

In August, I had the privilege of travelling to Tonga as a delegate from the Diocese of Auckland to attend General Synod Te Hīnota Whānui. The General Synod is a meeting held every two years to govern the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia. Led by the Archbishops, representatives from across the Anglican Church come together to discuss important issues and set church law and policy.

It was really nice to enjoy a new cultural experience. The hospitality given by the churches and people in Tonga was amazing, and I was so grateful to be welcomed. Highlights included meeting King Tupou VI of Tonga, watching local choirs and schools perform, and experiencing traditional foods.

The business at General Synod was interesting to be a part of, and I am really grateful that I was able to be there, not just to observe, but as a full member. This year, some of the big conversations were around topics of climate change, equity within the church, and looking after our valuable oceans.

I really enjoyed being a part of the Auckland delegation. I met so many people from all around New Zealand and Polynesia; it was a great opportunity to talk to lots of different people who came from different backgrounds and experiences across our church.