

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Summary of Meeting

*held at 4pm on Thursday, 26 March 2020 via Zoom
chaired by The Right Rev'd Ross Bay*

Membership

A quorum for all houses was present. The Diocesan Manager and Minute Secretary were also present. Members were asked to disclose any interests in relation to agenda items.

Opening

The meeting opened with a prayer.

General Business

Two items were added to the Agenda.

Minutes of 29 February 2020 were adopted as a true and correct record.

The schedule of outstanding matters was discussed and updated.

Pandemic Response

The Right Rev'd Ross Bay provided an update of the Diocese's response to the pandemic and lockdown.

- The Episcopal Team are in contact every morning.
- A discussion followed on the critical areas and how to assist the Ministry Units.
- Bishop Ross is holding night prayers on Sunday nights at 7pm following a call from the Archbishop of Canterbury to light a candle for the light to shine in the darkness.

Diocesan Manager and Property Manager Reports

The Diocesan Manager provided an update of Diocesan office activities.

Finance Report

Diocesan Council approved the January/February 2020 Finance Report.

Ministry Unit Matters

Beachlands Maraetai Mission Venture – Access to Funds

Beachlands Maraetai Mission Venture made a request to draw down funds from the Whitford Trust funds held in the TML investment for the renovation of the residential building at 102 Maraetai Drive, Maraetai.

Diocesan Council has agreed in principle subject to obtaining investment advice regarding the timing of such a withdrawal.

Northwest Anglican – Foundation North Funding Application

Northwest Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd requested approval to apply to Foundation North for funding for their building project. This request was approved.

St Barnabas, Glenfield – Proposal for the Lease of the Premises

A proposal from St Barnabas, Glenfield regarding the future of their ministry was considered. Diocesan Council agreed that the Glenfield Mission District be established as a Mission Venture under the oversight of Northcote Parish. The Bishop, Archdeacon and Diocesan Manager will work with Northcote Parish and representatives of the Glenfield Mission District to put in place practical arrangements regarding this restructuring.

St Matthew-in-the-City – Access to Funds

Diocesan Council considered an application from St Matthew-in-the-City for authority to access funds for lease costs at 198 Federal Street, Auckland City. The Vestry of St Matthew-in-the-City, after consulting with the Parish, has taken the decision to lease an office suite immediately opposite the church. The primary reason for this move is to provide a healthy and safe working environment for staff. Diocesan Council received this application and agreed in principle.

St Paul's Symonds Street – Vicarage Sale/Purchase

Diocesan Council approved in principle the sale of 54 Searle Street, Stonefields and use the sale proceeds and a mortgage to purchase of a replacement property close to the Parish.

Waiuku – Hall

Diocesan Council approved the engagement of Dave Pearson to start the investigative process of what will be required to demolish the hall, with the cost being covered from the Waiuku share of the Ohara Bequest.

Stipend support – Rev'd Wayne Thornton

Diocesan Council considered a request for continued stipend assistance and it was agreed to extend this for a further two months.

In Committee

Diocesan Council went In Committee to discuss a confidential matter.

Other Business

2019 Surplus

Diocesan Council agreed that the 2019 surplus be set aside for crisis response for the pandemic.

Ministry Units - Financial Assistance

Diocesan Council resolved to not charge quota and specified levies for April and May and invite Ministry Units to make direct contact with the Archdeacons to indicate if they are unable to meet their basic operational obligations, as a consequence of the Covid-19 crisis, in order to apply to the Diocesan Council for offer assistance.

Annual General Meetings

Diocesan Council agreed that in the event a Ministry Unit is not able to hold an Annual General Meeting due to the COVID-19 shutdown permission be granted to hold the Annual General Meeting as soon as practicable following the opening of churches and permission be granted to then hold the 2021 Annual General Meeting in March 2021.

Diocesan Council – New Member Appointment

Diocesan Council approved the appointment of Mr Grant Hodgson to the Diocesan Council in order to fill a casual vacancy.

Housing Allowance – Annual Rates Review

Diocesan Council decided to defer any changes to the Housing Allowance until August 2020.

Working Group Updates

Diocesan Health and Safety Working Group

A report was received.

Disability Community Working Group

An update was given on a survey being prepared to send out to Ministry Units.

Quota Calculation Working Group

Suggestions on how to move forward are being compiled.

Closing

The meeting closed at 6.24pm with a prayer.

The next meeting will be held on 30 April 2020 in the Boardroom, Neligan House, Parnell or via Zoom (to be advised) commencing at 4pm.