismic strengthening, and approved the Waikato Diocesan School for Girls' Cherrington building project, recognising the valued and respectful relationship with the school.

Centennial and Tikanga partnership

2026 marks the centennial of the diocese, which is being woven through the year's training events, Synod, regional family gatherings and kura. The relationship with our Tikanga partners, Te Manawa o Te Wheke, remains a priority and continues to shape how we live out our bicultural commitments.