

STANDING RESOLUTIONS OF DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND as at September 2024

In 2023 the diocesan Legal Business Committee reviewed and updated the list of Standing Resolutions of the Diocese of Auckland. Standing Resolutions that have been annulled have been removed from the list and can be found in the diocesan Archives records. Here follows the list of current Standing Resolutions. Original numbering has been retained.

10. Leadership in the Diocese

THAT this Synod, noting that authority was given in 1977 for the creation of two Offices of Assistant Bishop, with the right being left to the Bishop to decide when to appoint any person to those offices as full-time appointments, and for the division of the Diocese into two or three geographic regions, now resolves as follows in the light of more recent experience of Episcopal ministry being shared by a team of persons both lay and ordained:

1. to encourage the Bishop to continue to work with a team of persons to offer leadership within the Diocese, with particular regard for the resourcing and pastoral care of those licensed to offer ministry; and
2. to request the Bishop, in consultation with the Diocesan Council, to decide on the composition of the team in respect of lay, clerical and episcopal appointments, and on the best delineation of duties and areas of responsibility.

[First Session of Forty-Second Synod 1977 – amended First Session Fiftieth Synod 2001]

13. Auckland City Mission

THAT the Diocese reaffirms its commitment to the work of the Auckland City Mission and recommends that all parishes support the Mission by an annual payment of 1% of parish income.

[Third Session of Forty-Second Synod 1979]

15. Ministry of Reconciliation and the Māori Language

THAT this Synod acknowledges and reminds the people of the Diocese that:

1. the Church is called to the Ministry of Reconciliation; and
2. therefore Christian New Zealanders whose first language is not Māori have an obligation to learn to pronounce Māori personal and place names.

[Third Session of Forty-Second Synod 1979]

21. Nuclear Weapon-Free Pacific

THAT this Synod declares, as a tangible expression of our commitment to the gospel of justice and peace, and in pursuit of the just goal of a nuclear weapon-free Pacific:

1. its conviction before all people that the current commitment to nuclear arms violates all values by which humanity may hope for good and peaceful survival; and
2. acknowledges the work of the Pacific Conference of Churches towards a nuclear-free Pacific.

[Third Session of Forty-Third Synod 1982 – amended First Session Fiftieth Synod 2001]

25. Anglican Trust for Women and Children

THAT this Synod resolves:

1. to encourage all parishes, mission districts and all people concerned with the Gospel imperative towards the care of the needy, to give such financial, material and social support to the Trust as they can; and
2. that all parishes and ministry units be encouraged to give 1% of their incomes to the work of the Trust.

[Second-Session of Forty-Fourth Synod 1984 – amended First Session Fiftieth Synod 2001]

32. Common Life & Partnership and Bicultural Development

THAT Diocesan Council accepts responsibility for common life and partnership and bicultural development matters as required by Title B Canon XX and in particular will act in regard to the following matters which up to now have been the responsibility of the Diocesan Bicultural Committee, the Joint Resources Sharing Group and the Tikanga Rua Group, namely:

1. partnership and resource sharing with Tikanga Māori and Tikanga Pacifica;
2. education in matters of partnership and bicultural development;
3. effective monitoring of partnership and bicultural development matters in the Diocese and in Diocesan Council; and
4. provision of quarterly summaries of priority matters with recommendation for effective action.

[Diocesan Council as Synod out of Session, 28 September 1995; amended Second Session of Fifty-Seventh Synod 2023]

33. Ministries in Schools

THAT this Synod recognises new developing ministry opportunities available in state schools and encourages units to explore suitable ministries in this area.

[First Session of Fiftieth Synod 2001]

34. Representation on General Synod & Inter-Diocesan Conference

THAT at least one of the representatives to the Inter-Diocesan Conference and General Synod Te Hīnota Whānui elected by the Synod be under the age of 25 at the time IDC and General Synod Te Hīnota Whānui are held.

[First Session of Fiftieth Synod 2001]

35. Social Services

THAT this Synod:

1. reaffirms its commitment to the acknowledgement in the preamble in the Constitution and Clause 3 of the ACC6 Mission Statement that the mission of the Church includes responding to human needs by loving service;
2. reminds ministry units of the provision for donations to be made to social service agencies with the calculation of Diocesan Quota assessments being altered to allow for up to 5% of their income from offerings to be donated to:
 - i. any other parish or agency that has adopted the Anglican Care Code of Ethics;
 - ii. any agency that is included on a list to be published from time to time by the Anglican Care Social Services Council; and
 - iii. any other person or agency deemed by the vestry to come within the spirit of this clause, such donations being not more than 2% of giving.

[First Session of Fiftieth Synod 2001]

37. Police Checks for Workers

THAT this Synod resolves that all parishes, ministry units and educational or social work agencies in the Diocese require police checks for all persons seeking appointment (stipended, paid or voluntary) within the parish, ministry unit or agency as clergy or lay worker who may have supervised or unsupervised responsibility or involvement in the care or oversight of children, young people or the elderly in the course of their duties.

[Third Session of Fiftieth Synod 2003]

38. Obligations & Responsibilities in Education (concerning personal & community relationships)

THAT this Synod resolves that all parishes, ministry units and agencies within the Diocese offering any educational or teaching programme are encouraged to include appropriate material promoting high standards of personal and community relationships and responsibilities and particularly

teaching that not only acknowledges rights that are given and may be enjoyed but the complementary responsibilities and obligations that go with every right or power.

[Third Session of Fiftieth Synod 2003]

39. Gaming Machines

THAT, in light of the destructive and corrosive effects of gaming machines on individuals, families and communities, this Synod:

1. requests all parishes and ministry units to refrain from applying for or, in any way, receiving monies from any trust or agency that distributes profits generated by gaming machines; and
2. encourages all other Anglican dioceses to take a similar stand.

[Third Session of Fifty-First Synod 2006]

40. Shop Trading Hours

THAT this Synod joins with the Association of Anglican Women (AAW) of the Diocese of Auckland and the NZ President of the AAW in opposing very strongly trading of any shop on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day or ANZAC Day morning and requests Diocesan Council to ensure that the substance of this motion is represented to Parliament or any further occasion in which this issue is raised in legislation.

[Second Session of Fifty-Second Synod 2008]

41. Child Abuse

THAT this Synod urges the Government to take urgent action in the matter of child abuse in giving sympathetic consideration to the following proposals:

1. to increase funding and other direct support to recognized providers of programmes, for example: Plunket, Parents as First Teachers (PAFT) and the Anglican Trust for Women and Children (ATWC), in supporting and educating families, particularly families with young children at risk;
2. to ensure that statutory bodies, such as the Department of Child, Youth & Family Services (CYFS), charged with the care and protection of children are adequately resourced to enable them to fulfil their statutory obligations;
3. to establish proper provision for Parliament to consider the impact of all legislation on children and to support the 1990 Convention on the Rights of the Child and, in particular, Articles 6.2, 18.2, 19.1, 19.2 and 27.3;
4. to facilitate the provision of programmes in secondary schools and colleges designed to assist pupils to understand that violence is not a satisfactory way to resolve problems and to educate them about the responsibilities of parenthood;

and acknowledges that without strong support by the people of New Zealand, Government cannot produce sufficient change and each individual has the need to take the risk of defending abuse victims by the willingness to report potential abuse and to work to make this a country of zero-tolerance of child abuse.

Note: in April 2017, Child Youth & Family Services (CYFS) became 'Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Vulnerable Children'. In November 2017 this was amended to 'Oranga Tamariki – Ministry of Children'

[Second Session of Fifty-Second Synod 2008]

42. Statistical & Financial Returns

THAT this Synod:

1. notes the requirement for the Diocese to provide an annual financial return on behalf of all ministry units to the Charities Commission by 30 June of each year;
2. reminds ministry units of the obligation to submit statistical and financial returns by 31 March each year (*Financial Regulations Statute 2000 clause 19.2*);
3. notes the failure by a number of ministry units in recent years to meet this requirement;
4. notes the consequence this failure has in terms of providing information on the state of the Diocese and building up an accurate historical record of key indicators of the health of the Diocese;
5. accordingly, requests the Archdeacons, Bishop's Chaplains and Diocesan Secretary no later than 31 May each year (i.e. prior to the dispatch of Synod papers) to analyse and critique the draft statistical and financial summary so that it can more accurately reflect the true state of the Diocese; and
6. calls upon the Archdeacons, Bishop's Chaplains and Diocesan Secretary to report to Synod each year on this exercise.

Note: the Charities Commission was disestablished in July 2012; its functions were taken over by Internal Affairs and it now operates as 'Charities Services'

[Third Session of Fifty-Second Synod 2009]

43. Anglican Youth Ministries

THAT this Synod, in acknowledging the quality of lay ministry amongst young people in the Diocese:

1. recognizes the importance of wider Diocesan support for Lay Youth Ministers provided by Anglican Youth Ministries and the opportunities for young people to be heard and grow in leadership through Youth Synod and Youth Council;
2. encourages ministry units to make a commitment to provide support, education and resources for their Lay Youth Ministers;
3. recognizes the benefits (for ministry amongst young people) of encouraging ministry units to license their Lay Youth Ministers; and
4. encourages ministry units who have not already begun the process of licensing their Lay Youth Ministers to do so.

[First Session of Fifty-Third Synod 2010]

44. Diocesan Council – Youth Representation

THAT at least one of the members of Diocesan Council be under the age of 25 (but still qualified under any applicable legislation to be an officer of a charity).

[First Session of Fifty-Third Synod 2010]

45. Care & Protection of Children, Youth & Vulnerable Adults

THAT this Synod:

1. adopts the ChurchSafe resource as a means to provide tools for effective management of safety issues surrounding children, youth and adults in vulnerable situations in the Diocese of Auckland; and
2. reminds each vestry or council of its obligation to ensure that care and protection of children, youth and adults in vulnerable situations is a fundamental concern, and to this end calls upon it to appoint a designated ChurchSafe Officer (CSO).

[Second Session of Fifty-Third Synod 2011]

46. People Matter He Taura Tāngata

THAT this Synod notes Motion 18 passed by General Synod Te Hīnota Whānui 2014 entitled “People Matter He Taura Tāngata” and commits itself to best practice in all areas where staff are employed.

[Third Session of Fifty-Fourth Synod 2015]

47. Overseas Missions

THAT this Synod affirms its commitment to partnership with the Church overseas and, in particular:

1. encourages ministry units to form and maintain personal links with mission partners and projects;
2. commends to ministry units the principle of giving 5% of income to the work of the Church overseas;
3. encourages ministry units to consider how they might be involved in overseas mission as part of their commitment to the Decade of Mission commencing at Advent 2015; and
4. encourages those involved in the preparation of ordinands in the Auckland Diocese to consider the value of making a short overseas mission trip in preparation for ordination.

[First Session of Fifty-Fifth Synod 2016]

48. Living Wage Movement

THAT this Synod:

1. commits itself to the principle of a Living Wage for all who derive income through the mission and ministry of this Diocese; and
2. calls on the governing bodies of Anglican institutions in the Auckland Diocese to consider how they could apply the principle of the Living Wage having regard to their financial circumstances and their ability to protect jobs and services in the face of significantly increased wage costs.

[First Session Fifty-Fifth Synod 2016]

49. Equal Gender Representation

THAT, in line with the Standing Resolution SR05 of General Synod Te Hīnota Whānui of 2008 & 2014, resolutions 8 and 22 of General Synod Te Hīnota Whānui 2016 and Standing Resolution 27 of the Diocese of Auckland Synod 1984 (*annulled*):

1. Diocesan Synod and ministry units work towards equal representation of women and men in decision-making at all levels – including when electing or appointing representatives to governing and consulting bodies in the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia; and
2. Diocesan Synod encourages equality in visibility and involvement of women and men at all diocesan events.

[First Session Fifty-Fifth Synod 2016]

50. Tackling Climate Change – Roles of Faith & Action

THAT the Diocese of Auckland commits to carbon neutrality in its business, including its travel.

[Third Session Fifty-Fifth Synod 2018]

51. Sustainable Development Goals

THAT this Synod supports the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are a global call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

[First Session Fifty-Sixth Synod 2019]

52. Suicide Prevention

THAT this Synod:

1. expresses its concern at the scope of the suicide problem in New Zealand;
2. establishes a policy that suicide intervention training be compulsory in the Diocese for all stipended clergy and paid youth ministers;
3. recommends that all unpaid youth ministers undergo suicide intervention training; and
4. recognizes we are not always the appropriate support and should know when and where to refer vulnerable people.

[First Session Fifty-Sixth Synod 2019]

53. Support for People with Disabilities

THAT this Synod invites ministry units to:

1. review how accessible their buildings are for people with disabilities;
2. review how accessible their programmes are for people with disabilities;
3. review worship and other activities to ensure they are inclusive; and
4. make achievable improvements with the ultimate goal of full accessibility and inclusion.

[First Session Fifty-Sixth Synod 2019]

54. Care of Creation – Our Urban Ngahere

THAT this Synod:

1. affirms the crucial role of trees and other plants for the continuation of life on this planet, with their oxygen production, carbon sequestration and their other gifts and services;
2. urges all Anglicans and others to:
 - a. be pro-active in promoting appreciation and protection of trees and vegetation in general; and
 - b. educate other people about the importance and benefits of trees and other plants whenever possible; and
3. encourages ministry units to explore ways in which land under their stewardship can be used to enhance native biodiversity.

[Second Session Fifty-Seventh Synod 2023]